

CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2016

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

Call to Order

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

Public Comments

Don Hirons, 137 Summit St, noted that he and other neighbors had formed the Summit Street Neighborhood Association and they were in favor of Vibrant Batavia and the police department. He noted that they had created a very positive partnership with Detective Schauf and the police department as they have attended their monthly meetings to help reduce crime on their street. He also noted that Leanna DiRisio had taken a lead role at their meetings and their group has a goal of creating welcoming packets for any new neighbor. He credited the positive turnaround in their neighborhood to Vibrant Batavia and the police department. He felt that Vibrant Batavia was worth the financial investment.

Rae Ann Engler, 123 Summit St, stated that Leanna had been instrumental in their neighborhood association and did an excellent job of cohesion. She explained that Vibrant Batavia did in one year when she and her husband had been trying to do for a long time. She felt that a program like Vibrant Batavia was an inexpensive way to invest in your community.

Council Response to Public Comments

Councilperson Pacino noted that she had been to a meeting and felt that if every neighborhood did what they were doing it would make a big difference.

Communications

National Multiple Sclerosis Society submitted an application for a walk on Sunday, May 1, 2016 beginning and ending at Dwyer Stadium. Council approved.

St. Paul Lutheran Church was looking to hold a church service on Sunday, June 12, 2016 in Austin Park from 9:00 – 11:30am.

Council President's Report

Council President Jankowski announced the next regular City Council Business meeting to be held on Monday, April 11, 2016 at 7:00pm at the City Hall Council Board Room, 2nd Floor, City Centre.

Councilperson Hawley presented a proclamation to Gary Raphael who retired from the Bureau of Maintenance as a heavy equipment operator after over 31 years. Councilperson Hawley noted that he was a dedicated and committed employee who began as a laborer, was knowledgeable and resourceful. He was thanked for his dedicated service to the community.

Public Hearing

- a. A Local Law Amending Chapter 166 Entitled “Taxation” of the Code of the City of Batavia.

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

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

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

Property Auction Results

Mr. Molino noted that there were four properties, all green space, that were auctioned and recommended for sale to the highest bidder. He noted that three of the properties would be required to be merged with their adjacent property. Council agreed to move the item to the next business meeting.

Inter-Municipal Real Property Tax Project Management Agreement with the County

Mr. Molino noted that this was a renewal of the agreement the City had with the County because the City only has a part time assessor. He noted that this agreement was recommended to be on a 3-year term instead of a 2-year term as they were in the past. He noted that the cost was the same. Council agreed to move the item to the next business agenda.

Committee Appointments

Mr. Molino explained that there were vacancies on the BID, HPC and Youth Board and these were appointments to those vacancies. Councilperson Hawley noted that he was also looking for someone from Council to join him on the Youth Board. Council agreed to move the item to the next business meeting.

City Wide Tree Management Program Consultant Selection

Matt Worth, Director of Public Works, noted that a complete tree inventory had been done with Cornell and now they were moving to the next step. He explained that RFP’s had been sent out, he was waiting for those to come back and he would make a recommendation at the next meeting. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Alum Sludge Removal Bid #2015-2

Mr. Worth noted that bids would be opened on 3/31 and he would make a recommendation at the next meeting for the sludge removal. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Surplus Equipment

Mr. Molino noted that a few times a year equipment was brought to Council to be surplused. He noted that the items would either be traded or auctioned. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Cable Franchise Agreement

Mr. Molino noted that the last franchise agreement was done in 1993 and had auto-renewed since its original expiration. He noted there weren't major changes but there would need to be a public hearing to accept the agreement. He gave a summary of the agreement and noted that it clearly defined revenue, payments would be quarterly instead of annually, it was still a 10-year contract and the City would be able to request reports. Councilperson Christian asked whatever happened with Empire. Mr. Molino noted that a similar agreement was given to Empire because franchise agreements can't be substantially different and the City would continue to work with them. Councilperson Tabelski asked if the potential takeover had any direct bearing on the City if it went through. Mr. Molino noted that the minimum standards had to be honored even if Charter took over Time Warner. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Ladder Truck Assessment

Interim Chief Herberger gave some background on the formation of the committee that evaluated the ladder truck purchase options. He provided information on the current truck, noted that 16 different trucks had been looked at and gave his recommendation of which truck they were looking to purchase and why. Mr. Molino acknowledged the need to replace the ladder truck and noted that reserves had been funded over the past years in anticipation of the purchase. He felt that the committee did their due diligence and were very thorough. He discussed the procurement of the truck and the use of cooperatives. He noted that the cost was estimated at \$910,000 and recommended using reserves to fund the purchase of a demo ladder truck. He explained the next step would be to surplus Ladder 15, transferring reserve funds and some additional resolutions. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Vibrant Batavia Presentation

Mr. Molino began by reminding Council that last year they committed funds to Vibrant Batavia with hopes of a new funding source being identified. Leanna DiRisio recapped the timeline of events and projects they had done beginning with the czb report in 2012. She noted that it was great to see how it all progressed. She noted that the job of Vibrant Bataiva was to organize the events that people want to do but just don't have the time. Mr. Molino noted that Leanna had submitted her resignation as she was opening her own business downtown and he wished her luck with her new venture. He discussed 2016

priorities, targeted investments, City-wide investments, and suggested to fund a new community organizer to auction 109 Walnut St which was a home recently taken over by the City through foreclosure. He noted that Vibrant Batavia (VB) couldn't fundraise to support themselves each year, local governments usually invest in this type of community development and it was hard to find someone to only work for one year at a time. Councilperson Christian noted that VB was discussed during the budget and asked if they made \$135,000 then why didn't they use that money to fund the position. Council President Jankowski noted that money was raised just for the Centennial Celebration. Councilperson Christian asked if the part-time position was paid benefits as well. Mr. Molino explained that they were not hired by the City and thus were not City employees but rather it was a contract with NeighborWorks to provide the position. Councilperson Christian congratulated Summit St for making it work but noted that she had tried several times to form something similar in her ward and it just didn't take off. Councilperson Hawley publicly acknowledged Leanna for the time and effort she put forth and felt she deserved a round of applause. Councilperson Pacino was so proud of her ward noting that the planting of one flower sparked others to do more. She felt the sense of pride in neighborhoods was growing, it was worth it by watching what VB started, and she was totally pro Vibrant Batavia. Councilperson Canale asked what came first – the Summit St group of VB coordinating it. One of the speakers noted that a couple of people started talking but shortly after that they got a flyer from VB offering to coordinate for them. Councilperson Canale tasked VB with creating more neighborhood groups. Mr. Molino noted that the model wouldn't work in every neighborhood but that it did work well with those in transition and that could go either way. Councilperson Canale thought Council should identify one street in each ward where it could work and go from there. Council President Jankowski asked what the value of Walnut St. Mr. Molino wasn't sure but hoped to be able to fund the position of approximately \$25,000 - \$35,000. Council President Jankowski noted that he hoped that VB would raise enough to be privately funded and explained he needed to look at both sides of the argument and consider taxpayers opinions. Mr. Molino noted that community development and neighborhood development was an investment in its community and local governments invest because they see rewards. He didn't think it should be categorized as a service club investment because it was more than that. Council President Jankowski asked what the next step was. Mr. Molino suggested auctioning the property and putting the funds in committed funds. Council President Jankowski would like Council to get a copy of the VB resolution from 2015 to refresh their memory on what was decided. Councilperson Tabelski asked why the City couldn't just transfer the property to NeighborWorks who would sell and use the proceeds to fund the VB position. Mr. Molino noted that a municipality couldn't do this type of loan since the City's benefit would be over a year and there hadn't been anything done similar enough to this to ensure it was legal. Mr. Molino reminded Council that they could educate the public if they wanted to because they had all the information that not everyone else had. Council President Jankowski replied that it was also the job of VB to educate the public about what they've done.

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Conference Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

03/28/2016

Respectfully submitted,

**Heidi J. Parker
Clerk-Treasurer**