

# **CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES**

## **MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024**

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

In attendance from the City were Chief Heubusch, Brett Frank, Chief Graham, Erik Fix, Lisa Neary, Tom Phelps, Rebecca McGee, 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**

John Roach, 116 Grandview Ter, asked for an update on the repair at Main and Richmond (it is actually Redfield) and when that would be complete. He also noted that, under a previous city manager, there was a program/plan to convert multi-family homes to single-family homes. He wondered if Council was considering any plans/programs to do just the opposite as was suggested based on a report from LaBella and the need for more housing.

### **Council Response to Public Comments**

Mr. Fix, Assistant City Manager, noted that there was the Batavia Home Fund which focused on multi-family to single-family homes but nothing going the other way. Councilmember Bialkowski noted that any change to zoning would have to go through the planning and zoning boards for approval. Mr. Frank explained that the Main/Redfield repairs were still in the works and getting closer to being complete.

### **Communications**

Care-A-Van Ministries requested to hold community cookouts every Thursday (except July 4<sup>th</sup>) from June 6<sup>th</sup> to August 29<sup>th</sup> from 5-8pm in Austin Park. The pavilion had also been rented for each of those days. Council approved.

### **Council President Report**

Council President Jankowski announced that three Councilmembers (Bialkowski, Richmond, and Schmidt) asked to be on the audit committee and all would be appointed.

Council President Jankowski announced the next City Council meeting to be held on Monday, April 8, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the City Hall Council Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Centre.

### **Proclamation – Arbor Day**

Councilmember Briggs read a proclamation that included the history of Arbor Day, that it's now observed through the world, and explained the purpose/benefit of trees. The City of Batavia proclaimed May 23<sup>rd</sup> as Arbor Day in the City and urged all citizens to plant trees.

### **Arbor Day Declaration**

Mr. Fix explained that the City needed this declaration to get a grant to help with celebrating Arbor Day. He noted that the proclamation just given by Councilmember Briggs would serve as the declaration. Councilmember Bialkowski stated that the City should look into getting a Tree City USA designation as well. Council agreed to move the item forward.

### **Climate Smart Communities Certification**

Mr. Fix noted that a lot of projects the City has already done or are doing, qualify us for bronze status as a Climate Smart Community. He noted that he was in the very early stage of working with Julie Dahlie, Grants Administrator, on this certification and this would be a resolution to continue to move forward. Council agreed to move the item forward.

### **Climate Smart Communities Coordinator Designation**

Mr. Fix explained that there needs to be a coordinator designated for this program and would like to designate the Assistant City Manager position. Councilmember Bialkowski wants to make sure we don't tie ourselves into anything we don't want like requiring use of electric vehicles or solar panels. Mr. Fix noted that they were currently not pushing anything at this point. Council agreed to move the item forward.

### **SEQR for Austin Park**

Mr. Fix noted that Council had a memo regarding the grant for \$500,000 for Austin Park and needed a SEQR with a negative declaration and declaring the City of Batavia as lead agency. Council agreed to move the item forward.

### **Chemical Bid Awards**

Mr. Fix noted that this was the annual award for chemical bids. Mr. Frank explained that they advertised for bids, 13 companies responded, and only two chemical costs went up while the others stayed flat or went down. Council agreed to move the item forward.

### **Laboratory Services Bid Awards**

Mr. Frank noted that bids went out on 2/2/24 and opened on 3/1/24. He noted there were three bidders and recommended Pace Analytical. Council agreed to move the item forward.

**NYS Water Infrastructure Improvement Act Grant Application – Cohocton / Walnut**

Mr. Frank noted that the City intends to replace the Cohocton and Walnut water main which was about 7,000 feet. He explained that the City could apply for a WIIA grant to cover the estimated \$3.1 million project. He noted that the grant could cover approximately \$1.8 million and the City would finance the rest. He noted this would start in the spring of 2025. Council agreed to move the item forward.

**Housing Grant CDBG – Consultant Selection**

Mr. Fix noted that the City would like to award LaBella as consultant to help with the CDBG grant and there were the only ones to bid. Council agreed to move the item forward.

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**MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion of Councilmember Viele**

**WHEREAS**, Article 7, Section 105(1)(f), of the Public Officer’s Law permits the legislative body of a municipality to enter into Executive Session to discuss “...the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation...”.

**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 Geib and on roll call approved 8-0. Council entered executive session at 7:28 PM and exited at 7:34 PM.**

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**Conference Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Heidi J Parker  
Clerk-Treasurer**