

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF BATAVIA

FEBRUARY 9, 2015

The special business meeting of the City Council was held Monday, February 9, 2015 immediately following the business meeting 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, Christian, Canale, Doeringer, Deleo, Cipollone and Jankowski.

Council President Hawley called the meeting to order at 8:55 PM.

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Review Budget Amendments

Council President Hawley noted that Mr. Molino got the budget increase down from 1.47% to .49% or a tax increase for the average homeowner of \$6.30.

Slide

Councilperson Christian noted that she wanted the people who did the damage to the slide to pay for it, not the taxpayers. Councilperson Pacino noted that the Kiwanis Club couldn't pay the entire \$10,500 for the slide but would look into donations and wanted to take it out of the budget. She felt there were others who would help pay. Councilperson Jankowski wanted an update on the investigation as to who damaged the slide and wanted to see some publicity on it as there may be people out there that know something about the incident. Chief Heubusch noted that he could get an update but they were at a standstill as to leads. Councilperson Deleo noted that a spray park was supposed to be put on the south side but it was taken out so didn't want to take the slide away from the kids. Councilperson Cipollone suggested Vibrant Batavia being able to take on this project.

Motion – Councilperson Christian to remove \$10,500 from budget

Second – Councilperson Jankowski

On roll call, approved 7-2 – Councilpersons Briggs and Deleo voted no

Filebound

Mr. Molino suggested funding the entire Filebound purchase with reserve funds.

Motion – Councilperson Cipollone to fund Filebound purchase with reserve funds

Second – Councilperson Doeringer

On roll call, approved 9-0

Flower money to BID

Councilperson Deleo noted that there was nothing more permanent than a temporary governmental project. Councilperson Christian asked how much the City had put in already. Councilperson Pacino noted that \$1,900 was put in last year, felt that the City didn't give BID a lot, and stated that the flowers do make a difference and constituents have called her with the same support.

Motion – Councilperson Doeringer to include \$1,950 for flower purchase

Second – Councilperson Pacino

On roll call, approved 5-4 – Councilpersons Deleo, Jankowski, Briggs and Christian voted no

Management Raise

There was a proposed amendment to reduce management raises from 2.5% to 2%. Councilperson Christian felt it should be lower, thought that people were at their limits, and that admin could do with a lot less. Councilperson Deleo asked if salaries were being subsidized by the water and sewer funds. Mr. Molino explained that management salaries are allocated to the areas they work on and are not subsidized. Councilperson Canale noted that Council approved union wage increases of 2.5 – 2.75% and his concern was that it was difficult to promote from within when union employees made more than management. He stated that it wasn't about keeping up with what Council gave the unions but rather a fairness issue. Councilperson Jankowski agreed that the gap couldn't get too small between management and the union employees but agreed with the adjustment to 2%. He also asked if the police chief should get more to get caught up with the fire chief. Mr. Molino noted that management got steps and Chief Heubusch's salary would grow through his steps. Councilperson Christian stated that management also got perks such as dental, wellness plan, et cetera, and they needed to pull in the reigns and listen to the public. Mr. Molino explained that all employees receive the same benefits and, in fact, unions may receive more. Councilperson Briggs stated that non-union county employees said they'd had five years of no raises.

Motion – Councilperson Cipollone to reduce raises from 2.5 – 2% for management

Second – Councilperson Canale

On roll call, approved 6-3 – Councilpersons Christian, Briggs and Deleo voted no

Reducing funding for new police officers from 12 months to 8 months based on timing of hiring

Councilperson Jankowski was concerned that it was a false decrease because next year would have to include funding for the entire year. Mr. Molino noted that it would go up next year as the cost saved would be recognized in the following year.

Motion – Councilperson Canale to reduce funding from 12 to 8 months for police vacancies

Second – Councilperson Doeringer

On roll call, approved 7-2 – Councilpersons Christian and Jankowski voted no

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Councilperson Cipollone noted that last year the conversation took place too late and thus wanted to have it now. He noted that there wouldn't be much time after the budget goes to a public hearing to make changes after that. He suggested that if there were any other amendments that Council should raise them now. Councilperson Christian asked what good it was to raise any amendments if there wouldn't be any compromise.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40.

Respectfully submitted,

**Heidi J. Parker
Clerk-Treasurer**