

CITY OF BATAVIA – SPECIAL CONFERENCE MINUTES MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2022

Present were Council President Jankowski and Councilmembers Viele, Pacino, McGinnis, Briggs, Schmidt, Richmond and Bialkowski. Councilmember Canale arrived at 7:05 PM.

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.

K-9 Committed Fund Balance

Mrs. Tabelski provided the balance and details of the fund and thanked donors. She recommended the balance go to the committed fund balance. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

Regulating Animals in the City of Batavia

Mrs. Tabelski noted that Council had requested additional restrictions to the City Code regarding animals in the City. She explained that she worked with Code Enforcement and the City Attorney to come up with the listed restricted animals and noted that chickens were OK. She asked Council to move the item to business so it could go to the planning committee for review. Councilmember Canale thought chickens could fly so was concerned about them getting into others yards. Council President Jankowski noted they would need to be penned appropriately so it shouldn't be an issue and noted that this change would not regulate wild songbirds as they are not really a wild or farm animal. Councilmember Bialkowski hoped this wasn't just a reaction to a couple of people arguing over goats. He felt there were a lot of areas not covered like snakes and rabbits. He was concerned that the City would allow chickens but not roosters. He also felt that allowing horses at the race track but nowhere else seemed discriminatory. He asked about support animals which are not limited to any type of animal and suggested at least grandfathering in those people who already have these animals. Councilmember Pacino assumed most people with service animals probably kept them in their house so that wouldn't be a concern. Councilmember Canale felt that an exception could be written into the code or Council President Jankowski suggested applying for a variance. Council President Jankowski felt this topic was a void that needed to be addressed. Councilmember Viele stated that a little common sense went a long way regarding these animals. Councilmember Canale noted that his neighbors have goats that have gotten loose and it has become a safety issue. He noted there is nothing that can be done now because there is no legislation on the books. He stated that if you live in the City, you do so with the understanding that you are going to live under certain restrictions. Councilmember Richmond felt that we can't be held hostage to all of the what-ifs and thought the proposal was reasonable and could be tweaked down the road. Councilmember Bialkowski noted that he wouldn't support the proposal as written until some other items were addressed and wanted to see some

refinement. Council President Jankowski noted that PDC would look it over. Council agreed to move the item to business meeting immediately following which would move it to PDC.

Budget Amendment Resolution

Mrs. Tabelski noted that this was the annual year-end budget adjustments and suggested using contingency to fund overages. Councilmember Bialkowski asked why there was a big increase in economic development and legal. Mrs. Tabelski explained the increase in economic development was to move three properties to the books that were taken over through foreclosure and the entry hits an expense and legal was due to employment matters, several issues were close to arbitration, and the wastewater treatment plant issues. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

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Conference Meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Heidi J. Parker
Clerk-Treasurer**