CITY OF BATAVIA
MINUTES OF THE BATAVIA CITY COUNCIL
March 2, 2020, 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 7:31 p.m.

2. INVOCATION followed by PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Mayor Schielke offered a brief invocation. Ald. Knopp led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL
14 of 14 aldermen were present.
Aldermen (by ward): Michael O’Brien (1), Jennifer Baerren (1), Martin Callahan (2), Alan Wolff
(2), Elliot Meitzler (3), Dan Chanzit (3), Tony Malay (4), Joe Knopp (4), Mark Uher (5), Abby
Beck (5), Nicholas Cerone (6), Michael Russotto (6), Drew McFadden (7) and Keenan Miller (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
- Police Chief: Dan Eul
- Fire Chief: Randy Deicke
- 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. Chanzit read the Consent Agenda as follows.

**Accept and Place on File:**
A. Committee of the Whole Minutes January 28, 2020 and February 4, 2020
B. December 2019 City Council Financial Report

**Approvals:**
C. February 21, 2020 Payroll $917,225.02
D. Accounts Payable Check Register $635,688.44
E. City Council Minutes for February 17, 2020
F. 2019 Budget Transfer, Carry Forward and Reconciliation
G. **ORDINANCE 20-19**: Amending Title 1, Chapter 11, Section 2 of the Batavia Municipal Code Investment Policy for Public Funds (PC 2/20/20 COW 2/25/20 12/0) GS
H. **RESOLUTION 20-037-R**: City of Batavia to Adopt Investment Policy for Public Funds (PC 2/20/20 COW 2/25/20 12/0) GS
I. **RESOLUTION 20-038-R**: Authorization to Purchase Two 2020 Ford Trucks from Bob Ridings Fleet Sales for $80,668.00 (SH 2/18/20 COW 2/25/20 12/0)
J. **ORDINANCE 20-20**: Declaring Certain Property to be Surplus and Authorizing Sale Thereof (SH 2/19/20 COW 2/25/20 12/0)
K. **RESOLUTION 20-040-R**: Approving a contract with Standby Power System Consultants, Inc. to install Inverters at Northeast, Southeast, Cherry Park, Main Sub and McKee Substation for an amount not to exceed $33,660 which includes 10 percent contingency (RB 2/21/2020 COW 2/25/20 12/0) PU

Motion by Ald. Chanzit, seconded by Ald. Knopp, 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. **PRESENTATION: Post Prom Check from Mayor Schielke**
Amy Cole and Julie Knanishu were in attendance to accept the city’s donation to the Post Prom Committee. Mayor Schielke noted that the funds for the donation come from fines paid by holders of liquor licenses in Batavia, which are earmarked specifically for alcohol and drug education and prevention activities. Chief Eul presented the check for $3,000.

The Police Department makes compliance checks at least twice a year for each license holder. The fine for violations is $500 or more.

9. **PRESENTATION: Batavia Park District Proposed Activity and Recreation Center – Allison Niemela**
Allison Niemala, Jim Eby and John Tillman presented information about the proposed BARC, which will be on the ballot March 17. Niemala discussed the financial aspects of the proposal, and Eby shared the building design plans.
Mayor Schielke noted that early voting begins tomorrow. He added that he has worked with the Batavia Park District since he was a reporter, and was involved in encouraging the creation of the district in 1969. He said it has always served the community well.

Ald. Cerone noted his support for the BARC and asked about monthly fees. Niemala said people can purchase passes or punch cards; pricing is outlined at bataviaparks.org. She added that BARC did not want to compete with local gyms but it would have some exercise machines.

Ald. Chanzit thanked the group for bringing the proposal back, and added that Batavia needs and deserves a facility like this.

Ald. O’Brien asked when ground-breaking would be. Eby said it would be late summer 2021 or early 2022.

Ald. Beck asked about connecting to the nearby bike path. Eby said a connection would be likely but would need to be negotiated with private landowners.

10. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
President and CEO Margaret Perreault shared that a Chamber team participated in the Batavia Foundation for Educational Excellence Scavenger Hunt fundraiser and took 1st place, proving how much the Chamber knows and loves Batavia.

She reminded everyone that the Chamber is launching four new college scholarships for Batavia High School seniors.

Upcoming events:
June 26: Chamber golf outing at Orchard Valley
March 4: Not-for-profit forum at the Chamber
March 10: Women in Business After Hours at Bar Evolution, 5 to 7 pm, collecting for the Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry
March 11: Breakfast Club morning networking at 7:30 am
March 18: With City of Batavia and Batavia MainStreet, a Small Business Information Forum, 8:00 to 9:30 am
March 18: Two educational seminars at Valley Industrial
March 18: Networking-It, 4:30 to 6:30 pm at Oscar Swan in Geneva to benefit Albright Theater
March 19: Industrial panel at Fona, 3 to 5 pm, $15 fee

Marketing Director Jeff Aw and Vice President of Engineering and Quality Eric Hoster from Cast Aluminum Solutions, 1310 Kingsland Drive, addressed the Council as a Chamber member. The company makes a variety of components, hires locally and works with other Batavia companies. They have opened a second location on Douglas Road to use as an R&D tech center.
11. APPROVAL: Class J (Theater) Liquor License Application for Redington’s Remedies Inc. d/b/a The Bit Theater to be Located at 160 First St., Batavia (DME 2/19/20 COW 2/25/20 12/0) GS
Ald. Beck left the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Ald. Chanzit noted that the Batavia Police Department has completed a background check on the applicant and reported no concerns about issuing the license. The facility will be a comedy club and improv training facility.

Motion by Ald. Chanzit, seconded by Ald. Knopp, to approve the license as requested.
Motion carried 13 yea/ 0 nay/ 1 absent.

Ald. Beck returned to the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

12. ORDINANCE 20-22: Authorizing the Purchase of Real Property at 916 Park Street (SCB 2/20/20) CD
Ald. Callahan introduced the item relating to the purchase of real estate. Ald. O’Brien said this is a good purchase and will clean up the area for neighboring residents. Public Works may also be able to use the property for cemetery maintenance needs.

Mayor Schielke said this is a dynamic neighborhood and this property needs to be cleaned up.

Motion by Ald. Callahan, seconded by Ald. Russotto, to approve the ordinance as requested. Motion carried 14 yea/ 0 nay/ 0 absent.

13. RESOLUTION 20-036-R: Authorizing Adoption of Complete Streets Policy (AMP 2/12/20 COW 2/18/20 11/0) CS
Ald. Wolff explained that the policy supports bicycles and walking downtown, better access to business by pedestrians, and maximizing the using of existing roadways.

Ald. O’Brien said he appreciates this policy because it’s important to maintain a pedestrian- and bike-friendly downtown. This should also slow down traffic. He suggested the city also consider permeable pavers, which would help improve runoff.

Motion by Ald. Wolff, seconded by Ald. O’Brien, to approve the resolution as requested. Motion carried 14 yea/ 0 nay/ 0 absent.
14. ORDINANCE 20-15: Revising Title 5 of the Municipal Code Regarding Fees for Non-Emergency Lift Assistance (RD 1/31/20 COW 2/11/20 11/0) CS
Ald. Wolff introduce the item related to Tri-City Ambulance. The ordinance institutes a fee for lift assists in facilities (not in residents’ homes). The fee does not recover the full cost of the assistance.

Ald. O’Brien said he supports the fee, as these calls risk causing injury to first responders. Batavia Fire Department responds to these calls when they should be focused on fighting fires.

Ald. Cerone expressed full support, but asked about the “nonemergency” language and wondered if facilities would take advantage of that wording by claiming these calls are emergencies. Ald. Wolff said that would be monitored and the language would be revisited in one year to consider any needed adjustments.

Motion by Ald. Wolff, seconded by Ald. O’Brien, to approve the ordinance as requested. Motion carried 14 yea/ 0 nay/ 0 absent.

15. ORDINANCE 20-21: Revising Title 3 Chapter 3 of the Batavia Municipal Code Amending Section 3-3-11 on Restrictions on Issuance/Renewals (DME 2/19/20 COW 2/25/20 12/0) GS
Ald. Beck left the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Ald. Chanzit introduced the item related to a change in the city code relating to city employees and elected officials holding liquor licenses.

Ald. Callahan said the change is a good one, not just because of the needs of one alderman, but because the state law about this has changed. Mayor Schielke said he agreed.

Motion by Ald. Chanzit, seconded by Ald. Knopp, to approve the ordinance as requested. Motion carried 13 yea/ 0 nay/ 1 absent.

Ald. Beck returned to the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

16. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT
Administrator Newman noted how happy she was to have Cast Aluminum Solutions at the meeting tonight, as it was a company she worked closely with when she first started in her role at the city, helping them work through power outage solutions and building redundancy into the system to assist them. In 2018, Inc. magazine named the company one of the fastest-growing in the U.S.

Ald. O’Brien noted that Batavia has been looking to attract more companies by touting its electric service. Administrator Newman noted that the city has been more actively participating in local events to market itself to businesses, adding that Batavia can offer preferential rates to large electricity consumers.

Additional updates:
• At tomorrow night’s COW, the extension of the TIF for One Washington Place will be discussed. The next Plan Commission meeting is Wednesday, and several text amendments are on the agenda.
• The revised boundary with North Aurora previously approved by Batavia will be considered by North Aurora in March.
• We are at the end of the current phase of annexation of “islands” within the city.
• New electric infrastructure is being installed at Lorlyn Apartments.
• Winter crews did a great job navigating the city’s winter weather needs.
• The city has received a $47,000 Community Block Grant from Kane County to repave some streets in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods. Thank you to the staff who made this possible.
• Curbside residential brush collection begins April 6 and 13.
• Batavia Police Department has placed its 2020 orders for vehicle acquisition.

Ald. Knopp asked for an update on the progress at Menards. Administrator Newman said they are making progress; they withdrew their most recent proposal and went back to the prior proposal to review notes.

17. COMMITTEE REPORTS
For City Services, Ald. Wolff asked residents to wait until April to put brush on the curb.

For Community Development, Ald. Callahan said the COW will discuss the TIF extension for One Washington Place, and the developer will be in attendance. The Plan Commission meeting on Wednesday will include a public hearing on cannabis, bed and breakfasts, and signage.

For Public Works, Ald. O’Brien said the COW will discuss sanitary sewer cleaning and water works risk and assessment.

18. OTHER BUSINESS
Ald. Beck said March 21 will be the annual Green Nigh Out at the Movies hosted by Batavia Environmental Commission. The movie “Current Revolution” will begin at 6 p.m. in City Hall. Gary Holm will be present to speak to attendees after the movie.

On April 7 at 10 a.m., Fox Valley Sustainability Network will host an event at City Hall regarding flooding and green infrastructure.

19. MAYOR’S REPORT
Mayor Schielke reported he was on a conference call with more than 100 people regarding coronavirus. It was moderated by Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot. The City of Chicago has extra staff at O’Hare and Midway to intercept people disembarking. Area hospitals are planning for the influx of patients. The message is that the risk of contracting the infection is low, but everyone should be prepared. Don’t get caught up in media reports, and stick to the facts.

The Village of Westchester has asked him to speak to residents there about the benefits of Home Rule.
He encountered the Mayor of Glen Ellyn on a train from Chicago who noted that Glen Ellyn will soon open a Raising Cane’s and asked him about logistics around the Grand Opening celebration, which was very well-attended in Batavia.

Friday night is the Flags and Flannels event at Abbey Farms.

With five Mondays and Tuesdays this month, the Mayor suggested that the March 17 COW be cancelled because it is Election Day. The cancellation of the meeting should be discussed at tomorrow night’s COW.

**20. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Ald. Wolff, seconded by Ald. O’Brien, to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

*Minutes prepared and submitted by Ellen Posledni, City Clerk, March 31, 2020.*