

CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024

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

In attendance from the City were Chief Heubusch, Brett Frank, Chief Graham, Erik Fix, Lisa Neary, Scott Allen, Chris Camp, Rebecca McGee, and Krista Galdun.

Call to Order

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

Public Comments

Erik Saluste, 5 Walnut St, wanted to follow up on his previous request for help with the crosswalk situation on Walnut St. He felt there needed to be a stoplight or speed bump to slow traffic down especially since the Ellicott Trail has been completed. He is concerned for the safety of those crossing. He also noted that he was trying to get a permit and has had to jump through hoops and it's going to cost him more money even though he's seen these structures up all over New York state. He noted that it's easier to ask for forgiveness than permission and that it's very frustrating trying to put up a nice structure. He noted that he's trying to do things the right way and getting nowhere. He was asking for help because he needs somewhere to park his vehicles.

Joe Canzoneri, 2 State St, noted that, while he is in favor of the new police department, he was concerned with the staging area for its construction and the egregious parking restrictions. He stated that many businesses have operated for more than 40 years and see hundreds of patients per day and many of those customers have medical issues. He felt that the parking proposal didn't take these people into consideration and the staging area should have been discussed with the business owners. He acknowledged that not every project is perfect and this one was no different. He noted that most of the contractors were from out of town so they were not aware of Batavia businesses. He noted they may have to file and Article 78 is no changes were made.

Adam Gregor, 180 Washington Ave, noted that he had been at the dental office for the past two years after purchasing it from the Kubiniecs and hadn't been approached to discuss the construction footprint. He noted that the sudden closure of the parking lot had a negative impact on patients and will lead to frustration and choosing to go elsewhere. He felt new patients may not choose his practice because of the parking. He noted that he understood the importance of the new police station but asked that the closing of the parking lot be reconsidered. He stated that he hoped for everyone to be able to collaborate and cooperate.

Sharon Kubinieci, 180-184 Washington Ave, stated that she was opposed to the parking restrictions as these were healthcare facilities that serve patrons at all hours. She noted that

she wanted an apology and for the fences to be taken down. She noted that she can't do any improvements on her building for 18 months and her wish was to halt the project and discuss it with everyone. She asked for valet parking from the former JCPenney parking lot to the businesses.

Council Response to Public Comments

Mrs. Tabelski noted that she respected their opinions and had a better understanding of the patient needs. She noted they would look into a shuttle-type service. Chief Heubusch noted that he had just signed a traffic order allowing parking on Washington for a 3-hour period, up from two hours. He noted that it wasn't changed to allow for all day parking because he didn't want people parking there all day and taking up spots for customers. Councilmember Twichell asked if the signage could read patient-only parking. Chief Heubusch noted that suggestive signs were possible but hard to enforce. Council President Jankowski agreed that it was probably inconvenient for patrons but it was also inconvenient for the police to have to deal with an antiquated police station and felt a compromise needed to be reached. He noted that if the project is delayed there would be extreme cost overruns. He noted that he understood the concerns but the City needed a little help from the businesses as well and Mrs. Tabelski was trying to find solutions.

Communications

Brighton Securities requested to hold their 13th annual shred day on Friday, May 24th from 12-3pm at 212 East Main St. This is a free document destruction and disposal. Council approved.

The Memorial Day parade is scheduled for Monday, May 27th from 9-10am on East Main St starting at Eastown Plaza to the Alva Place parking lot. Council approved.

GLOW OUT has submitted their application for a pride parade and festival on Saturday, June 8th from 4-10pm in Jackson Square. The parade would start on Liberty St to Washington Ave and back down Bank St. Council approved.

Kiwanis Club requested to hold a 5K road race on Thursday, July 4th from 9-11am starting and ending in Centennial Park. Council approved.

GO ART Music & Art Festival is scheduled for Saturday, July 6th from 10am-10pm in Jackson Square and on Jackson and School Streets. There will be bands, artisans, vendors, food trucks and more. Council approved.

GLOW YMCA is requesting to hold their annual Corporate Cup 5K on Thursday, August 1st starting at 6pm in Centennial Park and throughout city streets. Council approved.

U Connect Care submitted an application for Overdose Awareness day event on Wednesday, August 28th from 3-7pm in Austin Park. There will be speakers, resource tables and a live band.

Alzheimer's Association requested to hold their Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday, September 14th in Centennial Park from 9am-1pm. Council approved.

Just Kings requested to hold a chicken BBQ in Austin Park at 1pm on Saturday, May 11th. Council approved.

Council President Report

Council President Jankowski announced the next City Council meeting to be held on Monday, May 13, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the City Hall Council Board Room, 2nd Floor, City Centre.

Memorial for Edward LaValley at Yard Waste Station Discussion

Councilmember Richmond noted that he knew Ed since he was a little kid and he loved the City. He noted that he was a cop and after retirement he still wanted to work for the City. He stated that Ed was the face of the yard waste station and asked if it could be renamed for him or have a plaque put up for him. Scott Allen noted that a memorial street sign was done at the entrance to the yard waste station and considering a plaque as well. Mrs. Tabelski noted that we would be happy to do it.

Audit Committee Appointments

Mrs. Tabelski noted that they would like to appoint Councilmembers Bialkowski, Richmond, and Schmidt for this year's audit committee. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Board of Assessment Review (BAR) Appointments

Mrs. Tabelski recommended appointing Dwight Thornton and Pier Cipollone to the board of assessment review. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Tree Bid Awards

Mrs. Tabelski noted that we had received tree bids and recommended moving forward with the lowest bidder. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Introduce SEQR Forms / Coordinated Review Process – Cohocton / Walnut

Mrs. Tabelski stated that the City was seeking WIIA grants and recommended the City serve as lead agency. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Eli Fish Access Agreement

Mrs. Tabelski noted that the City sold part of Jackson Square to Eli Fish and the new build was 1 ¼ inch over the property line. She recommended filing an agreement with Eli Fish allowing access and allowing the construction to stand as is. Council agreed to move the

item forward.

Restore NY – Application to Apply

Mrs. Tabelski explained that there's been interest from Rick Mancuso to restore 214-216 East Main St. She recommended the City endorse his application and hold the required public hearing. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

Restore NY – Request to Hold Public Hearing

Mrs. Tabelski noted this was the public hearing request related to the above application.

K-9 Committed Fund Balance

Mrs. Tabelski noted that this was the annual resolution to move funds to committed fund balance and this year's amount is \$10,200. She explained that most money comes through donations and thanked the officers and the K-9. Chief Heubusch noted that all the money is used to take care of the dog. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Creek Park Committed Fund Balance

Mrs. Tabelski noted that the environmental review was complete and DEC brownfield application is still going on. She noted that this would release the committed funds to the general fund to clear it out at year-end. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Zoning Code Update Committed Fund Balance

Mrs. Tabelski noted that the zoning code update was done and wanted to move funds spent from committed fund balance to the general fund. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Capital Project Closeouts

Mrs. Tabelski stated that multiple projects needed to be closed out including ERP, fire projects, and street projects. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Award

Mrs. Tabelski noted that this was awarded for license plate readers for \$36,400 and recommended accepting the grant. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Police Department – Surplus Equipment - Shotguns

Mrs. Tabelski noted that this was to declare police department shotguns as surplus. Chief Heubusch noted they were no longer serviceable, they were moving away from use of shotguns, and needed to update their weapons. Council agreed to move the item forward.

04/22/2024

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Conference Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Heidi J Parker
Clerk-Treasurer**

04/22/2024