

MINUTES
January 26, 2021
Committee of the Whole
City of Batavia

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. They 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. They may not reference some of the individual attendee's comments, nor the complete comments if referenced.

Chair Wolff called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Chair Wolff; Ald. Beck, Knopp, Meitzler, Chanzit, Baerren, O'Brien, Callahan, Uher, McFadden

Members Absent: Ald. Miller, Russotto, Malay, Cerone

Also Present: Mayor Schielke; Chief Eul, Batavia Police Department; Laura Newman, City Administrator; Gary Holm, Director of Public Works; Anthony Isom, Assistant to the City Administrator; Peggy Colby, Director of Finance; Scott Buening, Director of Community Development; Jeremy Barkei, Sewer Superintendent; and Jennifer Austin-Smith, Recording Secretary

2. Reminder: Please speak into the microphone for BATV recording

3. Approve Minutes for January 5, 2021

Motion: To approve the minutes for January 5, 2021

Maker: Knopp

Second: Uher

Roll Call Vote: **Aye:** Knopp, Chanzit, Baerren, O'Brien, Callahan, Meitzler, Uher, McFadden, Wolff, Beck

Nay:

10-0 Vote, 4 Absent. Motion carried.

4. Items to be Removed/Added/Changed

There were no items to be removed, added or changed.

5. Matters From the Public (For Items NOT on the Agenda)

There were no matters from the public at this time.

6. Resolution 21-001-R: Extension of Police Officer Eligibility List (1/11/21 DME) CS

Chief Eul discussed the testing process and the difficulty during the COVID-19 safety requirements.

Motion: To recommend approval of Resolution 21-001-R: Extension of Police Officer Eligibility List

Maker: Wolff

Second: Meitzler

Roll Call Vote: **Aye:** Wolff, Beck, Knopp, Chanzit, Baerren, O'Brien, Callahan, Meitzler, Uher, McFadden

Nay:

10-0 Vote, 4 Absent. Motion carried.

7. Resolution 21-002-R: Authorizing the Purchase of One (1) 2021 Ford Utility Police Interceptor All Wheel Drive (AWD) Vehicle as Part of the On-Going Vehicle Replacement Program (1/12/21 GA) CS

Chief Eul summarized the memo.

Motion: To recommend approval of Resolution 21-002-R: Authorizing the Purchase of One (1) 2021 Ford Utility Police Interceptor All Wheel Drive (AWD) Vehicle as Part of the On-Going Vehicle Replacement Program

Maker: Wolff

Second: Knopp

Roll Call Vote: **Aye:** Wolff, Beck, Knopp, Chanzit, Baerren, O'Brien, Callahan, Meitzler, Uher, McFadden

Nay:

10-0 Vote, 4 Absent. Motion carried.

8. Resolution 21-005-R: Authorizing the Extension of FFCRA Sick Leave (1/22/21 WB) GS

Newman overviewed the memo and noted that staff will take another look at this on June 30, 2021 to reassess.

Motion: To recommend approval of Resolution 21-005-R: Authorizing the Extension of FFCRA Sick Leave

Maker: Chanzit

Second: Uher

Roll Call Vote: **Aye:** Chanzit, Baerren, O'Brien, Callahan, Meitzler, Uher, McFadden, Wolff, Beck, Knopp

Nay:

10-0 Vote, 4 Absent. Motion carried.

9. Resolution 21-003-R: Adopting the 2021 to 2023 Strategic Action Plan (1/21/21 LN) GS

Chanzit summarized the memo. He asked if there were any questions from the Committee. There were none.

Motion: To recommend approval of Resolution 21-003-R: Adopting the 2021 to 2023 Strategic Action Plan

Maker: Chanzit

Second: Callahan

Roll Call Vote: **Aye:** Chanzit, Baerren, O'Brien, Callahan, Meitzler, Uher, McFadden, Wolff, Beck, Knopp
 Nay:
 10-0 Vote, 4 Absent. Motion carried.

10. Ordinance 21-10: Authorizing Ordinance for IEPA Loan (1/22/21 PC) GS

Chanzit overviewed the memo. Holm commented that one of the unfortunate downsides of a low interest loan program are that you have to do a preliminary engineering study very early in the process in order to get an application for the loan. There is obviously no project if you don't get the loan and you don't want to do the engineering unless you have a project. The interest rate ended up a little over one percent and we did the original budget projections we were assuming an interest rate of over two percent. That is an obvious long-term savings during the lifetime of the loan. Holm noted that there is potential for some additional savings with the removal of the filter media in the large tanks. Testing indicates that it probably could be landfilled and not treated as a special waste saving the City money with special waste treatment. Staff is recommending the new limit of 4.425 million for the loan.

Uher asked for the yearly impact, what the City would be paying per year, to be made available for the City Council meeting.

Motion: To recommend approval of Ordinance 21-10, an Ordinance authorizing the City of Batavia, Kane and DuPage Counties, Illinois, to issue Waterworks Revenue Bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$4,425,000 in evidence of loans issued pursuant to the Public Water Supply Loan Program

Maker: Chanzit

Second: O'Brien

Roll Call Vote: **Aye:** Chanzit, Baerren, O'Brien, Callahan, Meitzler, Uher, McFadden, Wolff, Beck, Knopp
 Nay:
 10-0 Vote, 4 Absent. Motion carried.

11. Resolution 21-004-R: Approving Task 4 with Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. (SEL) in the amount of \$204,200 to Develop Wiring Diagrams and Procurement of Five Fabricated Control and Relay Panels for Paramount Distribution Substation (1/21/21 RB) PU

O'Brien overviewed the memo.

Motion: To recommend approval of Resolution 21-004-R: Approving Task 4 with Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. (SEL) in the amount of \$204,200 to Develop Wiring Diagrams and Procurement of Five Fabricated Control and Relay Panels for Paramount Distribution Substation

Maker: O'Brien

Second: Meitzler

Roll Call Vote: **Aye:** O'Brien, Callahan, Meitzler, Uher, McFadden, Wolff, Beck, Knopp, Chanzit, Baerren
 Nay:

10-0 Vote, 4 Absent. Motion carried.
CONSENT AGENDA

12. Ordinance 21-11: Approving Purchase of Real Property Comprised of Approximately 6.6 Acres; Identified by Permanent Index Numbers of 12-18-100-012, 12-18-100-013, and 12-18-100-023 (1/21/21 GH) PU

O'Brien summarized the memo. Holm stated that there are funds in the Capital Fund budget for this. If this is successfully closed, the Water Department will immediately begin getting appraisal for the West Main Street parcel, ten acres that the City owns on West Main Street that will be surplus at that point and no longer needed for the water utility or any other City department. That sale should bring in revenue to the City.

Motion: To recommend approval of Ordinance 21-11: Approving Purchase of Real Property Comprised of Approximately 6.6 Acres; Identified by Permanent Index Numbers of 12-18-100-012, 12-18-100-013, and 12-18-100-023

Maker: O'Brien

Second: Wolff

Roll Call Vote: **Aye:** O'Brien, Callahan, Meitzler, Uher, McFadden, Wolff, Beck, Knopp, Chanzit, Baerren

Nay:
10-0 Vote, 4 Absent. Motion carried.
CONSENT AGENDA

13. Discussion: Closure of North River Street for Public Dining

The Committee discussed working with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), planning for a one-way street, temporary closure, permit request to close for the season, special events, the Farmer's Market, One Washington Street project impact, communications, and safety.

Chair Wolff opened the floor for public comment.

James Joseph, River Street business owner, addressed the Committee. He stated he appreciates there is a realization of the severity of what the project could do to this area. The necessity of bringing traffic to River Street is really appreciated. As this project goes forward, he is glad to hear of plans for increased communication between the City and the businesses. Joseph stated that the businesses who have departed from River Street were not from a lack of traffic but from a global pandemic. He stated that the currently open businesses are between State and Wilson so moving the Farmer's Market further north will not benefit anyone. The pedestrians will just go to the Farmer's Market and back to their cars and forget what is further south of that. Moving the Farmer's Market north would not help any business, including his. It is crucial that the Farmer's Market stays where it has in the past. When it comes to a one-way, whatever we could do to keep the barrier to a minimum if we are going to close it is the best. The more we could make the street closure more aesthetic the better.

Joseph shared his concern about leaving the street as a one way and then throwing out tables is people do not care that it is twenty miles per hour. He sees it time and time again. If you want

revenue, have one squad car out on River Street all day long because speeding tickets will be written left and right. He shared that he does not let his daughter go too far because the speed cars travel down there is not good. That is a serious safety concern he has. He was recently driving to his business at twenty miles per hour and was passed by two cars going forty-five miles per hour on the Woonerf. He sees this because he is down there all the time. O'Brien stated that the Woonerf was not designed for forty mile per hour traffic and that should not go on. That is a safety issue we need to address immediately and he hopes the Chief is listening and takes that under advisement. O'Brien commented that he understands that it is not just ticket writing but it also has to be educational so people start to realize the whole purpose of that street is to be a complete shared street and we can't have cars flying down it. We need to stop that kind of behavior immediately. Beck stated that traffic calming is in the Strategic Plan we just passed. We need to make sure that there are pieces in place to make it uncomfortable for people to drive that fast. And that goes for all of our neighborhood and downtown streets. Beck suggested contacting the River Street businesses owners to find out what they would prefer as we are waiting for the one-way to be approved or denied. Would they rather have the full orange and white barricades up or would they rather have outdoor dining on the fringes on the sidewalks. That would inform her decision on whether or not we move forward with a full road closure. Baerren agreed.

The consensus of the Committee was to inquire with the River Street business owners if they would be in favor of temporary full closure of the roads for specific events until such time we receive approval from IDOT to make this a permanent one way. Giving the option that we could leave the Woonerf as it is with the street open and visibility open to a lively street knowing that it would have to be mixed traffic and everyone would have to go slow. Newman stated that she would send out an email with that question alone and compile the responses and present that at a future COW meeting. Holm noted that staff needs to know what will be approved from IDOT to know what the options are.

14. Discussion: Wilson St. Mid-Block Crosswalk

Newman reported that this is on the agenda at the request of Alderman Uher. One of the problem areas were identified as not ideal for walkability is this particular intersection of River Street and Wilson Street. Newman explained why there is no crosswalk that goes straight across the roadway perpendicularly from the southeast corner and the reason is it would have to bisect a left hand turn lane. What is directly across from that is Wilson Street Tavern and they have an outdoor seating area that leaves only thirty-six inches of sidewalk out in front of it. We could hire an engineer to draw that crosswalk and submit it to IDOT and see what they say.

Callahan stated that this is not a mid-block crosswalk that is being asked for and he does not know where that terminology started. Callahan asked about this back on June 15th and it is a squaring off of the actual intersection that already exists. The east portion of that intersection that ends at Wilson would be a normal four-way crosswalk but for the fact that it is not four way, it is a three way intersection. He does not understand how a three street configuration would not lend itself to a normal squaring off of the intersection for crosswalks similar to a T-intersection. The Committee viewed Google Maps utilizing the shared screen on GotoWebinar. Callahan stated that he would like to make sure this entire intersection is holistically looked at with what needs to be presented for obtaining construction of the crosswalk with the signalization lights. He

stated that if we need to make this into a resolution to direct staff, he wants to make sure that prior conversations are memorialized in giving staff direction moving forward.

Buening noted that the Wilson Street Tavern has an outdoor dining area there and the intersection is going to require an ADA ramp. The ramp may potentially interfere with the dining area, so that may have an impact depending on where the intersection lands. Knopp suggested moving the sidewalk west of the Wilson Street Tavern where there is nothing obstructing it.

Newman noted that this is an unbudgeted engineering project for us to engage, so it would likely come back to COW in the form of approving the contract for the engineering. Wolff asked for the numbers on what it is going to cost to do the engineering study, traffic study for the light, and how long it would take time-wise to get the information to IDOT. Wolff asked that this discussion be placed back on the COW agenda in two weeks. Callahan asked for other examples of T-intersections.

The Committee discussed how local municipalities could deal with issues with IDOT and increasing safety in a small business revenue generating area. Chair Wolff stated that we could consider a more unified front to send to IDOT, not just a request from our staff but with a request with fifteen signatures (including the Mayor) to put more weight behind the request. The Council could also contact State Representatives to back us up on this public safety issue that we are requesting.

15. Project Status

Newman reported on the following:

- Region 8, in which Kane County is situated, has moved to Tier 1 mitigations.
- Today is the first day that the Batavia Public Library is allowing people to reenter the building.
- The Batavia Park District is resuming their recreational programming and they are opening up venues to rent for events (sticking to the limit of fewer than 25 people).
- The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) put out a press release about regions 8 and 9 moving to Tier 1.
- The State is providing notice of locations where vaccines are going to be administered for the next round of 1B.
- The contractor for the Paramount Substation Reconstruction Project has provided a final schedule. It is scheduled to commence construction by Mid-February and will be completed by mid-summer.
- The roadway network assessment will be performed in late spring.
- Electric will be issuing an RFP for a system-wide power pole condition assessment evaluation. This project will occur throughout the summer months to identify the health and stability of all of the poles that are in our electric network.
- Engineering is working with Kane County to secure another Community Development Block Grant for the 2021 Resurfacing Program.
- Chief Deicke is working on a 2021 OSFM grant and a FEMA grant that might assist us with the purchase of our next Fire vehicle.
- The spec building on Pearson has resubmitted their plans and staff is reviewing those.

- The Plan Commission (PC) is meeting on 2-3-21 to consider rezonings of City owned property and a downzoning of an industrial parcel on Raddant Road.
- The PC has made recommendations on cannabis dispensaries in their meeting on 1-20-21 and will come back to the COW on 2-9-21.
- The City is receiving an influx of new permits for a myriad of different projects.
- February 1st the City will be hosting an informational meeting on the One Washington Project for all adjacent business and property owners. Login information for that Zoom meeting will be sent to the Council members.

16. Other

Baerren asked how many businesses took advantage of the liquor license renewal. Newman answered nearly everyone except one that contacted the City to say they were doing well and choose to pay the fee. This year North Aurora has announced that they are waiving their liquor renewal fee for those with a pour license. That might be something City Council may want to consider because those with a pour license continue to face the COVID-19 restrictions. Newman will look into the exact numbers.

17. Executive Session: Purchase and Sale of Real Estate (GH)

Chair Wolff stated that there would be no more discussion during open session so we will adjourn this meeting and enter into Executive Session.

Motion: To enter into Executive Session for the Purchase and Sale of Real Estate
Maker: Knopp
Second: Callahan
Voice Vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 4 Absent
Motion carried.

18. Adjournment

The Committee exited open session and entered into Executive Session at 8:51pm.