

# **CITY OF BATAVIA BUSINESS MINUTES APRIL 11, 2022**

The regular business meeting of the City Council was held Monday, April 11, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, One Batavia City Centre, Batavia, New York, with Council President Jankowski presiding.

Present were Council President Jankowski and Councilmembers Viele, Pacino, Canale, McGinnis, Briggs, Schmidt, Richmond and Bialkowski. In attendance from the City of Batavia were Jill Wiedrick, Chief Heubusch, Chief Herberger, Lisa Neary, Brett Frank, Angela Dickson, and Rhonda Saulsbury.

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

The minutes from the March 2022 meetings and the February 2022 financials were approved.

The Council President assigned the regular agenda items.

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## **Communications**

The UMMC Foundation submitted an application for a lemonade stand fundraiser on Thursday, June 23 from 4:00 to 7:00pm in Centennial Park. Council approved.

Kiwanis submitted an application for an Easter egg hunt in Centennial Park on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. Council approved.

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## **Council President's Report**

Council President Jankowski announced the next City Council Conference meeting to be held on Monday, April 25, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall Council Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Centre

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## **City Attorney's Report**

Mr. Van Nest noted that he had nothing specific to report at this time.

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## City Manager's Report

Rachael Tabelski noted that the state passed their budget and AIM aid remained unchanged but VLT aid appeared to be included. She noted that the VLT aid could be used for a one-time purchase and the City may be able to get another street done with transportation funds and Pave Our Potholes (POP) funds. She noted that Restore NY was also in the budget again and then introduced Rhonda Saulsbury, City Assessor, to speak about the recent assessment notices.

Ms. Saulsbury explained that assessments change for two reasons – equalization and physical condition. She noted that people have multiple options for challenging the assessment by reaching out to her for an informal review or through Grievance Day. She noted that they can request a market sales document to see how the proposed assessments were arrived. She explained that the City will get municipal parcel aid if they maintain a 100% equalization rate. Ms. Saulsbury noted that if assessed values are between 95-100% of market value then we are alright but once they fall below that they need to be brought back up. Councilmember Bialkowski asked if prices drop would the values go down. Ms. Saulsbury stated that if it goes down below 95% they would have to reduce. Councilmember Canale noted that he has received calls about this, he understands the housing market went crazy last year, but it was hard to convince him that values had to go up even more this year. He also noted that most people think Ms. Saulsbury is the one raising the assessments but pointed out that she was just following the rules and doing her job. She explained that if you look at your neighborhood sales which are actual numbers, and get rid of the outliers, you can see where the values are coming from. She noted that it was great to have actual sales numbers to base values on and it was wonderful to see the growth in the City. She was also glad that Council had constituents call her so she could explain where the values come from. Councilmember Viele noted that he was mad that the state was forcing this on people. Ms. Saulsbury acknowledged that it was bad timing with all the other costs going up as well. Mrs. Tabelski noted that the letters everyone received tell you exactly what you can do to question your assessment through informal review of Grievance and we don't want people to feel they didn't have the opportunity to speak their opinion. Councilmember Schmidt noted that she had been getting calls and screamed at and wondered if the equalization requirement was throughout New York state. Ms. Saulsbury noted the City has to maintain data as up-to-date as possible and all properties in the City have to be assessed at the same equalization rate but other communities don't use 100%. Ms. Saulsbury noted that the change actually makes it fair so each parcel is paying their fair share and she can only update based on how good the data is. She noted that the data is the sales price which lately has been often times over asking price.

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## Committee Reports

Councilmember Pacino noted that the BID's annual meeting was going to be on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Generation Center and asked if anyone wanted to attend to let her know. She noted that GoArt had an awards night and that Council President Jankowski and Councilmember Schmidt had attended. She noted that she was very proud of GoArt. Councilmember Bialkowski noted that he went to Operation Graduation at Batavia High School, it was really good, and there was a big difference over prior years. He noted that the students had chosen careers and had a plan on how to get there. He also noted that Memorial Day parade invites were going out and JCPenneys had been sold.

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## Public Comments

Larry Barnes, 55 River St, City Historian, read part of his job duties including historic preservation and felt the Brisbane mansion (current police station) should be part of that. He noted that when the police department moves that Council will decide what happens to that building and felt the more they knew the better informed decisions they could make. He noted that he was working on a play coming out in June about the mansion and the Brisbanes and told Council to watch for times and locations so they could attend and learn some local history.

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## Council Responses to Public Comments

Council President Jankowski noted that part of the original plan was to *not* destroy the building but to repurpose it.

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## Unfinished Business

None.

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## New Business

**#32-2022**

**A RESOLUTION ENTERING TO AUTHORIZE A CONTRACT AMENDMENT/SIX MONTH EXTENSION OF THE CLIENT FIRST PROJECT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT**

**Motion of Councilmember McGinnis**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Batavia has determined it necessary to purchase and install computer software to implement an integrated Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system to utilize best practices, automated workflow, provides project management tools along with other suitable applications; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018 the City Council passed a resolution formalizing the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software project as a capital project and authorized a general obligation bond to finance the purchase, not to exceed \$800,000; and

**WHEREAS**, in August of 2019 the City Council authorized a one-year contract with Client First Technology Consulting to assist with external project management services, negotiations with Tyler Technologies and Systems East for contract development and changes, invoice review, outstanding implementation item checklists, and overall project review and budget analysis; and

**WHEREAS**, in August of 2020, the City Council authorized a one-year contract extension with Client First Technology Consulting to continue to assist; and

**WHEREAS**, to continue consistent and efficient project management delivery, Client First has presented a six month extension of their current agreement.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Batavia, approves a six month extension of the Client First contract at a cost not to exceed \$44,640.

**Seconded by Councilmember Bialkowski and on roll call approved 9-0.**

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**#33-2022**

**RESOLUTION TO COMPENSATE THE CITY OF BATAVIA HISTORIAN AND  
AMEND THE FY 22/23 BUDGET**

**Motion of Councilmember Richmond**

**WHEREAS**, The City of Batavia recognizes and values the work of the City Historian, currently Larry Barnes, and appreciates his time and dedication to the record keeping of the City and of documenting of current events for future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, The City, in recognition of the work of the City Historian, will compensate the Historian \$5,000 annually; and

**WHEREAS**, the Historian will be compensated quarterly basis.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVLED**, that the Council of the City of Batavia hereby directs the City Manager to amend the FY 22/23 Budget to reflect compensation for the historian by increasing/decreasing the following expenses.

|          |                                       |               |         |
|----------|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------|
| Increase | Historic Preservation Salary          | A.03.7510 100 | \$5,000 |
| Increase | Historic Preservation Social Security | A.03.7510 802 | \$ 390  |
| Decrease | Contingency                           | A.01.1989 500 | \$5,390 |

**Seconded by Councilmember Viele and on roll call approved 9-0.**

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**#34-2022**

**A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AGREEMENT WITH THE BATAVIA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER**

**Motion of Councilmember Schmidt**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Batavia and the Batavia City School District (BCSD) are desirous of working together to promote and maintain an atmosphere of safety for students, staff, faculty, administrators and visitors to the District; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and the District have worked together since 2019 to place a police officer on site at the School District to serve as the School Resource Officer (SRO); and

**WHEREAS**, Both parties agree that the SRO has been successful in assisting the District, school officials, students and families prevent crime, enforce campus security, build relationships, and act as a liaison between the District and other law enforcement personnel; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and BCSD will continue working together and provide on officer (full-time) to encourage, develop and foster communications and dialogue between students, the school community and law enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, The BCSD will reimburse the City of Batavia 100% of the Officers salary and employee benefits and services for the SRO will be billed based on the amount budgeted for the police officer assigned SRO duties and the actual overtime incurred during the billing cycle. Billing cycle will be on a quarterly basis; and

**WHEREAS**, The City will assign a full-time SRO to the School according to a mutually agreeable schedule, between the first day of the academic year until the final day of the academic year; and

**WHEREAS**, The City remains responsible for providing a vehicle for the SRO as well as the SRO's uniform, equipment, and training.

**WHEREAS**, The term of this Agreement commences April 11, 2022 and expires on June 30, 2024.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council President for the City of Batavia is hereby authorized to sign a School Resource Officer (SRO) Agreement between the City of Batavia and the Batavia City School District.

**Seconded by Councilmember Canale and on roll call approved 9-0.**

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**#35-2022**

**RESOLUTION TO CREATE A TEMPORARY POSITION OF DETECTIVE**

**Motion of Councilmember Viele**

**WHEREAS**, in preparation of the upcoming retirement of a Detective, and considering the management responsibilities and workload of this position it is necessary to create a temporary position; and

**WHEREAS**, the creation of this position will allow for a smoother transition in planning for the retirement and handling the workload of the department; and

**WHEREAS**, the newly created temporary position of Detective will support the department and allow ongoing training.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVLED**, that the Council of the City of Batavia hereby authorizes the creation of said position.

**Seconded by Councilmember Briggs and on roll call approved 9-0.**

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**MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion of Councilmember Pacino**

**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 Councilmember Schmidt and on roll call approved 9-0.**

Council entered executive session at 7:43 PM, Councilmember Bialkowski left at 8:20 PM, and executive session ended at 8:28 PM.

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**Meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Heidi J Parker  
Clerk-Treasurer**