

CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES

MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2023

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

In attendance from the City were Chief Heubusch, Brett Frank, Josh Graham, Erik Fix, Chris Camp, Rebecca McGee, and Dan Borchert.

Call to Order

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

Public Comments

Erik Saluste, 5 Walnut St, noted that the pedestrian crossing at the south end of route 98 did not have proper signage for the crosswalk. He was asking the City to put something there to slow down the traffic or ticket driver. He noted that people continually increase their speed heading out of town so if a police officer could sit there and constantly issue speeding tickets, maybe people would realize it's a heavily enforced area and would slow down. He explained, however, that his big concern and reason for coming was the crosswalk.

Council Response to Public Comments

Mrs. Tabelski agreed with the speaker and said the City would look into it with public works and DOT. Councilmember Briggs noted that it was very bad in that area and agreed with the speaker as well. Council President Jankowski felt that signage and good enforcement would help. Councilmember Bialkowski felt it was a problem all over the city.

Communications

BND Hockey was requesting to hold their 2nd annual bike rally on Sunday, August 20th from 5:00 – 6:00pm starting and ending at Batavia High School. They would be riding throughout the City streets. Council approved.

Just Kings requested to hold a back to school giveaway on Saturday, August 26th in Austin Park from 2:00 – 6:00pm. There will be free food, hair cuts and book bags. Council approved.

Eli Fish submitted an application for Music in Jackson Square on Thursday, August 31st from 6:00 – 9:00pm with live music and craft beer sales. Council approved.

Neighbors of Lincoln Ave requested to hold a block party on Saturday, September 9th on

Lincoln Ave from 3:00 – 8:00pm for neighbors to interact with one another. Council approved.

Everpresent Church submitted an application for a women's luncheon in the City Centre concourse on Saturday, September 9th from 10:00am – 3:00pm. Council approved.

David and Alison Chua submitted an application for a block party on Trumbull Parkway on Saturday, August 26th from 1:30 – 7:30pm from North St to East Ave. Council approved.

Council President Report

Council President Jankowski announced the next City Council meeting to be held on Monday, September 11, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the City Hall Council Board Room, 2nd Floor, City Centre.

Proclamation – Patti Pacino Retirement

Council President Jankowski presented former Councilmember Patti Pacino with a proclamation for her service to the City for over 13 years on Council. He noted that she retired on March 28, 2023 from her second ward position that she took over on January 1, 2010. He noted that she served on various committees, was heavily involved with Batavia High School, girl scouts, and many other organizations. He noted that Mrs. Pacino was always advocating for neighborhoods and supporter of the BID. Congratulations to Patti! Mrs. Pacino responded by saying that she is still dedicated to the City of Batavia and wish everyone all the best.

Appointment of Part-time Judge

Mrs. Tabelski noted that Judge Burns had stepped down from his term as part-time judge and the new appointment, Andrea Clattenburg, will finish the term through 12/31/26. Council President Jankowski noted that they did an early morning interview with the candidate and Councilmember Briggs stated that she was very impressed with both her resume and her as a person. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

Jackson Square Bids

Mrs. Tabelski noted that several bids came back below the grant amount so wanted to award the bid to Thompson Builds. She noted that the specs were scaled down to a functional project making it more affordable. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

Jackson Street Water Bids

Mrs. Tabelski noted that the City was awarded a CDBG grant for \$1.1 million in 2021 to replace water lines. Brett Frank, DPW director, noted that this project was put out

to bid in 2023 and the low bidder was Blue Heron Construction who was slightly over budget but were highly recommended by GHD. Mr. Frank explained that the project had to be completed by the end of the year. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

City Sidewalk Construction Project

Mrs. Tabelski noted that this project was to replace sidewalks on Fairmont, hart, Madison and Norris. Mr. Frank added that this would also include driveway approaches and wanted to push it along to hopefully have it complete by October 31st. The recommendation was to use Ramsey Constructors for the project. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

Acceptance of AFG Grant - Fire

Mrs. Tabelski thanked the fire department for continuing to get these grants for equipment. Chief Graham noted this would be for three sets of turnout gear and certifications for the swift water rescue team. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

Police Officer Position

Mrs. Tabelski noted that there had been an increase in neighborhood issues and crime and wanted to unfreeze a police officer position for the NET team. Chief Heubusch noted that NET is a very effective format but not staffed all the time and this would allow the department to staff a NET team as it should be to address crimes. Councilmember Bialkowski asked if the teams would be working nights and weekends. Chief Heubusch noted that they would need to be flexible. Councilmember Bialkowski asked what equipment was needed that costs \$120,000. Chief Heubusch explained that would be used to purchase at least two vehicles, upfitting, uniforms, and surveillance. Councilmember Briggs felt that this was a safety issue and she supported it 100%. Council President Jankowski noted that when it was funded in the past, it was very effective and would like to see Council give it another try. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

Budget Amendment VLT Aid – NET Police

Mrs. Tabelski explained that VLT would be used for salaries and equipment this year and next year the cost would be absorbed in the budget. She stated she would find a way to fund this new position and anticipating another great year on sales tax so hopefully can raise that revenue line. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

NYS DEC Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program Application

Mrs. Tabelski noted that the city applied for a \$75,000 grant for a full tree inventory in 2016/2017 and this grant would enable us to remove and replace around 30 trees in

Centennial Park. She was asking permission to apply for this grant and noted that Genesee County Soil and Water were interested in helping with the match. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

Sale of 6 Alva Place

Mr. Fix noted that the City was looking to sell a triangle of sidewalk below the marquee of the theatre on Alva Place to make the property whole instead of the City owning a little portion. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

Water Treatment Plant Bid Award – Lime Slaker Precipitator

Mrs. Tabelaiki noted that the City was awarded a WIHA grant and Mr. Frank explained this was the contract to award construction services to STC Construction for various repairs. He noted the bid came in under budget and was for the lime slaker precipitator. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

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Conference Meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Heidi J Parker
Clerk-Treasurer**