

CITY OF BATAVIA
MINUTES OF THE BATAVIA CITY COUNCIL
September 4, 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. Russotto 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), Lucy Thelin Atac (5), Mark Uher (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
Director of Public Works	Gary Holm
Fire Chief	Randy Deicke
Community Development Director	Scott Buening

4. ITEMS REMOVED/ADDED/CHANGED

Ald. Callahan requested that agenda item 8 be postponed for two weeks. Ald. Wolff noted that some questions remained after the COW meeting, and the Council would like more time to seek clarity on the issue. Mayor Schielke suggested the item be discussed at the next COW, and that before then, the Council should talk to Director Buening and other staff members so they could prepare for the discussion. Ald. Callahan said they are just looking for more input from other stakeholders.

Motion by Ald. Atac, seconded by Ald. Callahan, to remove agenda item #8. Motion carried 14 yea/ 0 nay/ 0 absent.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Ald. Atac read the Consent Agenda as follows:

Accept and Place on File:

A. Committee of the Whole Minutes for August 14, 2018

Approvals:

B. August 24, 2018 Payroll \$839,654.98

C. Accounts Payable Check Register \$1,465,393.40

D. City Council Minutes for August 20, 2018

E. **APPROVAL:** Class D-1 Liquor License for Olvera Food, Inc. d/b/a El Taco Grande at 4-6 N River St. (Eul 8/14/18 COW 8/21/18 11/0) GS

F. **APPROVAL:** Class D-1 Liquor License for Crabby Boil; 220 N. Randall Rd. (Eul 8/14/18 COW 8/21/18 11/0) GS

G. **RESOLUTION 18-102:** Approving a Plat of Easement and Abrogation – Lot 1 of Lot 87/88 Batavia Business Park Re-Subdivision (D. Rackow 8/22/18 COW 8/28/18 12/0) CD

H. **ORDINANCE 18-58:** Amending the Official Zoning Map of the City of Batavia – 1900 Hubbard Avenue, City of Batavia, applicant (J. Strassman 8/22/18 COW 8/28/18 12/0) CD

I. **ORDINANCE 18-56:** Amending the Official Zoning Map of the City of Batavia 620, 625, 629, 639 and 646 South Van Buren Street 320, 322, 328, 336, 344, 428,435, 451 and 511 Pine Street, Burlington Northern Railroad and adjacent rights of way City of Batavia, Applicant (D. Rackow 8/17/18 COW 8/28/18 12/0) CD

J. **ORDINANCE 18-59:** Amending the Text of the Zoning Code, City of Batavia, applicant (J. Strassman 8/22/18 COW 8/28/18 11/0) CD

K. **ORDINANCE 18-54:** Declaring Surplus Property and Authorizing the Sale of Property (R. Deicke 8/14/18 COW 8/21/18 11/0) CS

L. **RESOLUTION 18-103-R:** Authorizing Change Order No. 6 with Williams Brothers Construction Inc for the Phase 1 WWTP Rehabilitation Project (B. Ritchason 8/23/18 COW 8/28/18 11/0) PU

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

Mayor Schielke invited Jose Olvera, new owner of El Taco Grande, to introduce himself and talk about his plans for the restaurant. A celebration is being planned for September 16 from 3 to 6 pm at the restaurant. Mr. Olvera plans to add some special dishes, new servers and offer a friendly place for patrons. He hopes to add breakfast in a few months.

Mayor Schielke said he met with Mr. Olvera and he has some exciting ideas. He is enthusiastic about his new venture, and the Martinez family remains involved in the background. Mr. Olvera has worked at the restaurant for 17 years.

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

Jan Wright, chair of Batavia Foundation for Educational Excellence and a member of the steering committee for Bulldogs Unleashed shared information about the September 15 auction. Of the 30 bulldogs, 15 have been purchased, and 15 will be auctioned. Smaller dogs will also be raffled, and raffle tickets are available at bulldogsunleashed.org. Auction tickets are \$65. The event will be at 6:00 at the Eastside Community Center, and will feature local food vendors, beer and wine.

NBC Sports is featuring the Batavia High School football team throughout the season, featuring a new episode each Friday night at 11 p.m. Ms. Wright shared the latest video, which featured the Bulldogs Unleashed program.

Ald. Brown noted that donations to the program are tax deductible.

Mayor Schielke said that the next Batavia-Geneva football game will be their 100th meeting. The high school asked if the city could assist with the event. Public Works and the Streets Dept. created special street signs in school colors that will be installed on school property to celebrate the school's state football titles. At the beginning of the Batavia-Geneva game, the new signs will be presented to the team. Additionally, the mayors are discussing wagering a friendly bet.

Mayor Schielke noted that Ald. Wolff is one of the BATV commentators for the football games, and he does an excellent job. He said other mayors are always asking him what the secret is of their football success. He notes that the football team's success and the Bulldogs Unleashed program have both brought a lot of positive attention to the community. The Mayor also noted that Ken Anderson, a Super Bowl quarterback from Batavia, was recently in town and wanted to get in touch with the Bulldogs Unleashed team because he wanted to bring the idea to Hilton Head, where he lives. The Mayor also said there is now a schedule of football games posted inside City Hall.

Ald. Wolff reminded the Council that they recently passed a proclamation declaring September to be National Suicide Awareness Month. He read the proclamation.

Ald. Meitzler said that suicide happens to our children right here in Batavia, noting that hundreds of people were in line as he spoke waiting to pay respects to a young Batavian who recently took his own life. He said we need to shed light on the situation, and share information and awareness. He said if anyone needs help or knows someone who needs help, they can contact 1-800-SUICIDE. Survivors of Suicide is a group for those who have lost someone to suicide.

Mayor Schielke thanked the aldermen for raising this issue. He said in the past eight weeks, Batavia has been touched by several incidents involving suicide. He noted that these incidents take a large toll on the first responders. He shared his sympathy with the families and his appreciation for the excellent work by the first responders.

7. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber President Holly Deitchman announced upcoming events to be held by the Chamber. She announced that the next Harvest Celebration is October 3, at which former MainStreet Director Jamie Saam will be honored.

Casey Hough, owner of Six+ Cypress, introduced herself to the Council. The company was founded two years ago in the St. Louis area with her neighbor. Sales were mainly through social media, but sales quickly ramped up. When her husband was relocated to the Chicago area, Ms. Hough decided to open a storefront on Wilson Street. She said the city has embraced her and the shop. Her focus is affordable fashion, but it's also a great place to find gift items. The shop is located at 239 West Wilson Street, next to Lisa's Heads and Nails. Website is sixpluscypress.com.

Mayor Schielke shared a history of the building where the store is located. He welcomed Ms. Hough and said he is hearing positive comments about the store.

8. ORDINANCE 18-57: Amending The Official Zoning Map Of The City Of Batavia – 750-812 Main Street, City Of Batavia, Applicant (J. Strassman 8/22/18 COW 8/28/18 9/2) CD
This item was removed by action of the Council in agenda item 4.

9. RESOLUTION 18-101-R: Authorizing A Contract With LIHEAP (P. Colby COW 8/28/18 11/0) GS

Ald. Atac introduced the item relating to the agency that helps low-income residents pay their utility bills. Residents can call Utility Billing to request the number to apply for assistance. The resolution continues the contract for another three years.

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

10. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Newman announced that the Slow Down Batavia campaign is coming to an end. People should remove the signs from their yards and either store them for the next campaign, or return them to City Hall for later reuse. If people leave the signs up long-term, they will lose their impact and drivers will stop "seeing" them.

United Way has worked with Batavia Public Schools and Kane County to establish a new 211 service. People can dial 211 when they are in need of any kind of assistance, and they will be connected to resources that may be able to provide services. United Way will attend a City Council meeting in October to discuss the program.

Tomorrow's Plan Commission meeting has been canceled.

Community Development staff continues to work on Prairie Landing. MetroNet is continuing installations and customers will be online soon. Several permits have been issued for larger projects, including the expansion at Funway and the work at the Eastside Community Center.

In Public Works, annual roadway resurfacing and the Area 3 stormwater system work should be wrapping up in September.

Ald. Callahan asked about signage at the Siemens property. Multiple people said they believe the signs came down today.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ald. Brown said the Plan Commission meeting is canceled. Historic Preservation meets Monday at 5:30 pm and the next COW is September 11 at 7 pm.

Ald. Wolff said the COW agenda will include the Deerpath and Main Street project.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

Ald. Chanzit said two weeks from tomorrow will be a Meet Your Aldermen event at the Holmstad. He also announced that September 13 from 6 to 7 pm, Youth Outlook will be having an event at the Unitarian Church in Geneva. Fifty people, including local politicians and mental health service reps, attended the last event. Ald. Chanzit made a presentation during the event.

13. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Schielke said visitors to Batavia for class reunions continue to be highly complimentary of how the downtown looks. The Block Party on Sunday included a car show on River Street and food and music at the Peg Bond Center. Several attendees noted how nice the downtown looks from the east side looking west. There is a lot of appreciation for the City Council decisions and the work done.

The Mayor has spoken with the city attorney and Director Buening about fine-tuning building maintenance laws. He said many of the older neighborhoods are really starting to look good, but some buildings are starting to stand out for being below standards. There was a recent situation with a house that had trucks parked in the yard. The owner was renting out yard space so people could live in the trucks on his property. A couple of them didn't pay their rent, so now they can't have their trucks. The Mayor said this person is operating totally outside of ordinances, and they will look at updating language to specify that people can't live in vehicles parked in yards. Trailers and motorhomes are also being parked in yards, and they may recommend language to address that situation. He said some people may even be sleeping in treehouses, and some language may have to be drafted to address that.

Chief Deicke wanted to share photos of what the old 1955 Chevy rescue truck looked like originally. Mayor Schielke located photos of the truck, which was originally donated to Batavia by the Chamber of Commerce, which got donations through door-to-door fundraising. The Chamber bought the needed equipment for the truck, which was designed by Bud Richter, the first paid fire chief, who served 33 years. Batavia Body Co. fabricated the interior benches. Chief Richter wrote articles about the truck and fielded inquiries about it from around the country. Glen Haines took an interior photo of the truck – he was the grandfather of current Batavia employee Scott Haines. The photos are being given to both fire stations for display.

Chief Deicke said the truck will be available for auction in about two weeks, when the title from the state arrives. About 20 people have already contacted him and asked to be notified when it's up for auction.

The Mayor said the truck was truly state-of-the-art in 1955 and saved a lot of lives. It was inexpensive because so much of the work was done in-house.

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

The City Council meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

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