

# **CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES**

## **MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2015**

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

### **Call to Order**

Council President Hawley called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Councilperson Briggs led the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Public Comments**

John Roach, 116 Grandview Terr, noted that at the prior meeting there was a motion made by Councilperson Deleo that was seconded by Councilperson Briggs but there was never a vote. He would like to see that cleaned up.

Barbara Greenbaum, 5379 East Main St Rd, is the Director of Birchwood Village and wanted to thank Council for engaging with czb because they recognized there was a challenge and sought help. Ms. Greenbaum noted that in 2011 the City had three events and was grateful for giving Birchwood a little nudge because that nudge did a lot for Birchwood. She noted that not enough could be said for what the event did for Birchwood, it paid off, and the residents will no longer allow the event to *not* happen going forward. She noted that Council's value and caring did not go unnoticed and urged Council to stick with the czb report. She noted that the report had some key points she would like Council to follow and thanked them for following it so far.

Dave Snyder, Chair of Vibrant Batavia, showed a video featuring public comments from Marty MacDonald and Lisa Barrett. Mr. MacDonald thanked Council for showing their support of Vibrant Batavia, noted that Vibrant Batavia had been an incredible force and that Leanna has been the right fit for the job. He stated his appreciation for what Leanna did for the City of Batavia. Lisa Barrett wanted to continue to see Vibrant Batavia do the great work it's done. She asked Leanna for help with a block party on Pringle Ave, they had a nice turnout, and it was the first time some of the neighbors had met. She noted that they had to change the perception of and own their neighborhood. Ms. Barrett explained that it was the first time she had met some of the Council members and the fire and police department showed up and played basketball with the kids. She noted that one youth asked if they were going to have a block party again the next week, another thanked her for having the party and noted they needed to keep doing it.

Paula Miller, 15 Pearl St, urged Council for their continued support of Vibrant Batavia. She noted that she had proposed the beautification of the traffic circle because it was a major entrance to the City and the biggest benefit was that it brought people off their porches and sparked conversation. She noted that it fostered a feeling of community in the neighborhood and they were able to eliminate an issue they had within the neighborhood by being able to go as a group to air their concerns. She felt Vibrant Batavia earned a right to see the process through.

Mary Valle, Jackson St, thanked Council for their support of Vibrant Batavia and noted that none of what they had accomplished could have been possible without their support. She noted that she was very much vested in the community and asked Council to invest in the community again. She noted that she would be embarrassed and disappointed if Vibrant Batavia didn't get Council's support and noted that business leaders had donated and supported Vibrant Batavia's efforts. Mrs. Valle asked what a better way to spend the surplus and was sure that Leanna had put in twice the hours that she gets paid for. She noted that she helped raise \$124,000 in sponsorships surpassing what she thought they would raise for the centennial celebration, Vibrant Batavia helped resolve neighborhood issues and Batavia was blessed to have an ambitious person working for the Batavia Development Corporation.

### **Council Response to Public Comments**

Councilperson Deleo asked if there was a motion regarding the audit of legal fees by the state comptroller from the prior business meeting. Mr. Van Nest asked to review the minutes to see if there was a motion and bring it up at the next business meeting.

Councilperson Pacino noted that it was nice to hear people say nice things about what they did on Council for a change.

Councilperson Deleo noted that there were a lot of things he liked from Vibrant Batavia but was getting a lot of calls and needed to work for the voters. He stated that he hoped Vibrant Batavia does great.

Councilperson Jankowski noted that not one person disagreed with the need for Vibrant Batavia but just wondered if tax dollars should fund it. He suggested trying to reach a compromise. He noted that he needed to listen to the supporters and the opposition, there were two sides to the argument and both sides needed to be considered.

### **Council President's Report**

Council President Hawley announced the next regular City Council Business Meeting would be held on Monday, February 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall Council Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Centre.

### **City Manager's Report**

Mr. Molino noted that Gretchen Difante would present her Assistant City Manager's report as requested by Council. Mrs. Difante reviewed the bureaus that she was responsible for, what each one entailed and projects they were working on. She noted specific projects that she was working on and gave detail regarding public safety radio issues, technology goals, and flood insurance. She highlighted her involvement and the progress that was made and is making on those projects. She noted that she was able to get 12 properties removed from the flood plain within seven months during 2014 and that was the most since 1984. Mrs. Difante also noted that, with regards to the flood issue, the City was the only community in Region 2, which included NY, NJ, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, that was recommended for accelerated eligibility.

### **Resolution to Appoint Members to Various Committees/Boards**

Councilperson Briggs noted that there would be a resolution at the next meeting to appoint volunteers to boards and committees with vacancies.

### **Part-Time City Court Judge - Opening**

Council President Hawley noted they were looking to fill the position of part-time city court judge, resumes should be sent to him at City Hall, and all of Council would review the applications.

### **Opening Bid – Thermal Imaging Cameras – Fire Department**

Fire Chief Jim Maxwell noted that they had bid openings on Friday morning and received two sealed bids. He noted that they planned to purchase three cameras including one from the 2014-15 year and two from 2015-2016 budget. The low cost was \$11,070 per camera. and he should be contacted to assist as well.

### **Various Traffic Grants Award**

Police Chief Shawn Heubusch noted that about \$40,000 was received in traffic grants and just needed to amend the budget to reflect receipt of the grants. Council agreed to move the item to the next business agenda.

### **NYS Department of Conservation Grant**

Sally Kuzon noted that the City had received a \$15,000 grant for a tree management plan and they needed to amend the budget to reflect receipt of the funds. Council agreed to move the item to the next business agenda.

### **Vibrant Batavia Presentation – Leanna Di Risio**

A representative from Neighborworks Rochester explained the programs and services they provided as they are the ones who employ Leanna on behalf of Vibrant Batavia. Leanna explained that she previously had a full time job but took the Vibrant Batavia (VB) job because she knew she could make an impact on the community. Leanna showed what had been done the first two years with VB and what they wanted to do in the third year. She discussed the three year support plan that was in place and explained that the money they use from the City gets reinvested back into the community. She discussed neighborhood meetings, block parties, beautification projects and the centennial celebration. Kryisia Mager noted that banners had been put up all around Batavia for the centennial celebration, they hosted the New Year's Eve party, 100 trees would be planted throughout the City in 2015, there would be a time capsule and other events were planned as well. Leanna noted that VB had requested \$150,000 over a three-year time frame and to date had received \$80,000 from the City over the past two. Councilperson Jankowski wanted to see where the \$80,000 was spent and where it went, how much was for administrative fund and how much went back into the community. Councilperson Christian noted that Leanna worked very hard, they had a lot of fun, and she did an outstanding job. Leanna noted that it was

about the long-term and they had exceeded what they were expected to do in the first two years. Councilperson Briggs asked if someone local could do what Neighborworks Rochester was doing or if Leanna could take what she learned and continue the work herself. Councilperson Doeringer explained that they wanted to hire someone with expertise in this area and not hire a city employee and that was why Neighborworks was engaged. Mr. Molino noted that Neighborworks was a national program that specialized in the type of programs the City was looking to run and that Rochester was a division of that that brought a level of support to Leanna.

### **Batavia Development Corporation Presentation – Julie Pacatte**

Julie Pacatte gave an introduction of the Batavia Development Corporation (BDC) members who were in attendance. Susie Boyce, board member, noted that since Julie had come on board they had come a long way from just focusing on collections of loans which was the board primary focus of the board previously. Ms. Pacatte outlined the community improvement plan, identified specific economic development long-term projects and noted that something had to be done with the mall because it was embarrassing. She noted that the business community felt the centennial celebration was a big deal and showed that by donating \$124,000 towards it. She noted that all the negative conversation would affect their success and it was one of the key points in the czb report. Ms. Pacatte noted the action plan priorities, 2014 accomplishments, and that \$1.2 million of improvements were made in the downtown area through public/private investment. She noted that the Carr's warehouse went from a property that was assessed minimally turned into a property assessed at over \$200,000 and was fully occupied within four weeks. Ms. Pacatte noted that investors needed to hear from other than her that we wanted them here because they wanted to be in the City. She explained that we became a friendlier city and had worked with the Batavia Business Improvement District and VB. Ms. Pacatte explained that the City had received a 500% return on their investment by investing \$360,000 over four years and turning it into over \$2 in public/private investment. She explained 2015 projects and priorities and noted she wanted to survey the business community to see what they felt was important and continue the work they had started.

### **Budget Work Session and Executive Session**

Council President Hawley suggested meeting February 2, 2015 at 6:00pm for the budget session and executive session would be after the February 9<sup>th</sup> business meeting.

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**Conference Meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Heidi J. Parker  
Clerk-Treasurer**

01/26/2015