

# **CITY OF BATAVIA – SPECIAL CONFERENCE MINUTES MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2018**

Present were Council President Jankowski and Councilpersons Canale, Christian, Viele, Briggs, Pacino, McGinnis, and Bialkowski. Councilperson Tabelski arrived at 8:00pm.

## **Call to Order**

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

## **Police Facility Presentation**

Chief Heubusch noted that the City had been working with John Brice from Geddis Architects and Dominic Calgi since 2015 on the original study of a new police facility and then again to evaluate the results of the study. A 2018 study update was given to Council with history and options provided. They went through the timeline, challenges of the current building and reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of each option. Mr. Calgi explained the cost projections for each of the three options which ranged from \$6.3 million to approximately \$10 million.

Councilperson Viele asked the Chief what he thought would be the best option. Chief Heubusch felt that the 150 year old building they are currently in hasn't really worked in the past and didn't think it would work in the future. His biggest concerns were meeting program needs. Councilperson Canale asked where the land acquisition cost was in the estimates. Mr. Calgi noted they were included in the soft costs. Councilperson Bialkowski asked if secured parking was addressed in option 3 and was told that it was. Councilperson Christian asked how much land the current police department had. Mr. Worth assumed it was less than an acre. Council President Jankowski felt there was really only two options – not option 1 which was minimal revisions to the current location. Councilperson Bialkowski asked for a cost estimate for the operation and maintenance of the old police building if the City went with the third option of building a new facility. Councilperson Pacino noted that they have spent two years trying to find a place to put the police department and she didn't want to wait that long again. Council President Jankowski suggested starting to figure out how to fund the project no matter what choice is made.

## **Consolidated Funding Grant Application – Recreation Sub Committee**

Mr. Worth noted that there was no need for formal action but there were rules that needed to be followed including public hearings. He noted that funding for this application has already been budgeted so just need approval to move forward.

## **Consolidated Funding Grant Application – BOA Strategic Plan**

Mr. Worth noted that this was similar to the application above and just need approval to

move forward. Councilperson Christian asked how much was budgeted. Mr. Worth stated that the total is \$20,000 but would cost around \$5,500. Council agreed to move the items forward.

### **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Monies**

Mr. Worth explained that the City has a revolving loan but the federal government feels the money should be given back to the state unless we have a project where we can spend the money. He noted that projects were identified where these funds could be directed like the Brooklyn Ave project. Council agree to move the item to the business meeting immediately following this meeting.

### **Youth Baseball at MacArthur Park**

Mr. Worth noted that in the past, once improvements were complete under the guidance of public works, it would come to Council to be accepted as a gift. Mr. Worth wanted to make sure Council was on board with the recommendations of the engineers including having the field limited to 8 and under. Councilperson Christian preferred tee ball only and no fence. Councilperson Bialkowski suspected there was still disagreement between the leagues and wondered how the age would be restricted – with an ordinance of some sort? Mr. Worth noted it would be a park rule similar to the sunrise to sunset hours of operation rule. Councilperson Canale noted that his original comment was to install baseline fencing but it may be more difficult for parents to watch tennis matches. He felt if it was tee ball only then there would be no need for a fence and felt a fence would be an inconvenience. Council President Jankowski asked why the experts came up with these recommendations and noted that he liked to trust the experts. Councilperson Bialkowski wanted to hear what the attorney thought the liability would be. Dave Fitch, in for George Van Nest, felt that if the City started tinkering with the expert recommendations or dictating our own suggestions, the City would take on more exposure but that was assuming it was an 8 and under group playing. He noted that if it changes to tee ball only the expert's recommendations may change. Council President Jankowski said to have Mr. Worth ask the engineers to provide recommendations if it is tee ball only. Councilperson Viele asked Mr. Utter, Minor League Baseball, what was there now. Mr. Utter noted that tee ball is there now based on recommendations from Council to stay as is. Council President Jankowski liked the idea of taking the expert's recommendation and thought it would be in the best interest of the City to do so. Councilperson Briggs noted that by Council dragging this out it was hindering the minor league season. Mr. Utter agreed and noted that they proposed a compromise to Little League. Council President Jankowski noted that Council could always override the recommendations but then they would own it and take on the liability associated with it. Mr. Worth noted he would be an answer as soon as possible from the engineers to see if anything would be different if it was just tee ball.

### **Recommendations for Enhanced Police Services**

Chief Heubusch noted that about three or four years ago the City purchased a street surveillance camera and have moved it a few times. He recommended purchasing four additional cameras and noted he was working on ways to fund the purchase. Councilperson Bialkowski asked how many have not. Chief Heubusch noted they have one and one

is budgeted for purchase in this year's budget. Councilperson Briggs noted that she supported the purchase and that it was a quality of life issue. She noted that criminal activity is moving throughout the City. Councilperson Canale asked if the new cameras would be just like what we have or different. Chief Heubusch stated they would be an updated version of what we have now. Councilperson Viele stated that police and fire had his full support. Councilperson Christian noted that this request came from her and didn't care where the money came from. Chief Heubusch noted they would be requesting an MRAP vehicle soon as well. Councilperson Bialkowski noted that the cameras are only a tool and it's up to the public to get more involved. He felt there needed to be more community involvement. Councilperson Tabelski asked what the waiting list was like for the MRAP vehicle. Chief Heubusch noted that inventory is low but as soon as the program is approved and a vehicle is available it's given out right away. He noted that he would have more answers to questions such as training and maintenance at the next meeting. Councilperson Briggs stated that Chief Heubusch made it clear that you can get involved without anyone knowing but the cameras are watching 24 hours a day. Council agreed to move the item to the next business meeting.

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**Special Conference Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Heidi J. Parker  
Clerk-Treasurer**

06/11/2018