

CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2015

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

Call to Order

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

Public Comments

Michael Jamil, 332 W. Main St., said that he would like to see an Adult Recreation Program in the City. He sees the program offering sports such as pickup-basketball, softball and flag football to adults in the area. He also asked that the City look into the lights at Kibbe Park, as some of the lights weren't working and were very costly for recreational organizations to rent.

Frank Schiavi, 106 ½ North St., said that he was a member of the Neighborhood Watch Program. He noted that the organization's mission is to make Batavia a nice place to live, work and play. He indicated that the group had noticed a need for bike racks within the City. He said that the group had received a grant from Vibrant Batavia and they would be installing 8 bicycle racks city wide.

Linda Starkey, 6918 Hutchins St., Pavilion, said that she supports the trap, neuter, and release approach to dealing with the stray cat issue. She also said that removing all cats from one area can leave a vacuum that is soon filled by other cats.

Gerry Rising, 295 Robin Hill Dr., Williamsville, said that cats are the only source of the rapidly spreading disease of Toxoplasmosis and that having a no-kill policy would equal many kills for wildlife.

Council Response to Public Comments

Councilperson Jankowski said that he would like to have staff look into reducing the expenses charged to organizations renting fields with lights, as public works staff is basically just flipping a switch for the field lights. He also commended the Neighborhood Watch Committee for a job well done with the bicycle rack project.

Council President Report

Council President Hawley announced the next regular City Council business meeting would be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 7:00pm at the City Hall Council Board Room, 2nd Floor, City Centre.

Legacy Gift Unveiling Update

Leanna DiRisio, Vibrant Batavia, outlined information on the Legacy Gift in honor of the City's Legacy Sponsors for the Centennial Celebration. She supplied Council with a sketch of the Legacy Gift of a Sundial to be placed at the entrance of City Hall for display. She noted that the Sundial was designed by Ed Smart from Smart Design Architecture, PLLC, and that the gift was sponsored by the business owners that contributed to the Centennial Celebration. Councilperson Canale asked what the timeframe of the project was. Leanna DiRisio said that they were looking at the end of October or the beginning of November. Councilperson Jankowski made a motion to move the item to the next business meeting, motion seconded by Councilperson Deleo and all were in favor.

Thomas "Rocket Car"

Dave Howe on behalf of Ken Witt, Dick Moore and a group of antique automobile collectors outlined the group's interest in restoring an automobile, the "Rocket Car," that was developed and built in the City of Batavia. He noted that after restoring the vehicle the group would be looking to have the City accept the vehicle as a gift to have on permanent display. Councilperson Jankowski asked that the timetable was. Mr. Howe indicated that it would be approximately 2 years. Councilperson Christian made a motion to move the item to the next business meeting, motion seconded by Councilperson Cipollone and all were in favor.

Deferred Compensation Plan

Dawn Fairbanks, Human Resource Specialist, noted that the City currently offers a deferred compensation program for its employees. She noted that the City would like to amend the Model Plan to allow Roth 457 plan contributions. She indicated that this amendment would have no budgetary impact. Councilperson Briggs made a motion to move the item to the next business meeting, motion seconded by Councilperson Christian and all were in favor.

Feral Cat Discussion

Gretchen DiFante, Assistant City Manager, said that following the March 23rd Council meeting that she had been given direction to engage a broader audience in the task force. She indicated that she had met with County Manager Jay Gsell, and he had noted that his main concern for the implementation of any community cat management project was that of public health. Ann Marie Brade, Genesee County Animal Control Officer, gave a brief overview of licensing and enforcement laws that are currently in place in other jurisdictions within the area. Sarah Balduf, Genesee County Department of Public Health, gave a brief overview of the statistical data on anti-rabies clinics, incident reports and post exposure treatments from 2012 – 2014 county wide. Dr. Carolyn Caccamise, DVM, and Kathy Schwenk, Spay our Strays, gave a brief overview of the trap, neuter, vaccinate and release program. Councilperson Jankowski asked if there had been an increase in the number of stray cats. Gretchen DiFante said that there are 7 active colonies in the City, which Spay our Strays has been helping with spot management. Gretchen DiFante noted that the task

force was recommending support for a resolution endorsing TNVR with litter/healthy cat adoption and euthanasia for cats too ill to be returned. She also noted that the local legislation may help to secure grant funding for the TNVR program, as the NYS Senate passed a TNVR Funding Bill. She noted that Council might consider nuisance laws. Councilperson Jankowski and Councilperson Briggs asked to have the nuisance law consideration removed. Councilperson Cipollone commended Spay our Strays with their efforts. Councilperson Deleo made a motion to move the item to the next business meeting, motion seconded by Councilperson Canale and all were in favor.

Amend 2015-2016 Budget for Car Seat Grant

Gretchen DiFante said that the City was looking to amend the Fire Department 2015-2016 budget to reflect the receipt of a grant for \$5000.00 from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. Councilperson Deleo made a motion to move the item to the next business meeting, motion seconded by Councilperson Pacino and all were in favor.

Discussion Regarding Police Facility Task Force Recommendation

Councilperson Briggs asked what the next step of action was regarding the Police Facility. Council President Hawley said that the City should look into any grant funding that might be available allowing the City to move forward with the project. Councilperson Christian said that she had concerns regarding the cost of the project. Councilperson Doeringer said that he would like to move forward with the Task Force recommendation of the Swan Street site, and would like to look for grant money for funding. Councilperson Cipollone said he was in agreement to move forward, but had concerns on how it would be paid for. Councilperson Canale said that he was in agreement to take the recommendation from the task force with building the facility on Swan Street. Councilperson Pacino said that it was viable to discuss the recommendation of the Swan Street site, as Council must start somewhere.

Executive Session...Employment Matters

MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion of Councilperson Pacino

WHEREAS, Article 7, Section 105(1)(f), of the Public Officer's Law permits the legislative body of a municipality to enter into Executive Session to discuss "...the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation...".

WHEREAS, Article 7, Section 105(1)(d), of the Public Officer's Law permits the legislative body of a municipality to enter into Executive Session to discuss "...proposed, pending or current litigation...".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Batavia, that upon approval of this Motion, the City Council does hereby enter into Executive Session.

Seconded by Councilperson Christian and on roll call approved unanimously.

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Conference Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Aimslee M. Cassidy
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer**