

CITY OF BATAVIA
MINUTES OF THE BATAVIA CITY COUNCIL
October 1, 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. Meitzler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

13 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), Mark Uher (5), Lucy Thelin Atac (5), Nicholas Cerone (6), Michael Russotto (6), Drew McFadden (7) and David Brown (7) were present. Susan Stark (4) was absent.

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

City Attorney	Roman Seckel
City Clerk	Ellen Posledni
Director of Public Works	Gary Holm
Fire Chief	Randy Deicke
Community Development Director	Scott Buening
City Administrator	Laura Newman
Director of Human Resources	Wendy Bednarek
Chief of Police	Dan Eul
Director of Communications	Chris Cudworth

4. ITEMS REMOVED/ADDED/CHANGED

Ald. Atac requested that items 13 and 14 be remove from the agenda because the entire City Council was not present.

Motion by Ald. Atac, seconded by Ald. McFadden, to amend the agenda as requested.

Motion carried 13 yea/ 0 nay/ 1 absent.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Ald. Atac read the Consent Agenda as follows:

Accept and Place on File:

- A. Historic Preservation Commission Minutes for September 10, 2018
- B. Committee of the Whole Minutes for September 11 and September 18, 2018

Approvals:

- C. September 21, 2018 Payroll \$881,621.65
- D. Accounts Payable Check Register \$4,563,373.75
- E. City Council Minutes for September 17, 2018
- F. **PROCLAMATION:** October 1, 2018 Mayor Jeff Schielke Day – Boy Scouts
- G. **ORDINANCE 18-61:** Amending the Land Use Map of the Batavia Comprehensive Plan for Property Located at 2401 Hawks Drive, and 37W405 and 37W475 Fabyan Parkway, and Janet Lane Right-of-Way (JS 9/24/18 COW 9/18/18 12/0) CD
- H. **RESOLUTION 18-109-R:** Resolution 18-109-R: Ownership of the Batavia Dam (LN 9/12/18 COW 9/18/18 12/2) GS

Motion by Ald. Atac, seconded by Ald. McFadden, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried 13 yea/ 0 nay/ 1 absent.

Ald. Brown said he appreciated that Resolution 18-109-R includes a paragraph explaining that the city tried to establish that it did not own the dam, but that no proof was found to support the claim. It also includes an explanation about the attempt in 1994 to establish the state's ownership of the dam.

Mayor Schielke said he does not anticipate the state to offer any assistance now or in the future to repair or remove the dam, and he does not want the public to have to pay for this work. Batavia Park District officials have indicated that their only interest is in maintaining the existence of the Depot Pond, so action to protect the pond may be possible in the future. He said the dam poses problems for emergency services, as it is difficult to access, and he also said it may self-destruct in the future.

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

Charlie Kory, 1311 Towne Ave., shared his concerns with the City Council regarding the poor sound quality on BATV meeting recordings. He asked if the cost of recording and broadcasting meetings was part of the city budget, and Administrator Newman said the public access channel is part of the contract between the city and the cable TV providers. He then asked what the purpose is for broadcasting meetings. Mayor Schielke explained that it is to keep the public informed and advised. He then asked if there is a functional microphone in front of each speaker. He said BATV has told him the sound quality is bad because speakers don't use their microphones. He suggested the chairperson of each meeting advise Council members to be no more than 6 to 8 inches from the microphone when speaking or they will lose their floor privileges. Mayor Schielke thanked Mr. Kory for the suggestion and said this is a work in progress, but they are trying to be mindful of microphone use. Ald. Brown also thanked Mr. Kory and admitted all Council members are guilty of not properly using microphones.

7. PRESENTATION: City Plaque – Bulldogs Unleashed Committee

Mayor Schielke thanked everyone involved with the Bulldogs Unleashed program, which brought an outstanding season of art to downtown Batavia. Steve McKenna of the Batavia Parks Foundation reported on the September 15 auction, which raised \$71,000 for the Batavia Parks Foundation, the Batavia School District and the Batavia Library Foundation. A video of the auction involving the Time Traveler Dog can be viewed on the Bulldogs Unleashed Facebook page. A total of nearly \$150,000 has been raised by Bulldogs Unleashed when combining the 2011 and 2018 campaigns. Mr. McKenna thanked the many people, organizations and businesses involved in this year's program. He also thanked the City of Batavia for its support and sponsoring the 44-inch bulldog painted by Communications Director Chris Cudworth that will now reside outside City Hall. A Puppies on the Porch event will be held on October 13 to sell the remaining puppies and other Bulldogs Unleashed items; details are on the website. After the holidays, a documentary on the program will be released.

8. PRESENTATION: Batavia Fire Department ISO Class 1 (Chief Deicke, Deputy Chief Hanson)

Chief Deicke told the City Council that in January 2018, ISO evaluated the community on several attributes to rate its fire suppression ability. This year, the Batavia Fire Department received its first-ever Class 1 rating, which is the best rating for fire suppression. It was Class 3 for many years, and moved up to Class 2 in 2013. The Class 1 rating will officially be in effect beginning January 2019, which could lead to lower insurance costs for homeowners and businesses in Batavia. The rating is based on several characteristics, including dispatch system, Water Department and Fire Department.

Chief Deicke said part of the Fire Department's score is based on personnel, and Batavia scores very well with full-time personnel, paid-on-call personnel, and personnel through automatic aid from neighboring communities. ISO evaluates 50,000 departments across the country, and only 300 receive a Class 1 rating. Chief Deicke thanked the City Council for its support and funding, and thanked Deputy Chief Hanson for the time he put in to preparing data for the evaluation.

Mayor Schielke congratulated Chief Deicke and the many firefighters in attendance at the meeting. He noted that there had been concerns about water on the southwest side of town, but those have been corrected. He said the first fire chief, Chief Bud Richter, was the first in central Kane County to bring on full-time paid firefighters, and he was proud of the Class 5 rating the department received at the time. The mayor noted that the firefighters' job is not easy, but they always rise to the occasion.

Ald. Cerone said that many insurance carriers use this rating to calculate homeowners' insurance policies, and applauded the department for being in the top 1 percent.

Ald. Chanzit asked what got the city to Class 1. Chief Deicke responded that personnel counts heavily.

Ald. Callahan recalled that it was a big deal to get Class 2 in 2013. He said Class 1 speaks to the department's professionalism as well as the work of Tri-Com.

Mayor Schielke noted that it takes money to build this kind of quality department, and he hopes Batavians realize what excellent service they get from the department.

Ald. Brown acknowledged the attendance at the meeting of many firefighters who are not on duty but came to show their support for the department. He said they are very committed.

9. CHAMBER

Chamber of Commerce President Holly Deitchman said that Wednesday night is the Harvest Celebration, where Jamie Saam would be receiving the Donna Dellesasse Award. The event is 6 to 8 pm at Marmion Abbey Farms. So far, 140 attendees are expected. Upcoming events:

- Ribbon cutting for Wild Things Pet Services, October 4, 5 pm at the Chamber office
- Women in Business luncheon at 11:30 on October 9 at Eagle Brook Country Club
- Ribbon Cutting and Brownie Bake-off for Batavia Mothers' Club Foundation, October 9, Chamber office, 6:30 pm
- BC² on October 10, 7:30 am at Comfort Inn and Suites
- 12-chamber progressive lunch at Villa Olivia, October 11 at 11 am
- Oktoberfest is this weekend downtown.

All events can be viewed at bataviachamber.org.

10. PRESENTATION: Avenue Chevy Clark Estate Auction – Batavia Depot Expansion Project Doris Shearer, Historical Preservation Committee member, shared details about the upcoming fundraiser to support the Batavia Historical Society and the Batavia Depot Expansion Project. On October 13, the Clark Family Estate Sale will be held at the former Avenue Chevrolet building on Randall Road. The sale will open at 9 am for Batavia Historical Society members, and 10 am to the public. An auction will be held from 4 to 5 pm, and a special tribute to John Clark and family will be held at 5 pm. The Clark family ran Avenue Chevrolet for four generations. The sale will include a wide variety of items, including historical Batavia pieces. Half of the proceeds from the event will be donated to the Depot Expansion Project. Ms. Shearer thanked Mayor Schielke and his wife, Linda, for their help with the sale.

Ald. Brown noted that people can purchase a membership to the Batavia Historical Society in order to attend for the first hour. Ms. Shearer said memberships can be purchased online: \$200 for a lifetime membership or \$20 for an annual membership. Ald. Brown noted that membership includes a very interesting quarterly newsletter.

Mayor Schielke thanked Ms. Shearer for sharing this information. He said this is a once in a lifetime opportunity, with a lot of Batavia history for sale. Items could make unique Christmas gifts.

Cash, check or credit card will be accepted as payment at the sale.

11. PRESENTATION: 40th Anniversary – Kiwanis Club of Batavia

Sue Ballard from Kiwanis shared some history about the club, which was founded in Batavia in 1978 by aldermen and businessmen. The club supports local organizations such as Valley Sheltered Workshop and Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry, and children's causes locally and internationally. Ballard joined Kiwanis in 1988 and the Batavia High School principal asked if she would be willing to start a Key Club at Batavia High School. It started with five students and grew rapidly; today it has 208 members. At the high school, the Mr. BHS pageant is a major fundraiser. There is now a Builder's Club at Rotolo Middle School and three K-Kids clubs at grade schools: Hoover-Wood, Louise White, and McWayne. Alice Gustafson has recently indicated it would like to start a club. Well-known Batavian Jamie Saam is a former Key Club member. October is Kiwanis Family Month. The BHS Key Club was named the best Key Club in Illinois and Eastern Iowa, and has received many awards.

Key Club President Natalie Bock was also in attendance. Bock said the Mr. BHS pageant raised \$11,000 last year. The club is involved with blood drives, and supports the Batavia Park District and Batavia School District. It provides good leadership opportunities, works closely with Kiwanis and helps teach young children the importance of community service.

Mayor Schielke congratulated the Kiwanis Club on 40 years in Batavia. He said he is aware of the many special projects the club is involved in that make Batavia better.

12. PROCLAMATION: Kiwanis Family Day – Kiwanis Club of Batavia

Ald. Atac read the Proclamation, and Mayor Schielke presented it to club representatives. Ballard noted that Marty Hine, the current and only second Key Club advisor at BHS, was also in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Motion by Ald. Atac, seconded by Ald. McFadden, to approve the Proclamation as read. Motion carried 13 yea/ 0 nay/ 1 absent.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Employment Agreement for Laura Newman
Item removed from the agenda by previous action of the Council.

14. RESOLUTION 18-112-R: Employment Agreement for Laura Newman (WB 9/25/18) GS
Item removed from the agenda by previous action of the Council.

15. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Newman shared that electric crews have begun pole relocation for the 2019 Main Street reconstruction project. Work has resumed on riverbank restoration that was started this summer. Landscape and driveway restoration work is underway on Giese Road. The pump on deep well 8 has been pulled and needs only minor rehabilitation work. The first contractor has begun work on the Northeast Substation, and work will be ongoing throughout the next year. Brush pickup is October 10 on the East Side and October 17 on the West Side; leaf pickup begins October 22 on the East Side and October 29 for the West Side.

COW on October 2 at 7 pm. Some items on consent agenda and the Strategic Action Plan. On October 8 at 7 pm, the Home Rule informational meeting will take place in Council chambers with a panel to answer residents' questions, including Administrator Newman, Peggy Colby, Chief Eul and Attorney Drendel. Residents will be receiving a mailer with information about the meeting and Home Rule. The goal is to make sure citizens know what Home Rule is. The city is not advocating for a position. People can ask questions after a presentation, and BATV will broadcast the meeting. A Q&A document will be prepared based on audience questions after the meeting.

A picture of Geneva Mayor Kevin Burns was shared at the Geneva City Council Meeting, where Mayor Burns wore a Batavia shirt. Mayor Burns and Mayor Schielke had a bet on the Batavia-Geneva 100th football game, and the losing mayor had to wear the opposing team's colors to the next meeting. Mayor Schielke noted in a sense of good sportsmanship, he did select a tie that had a little blue and white.

Ald. Wolff noted that in the last two years, Batavia has outscored Geneva 90-0.

16. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ald. Brown announced that the next COW would be at 7 pm tomorrow night. On October 3, the Plan Commission would have a public hearing at 7 pm. The Historic Preservation Committee will meet on October 8 at 5:30 pm. A COW is scheduled for October 9, but there are no agenda items so far.

Ald. Atac said the Strategic Plan will be on the COW agenda tomorrow night. This is a good time for the public to offer feedback.

Ald. Wolff reminded everyone that leaves should be placed on the parkway, not in the street. Also, don't blow grass clippings into the street.

17. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

18. MAYOR'S REPORT

This weekend, Oktoberfest will be held on River Street starting at 5 pm on Friday, when the mayor will tap the first keg of beer. The mayor indicated this is a great event, and one high school class is even holding their reunion at the event. He thanked Batavia MainStreet and the Batavia Chamber of Commerce for putting on another great Batavia event. He noted that the weather has had an interesting impact on many major Batavia events this year, from the July 4 fireworks to the Homecoming Parade, but the city always seems to overcome those challenges and make these events a success.

19. ADJOURNMENT

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

The City Council meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Ellen Posledni, City Clerk, October 10, 2018.