

**CITY OF BATAVIA**  
**MINUTES OF THE BATAVIA CITY COUNCIL**  
**March 5, 2018, 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. Callahan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

**14 of 14 aldermen were present.**

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

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

City Administrator	Laura Newman
City Clerk	Ellen Posledni
Fire Chief	Randy Deicke
Police Chief	Dan Eul
City Attorney	Roman Seckel
Finance Director	Peggy Colby
Director of Public Works	Gary Holm

**4. ITEMS REMOVED/ADDED/CHANGED**

None.

**5. APPOINTMENT: Paid On Call Firefighter Zachary Sage (Chief Deicke 2/28/18)**  
Chief Deicke introduced Firefighter Zachary Sage.

**Motion by Ald. Brown, seconded by Ald. Stark, to approve the appointment. Motion carried 14 yea/ 0 nay/ 0 absent.**

Mayor Schielke administered the Oath.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

Ald. Atac read the consent agenda as follows:

**Accept and Place on File:**

- A. Committee of the Whole Minutes from January 30, and February 6, 2018
- B. January 2018 Building Report

**Approvals:**

- C. February 23, 2018 Payroll \$866,639.85
- D. Accounts Payable Check Register \$842,908.39
- E. City Council Minutes for February 19, 2018

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

**7. PRESENTATION: Scott Corbin Presentation – Jank Award and Ambassadorship Program**

Mr. Corbin explained the history and purpose of the Tri-Cities Jank Ambassadorship and Guitar of St. Charles Jank Award. The purpose of the award is to recognize an outstanding local youth each year who is nominated by teachers, mentors and peers for their embodiment of the unifying and universal spirit of music and of the community. This is the first year that the award has been extended beyond St. Charles to encompass the entire Tri-City area. One youth is selected each year, and this year will be chosen in June 12. The community is invited to submit nominations. Youth who reside in the Tri-Cities and are 11 to 18 years old are eligible for nomination. Nominations can be submitted at [www.thejankguitarstore.com/ambassador-nomination.html](http://www.thejankguitarstore.com/ambassador-nomination.html). Mr. Corbin can be reached at 206.779.2882 or [corbin11@hotmail.com](mailto:corbin11@hotmail.com).

**8. PRESENTATION: Statewide Tornado Drill (Mark Davis)**

ESDA Director Mark Davis discussed National Weather Preparedness Week, which is this week. He reminded everyone to make sure they have disaster kits ready at home in case of emergency. Tomorrow is the statewide tornado drill, and the tornado warning siren will go off for 7 minutes. TV shows and radio will be disrupted, but should note that this is only a test. The sirens are tested the first Tuesday of every month at 10 am, but Mooseheart tests its siren every Tuesday.

Ald. Brown asked if the sirens are used to give an All-Clear. Mr. Davis said they are not, so if you hear a second siren, it is a new warning. He also noted that sirens in Batavia are only used for an emergency in Batavia, not in neighboring towns.

Mayor Schielke noted that Mr. Davis would attend next week's Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss volunteer opportunities for both ESDA as well as the Batavia Fireworks Committee.

**9. PRESENTATION: Cynthia Wade — Do Over.Me**

Ms. Wade started this not-for-profit organization in 2014 as a career center to support Kane County residents from Aurora to Elgin. It is a local resource for residents to find work. Services are provided on a sliding scale based on household income and family size. The organization helps people determine their strengths and find employment that uses those strengths. It also helps clients market themselves. Since January 2018, nine people have found jobs. One challenge the organization has is bandwidth, so they are working with interns to help get new programs up and running. Two programs have been created by interns: Guiding Lights, which pairs volunteers with job seekers; and Faces of the Fox, a traveling, interactive photo exhibit that showcases marginalized groups in an effort to neutralize labels. Faces of the Fox will spend one month at each location up and down the Fox Valley, starting at Limestone Coffee in Batavia. More information about the group can be found at [www.Do-Over.me](http://www.Do-Over.me) or 630.402.0429.

**10. PRESENTATION: Batavia Woman's Club**

President Nan Phillips introduced fellow members of the club in attendance. Next Saturday the club is hosting a St. Patrick's Day fundraiser at the Batavia VFW, in cooperation with the Batavia Rotary Club, the Batavia Historical Society, the Batavia Kiwanis Club and Batavia Mother's Club Foundation. The casual event, ShamRock & Roll, will feature corned beef and cabbage and a chocolate Guinness cake walk. Proceeds will benefit the Batavia Depot Museum expansion project. Tickets are available at [bataviawomansclub.org](http://bataviawomansclub.org).

Batavia Woman's Club was founded in 1892 by 12 women who wanted to improve the Batavia community. Today it has 83 members.

Dan Hoefler from the board of the Batavia Historical Society was also present to promote the March 17 event. He connected with the Batavia Woman's Club because the Depot Museum is a repository for their historical artifacts. He made a presentation to the club, and the club voted to support fundraising efforts for the museum expansion. The event will include drawings of the redesigned expansion plans. Additional fundraisers include a Temperance Rally and Bar Smashing on March 29 that will kick off at the Depot Museum and end at Pal Joey's, and an antique appraisal event on April 22 at the old boat house.

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

None.

**12. CHAMBER**

Chamber President Holly Deitchman thanked Mayor Schielke for attending the recent new member breakfast. Upcoming events include a ribbon-cutting and two-year anniversary celebration at Sure Movements Yoga on March 10; ribbon-cutting and grand opening for Sierra Trading Post on March 17 at 7:45 a.m.; Networking-It at Anne K. Salon in North Aurora on March 21 at 5 to 7 p.m.; HR presentation with Valley Industrial Association on writing good job

descriptions, March 22 at 7:30 a.m.; Restaurant Madness Week March 25 to March 29 with more than 30 participating restaurants offering 20 percent off most menu items; ribbon-cutting for Bernie's Bully Dogs at the downtown Egg Hop on March 31 at 11 a.m.; and Women in Business Luncheon on April 10 at Eaglebrook Country Club at 11:30 a.m. featuring Dale Spencer on "Embracing Life's Journey."

To celebrate its arrival in Batavia, Sierra Trading Post is donating \$10,000 to Fox Valley Special Recreation Association to support recreation for those with special needs. FVSRA is also the designated beneficiary of the next Networking-It event.

Ms. Deitchman introduced Andrea DeCouteau, whose father was a former Geneva alderman and Mayor Pro Temp. She represents Moline Bearing, which is located on Raddant Road in Batavia. The company has six warehouses across the U.S. and has been in Batavia since 2007. It has 14 employees. Ms. DeCouteau especially thanked the Batavia Police Department and Batavia Fire Department for their exemplary service over the years responding to various incidents in the industrial complex.

Mayor Schielke noted his pleasure at having the company in Batavia. He shared a story about Ms. DeCouteau's father and how impressed Ald. DeCouteau was with the early landscaping Batavia did as Randall Road became developed over the years. He carried those ideas into Geneva to ensure that their stretch of Randall Road was treated with equal attention to the landscaping.

**13. APPROVAL: Waive Formal Bidding For The Purchase Of A Combination Sewer Truck From E. J. Equipment (Scott Haines/Jeremy Barkei 2/21/18 COW 2/27/18 13/0) CS**  
Ald. Wolff introduced the item that was discussed at a previous Committee of the Whole meeting. The purchase is a shared budget item between the Streets and Water divisions. The price for the truck is \$310,000. As with many city purchases, the item is not on the purchase plan so bidding must be waived. The city's current truck has a \$73,000 trade-in value, and may bring in more when put up for sale. Ald. Wolff thanked city staff for doing such a stellar job maintaining these vehicles, which helps retain their value for resale.

**Motion by Ald. Wolff, seconded by Ald. Salvati, to approve the waiver as presented.  
Motion carried 14 yea/ 0 nay/ 0 absent.**

**14. RESOLUTION 18-08-R: Authorization To Purchase A Combination Sewer Truck From E.J. Equipment For \$310,041.00 (Scott Haines/Jeremy Barkei 2/21/18 COW 2/27/18 13/0) CS**

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

**15. APPROVAL: Waive Formal Bidding For The Purchase Of Water Meters From Midwest Meter, Inc. (Jeremy Barkei 2/20/2018 COW 2/27/18 13/0) PU**

Ald. O'Brien introduced the item related to the bulk purchasing of water meters. The purchase would be made from the same company used previously.

**Motion by Ald. O'Brien, seconded by Ald. Atac, to approve the waiver as presented.**

**Motion carried 14 yea/ 0 nay/ 0 absent.**

**16. RESOLUTION 18-18-R: Authorizing Purchase Of Water Meters From Midwest Meter, Inc. (Jeremy Barkei 2/20/2018 COW 2/27/18 13/0) PU**

Ald. O'Brien noted that the purchase would not exceed \$200,000. He asked Director Holm what the cost of each meter is. Director Holm responded that the purchase is for 1,000 meters. Ald. O'Brien explained that each meter costs roughly \$200.

**Motion by Ald. O'Brien, seconded by Ald. Uher, to approve the resolution for a purchase not to exceed \$200,000. Motion carried 14 yea/ 0 nay/ 0 absent.**

**17. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Newman said a Plan Commission meeting next week will consider various text amendments to the Zoning Code.

Sierra Trading Post is opening March 17. WalMart has reopened its gas station. Prairie Commons has submitted plans and a public hearing will be held March 21.

Utility Billing is looking at new software to improve efficiency and reporting. The new software would give residents more information on usage.

The Streets Dept. is undertaking a citywide effort to clean debris from streets, straighten signposts and do some tree trimming.

Electric overhead improvement continues in the Colonial Village neighborhood. Engineering work on the reconstruction of the Paramount substation and transmission line improvements are on schedule.

Engineering held an Open House last Thursday for the Ward 1 and Area 3 stormwater projects. About 20 people plus Ald. Salvati and Ald. O'Brien were on hand. Residents were happy that the city is addressing these problems. It was a good opportunity for Engineering to explain their methodology in determining where work needed to be done, and to show that homes that would not be directly affected by the improvements may indeed benefit indirectly.

Ald. O'Brien agreed that the Open House was a good event, but he reiterated his concern that the city still is not doing enough to address possible future problems. He thinks the city should be planning for at least a 50-year event, not a 10-year event. He said he is concerned that flooding will continue to be a problem across the city if they do not do a better job preparing for the new reality of flooding events.

Ald. Brown asked for clarification that Prairie Commons has submitted plans. Director Newman responded that they have. Ald. Brown said this development has been discussed since 2004, so he is anxious to see it finally taking shape. Director Newman said the developer is looking forward to starting work as soon as possible.

Next Tuesday at the Committee of the Whole will be the volunteer night. Several organizations, including ACCESS Toy Drive and Batavia Fireworks, will give brief presentations about their group and discuss opportunities to volunteer. Tomorrow night's Committee of the Whole agenda is very full, so Director Newman suggested the Strategic Plan discussion be moved from tomorrow to March 13, and wondered if the branding presentation should also be moved to March 13. The crossing at McKee and Rt. 31 is also on the agenda.

Ald. Brown suggested that both items should be postponed to March 13. He also mentioned that he would like to start cutting meetings off at 10 p.m. and wondered if the current Committee of the Whole concept should be discontinued, and work returned to separate committees.

Mayor Schielke agreed that if meetings run past 10 p.m., topics should be pushed off to the following week. However, he noted that the current Committee of the Whole structure allows all Council members to hear discussions and understand the work being done by each committee.

Ald. Brown suggested they think about starting Committee of the Whole meetings at 7 p.m. instead.

Mayor Schielke also noted that March 20 is Election Day, and they may want to consider canceling that meeting if members have election-related events they want to participate in that evening.

## **18. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Ald. Brown reported that, as discussed, the next Committee of the Whole meeting agenda would be changing because of the large number of items to get through. The Plan Commission will meet on March 7 at 7 p.m. and Historic Preservation Commission will meet on March 12.

For Government Services, Ald. Atac confirmed that the Strategic Plan and branding would be discussed at the March 13 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Ald. Wolff noted that the pedestrian crossing at McKee and Rt. 31 would be on the agenda at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Ald. O'Brien said the odor from the wastewater treatment plant will be discussed at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

## **19. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **20. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Schielke asked if any aldermen were planning to drive down to Springfield, as he would not be able to attend the event this year. Ald. Salvati suggested it might not be a good use of city funds this year. Ald. Chanzit disagreed and said this is a good time to get in representatives' faces in Springfield. Ald. Callahan agreed with Ald. Chanzit, although he noted that they don't know who the governor will be in November. He added that if any aldermen want to go, perhaps they should pay for it themselves rather than ask the city to foot the bill.

Mayor Schielke said the state government is really falling apart and wondering if no one attended, maybe that would send a message. He agrees with Ald. Chanzit that it is good to get in their faces, but the system is so broken right now that there is little opportunity to really get anything accomplished. He added that some crazy legislation is being introduced in Springfield and the government seems to be in a freefall. The problems don't seem to be getting better, and he expects big crowds to participate in the upcoming election. He encouraged everyone to vote. Some people don't like to vote in the primaries because in Illinois, you must declare a party to get a ballot, and some voters don't think it's the government's business which party they vote with.

The Mayor continued that he has never seen the State of Illinois in such a mess and said this is a very trying moment. Every 20 years, legislators have the opportunity for a Constitutional Convention. The next one is not until 2030. Many area representatives have chosen not to seek re-election.

In the last six months, the Mayor has heard from roughly 15 mayors asking for a copy of Batavia's *Neighbors* magazine, which has received a lot of positive feedback.

Last Thursday, a meeting was held at Batavia High School to discuss the future direction of the Batavia Library. A number of librarians were there to learn what our library is doing because it is a leader in the area. The library of the future will be different, with fewer books and more electronic services. About 800 to 1,000 patrons use the library every day, and it has become a major downtown anchor.

## **21. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The City Council meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

*Minutes prepared and submitted by Ellen Posledni, City Clerk, March 11, 2018.*