

CITY OF BATAVIA
MINUTES OF THE BATAVIA CITY COUNCIL
January 22, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. - City Council Chambers
100 N. Island Ave. Batavia, Illinois

PLEASE NOTE: These minutes are not a word-for-word transcription of the statements made at the meeting, nor intended to be a comprehensive review of all discussions. Minutes are intended to make an official record of the actions taken by the Committee/City Council, and to include some description of discussion points as understood by the minute-taker. Any references to discussion and /or statements are only to provide greater clarity to the public and they may not reference all, some, or any of an individual speaker's comments.

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Schielke at 7:30 p.m.

2. INVOCATION followed by PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Schielke offered a brief invocation. Ald. Stark led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

14 of 14 aldermen were present.

Aldermen (by ward): Michael O'Brien (1), Scott Salvati (1), Martin Callahan (2), Alan Wolff (2), Elliot Meitzler (3), Dan Chanzit (3), Anthony Malay (4), Susan Stark (4), Mark Uher (5), Lucy Thelin Atac (5), Nicholas Cerone (6), Michael Russotto (6), Drew McFadden (7) and David Brown (7) were present.

Also present were BATV and members of the press, public and the following:

City Attorney	Roman Seckel
City Clerk	Ellen Posledni
City Administrator	Laura Newman
Deputy Fire Chief	Craig Hanson
Police Chief	Dan Eul
Director of Public Works	Gary Holm

4. REMINDER: Please speak into the microphone for BATV recording

Mayor Schielke reminded all in attendance to use the microphones.

5. ITEMS REMOVED/ADDED/CHANGED

None.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Ald. Atac read the Consent Agenda as follows:

Accept and Place on File:

- A. Historic Preservation Commission Minutes for November 26, 2018 and December 10, 2018
- B. Building Reports December 2018

Approvals:

- C. January 11, 2019 Payroll \$893,691.57
- D. Accounts Payable Check Register \$4,195,726.79
- E. City Council Minutes for January 7, 2019
- F. **ORDINANCE 19-01:** Proposing Establishment of a Special Service Area Number 65 for the Barkei Farms P. D. Subdivision (Phases I, II, & III) (JLS 1/3/19 COW 1/8/19 8/0) CDC
- G. **ORDINANCE 19-03:** Police Surplus Property (SRM 12/17/18 COW 1/8/19 8/0) CS
- H. **RESOLUTION 19-002-R:** Towing Contract (SRM 12/17/18 COW 1/8/19 8/0) CS
- I. **RESOLUTION 19-004-R:** Approving Plats of Dedication for Parcels Conveyed as Right-of-Way on the Deerpath Road & Main Street Intersection Improvement Project (CCB 12/31/18 COW 1/8/19 8/0) CS
- J. **RESOLUTION 19-010-R:** Albright Community Theatre Lease (LN 1/11/2019 COW 1/15/19 13/0) CS

Motion by Ald. Atac, seconded by Ald. Stark, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried 14 yea/ 0 nay/ 0 absent.

7. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC: (For Items NOT on the Agenda)

None.

8. MAINSTREET

Batavia MainStreet President Patrick Moynihan thanked the Mayor, city staff and City Council for their continued support of the organization, and shared a recap of 2018. The organization brought in about \$250,000 in sponsorship and fundraisers last year, as well as \$40,000 from the SSA and \$40,000 from the city. A team of volunteers helps with events throughout the year. Mr. Moynihan described all of the directors, board and staff, and the national MainStreet model, based around four points: Design, Promotion, Organization and Economic Vitality. A variety of partnerships are necessary for the group to succeed.

Last year, 27 work plans were executed with four committees. About 100,000 people attended events in 2018. The Batavia Dinner Table raised \$10,000 for the Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry while bringing visitors to River Street. Other big events were the Well Batavia Expo, Race to Market, and Cocktails in the Park.

Eight businesses opened in downtown Batavia in 2018, four retained or expanded space, and 49 jobs were created. The year also brought changes for MainStreet – a new director, Chris Faber,

and a new location in the Newton House. About 2,000 volunteers donated 4,000 hours. Mr. Moynihan shared a video of Batavia highlights.

Mayor Schielke thanked Mr. Moynihan for his leadership and the good efforts of MainStreet, which he called one of the strongest in the state and a key partner in making Batavia a great place to call home.

Ald. Brown said that Bob Hansen provided a framed print of the Post to Present ice skating event from January 2018 as a gift to the Mayor. He mentioned it would be interesting to enlarge the photo and allow people to come in and identify themselves so there can be historical documentation of who was in the photo.

9. PROCLAMATION: 50th Anniversary Batavia Brotherhood Banquet (Elvin Harms)

Mayor Schielke explained that 2019 is the 50th anniversary of this event that brings together men from all Batavia churches, so he authored a proclamation to commemorate the event. To write it, he pulled information from the *Daily Herald*, which reported on the first gathering and named attendees. Mayor Schielke worked at the newspaper at that time. He said that all but two of the people listed have since passed away, but Bob Dahlstrom, a founding participant who still serves on the committee, was in attendance at the meeting tonight. The Mayor read the proclamation.

This year's event will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church on February 19 at 6:30 pm. Elvin Harms, chair of the organizing committee, thanked the Mayor. He noted this year's event will be a celebration of the past and the future. Proceeds support local human agencies, and the event always includes an address by a prominent man, including in past years, many residents of Batavia. Mayor Schielke has been a guest speaker in multiple years. Tickets are \$25 each, available from the local churches. They can also be purchased at bataviabrotherhoodbanquet.org. The event has a Facebook page as well.

10. PROCLAMATION: The Year of Mark Twain (George Scheetz)

This proclamation acknowledges Mark Twain's visit to Batavia on January 26, 1869. It's believed he arrived at the South Van Buren and Webster train station, which was later moved to become the Depot Museum. It's unclear where Mr. Twain delivered his lecture. He wrote about Batavia in a letter that ended up at the University of Southern California. He left for Freeport the next day. Batavia Public Library has taken an interest in this visit, and a life-sized statue of Mr. Twain sits on the bench at the library's front entrance.

Mayor Schielke read the proclamation declaring 2019 to be the Year of Mark Twain in Batavia. The use of #MarkTwaininBatavia is encouraged.

Library Director George Scheetz accepted the proclamation on behalf of the library. He said exciting plans are still in the works. There is an interesting book display on Mark Twain currently in the library. He said to keep an eye out for events throughout the year.

Mayor Schielke thanked Mr. Scheetz for his leadership on this, and noted that he enjoys showing off the Mark Twain statue to visiting mayors. Mr. Scheetz said we often forget that in the 19th century, this community was quite interested in culture and brought historical figures like Susan

B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass to speak. Batavia Public Library was founded in 1866 and is the third-oldest library in the county. The Batavia Historical Society and the library are doing a great job of cataloging historical information at the Depot Museum.

Mayor Schielke explained that the Post to Present photo was a remake of the 1958 *Saturday Evening Post* cover featuring ice skaters on the Fox River in Batavia on what is now the Depot Pond. He hopes to display the print of the remake alongside the original and a plaque in Council chambers so that the public can view them side by side.

Motion by Ald. Atac, seconded by Ald. Meitzler, to approve the proclamation as presented. Motion carried 14 yea/ 0 nay/ 0 absent.

11. RESOLUTION 19-001-R: Authorizing the Sale of Municipally Owned Real Estate Located at 2150 Main Street (SCB 12/26/18 COW 1/8/19 8/0) CDC

Ald. Brown introduced the item related to a city-owned parcel that is surplus property. Bids must be at least 80 percent of the appraised value.

Motion by Ald. Brown, seconded by Ald. McFadden, to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried 14 yea/ 0 nay/ 0 absent.

12. RESOLUTION 19-003-R: Accepting Warranty Deeds for Parcels on the Deerpath Road & Main Street Intersection Improvement Project (CCB 12/31/18 COW 1/8/19 8/0) CS

Ald. Wolff introduced the item related to an item already passed on the Consent Agenda. This accepts warranty deeds for property needed to completed the Main Street/Deerpath intersection improvements. Ald. Stark noted there has been a lot of coordination with the city and the county on this project.

Motion by Ald. Wolff, seconded by Ald. Stark, to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried 14 yea/ 0 nay/ 0 absent.

13. RESOLUTION 19-005-R: Authorizing execution of Task Order #10 with Engineering Enterprises Inc. in the amount NTE \$39,522.00 for S. Prairie St. Water Main Replacement IEPA Public Water Supply Loan Program (PWSLP) documentation and project plan (JPB 12/28/18 COW 1/8/19 8/0) PU

Ald. O'Brien noted the Water Department had responded to water main breaks on Prairie Street. The water mains are very old and need to be replaced with 12-inch lines. Documentation for the IEPA loan program is part of the requirement for the contract.

Motion by Ald. O'Brien, seconded by Ald. Stark, to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried 14 yea/ 0 nay/ 0 absent.

14. RESOLUTION 19-006-R: Authorizing execution of Task Order #11 with Engineering Enterprises Inc. in the amount NTE \$275,000.00 for WTP #1 & #2 IEPA Public Water Supply Loan Program (PWSLP) documentation, project plan, and design engineering (JPB 12/28/18 COW 1/8/19 8/0) PU

Ald. O'Brien introduced the item related to Water Treatment Plants 1 and 2, which are due for rehab and updating. The item also includes required documentation for the IEPA loan program.

Motion by Ald. O'Brien, seconded by Ald. Malay, to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried 14 yea/ 0 nay/ 0 absent.

15. RESOLUTION 19-009-R: Execution of Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Batavia and the County of DuPage, Illinois for Infrastructure Support Services (JPB 1/8/2019 COW 1/15/19 13/0) PU

Ald. O'Brien introduced the item regarding an IGA with DuPage County to perform pipeline evaluation services. DuPage County has specialized equipment and personnel to operate it. By hiring the county to perform the service, Batavia keeps costs down. About 40 other communities have the same IGA with DuPage County.

Ald. Wolff noted that this is another example of how working together with other entities benefits everyone. Money is saved when we share equipment and personnel.

Motion by Ald. O'Brien, seconded by Ald. Meitzler, to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried 14 yea/ 0 nay/ 0 absent.

16. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Newman noted that city staff remains busy with several developments ongoing in the city:

- Excavation continues at Windmill Landings.
- Permits are ready to be issued for Nagel Industrial Park buildings.
- Access to the Prairie Commons site has been established at the Wind Energy Pass location.
- Staff is reviewing permits for new MetroNet installations.
- Staff has received a revised proposal for the former Avenue Chevrolet building on Randall Road.
- Plans have been received for the Habitat for Humanity project on Spuhler, which have been revised from six plots down to four.
- Work continues on Funway, and some signage changes may require zoning approval.
- Staff is working on grant applications to Kane County for improvements in low- to moderate-income areas.
- In Public Works, the Well No. 8 rehab project is substantially complete, and the well is back in service.
- Street crews are receiving compliments for their great job in clearing the streets during the winter weather.
- Electric utility installation continues in the Prairie Commons development.
- Low-electricity LED snowflakes have been installed on light poles in the downtown area.

17. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ald. Brown said the next Historic Preservation Commission meeting is 5:30 pm on Monday, January 28. The next Committee of the Whole is January 29 at 7 pm. The next Plan Commission meeting is January 30 at 7 pm. He noted he will not be in attendance at the next COW.

Ald. Wolff reminded everyone to clear snow away from fire hydrants and make sure street drains are clear.

18. OTHER BUSINESS

Ald. Callahan shared that March 1 at 6 pm is the Flags and Flannel Community Barn Dinner at Abbey Farms. The event will raise money for the Flag Day Monument. Tickets are \$100. The event will include food, cash bar, live music, brick sales and some highly desirable auction items, including a trip to Washington, DC. Tickets can be purchased online through EventBrite. Get more information at flagdaymonument.com.

19. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Schielke explained that he shared communication with City Council members from the Kane County deputy director of transportation regarding the Fabyan Parkway and Rt. 31 intersection. Channel 2 is investigating the situation regarding the dangers of this intersection and was in the city today to interview a representative from the Batavia Police Department. The communication reveals the steps that KDOT and IDOT are taking with regards to the intersection. Potential remedies are expensive, so improvements are not expected soon.

Thursday night is the Chamber Inspire Awards dinner and the presentation of Batavia's Citizen of the Year Award, this year going to Georgine Kauth O'Dwyer. Mayor Schielke will present the award.

With a new Illinois governor in place, there is a lot of conversation about the legalization of marijuana. The Mayor sent a letter to state representatives outlining his concerns about this legislation. The letter was drafted after consulting with Chief Eul. The city has strong concerns in light of the increase in drug-related calls to Tri-City Ambulance (780 in 2018). They want to make sure the law is enacted appropriately. Sen. Oberweis called last week to ask if he could read the letter on the Illinois Senate floor. The letter does not take a stance against legalization, but it raises concerns about the law that he and Chief Eul feel need to be addressed.

Ald. Stark thanked the Mayor for sharing the communication from KDOT regarding the Fabyan/Rt. 31 situation. It shows that Kane County knows there is a problem. Last did, they did new striping. This year, they will add signage. Two years from now, they are planning minimal changes. It just shows that government moves very slowly. Improvements are being made, but at the pace of government. It is a similar situation to the Deerpath/Main Street project, which involved multiple government entities and has taken a long time to get to this stage.

Mayor Schielke noted that the Fabyan/Rt. 31 project is complex because the bridge is owned by the county. The government is constantly being challenged not to raise taxes and fees, and there is a huge backlog of road projects at the state level waiting to be done. Previous Illinois leadership got the state bogged down in debates that don't seem to have accomplished anything.

Lawmakers are saying that legal marijuana will bring in tax money, but Mayor Schielke notes that that money should be going to rebuild mental health services in Illinois.

Administrator Newman pointed out that she distributed the city's first Budget in Brief to Council members tonight. The piece summarizes the city budget in ways that citizens should find meaningful. It includes a schedule of major projects around town, and ties budget dollars to those projects. The publication will be available on the city's website tomorrow. Citizens can also request a hard copy by mail.

Ald. Wolff noted that the KDOT memo did not mention reducing the speed limit in the area. He said signage and flashing lights won't help. Ald. Atac agreed, noting that the speed limit is 40 mph through the intersection, but north and south it's 35 mph.

Ald. Callahan said it's the most dangerous intersection in the community, and the fact that improvements may be two to three years out troubles him. Yet the situation is out of the Council's control. He wonders where the traffic studies are that back up KDOT's contention that traffic light improvements would cause more problems. Ald. Callahan said the problem with the intersection is the curve, and he said motorists should not enter the intersection without a green arrow.

Ald. Chanzit said that intersection is not the most dangerous. Chief Eul noted that intersections along Randall Road – Fabyan, Mill Street, McKee, Wilson and Main – are all common locations for car accidents. However, Fabyan and Rt. 31 has had the most fatal accidents. Ald. Chanzit said he sees a lot of distracted driving with cell phones, and perhaps a public awareness campaign on that topic would be helpful.

20. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ald. Brown, seconded by Ald. Salvati to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

The City Council meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Ellen Posledni, City Clerk, January 31, 2019.