

**CITY OF BATAVIA  
BUSINESS MINUTES  
JANUARY 12, 2015**

The regular business meeting of the City Council was held Monday, January 12, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, One Batavia City Centre, Batavia, New York, with Council President Hawley presiding.

Present were Council President Hawley and Councilpersons Pacino, Briggs, Canale, Doeringer, Deleo, and Christian. Councilpersons Cipollone and Jankowski were absent.

Council President Hawley called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Councilperson Christian led the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the December meetings and draft monthly financial statements were approved.

The Council President assigned the regular agenda items.

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**Communications**

None.

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**Council President's Report**

Council President Hawley announced that the next regular City Council Conference Meeting would be held on Monday, January 26, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the City Hall Council Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Centre.

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**City Attorney's Report**

Mr. Van Nest noted that they continued to work on a variety of matters but there was nothing specific to report at that time. Councilperson Briggs asked for the status of the Swan St property and Mr. Van Nest noted it was in court and had been rescheduled for February.

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## **City Manager's Report**

Mr. Molino presented the 2015-2016 proposed budget and gave a brief overview of the highlights. He noted they would submit the budget to GFOA to hopefully achieve the Distinguished Budget Award. He noted that the strategic plan identified five new strategic priorities, there was a proposed \$0.16 increase in the tax rate and the average homeowner would see an increase in cost of taxes, water and sewer of just under \$27.50 for the year. Mr. Molino demonstrated how \$22 million of capital projects over the next 10 years could be achieved with a cost of \$1/month increase. He noted that the general fund expenditures decreased but projected revenue had also decreased causing the slight increase in the tax rate. Mr. Molino suggested having budget work sessions on Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm and Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup> immediately following the conference meeting. Council agreed to the meeting times.

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## **Committee Reports**

Councilperson Pacino noted that because the BID events had done so well, they were planning another City event in May and she would have more detail later on.

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## **Public Comments**

Richard Richmond, 20 Washington Ave, noted that the controversy about the mall had been going on for years and asked Council, in the spirit of open government, to have the state comptroller audit the legal fees of the City.

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## **Council Responses to Public Comments**

Councilperson Deleo stated that he would make a resolution, start the new year off and have the comptroller audit the legal fees. Mr. Molino noted that the comptroller's office had just completed an audit of the City, legal fees were audited as part of that visit, and asked what the intent would be of the audit. Councilperson Pacino guessed that people just wanted to know how much had been spent on the mall. Mr. Molino noted that the fees could be foiled as with any expense because they were public information, although some information may be redacted. Mr. Van Nest noted there had been a FOIL request for the mall legal fees which had been prepared within the last year. He noted that Council could be updated again on the progress of the situation but noted that things were moving forward.

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### **Unfinished Business**

Councilperson Christian asked what happened to cable and Mr. Molino noted that he hadn't received a return call from them and was still looking into it. Councilperson Pacino said she didn't need an answer now but wanted to know where the City stood on the Bank St and zombie properties.

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### **New Business**

Councilperson Canale asked if Council could get an Assistant City Manager report when there was something to report to see the progress Mrs. Difante is making. Mr. Molino noted that they could definitely do that.

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**Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Heidi J. Parker  
Clerk-Treasurer**