

MINUTES
June 4, 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, Russotto, Beck, Knopp, Chanzit, Salvati, O'Brien, Callahan, Meitzler, Malay (entered at 7:01pm), Uher, Cerone, McFadden

Members Absent:

Also Present: Mayor Schielke; Laura Newman, City Administrator; Kevin Drendel, Legal Counsel; Gary Holm, Director of Public Works; Anthony Isom, Assistant to the City Administrator; and Jennifer Austin-Smith, Recording Secretary

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

3. Items to be Removed/Added/Changed

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

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

There were no matters from the public for items not on the agenda.

5. Presentation: Point to Point Kane County – Lyndsay Hartman

Lyndsay Hartman, Founder and Director of Point to Point, met with the Committee of the Whole (COW) to discuss the work her 501c(3) company does within Kane County. She explained to the Committee how her volunteer-led company aims to reduce risk with drug use by supplying safer injection supplies, syringe access and disposal. Point to Point also offers Narcan training and Fentanyl testing strips within the mobile unit. Point to Point focuses on Harm Reduction, which aims at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use by providing stigma free help and compassion to all. The mobile unit is available on Saturdays at the Kane County Coroner's Office and Sundays at Open Door Health Center in Aurora. Hartman shared that people could support Point to Point by providing funding, supplies, grant writing or volunteering. Wolff suggested that she give her information to Kane County's human services hotline, 211. Chanzit suggested she look into the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) grants that banks have to offer.

6. Discussion: Alderman Employment Potential Conflict of Interest – GS (LN)

Laura Newman stated that this item is on the agenda but there is no longer a pressing need to discuss because there is no pending potential conflict of interest that exists at this point. However, since this item is on the agenda we have our City Attorney in attendance.

City Attorney Kevin Drendel explained some examples of conflict of interest such as: conflict of office, personal conflicts, common law conflict and employment. Drendel explained that the best way to deal with a common law conflict is to remove yourself from any appearance where it might be an issue.

7. Discussion: Staff Memos

Chanzit stated that staff puts a lot of time into the memos that they give us and we should make sure the memos the COW is receiving are as strong as they could be. Chanzit suggested making parameters on items in the memos that aren't exactly useful. Knopp stated that one of the first memos he read as an alderman had a position on an issue with pros and cons listed. The pros listed all the great things that would happen if we do it and the cons listed all of the good things that would not happen if we don't do it. Knopp would like to see the pros be the good things that would happen if we do it and the cons are the bad things that are going to happen if we do it. Those are the conflicts that we have to weigh in on and resolve. They can't just be the opposite of each other. Meitzler stated that he would not like to see pros and cons listed at all but rather look into economic impact.

Newman stated that sometimes with pros and cons there are pros to doing it and cons not doing it and sometimes those are exactly the opposite. From the perspective of staff, they find the pros and cons to be contrived. It almost is like wasted writing. The purpose of a memo, from staff's perspective, as a City Council you are looking for them to present you with all of the technical information that you should take into consideration when you are making a decision whether to do into one direction or another. Staff has the ability to write what the consequences of taking one course of action versus not taking that course of action are. In the result, it is staff's understanding that they should express an opinion based on the fact that they have the technical expertise. By expressing that opinion they are in no way suggesting that it is the way the Council should decide things. The Council may take into consideration other factors that have not been presented in the memo.

Suggestions the COW made for a stronger memo included:

- Presentation of what the facts are
- Professional recommendation on how to proceed
- Cost implications of a decision or indecision
- Impacts of action or inaction
- Environmental impact

Callahan asked if we need a memo for everything. Newman answered yes, but some memos could be two sentences long and others could be several pages. Newman continued that memos are truly creating a record for those in the future. It helps those understand why decisions were made in the past even if things are different now.

8. Discussion: Non-Residential Refuse Collection Times

Newman reported that the City has received complaints from residents who live adjacent to our industrial areas. They have reported that garbage collection at the industrial properties occurs before 7am and they find it interfering with their sleep so they would like us to change the times refuse collection is allowed in the industrial areas.

Wolff asked how many complaints have been received. Mayor Schielke answered that he has received a couple complaints from Raddant Road north of Wilson Street in the Fourth Ward. The other spot we receive complaints is in the sixth ward on Bond Drive. The Committee directed staff to address complaints as they are received.

9. Project Status

Newman thanked residents who cooperated with the City in removing debris from the storm drains. This helped a lot during the heavy rains to get the water collected where it was supposed to be.

Newman stated grass clippings have been mowed onto the street and this needs to stop. The fact that we have 9,000 homes in this community, that is a lot of grass clippings. Grass clippings are dangerous to our stormwater system that goes to our new Wastewater Treatment Plant because many of us fertilize our lawns. We are trying to keep phosphorous out of the Fox River and one of the ways we could do that is making sure grass clippings do not get down our storm drains. All of the City contractors are instructed if they are mowing and they get grass clippings in the street to blow the grass clippings back up onto the property they just mowed. Grass clippings make great mulch. The City will be doing a public campaign regarding grass clippings.

Newman announced Municipal Minute would be re-implemented on BATV. We will start doing them on a monthly basis and will highlight a specific project that the City is engaged in.

Engineering staff met with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) about the Prairie Street Reconstruction Project. IDOT is finishing review of Phase One of the project. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss Phase Two engineering for that project.

Newman stated that the incident at Virginia Beach has made more awareness on employee safety in the workplace. Newman asked if we could put the City Hall remodeling project on an upcoming City Council agenda. Newman noted that part of the remodeling project were safety/security improvements to the building. The Committee was in favor of discussing this in the future. O'Brien suggested a joint letter coming from the City of Batavia to the State representatives regarding stronger background checks and putting more emphasis onto mental illness awareness. O'Brien stated that we really need to do something about this because these are lives being lost and it continues to go on.

10. Other

Meitzler stated that MetroNet needs a reminder about the quality of work they do within our neighborhoods because there have been several issues. There has been two feet of dirt on private property for two weeks. Cables with exposed wires have been left out on the yards. A gas line

was nicked during boring. Many people are concerned about the quality of work. Someone's personal garden on the property side, not the easement, was torn up and trampled. Newman asked for the contact information on the owner of the private property garden after the meeting. Mayor Schielke commented that he had several complaints received as well. Newman announced that staff would be meeting with MetroNet on Monday.

O'Brien stated that the Newsboy Alley gate/arch was voted on and approved and it has not yet been completed. The foundations are in for it and it is one of the finishing touches for the streetscape and he would like to see that happen. Holm stated that we have all of the artwork and we have the design but it never moved forward. Holm stated that it is not in our budget so we would have to do a budget amendment to move forward. Newman stated that she would look into it.

Newman stated that she is working on the windmill at the gas station.

Russotto stated that three weeks ago he brought up a concern about the intersection of Oswalt and Belleview. Within eight days we went from no directional sign to a stop sign. It is greatly appreciated that it was taken care of so quickly.

11. Adjournment

There being no other business to discuss, Wolff asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:13pm; Made by Salvati; Seconded by Knopp. Motion carried.