

CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017

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

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

Jim Russell, 4 Lacrosse Ave, asked what the sense of urgency was for the potential re-zoning of the East Main St properties. He suggested including the idea in the comprehensive plan and noted there were discrepancies regarding what the property should be re-zoned as. He felt it should be commercially zoned at that location because there were a lot of people coming into the east end of the City and they could use commercial property there. Mr. Russell noted that we currently have more property to rent than people to rent to so this new project would only add to the problem. He stated that it was labeled affordable housing but thought the prices seemed high and didn't think anyone should use veterans as a ploy to get support. Mr. Russell stated that there was no immediate need and thought it might be rushed. He explained that two different planning boards had different ideas and the City needed to look at what was in the City's best interest.

Jennifer Gray, 41 Clinton St, from GoArt handed out informational programs and noted that she was looking to get City support for Picnic in the Park. She noted that it was one of the only remaining community celebrations in the area with a lot of history and that it can't continue without support. Ms. Gray noted that they tap into businesses for support all the time and was looking to have City support as well. She noted that it brings around 4,000 people into the City on the fourth of July and she offered some examples of how the arts can have an effect on a community. She hoped that Council would support her request.

Michelle Cryer, 142 Ross St, stated that Picnic in the Park was in jeopardy of being lost and she couldn't imagine living anywhere else because of those types of events. She noted that this was an important event and support from the City would be huge to GoArt. She felt that Council's support would show the people of Batavia that the arts are supported and that the arts were more than just painting a picture.

John Roach, 116 Grandview Terr, wanted to back up what Mr. Russell had said and he didn't think we needed any more tax exempt properties. He wondered where the people were going to come from to fill the units and no veterans were really looking for housing in this area. Mr. Roach noted that even the VA couldn't fill their own property with all veterans so wasn't sure how this new place would be filled with veterans.

Mary Ellen Wilber, 205 Liberty St, felt there were too many tax exempt properties in the City and there were already vacancies in current properties. She wondered if the pool of

people expected to fill the property were from our community. Ms. Wilber stated that we've lost a lot of community events that used to make the City great and would rather have lots to build houses instead of apartments.

Council Response to Public Comments

Councilperson Christian asked why the City wasn't included on the GoArt income statement since the City provides money to them per the budget. Councilperson Tabelski pointed out that it was included on page 4 of the handout. Councilperson Pacino noted that she has worked with children her whole life and when she's asked the parents why they came to Batavia they would say because of the arts and the amount of stuff there is for kids to do.

Communications

The Memorial Day parade is scheduled for Monday, May 29th at 9:45am on Main and Bank Streets. Council approved.

The Z Club of Batavia submitted an application for a 5K Run for Education on Saturday, April 29th at 9:00am using the Don Carroll route within the City. Council approved.

Council President's Report

Council President Jankowski announced the next regular City Council Business meeting to be held on Monday, April 10, 2017 at 7:00pm at the City Hall Council Board Room, 2nd Floor, City Centre.

Appointments of Members to Various Boards

Council was all in favor of moving the appointments forward to the next business meeting.

Police Department Surplus and Trade-in of Firearms

Chief Heubusch noted they were looking to surplus items so they could be traded in for updated equipment for ERT. Councilperson Bialkowski thought it was a great deal. Council agreed to move the item to the next business meeting.

Go Art! 2017 Picnic in the Park Request

Mr. Molino noted that they were looking for \$4,000 to assist with Picnic in the Park. Councilperson McGinnis thought the Vibrant Batavia money was supposed to go into the general fund. Mr. Molino noted that it was kept in committed fund balance for zombie homes or other neighborhood investment which the request was in line with. He noted that that money couldn't be used until authorized by Council. Councilperson Canale thought Picnic in the Park was well deserving of the funding it needed but wondered why they need it this year as opposed to prior years. Ms. Gray explained that the event was being run at a loss but they went ahead with it every year in hopes that sponsorships would come in.

Councilperson Bialkowski asked what the money was used for that was given by Council. Ms. Gray said it was for general purposes and not for anything specific. Council Briggs noted that Council usually didn't want to give money after the budget was passed but Ms. Gray explained that they were asking for funds from the Vibrant Batavia budget that was already in place. Councilperson Canale asked if they had asked the County for money as well and Ms. Gray stated they were told not to ask for more funding and actually got a 10% reduction. Councilperson Canale noted that with the decrease in other community events the City's costs have also decreased and didn't want to keep losing major events. Councilperson Viele agreed with Councilperson Pacino's earlier comments. Councilperson Viele made a motion to move the transfer of \$4,000 to Go Art from committed fund balance to the next business meeting for an official vote. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Bialkowski and on roll call approved 8-1. Councilperson Christian voted no.

Foreclosure Property Auction

Mr. Molino noted that there were three parcels up for surplus and approval to sell to the highest bidder. Council agreed to move the item forward.

661, 665, & 679 East Main Street Rezone

Mr. Molino noted that the rezone had been reviewed by the City Planning Board and recommended a C2 designation. He suggested setting a public hearing for 4/24/17 and vote on 5/8/17. Council President Jankowski wanted to see what the property was currently zoned, what it meant could go there and what the proposed zoning was and what that meant. Councilperson Christian had several questions that she wanted answered and a representative from DePaul noted that she had written down all of her questions and would answer them during a presentation they would make to the Council. Councilperson McGinnis stated that the City was a family-friendly community and didn't like to see apartments come in and destroy that. He also didn't want a company to propose helping the veterans just to line their pockets.

Police Facility: Appraisal of Real Property

Mr. Molino noted that there needed to be an appraisal done of the property and Council would need to transfer funds from facility reserve to pay for the appraisal. Mr. Molino also set out a broad timeline and potential costs. Councilperson Bialkowski wanted to confirm that there would be just one resolution to ask for the \$5,000 then separate resolutions as they moved forward and Mr. Molino noted that was correct. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Award of the Electrical Pump Station Improvements Project

Matt Worth, Director of Public Works, gave details of the project and noted that he spoke to the low bidder. He explained that the cost came in higher than expected and they only received two bids. He recommended moving forward with the project even though it was higher than anticipated. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Executive Session ... Litigation Matters and 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..."and;

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..." and;

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 9-0.

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Council President Jankowski noted that he'd received calls regarding the deer situation. Mr. Molino noted that they had been having monthly meetings, would meet again in April and expected a recommendation in the next couple of months.

Conference Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Heidi J. Parker
Clerk-Treasurer**