

CITY OF BATAVIA
MINUTES OF THE BATAVIA CITY COUNCIL
June 17, 2019, 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. Cerone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

14 of 14 aldermen were present at Roll Call.

Aldermen (by ward): Michael O'Brien (1), Scott Salvati (1), Martin Callahan (2), Alan Wolff (2), Elliot Meitzler (3), Dan Chanzit (3), Tony Malay (4), Joe Knopp (4), Mark Uher (5), Abby Beck (5), Nicholas Cerone (6), Michael Russotto (6), Drew McFadden (7) and Keenan Miller (7) were present.

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

City Attorney	Roman Seckel
City Clerk	Ellen Posledni
City Administrator	Laura Newman
Fire Chief	Randy Deicke
Deputy Police Chief	Shawn Mazza
Community Development Director	Scott Buening
Information Systems Director	Howard Chason

4. REMINDER: Please speak into the microphone for BATV recording

Mayor Schielke reminded all in attendance to use the microphones.

5. ITEMS REMOVED/ADDED/CHANGED

None.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Ald. Chanzit read the Consent Agenda as follows:

Accept and Place on File:

- A. Committee of the Whole Minutes for May 21, 2019
- B. Plan Commission Minutes for May 1, 2019
- C. 2018 Post-Issuance Compliance Report (Peggy Colby)
- D. April 2019 Financial Report

Approvals:

- E. June 14, 2019 Payroll \$910,061.11
- F. Accounts Payable Check Register \$1,457,065.78
- G. City Council Minutes for June 3, 2019
- H. **APPROVAL:** Class F Liquor License Application for the “Windmill City Festival” July 12 – 14, 2019, Batavia Park District. (DME 6/6/19)
- I. **RESOLUTION 19-073-R:** Authorizing Pirtano Construction Company to install duct bank for 15Kv underground circuit upgrade at 1998 Mckee Street (Raising Cane) and 1425 & 1475 Nagel Blvd for new development for an amount not to exceed \$80,043 which includes 10% contingency amount (RB 6/6/19 COW 6/11/19 12/0) PU

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

7. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC: (For items NOT on the Agenda)

None

8. BATAVIA MAINSTREET

Executive Director Chris Faber shared that the outdoor Farmers Market kicked off June 1 along with the WellBatavia Expo and Race to Market 5K run. He estimates a few thousand people came down to River Street during the day, and the expo attracted twice as many attendees as it did last year. Main Street also kicked off its Second Fridays for the summer, incorporating a pop-up craft market as well. The event was June 14 and also coincided with the Flag Day celebration downtown.

Cocktails in the Park is coming up on July 20. Tickets are now on sale. The August 4 Community Dinner Table event is sold out.

Dani Hollis addressed the Council to discuss the Activate the Alley program spearheaded by Water Street Studios. The organization has been working for about 18 months to come up with ways to get more artwork in downtown Batavia. This program has now received \$20,000 in funding from the Community Foundation to get it off the ground. The program pairs 10 local nonprofits with 10 local artists to create murals to promote the organization’s mission. The original murals will be the property of the sponsoring nonprofit, and prints will be hung in the alley leading up to WSS. Seven of the murals have already been sponsored by nonprofits that paid \$3,000 each. The installation is hoped to attract tourists as well as supporters of the organizations at ribbon-cutting festivities. The murals will also serve as a form of advertising for

the groups. The murals will begin to be unveiled throughout the upcoming year, October 2019 through August 2020, with a ribbon-cutting ideally each month. Ribbon-cutting events will also include a gathering inside WSS for the nonprofit as part of the agreement. The program will raise \$20,000 for WSS.

Mayor Schielke and Ald. Wolff commended Ms. Hollis on the creative idea. Mayor Schielke asked if there is anything the city can do to support WSS efforts to increase art installations around town. Ms. Hollis said she has plenty of ideas to share with the Mayor and they are looking at ways to help the city achieve its Strategic Plan.

Ald. O'Brien congratulated Ms. Hollis on her ability to think outside the box, and noted that the city has always supported art in Batavia.

Mayor Schielke said that Ald. Beck recently talked to him about Boo-Boo Days that used to be held downtown. He noted that many festivities have been held in Batavia over the years, and the city is unique in that it has several outdoor areas where gatherings can be held, including the Riverwalk, River Street and Clark Island, which is underutilized.

Ms. Hollis said organizations can contact her at 630.761.9977, email danielle@waterstreetstudios.org. The program is geared toward local nonprofits that have a large budget and would classify this expense as part of its marketing budget. Many organizations are now targeting Batavia for donations. Organizations already participating in the mural program include CASA, FVSRA, Anderson Animal Shelter and Mutual Ground.

9. REAPPOINTMENT: Carolyn Burnham and Andrew Greenhagen to Batavia Environmental Commission

Mayor Schielke requested the reappointment.

Motion by Ald. O'Brien, seconded by Ald. Malay, to approve the reappointment as requested. Motion carried 14 yea/ 0 nay/ 0 absent.

10. APPOINTMENT: Michael Willuweit and Andrew Deitchman to Batavia Environmental Commission

Mayor Schielke requested the appointment.

Motion by Ald. O'Brien, seconded by Ald. Callahan, to approve the appointment as requested. Motion carried 14 yea/ 0 nay/ 0 absent.

11. APPOINTMENT: Susan Stark to the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals
Mayor Schielke requested the appointment.

Motion by Ald. Chanzit, seconded by Ald. Callahan, to approve the appointment as requested. Motion carried 14 yea/ 0 nay/ 0 absent.

12. PUBLIC HEARING: Jurisdictional Boundary Line Agreement with the Village of Sugar Grove

The Public Hearing was convened at 7:54 pm. Director Buening explained that the current boundary agreement with Sugar Grove expires in a couple of years. This replacement agreement shifts the boundary line west to Bliss Road to align with future plans. The new agreement will be in place for 20 years, and the Sugar Grove Village has approved it. No public comments were made. The hearing adjourned at 7:55 pm.

13. ORDINANCE 19-45: Authorizing Execution of a Jurisdictional Boundary Line Agreement with the Village of Sugar Grove (SCB 6/4/19 COW 6/11/19 12/0) CDC

Motion by Ald. Callahan, seconded by Ald. Knopp, to approve the ordinance as presented. Motion carried 14 yea/ 0 nay/ 0 absent.

14. PRESENTATION: Tri-Cities Jank Ambassador Madeline Schuster – Trip to France
Scott Corbin, owner of the Jank Guitar Store in St. Charles, presented Jank Ambassador Madeline Schuster of Batavia, who had the opportunity to travel abroad as part of the ambassador program. Ms. Schuster traveled to a sister city in France, which will send their own ambassador to the Tri-Cities next summer. The next Jank Ambassador, announced June 12, is a St. Charles student.

Ms. Schuster shared some information about her trip and her interests, and indicated her gratitude for the experience to travel abroad. Among the highlights of her trip were the food, the diversity and the beauty of the city.

Mr. Corbin said applicants can be nominated by teachers, administrators, peers or friends. There were 510 applicants this year, and the winner is chosen by a jury. Mayor Schielke commended Mr. Corbin on the thoroughness of the process and noted that it speaks to Ms. Schuster's talent to have been chosen from among so many nominees.

15. PRESENTATION: Year of Mark Twain in Batavia – George Scheetz

Mr. Scheetz, executive director of the Batavia Public Library, shared information about the library's program to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Mark Twain's visit to Batavia in 1869. A "Flat Mark Twain" has been printed and will be distributed at the library. People are encouraged to take pictures of Flat Mark in their travels and use the hashtag #MarkTwainInBatavia.

This fall, two events will be held to raise funds for the Batavia Public Library Foundation and the Batavia Historical Society on Sept. 26: "Cocktails with Clemens" at the Batavia Depot Museum from 5 to 6 pm, followed by "Mark Twain in Person" at Batavia Fine Arts Centre.

Mayor Schielke recounted the story of how he came to learn of Mark Twain's visit to Batavia. He said he is delighted to have the statue of Mark Twain at the library, which attracts visitors seeking a photo opportunity.

16. PRESENTATION: Batavia Historical Society – Mark Foster

Mr. Foster spoke to encourage membership in the Batavia Historical Society, which operates the Depot Museum with the Batavia Park District and maintains the Gustafson Research Center. Membership includes a subscription to the quarterly newsletter, The Batavia Historian. The Depot Museum is open at 155 Houston Street from 2 to 4 pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and 12 to 4 pm on Saturday and Sunday.

On June 23 at 2 pm in Council chambers, the Batavia Historical Society will host a presentation on the Chicago World's Fair. Mayor Schielke talked about the article he wrote for the latest newsletter that discusses Batavia's connection to the first landing on the moon – Buzz Aldrin's mother spend part of her childhood in Batavia, and special fuel lines used in the Apollo mission were engineered and made in Batavia by DK Aerospace, which operated in what is now City Council Chambers.

17. RESOLUTION 19-053: Authorizing IGA with Batavia Park District for Creek Maintenance (AMP 4/5/19 COW 4/9/19 13/0)

Ald. Wolff introduced the item relating to a cooperative agreement with Batavia Park District for work being done in Ward 1 along Mahoney Creek, which is adjacent to some Park District parks. The city will lead construction and engineering, and the Park District will have 30 days for final approvals.

Ald. O'Brien said this work is long overdue and he is glad to see it's coming to fruition.

Ald. Wolff noted that this agreement and the work being done could be used as a model for all creeks in Batavia.

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

18. RESOLUTION 19-071-R: Authorizing execution of the Contract for the 2019 Street Resurfacing and Patching Program with Geneva Construction Company in the amount not to exceed \$561,329.00 which includes bid price plus 3% contingency amount (RB 6/6/19 COW 6/11/19 12/0) CS

Ald. Wolff introduced the item related to resurfacing of many Batavia streets. Information on these projects is available on the city's website, and homeowners will be notified in advance if their driveways will be affected.

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

19. RESOLUTION 19-065-R: Waive Bidding on Network Storage System (HC 6/5/19 COW 6/11/19 12/0) GS

Ald. Chanzit introduced the item related to an upgrade of data storage equipment at the city. HP offered better pricing than what is available through the State of Illinois, so the request is to waive bidding.

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

20. RESOLUTION 19-066-R: Authorization to Purchase Network Storage System (HC 6/5/19 COW 6/11/19 12/0) GS

Ald. Chanzit introduced the item related to the actual purchase of the data storage system.

Ald. Wolff noted that the IS Department has done a great job of maintaining the current systems, especially with the amount of staff in the department.

Mayor Schielke agreed, noting that the staff is so talented that they also provide support for the Tri-Com system. He said the city benefits from one of the most advanced 911 systems partly because of Batavia's IS staff.

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

21. RESOLUTION 19-072-R: Authorizing Myers Controlled Power, LLC to furnish 38kV and 15kV Metal-Clad Switchgear for the Paramount substation upgrade for an amount not to exceed \$1,116,650 (RB 6/6/19 COW 6/11/19 12/0) PU

Ald. O'Brien introduced the item relating to upgrading an 18-year-old switchgear at the Paramount substation. The Northeast substation was upgraded and will be up and running this summer – it is fully enclosed to protect it from the weather and wildlife. This equipment upgrade will be modeled after that one.

**Motion by Ald. O'Brien, seconded by Ald. Knopp, to approve the resolution as presented.
Motion carried 14 yea/ 0 nay/ 0 absent.**

22. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Newman shared that many city maps are available on the city's website to view everything from current road projects to Ward maps. She added that the Batavia Historical Society website is also a great source of information.

The city's Water Department traveled to Denver to compete in the best-tasting water competition after winning at the state level. The top 27 organizations competed, and while Batavia did not

win, Administrator Newman commended Jeremy Barkei and his team on the great job they do to ensure safe, clean drinking water.

A lot of projects are underway:

- Prairie Commons is completing its first model buildings.
- Staff is reviewing a new speculative industrial building at Fabyan Parkway and Louis Bork Drive.
- New plans have been submitted for Raising Cane's and staff is reviewing. Demolition of Avenue Chevrolet is complete.
- The Funway expansion is now open and getting rave reviews.
- The Bocaditos restaurant is nearing completion.
- Oak and Swine has received a full permit, and façade removal is complete. Interior work is beginning.
- Progress is continuing on the Deerpath/Main project.
- Staff is looking to revamp the city's website, and hope to reveal changes in a month or so.

At the July COWs, staff will present midyear reports and deliver a second presentation on accomplishments as they relate to the Strategic Plan.

Residents should remember to keep gutters clear in roadways to help improve drainage.

Ald. Chanzit offered that, regarding the water quality competition, samples were judged based on taste, odor and clarity. He also added that dues for the Batavia Historical Society are \$30/year or \$250/lifetime.

23. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ald. Wolff shared that he would not be in attendance at next week's COW meeting, or the City Council or COW meetings the first two weeks in July.

Mayor Schielke commented that the Council may want to consider taking a midterm break for committee meetings. Ald. Wolff noted that Ald. O'Brien would be in attendance to act as Mayor Pro Temp.

Ald. Callahan said the Plan Commission will meeting Wednesday and include a Public Hearing on text amendments and variances.

24. OTHER BUSINESS

Ald. Callahan commended the Council for the great conversations it has been having regarding important topics such as mental health. He said the points being made by aldermen are being heard in the community. He added that the Council will soon need to be weighing in on topics such as needle exchange programs and legal marijuana, which can elicit strong emotional reactions. He said the way to combat emotional responses is through research. Aldermen interested in learning more about the opioid crisis may want to view the PBS documentary, "Understanding the Opioid Crisis." He thanked the Batavia Police Department for their work in reaching out to the community.

Ald. O'Brien said the Council and the community need to work together to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental illness.

25. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Schielke shared that in recent meetings, the governor's staff has been impressive. He is not sure how much the income tax law will change the state's situation. The \$.19 gas tax will take effect July 1, but the budget deficit remains a major concern. Gambling and gaming ideas are on the table, but it's not clear how it will work or how much revenue that will bring in. Several new casinos have been approved in Illinois, but they may negatively affect those that are already operating in Illinois.

Three video poker applications have been received by the city. Now that video poker is considered conditional use, the applicants need to present their application to Community Development and then present to the City Council.

Recreational marijuana is almost a daily conversation with the Batavia Police Department. One point of concern with the new legalization law is the interaction between marijuana and alcohol. Community education is going to be important, as people using marijuana and alcohol together can lose consciousness. Several ambulance calls have been made for this already. A sixth ambulance has been added for Tri-City Ambulance as the call load has increased. Demand will continue to increase as Batavia will soon have five senior living facilities in the city.

State grant money is expected to continue to be hard to come by considering the financial condition of the state now. At least a dozen local groups or individuals are seeking city grant money for worthy projects. The Mayor would like to invite some of these groups to present their requests to the City Council prior to the next budget process so that grants could be considered. Some of these local organizations have discontinued services because of lack of funds.

In the coming budget, the Mayor asked that the Council strongly consider including an updated traffic study for Batavia. A new bridge in town would be very expensive, and without state grants, the city would have to fund the entire project. A traffic study could be comforting for the public to see that the Council is proactively looking at traffic issues. The study could suggest low-cost options such as changing stoplight timing.

In 39 years as Mayor, the last few months have been as busy as they've ever been as far as city projects in Batavia. The Mayor commended city staff for the excellent work they continue to do.

26. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ald. Wolff, seconded by Ald. Salvati, to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Ellen Posledni, City Clerk, June 25, 2019.