

CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2016

Present were Council President Jankowski and Councilpersons Hawley, Canale, Christian, Viele, Briggs, Pacino, McGinnis, and Tabelski.

Call to Order

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

Public Comments

None.

Council Response to Public Comments

None.

Communications

Batavia Concert Band – The Batavia Concert Band is looking to hold concerts in Centennial Park on Wednesdays from June 29th through August 10th from 7:00 – 8:45pm. Council approved.

Council President's Report

Council President Jankowski announced the next regular City Council Business meeting to be held on Monday, March 14, 2016 at 7:00pm at the City Hall Council Board Room, 2nd Floor, City Centre.

Councilperson Tabelski presented a proclamation to Eric Volk who retired as chief operator of the wastewater treatment plant after more than 35 years of service. Councilperson Tabelski thanked him for his many years of dedicated service and wished him well in his retirement.

Public Hearing

- a. An ordinance adopting the 2016-2017 budget and determining the amount of tax to be levied on all real property for the 2016-2017 fiscal year

Councilperson Christian made a motion to open the public hearing, motion seconded by Councilperson Tabelski and on roll call, approved 9-0.

John Roach, 116 Grandview Ter, was disappointed that there would be a tax increase. He noted that there were a lot of people who didn't get a raise this year and he felt that if taxes went up, management shouldn't get raises.

Richard Richmond, 20 Washington Ave, was disappointed that taxes went up and stated that in the past we were promised that taxes would go down. He wanted to see a gift for taxpayers of a 1% tax decrease.

Councilperson Pacino made a motion to close the public hearing, motion seconded by Councilperson Canale and on roll call, approved 9-0.

- b. A Local Law amending section 184-41 (A), (B), (C), and (O) of the Batavia Municipal Code to establish new water rates, meter fees and a capital improvement fee.

Councilperson Viele made a motion to open the public hearing, motion seconded by Councilperson Briggs and on roll call, approved 9-0.

There were no speakers who signed up or who wanted to speak from the audience.

Councilperson Canale made a motion to close the public hearing, motion seconded by Councilperson Viele and on roll call, approved 9-0.

Ellicott Trail Project

Mr. Molino noted that the idea came about two years ago from the Town with a co-sponsorship from the City for a pedestrian bike trail. He noted it would be the first trail in the county of this kind and that the local match was approximately \$340,000 to be split between the City and Town. Mr. Molino noted the next step was to enter into an intermunicipal agreement with the Town for final design and construction for 2017. Councilperson Christian asked if the trail went behind houses. Mr. Molino stated it was not behind houses but through commercial and park areas and there may need to be easements if it goes through private property. Council approved moving the item to the next business agenda.

Residential Redevelopment Inhibited Property Exemption – 485r, RPTL

Mr. Molino noted the City of Batavia was the first in the state of New York to have this exemption that encourages changing vacant homes to owner occupied homes. He noted that it was signed into law last October but the City needs to officially adopt the law. He noted there needed to be a public hearing and have it adopted by the City before anyone else could adopt the exemption. Councilperson Tabelski asked how the public would be informed of this new exemption so they could take advantage of it. Mr. Molino noted the City would have meetings with local banks to include it in their mortgage packages for borrowers and would do advertising and marketing to spread the word. Councilperson Hawley thanked management for coming up with the idea and felt it was a great way to deal with abandoned properties. Council approved moving the item to the next business meeting.

Ice Arena Lease

Mr. Molino explained that the existing lease expired in March, an RFP was put out and two submittals were received. Mr. Molino recommended staying with Firland who currently

runs the arena and having a 10 year term. He noted they had the experience and had made a capital investment in the arena. Councilperson Viele asked if Falleti paid to put their name on the rink and who was paid. Mr. Molino noted that the Falleti paid the City to have their name on the rink and we would probably put out a new RFP for naming rights. Councilperson Briggs had a constituent voice their concern that the area around the rink was dangerous and wondered if there should be a crosswalk or something to keep everyone safe. Mr. Molino noted he would look into it with the police department. Councilperson Christian was glad to see an increase in the lease payments. Council agreed to move the item to the next business agenda.

Auction of Foreclosed Properties

Mr. Molino noted that there were eight properties to move to public auction. He noted that two groups of properties would be sold together and vacant lands would be merged with adjacent properties. He noted purchasers would be recommended at a future meeting based on auction results on March 12th. He suggested designating one property for Habitat for Humanity and one for NeighborWorks. Council agreed to move the item to the next business meeting.

Administrative Reserve Re-appropriation

Mr. Molino noted that a re-appropriation of reserve funding was needed to assist with the update of the City's financial software. He noted that appropriations were made on an annual basis and since this was going into the next fiscal year, it needed to be appropriated again. Council agreed to move the item to the next business meeting.

Purchasing Manual Adoption

Mr. Molino noted there were no changes from the prior year but the purchasing manual needed to be adopted each year. Council agreed to move the item to the next business meeting.

Transfer from Employee Accrued Liability Reserve

Mr. Molino explained that funds were transferred from the reserve annually based on retirees and terminations and there were approximately \$30,000 of payments to be made. He suggested using the money from the reserve account. Council agreed to move the item to the next business meeting.

Transfer of Funds to Parking Lot Reserve

Mr. Molino noted that around year end funds were transferred from related revenue generated to the parking lot reserve and this resolution will do that. Council agreed to move the item to the next business agenda.

DPW Bids – Minnow Harvesting, Washington/State Street Sewer, Chemical Bids

Matt Worth, DPW Director, noted they were proposing bids for the minnows and sewer project and would make his recommendation to Council at a future meeting. He also noted that chemical bids were done annually. Council approved to move the item to the next business agenda.

Summit Street Supplemental Agreement #6

Mr. Worth noted that new agreements were needed when funds were approved saying the City would front the funds and the state would reimburse. He noted this was just a formality. Council agreed to move the item to the next business meeting.

Competitive Bids for Water Rescue Equipment

Chief Herberger noted that three competitive bids were put out for different types of equipment and he was recommending the lowest bids for each piece of equipment – swift water, ice water and shore based. He noted that all costs were covered through a grant. Council agreed to move the item to the next business meeting.

Discussion Police Facility

Mr. Molino provided a memo that gave a brief history of the police facility topic and a series of questions for Council to consider to determine the path they wanted to go with regards to the new facility. He provided construction cost comparisons, renovation plans and reminded Council that public safety buildings are usually occupied 24 hours a day instead of the 8-10 hours in a regular office building. This increases wear and tear by 3 times compared to regular office settings. Council President Jankowski thought Council could agree that they wanted to keep the police service at its current level. Councilperson Christian wanted the new facility on Swan St where the task force recommended. Council agreed that the Swan Street location was where it should be. Mr. Molino recommended Council give him and Mr. Van Nest the ability to come up with a strategy to move forward with a new facility at the Swan St location. Council agreed to move forward with the creation of a strategy.

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Conference Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Heidi J. Parker
Clerk-Treasurer**

02/22/2016