

# **CITY OF BATAVIA – SPECIAL CONFERENCE MINUTES MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**

Present were Council President Jankowski and Councilmembers Bialkowski, Briggs, Christian, McGinnis, Pacino, Canale, and Viele. Councilmember Karas was absent.

## **Call to Order**

Council President Jankowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

## **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilmember Canale led the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Public Comments**

Ronald Yantz, 15 Otis St, noted that he bought a house in 2020 and it was a quiet neighborhood until the people bought the house at 20 Otis. He noted that there are constant parties, groups of kids causing trouble, and problems with garbage. Mr. Yantz noted that he called the police because he saw one kid carrying a pistol. He noted that they have no regard for their neighbors. He explained that he heard a huge explosion one night, called the cops, was verbally abused by the neighbor and his home and vehicles were threatened. He regrets purchasing the house and hopes something can be done and said he didn't expect to have to deal with this at his age and in that neighborhood.

## **Council Response to Public Comments**

Councilmember Canale asked if it was a rental and Council President Jankowski noted it was not, the police were aware and working with the Assistant City Manager to get code enforcement there. He suggested to keep calling the police so there is a record of each instance. Councilmember Christian noted that she heard about this at the ward meetings and it was ridiculous that Mr. Yantz would have to deal with this. She felt that the kids should be taken away from the family considering their actions. Councilmember Briggs asked if there was an occupancy limit. Mrs. Tabela noted that they looked into occupancy and when the police can charge them with a crime, they will but most complaints don't rise to the level of a crime. Chief Heubusch noted that it was an open investigation, charges are pending and the police will have a presence there when time permits, noted that these were people they've had experience with in the past, legal versus casual definition of harassment is very different, and lighting of fireworks in the City is illegal. Council President said to call about every little thing so the police can document the calls.

## **Communications**

The YWCA of Genesee County submitted an application for a 5K on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am starting and ending at 301 North St. The event is for Domestic Violence

Awareness Month. Council approved.

Batavia Rotary is requesting to hold a Cemetery 5K on Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm on Harvester through three cemeteries. Council approved.

The Alzheimer's Association submitted an application for a walk on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am – 1:00pm starting and ending at Dwyer Stadium to raise awareness and funds for program services and research. Council approved.

### **Council President Report**

Council President Jankowski announced the next regular City Council Conference meeting to be held on Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the City Hall Council Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Centre.

### **Presentation – Muckdogs Baseball – Robbie Nichols**

Mr. Nichols, owner, and Mark Witt, General Manager, of the Muckdogs thanked the City for their help when needed and was hopeful that they fulfilled their promises about what they could deliver. They noted that they hosted several events which were highlighted, provided statistics on season tickets and average attendance and the significant increase from past years, and discussed events they did with the community. They noted that they have a new dance team and there is a Monster Mash on October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4:00 – 7:00pm for trick-or-treating, games and activities. Councilmember Canale noted that he went to quite a few games and the atmosphere was tremendous and everyone was having fun. Councilmember Pacino noted that the games have been a big deal for her family.

### **Audit Presentation – Freed Maxick – Kathryn Barrett, CPA**

Ms. Barrett presented the year-end audit and noted that she met with the audit advisory committee a few weeks ago to review the audit. She thanked Mrs. Tabelski and Lisa Neary, Deputy Director of Finance, and all involved in the audit noting that it went extremely well again this year. She noted that we did a great job with the new software and an unmodified opinion was issued, which is the highest level of audit. She reviewed portions of the audit report and noted that the City finished very strong. She explained that revenues were higher than expected especially during a pandemic by holding the line on expenditures. Ms. Barrett noted that a million dollar loss was budgeted but ended with a \$1.5 million to the plus, used reserves and budgeted to re-fund them so they are available in the future for other spending. She noted that the balance sheet was very healthy for all funds. Council President Jankowski asked why we were moving money from unrestricted to restricted for workers' comp. She noted that was so we don't have ebbs and flows and it restricts the money since we are self-funded. Councilmember Bialkowski noted that the goal was to have \$1 million restricted. He also thanked the auditors and the staff and thought it went really well. Councilmember Viele noted that the bottom line was good management.

### **Transferring Funds from Assigned Fund Balance to Various Reserve Funds**

Mrs. Tabelski noted that the reserve recommendations were reviewed and approved by the

Audit Committee and unassigned fund balance is at 15% of general fund expenditures. She reviewed the detailed equipment purchases for the future to show why she was asking for the reserve transfers. Council agreed to move the item to the next business meeting.

**Modified and Restated Sales Tax Allocation Agreement Between the City of Batavia and County of Genesee**

Mrs. Tabelski noted that the County modifications didn't affect the City's distribution of sales tax but needed the City's approval to change some of the issues and distributions with other municipalities in the County. Mr. Van Nest noted that the comptroller reviewed the agreement and he reviewed it with the County attorney and there seemed to be no issues on the City's end and it was acceptable. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

**Highland Park Street Light**

Mrs. Tabelski recommended an additional light fixture on an existing pole and that this was an emergency situation. Councilmember Briggs thanked Chief Heubusch for addressing this issue. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

**VFD Drive Purchase at Water Treatment Plant**

Mrs. Tabelski noted that this drive failed, needed to be replaced, and recommended moving this forward to purchase the pump. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

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**Special Conference Meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Heidi J Parker  
Clerk-Treasurer**

09/13/2021