

CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2021

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

In attendance from the City were Captain Herberger, Lisa Neary, Dawn Fairbanks, Brett Frank, Chief Heubusch, and Bill Davis.

Call to Order

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

Public Comments

None.

Council Response to Public Comments

None.

Communications

Batavia Players requested to hold a performance in the City Centre concourse on Thursday and Friday, October 28 and 29 at 7:30pm. Council approved.

Council President's Report

Council President Jankowski announced the next regular City Council Business meeting to be held on Monday, November 8, 2021 at 7:00pm at the City Hall Council Board Room, 2nd Floor, City Centre.

Council President Jankowski presented a proclamation to the Genesee Symphony Orchestra for their 75 year anniversary. He noted that the orchestra was founded in 1947 and is one of the oldest in New York state. City Council offered their congratulations and their representatives thanked the City for their support.

Fee Schedule Proposal Presentation – Assistant City Manager

Jill Wiedrick, Assistant City Manager, gave background about the Inspection Department and her professional background. She reviewed the life of a permit, discussed Energov and its benefits, and explained how Energov would advance the inspections process significantly. Mrs. Wiedrick reviewed the changes to the permit fee schedule, which would help take the guesswork out of calculating a permit, and, if approved, would go into effect 1/1/2022. She also noted there is currently no real penalty for not getting a permit but that would change as well and cost triple the cost of the original permit.

10/25/2021

Councilmember Christian thought this was the wrong time for a fee increase with everything else people are struggling to pay for these days. Mrs. Wiedrick noted that she appreciated her comment but noted that currently everyone else is subsidizing the cost of the permit since the permits fees aren't in line with what the cost is to the City. She also noted that the proposed flat fees won't penalize applicants for using high end products in their projects which currently would increase the permit fee because it's tied now to the price tag of the project. Mrs. Tabelski noted that some residential costs would actually go down. Council President Jankowski summarized that by increasing the fee, that would cover the time it takes inspection to properly inspect projects. He noted that the cost to the City would be incurred no matter what so this will just put that cost on the person doing the project, not on everyone else through property taxes. Mrs. Tabelski responded that he was correct and the inspection department was wholly funded by the General Fund so the only way to make up the cost not being paid through the current permit fees would be through the taxes. She noted that this was more fair and the person doing the work would be the person paying for the work. Councilmember Bialkowski felt we needed to step up the public education regarding permits. He noted that many people don't get permits at all because they think they can do their work without getting one. Mrs. Wiedrick noted that the inspections were there to make sure the project was safe and done within NYS building code meant to protect the property owner. Councilmember Canale felt it was extremely important to be proactive with the public and noted that the business world sees the City as an unfriendly environment but we aren't and will work with them for the safety of everyone. Council President Jankowski thought that code enforcement was very important and has greatly improved some neighborhoods in the City. Council agreed to move the fee schedule to the next business meeting.

Amend the 2021-2022 Police Department Budget to Reflect Receipt of a Stop-DWI Grant

Chief Heubusch noted that the City received \$7,500 for the crackdown campaign for a specific period of time and the money comes from the County through the state. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following based on the dates of the crackdowns.

Agreement with Town of Batavia for Street Light Maintenance

Mrs. Tabelski explained that the Town requested we enter into an agreement to maintain 31 lights on Park Rd, not poles, and they would pay for the labor and materials. She noted that National Grid maintains the residential lights. Council agreed to move the item to the next business meeting.

Agreement with Town of Batavia for Traffic Signal Maintenance

Mrs. Tabelski noted that the Town would like to enter into an agreement for the City to maintain the traffic light at Oak and Federal Drive as the Town doesn't have the proper equipment or personnel to maintain the signal. Council agreed to move the item to the next business meeting.

Inter-municipal City Court Prosecutorial Service Agreement

Mrs. Tabelski noted that, since 1993, the City has contracted with the DA's office to provide prosecutorial services for certain laws. She noted there was a 3% increase in cost for each year. Council agreed to move the item to the next business meeting.

Accept Restore New York Grant to Benefit Savarino Companies Project

Mrs. Tabelski noted that there was a grant awarded in 2017 to the City of Batavia on behalf of Savarino and this disbursement agreement needs to be made for the project to move forward. Councilmember Bialkowski asked if there were any stipulations on when this would start. Mrs. Tabelski noted that the City's jurisdiction over the project is very limited and this would be for the final closing. Mr. Van Nest noted that other agencies will put themselves on this project. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

Enter Into An Undertaking Agreement with Savarino Companies

Mrs. Tabelski noted that this went hand-in-hand with the item above and Savarino will agree to undertake the project on the City's behalf. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

6 Month Budget Transfers

Mrs. Tabelski noted that we do a tight oversight and six month budget review and a few expenditures are projected to go over budget so asking for modification to the budget to cover those overages. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Sewer Camera Surplus

Mrs. Tabelski noted that the BOM wanted to trade in existing camera for \$3,600 to apply towards purchase of a new camera. She noted that they need Council approval to surplus the item. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Jackson Square Bid Award

Mrs. Tabelski noted that this would come to a future business meeting and this is the DRI project that is out to bid for construction. She asked to move this forward as soon as the bids come in so it can be awarded quickly. Council agreed to move the item forward.

* * *

Conference Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

10/25/2021

Heidi J. Parker
Clerk-Treasurer