

CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES

MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023

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

In attendance from the City were Chief Heubusch, Brett Frank, Josh Graham, Lisa Neary, and Krista Galdun.

Call to Order

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

Public Comments

Bonnie Phillips, 656 East Main St, noted that she had been having issues with her neighbors and explained that it's like a continuous party in their backyard. She noted they have had people move in with them, they are working on a car in the yard and there have been alcohol bottles in her yard. She explained that she installed cameras on June 17th and getting estimates for a fence but it's expensive. She noted that he dog came back with dirty baby wipes in it's mouth, there are large tents in the yard that people are staying in, and she has been threatened. She provided pictures of her backyard to Council and asked that the code be adjusted so this wasn't allowed.

James Pontillo, 5593 Griswold Rd, Stafford, was speaking about 129 Union St. He requested assistance to investigate the City Manager's office. He explained that he has requested to speak with that office for the last five years and no one will get back to him. He stated that he is having issues with the inspection department, feels that Mr. Randall is providing forged documents to the court, and wondering if he was guided to do so. He noted that he would like Council to talk to his lawyer and has submitted FOIL requests to see how much the City attorney costs have been to deal with this. He noted that he would like to speak to Council if they wanted to, explained he didn't want to be here, but issues weren't going through the proper channels.

Council Response to Public Comments

George Van Nest, City Attorney, asked Council not to discuss Mr. Pontillo's statements except in executive session. Regarding Ms. Phillips, Councilmember Bialkowski asked if a campground permit was needed to camp in someone's backyard. Mr. Van Nest noted that they would dig into this more and there may already be code violations that can be addressed. He noted that this was the first many of the City staff was hearing about these concerns.

Communications

The Batavia Police Department was requesting to hold Community Night Out on Tuesday, August 22nd from 5:30 – 8:00pm on Liberty St and Central Ave to build relationships and increase communication between police and community members. There will be vendors, equipment displayed, and activities. Council approved.

Council President Report

Council President Jankowski announced the next City Council meeting to be held on Monday, August 14, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the City Hall Council Board Room, 2nd Floor, City Centre.

Bank of America Easement

Brett Frank, Director of Public Works, noted that Bank of America was looking for a permanent easement for upgrades to their lighting for safety on a 10' x 15' rectangle with a light pole that is currently on city property. Councilmember Twichell asked the height of the pole and Mr. Frank wasn't certain but would check and get back to him. Councilmember Bialkowski asked if there was any downside to granting the request. Mr. Van Nest noted that this was just an easement for a light and the City had done many before. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

* * *

Conference Meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Heidi J Parker
Clerk-Treasurer**

07/10/2023