

CITY OF BATAVIA

SPECIAL CONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023

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

In attendance from the City of Batavia were Rachael Tabelski, Erik Fix, Chief Heubusch, Chris Camp, Lisa Neary, and Krista Galdun.

Call to Order

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

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Council President Jankowski led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

Swearing in of New Police Chaplain (Zack Dawson)

Heidi Parker, City Clerk, swore in Zack Dawson as new police chaplain.

Proclamations – Pastor Shirk & Wade Schwab

Councilmember Briggs presented a proclamation to Wade Schwab and recognized his 13-plus years of service on the emergency response team. She noted that he served the community with professionalism and compassion, and provided selfless and dedicated service. She noted that the proclamation was made to Mr. Schwab to thank him for his many years of service to the City. Mr. Schwab noted that he was privileged to work with a great group of people and would miss it.

Council President Jankowski presented a proclamation to Pastor Shirk for his 22-plus years of service as police chaplain and 36 years as pastor of Grace Baptist. He noted that Pastor Shirk was always available to the public and offered mental, emotional and spiritual support. He noted that Pastor Shirk touched many lives and made the proclamation to thank him for his dedicated service to the community. Pastor Shirk thanked the City for allowing him to be part of the community of blue, was privileged to service under four exceptional leaders starting with Mark Robinson and considered them friends. He also felt privileged to serve the officers and thanked City Council.

BDC Presentation

Tammy Hathaway, BDC Director, noted that the BDC has assisted with City of Batavia development for 29 years and discussed why economic development was important. She noted that over 70% of businesses in the City have less than 10 employees so small businesses were very important to the City. Ms. Hathaway noted that the BDC uses the

City's initiatives to guide their focus. She reminded Council of the five brownfield areas designated as opportunity areas and showed the progress of the DRI and NY Main Street projects. She showed the increase in assessed value within the City due to development and appreciated the opportunity she has been given. Council President Jankowski thanked Ms. Hathaway for the presentation and noted that the City has come a long way in the last few years.

PBA Contract Agreement

Mrs. Tabelski noted that they worked with the PBA to come up to this contract and tried to rectify pay inequities. She noted they also tried to help with retention issues. Mr. Fix explained they tried to stay in line with comparable pay and Juneteenth would be added as a holiday. He noted there would be a one-time cost of approximately \$107,000 and noted approximate costs for future years with the raise adjustments. Councilmember Bialkowski asked how many holidays there would now be and Mr. Fix noted 13 ½. He also asked how we staff with more holidays. Chief Heubusch noted that they can be used as floating holidays so don't have to back fill. Councilmember Bialkowski asked why they would be getting a one-time \$1,500 payment. Mrs. Tabelski explained that it was similar to a bonus but didn't impact their base pay. Councilmember Briggs noted that we have an outstanding police department and retention is important so she was very much in favor of the agreement. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

Sale of Equipment to CAN USA

Mrs. Tabelski noted that the City purchased equipment when the Penn League played at Dwyer which is now being used by CAN USA. She noted that the City wants to sell the it to CAN USA since City employees weren't operating the equipment. Councilmember Canale wondered if the operator left if the City would need that equipment for the stadium. Mrs. Tabelski noted that we mostly own items attached to the buildings (like carpet for example) but not kitchen equipment, etc and we have other equipment that is used on other City properties so the City would be ok if the operator left and took the equipment. Councilmember Schmidt asked how much we paid for the equipment. Mrs. Tabelski noted that it was approximately \$15,000 in 2020. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

Use of VLT Funds for Police Equipment

Mrs. Tabelski noted that the City would like to use VLT funds to purchase various police equipment. Assistant Chief Camp explained they were looking to purchase 9mm side arms for improved accuracy and there was a little cost savings for the ammunition as well. He noted they would also purchase AR-15s so all vehicles would have this weapon. Chief Heubusch noted other items would include community speed display signs that could be mounted instead of the ones on the trailer as well as street surveillance cameras. Councilmember Canale noted that everyone in the community benefits from spending this money.

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01/09/2023

Conference Meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Heidi J Parker
Clerk-Treasurer**