

MINUTES
October 22, 2019
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. Miller, Beck, Chanzit, O'Brien, Callahan, Meitzler, Malay, Uher, and McFadden

Members Absent: Ald. Russotto, Salvati, Knopp, Cerone

Also Present: Mayor Schielke; Laura Newman, City Administrator; Gary Holm, Director of Public Works; Wendy Bednarek, Director of Human Resources; Peggy Colby, Director of Finance; and Jennifer Austin-Smith, Recording Secretary

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

3. Items to be Removed/Added/Changed

The Committee of the Whole (COW) added agenda item number 8, Executive Session regarding real estate.

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

There were no matters from the public at this time.

5. Presentation: Third Quarter Review of Strategic Plan (Laura Newman no memo)

Newman stated that the next meeting is a budget meeting so she found it important to discuss the Strategic Plan. Newman distributed a six-page handout titled 'City of Batavia Strategic Action Plan 2019-2023 Strategic Priorities.'

Transportation was discussed first. The first objective was to investigate the feasibility of a parking lot for train commuters. PACE representatives gave a presentation in September and shared their experience with park-and-ride successes and failures. They did not think our circumstances would produce high ridership. PACE has created a PACE-on-Demand service available in Batavia. The service is available Monday through Friday from 6:30am to 6:50pm. A ride costs \$2 using a Ventra card or \$2.25 cash. Rides can be booked via phone, online, or via a PACE app (coming soon). Uber is beginning its 'last mile' programming in Chicago and City staff will continue to monitor their availability locally. The Committee discussed the alternatives available to Batavia residents versus spending money on infrastructure. The Committee discussed the importance of educating residents of the innovative ways to commute to and from the train station. The consensus of the Committee felt that utilizing the options available would

be the best way to go forward versus building and maintaining a parking lot and trying to convince PACE to provide park-and-ride services.

The Committee discussed the second transportation objective: create a plan for a possible second bridge. The Committee discussed how a second bridge would not likely happen if the City has to pay for it in its entirety. The Committee considered ways to work with their neighbors to develop regional transportation solutions and continue having those conversations. Chanzit stated that if we are not saving for a possible second bridge than we are not making it a priority. The saved funds could be used towards a contribution for a regional solution or even towards maintenance. Uher stated and a line item should be created in the budget for infrastructure improvements, notably the dam. Chanzit stated that riverbank stabilization also deserves a line item in the budget. Newman noted that the utilities enterprise funds are not being funded currently. The consensus of the Committee was not paying for a second bridge in its entirety. Newman suggested having this discussion at a 2020 COW meeting and adding questions regarding a second bridge within the proposed community survey. The discussion could include possible location of the bridge and logistics.

The next objective is 'Identify/Enhance Safe Walking/Biking Routes to and Through Downtown' with Action I: Work with Geneva to explore sidewalk connection to Metra Station (\$200,000). Newman spoke with representatives from Geneva and they stated that they would support it but it would not be feasible or help Batavians get up to that Geneva sidewalk because there was no crosswalk. A sidewalk connection to Geneva is not practical if a pedestrian crossing is not possible at the intersection. The Kane County preliminary engineering study results to improve the infrastructure are expected in late 2020.

The Committee discussed Action 2: Design/construct alternative to stairs on bike path on east side of walking bridge. Wolff suggested fixing the bike path along side the river that is currently under water. That would solve bike travel problems along River Street. Mayor Schielke stated that there are a lot of engineering issues and would be very expensive. The safety concerns are bicycles falling off into the river. Mayor Schielke stated that there was a study done regarding this and should be available for review.

Transportation was discussed. Actions three through five were overviewed. Beck suggested updating the bike plan and including pedestrian elements into the plan. We should plan infrastructure improvements every year. Newman stated that there is \$2,000 in the administration budget for the bicycle commission's update of the bicycle plan and that will be presented with the 2020 budget. Wolff agreed that the bike plan should be updated. Newman reported that preliminary engineering has already been completed on extending the bike path adjacent to the wastewater treatment facility. Staff could apply for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding. Wolff stated that he would like to see the bike path project combined with river stabilization. Newman stated that Gary Holm would be a part of these discussions during the budget process.

Downtown development was discussed. Newman suggested reviewing existing plans at a future meeting and engage the community in the discussions. Beck stated that they have been reviewing

the plans and she will set a date for a report back to the Committee regarding projects that could be completed in the immediate future.

Review and Revise Development Incentives and Policy Actions one through five were discussed. Process and Service Quality Improvement actions one through four were overviewed. Meitzler and Callahan asked for efficiency reports for important data. Newman stated in the new plan for economic development we would like the establishment of an advisory board to be a third party to hold City staff accountable and gain honest feedback. Newman stated that efficiency reports could be added as an action item to quality improvement. Newman suggested the possibility of a data analytic software system to produce efficiency reports.

Newman overviewed The River and section of the Strategic Action Plan with the Committee.

The Committee discussed Infrastructure. Callahan stated that priority areas for sidewalks should always be high traffic areas around schools and where people are going to be walking. Putting a strip of sidewalk where possibly one person would walk should be taken off of the list. The second priority areas should be major arterial roads. Uher stated that the terminology of ‘one-hundred year’ sidewalk plan makes it appear that it will never get done. Newman stated that she would have the prioritizing and planning of new sidewalks as a future COW discussion.

Callahan asked if we are collecting enough money right now for infrastructure improvements. Newman answered that it depends on what you are trying to accomplish. Newman noted that streets are underfunded. O’Brien stated that we need to plan for the future with stormwater. We need to plan with bigger pipes to prepare for the more common one hundred year storms. Chanzit asked that staff be forthright with the projects that need to be completed and the money needed to fund the projects. If we as a Council choose to peel projects off than it is at our peril that we are shortchanging citizens.

Newman distributed a handout titled ‘The National Community Survey 2019 for Batavia IL 2019.’ The handout listed services they provide and optional add-on services. Newman stated that hundreds of municipalities across the country utilize the exact same survey. Newman announced that she has money in her budget that would allow the survey process to begin in 2019. It could be paid for and prepared for distribution in 2020. The consensus of the committee was in favor of going forward with the survey services. Callahan would like opinions on whether or not we should do studies, what does the entire community feel, added to the survey.

6. Project Status

There was no project status updates at this time.

7. Other

There were no others at this time.

8. Executive Session – Real Estate

Motion: To enter into Executive Session for real estate
Maker: O’Brien

Second: McFadden
Voice Vote: 9 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 Absent
Motion carried.

Chair Wolff was the nay vote.

The Committee entered into Executive Session at 9:12pm and exited at 9:21pm.

9. Adjournment

There being no other business to discuss, Chair Wolff asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:21pm; Made by O'Brien; Seconded by Meitzler. Motion carried.