

MINUTES
August 13, 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, Callahan, Meitzler, Malay, Uher, Cerone, McFadden (entered at 7:16pm)

Members Absent: Ald. O'Brien

Also Present: Mayor Schielke; Chief Eul, Batavia Police Department; Chief Diecke, Batavia Fire Department; Laura Newman, City Administrator; Gary Holm, Director of Public Works; Jeff Albertson, Building Commissioner; Scott Buening, Director of Community Development; Joel Strassman, Planning and Zoning Officer; and Jennifer Austin-Smith, Recording Secretary

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

3. Approve the Minutes for July 30, 2019

Motion: To approve the minutes for July 30, 2019
Maker: Chanzit
Second: Uher
Voice Vote: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 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)

Arnold Folner addressed the Committee. He stated that he is opposed to the annexation. According to the letter the City sent him, all he gets is increased property taxes, no water and sewer, higher electric bills, no overnight parking and no burning. There are twenty-three houses on our block, with fifteen people retired and on fixed income that will be forced out of their homes. Being forced to hook up to the sewer would be cost prohibitive and this is un-American.

Frank Hogan stated that he too received a letter from the City. This is the Valley Heights subdivision and people moved out there knowing they had septic and well and were happy with

that. The 4% increase in taxes will really hurt them. They do not see a benefit to annexing into the City. There is no sewer main on our street or water on our street. We would have to pay to have sewer and water down our street. This will really put a burden on the people who live there and he would like the Committee to consider this before requiring annexation.

Buening stated that they are now looking to do a community meeting with the residents. The meeting will answer all questions. There will not be a move to annex until the meeting is held.

Bob Johnson, Sunset Drive, stated when you make the vote the City cannot offer him more than he has right now. His brush is picked up once a week. His road is plowed once an hour. The City cannot offer him the same service. The only thing you can offer him is a higher tax rate. He will probably be forced to sell his house if this gets passed.

Chair Wolff stated that we would not annex this until the meeting is held. Salvati stated that this is an entire lot and it is different from past annexations, which have been one or two parcels at a time. Salvati assured the residents that the Committee would listen to their concerns.

6. Discussion: River Street Events – Chris Faber

Newman stated that the City has been working with Batavia MainStreet with the River Street events. Since a Fire Marshal has been on board he has noticed a safety concern. There is a driveway on the west side mid-block which is the only access to a number of buildings. For safety reasons, we have asked MainStreet for any events on North River Street maintain a fifteen-foot wide pathway from either Wilson Street or from State Street depending how they want to stage events in order for those emergency vehicles to have access to that driveway. Thus far, we have been able to continue with the Farmer's Market in that fashion and also the recent Community Dinner Table. MainStreet would like to discuss future events.

Rob Hollis presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee. The presentation included the following:

- Pictures of downtown Batavia on a Saturday morning before the River Street redevelopment versus how it is now. The attendance of the Farmer's Market has dramatically increased in size.
- Thank you to the volunteers and a great appreciation for the River Street redevelopment and how it has helped our community.
- Recently there have been conflicting opinions on what River Street is meant to be.
- Challenges: how do we support now, during and after the construction of the One Washington Project, continue to make use of River Street, streamline the permitting process, how can we make it safer and easier to close River Street to traffic for our events
- Suggestions: set of safety guidelines for event use of River Street, establish a communication plan for construction projects in downtown, close River Street to traffic starting on Friday afternoons on Farmer's market weekends, allow food and alcohol consumption on River Street when it is closed to traffic for events, provide live music on River Street on Friday afternoon/early evening, install more permanent traffic barriers

*McFadden entered 7:16pm

The Committee discussed safety concerns with closing the street down to traffic. Holm stated one of the concepts included using ballards for closing North River Street. The ballards are not crash proof. We could get ballards that are crash proof but he is not sure if that is what we want for North River Street. The decorative ballards considered for North River Street would not provide that safety, a car would go right through them. The Council at the time decided to not go with the ballards because that provides a false sense of safety. The Council stated that we would follow the guidelines and put up standard barricades and road closures to protect the City from a liability standpoint. Newman noted that every time the road is closed we have to apply for permits from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) because it is a State road.

Wolff asked Chief Deicke how a fire truck could even get down the driveway in question. Chief Deicke answered that they would not want to get a fire truck down that driveway because it is set so far back. They would want to be in front of the building. Wolff asked if it were the river facing side of the building. Chief Deicke answered any side of the building. The ladder truck or engine would go to the front of the building and hand jack to a hydrant and they would bring a hose down the ramp.

Wolff stated that he recalls that the street was developed to eventually be closed off more and more for events and become more of a plaza than a street. Callahan stated that it is how we are utilizing the street, for example with the Community Table dinner.

Dave Brown addressed the Committee. He shared that his time serving as Chair of the Committee of the Whole, the questions and concerns being addressed now were brought up back then. River Street had been a great success and we need to do whatever it is we need to do to continue that success. Brown stated that the Council supports MainStreet not only with their vision but with the City of Batavia taxpayer's dollars. Brown urged the Committee to continue the discussion on River Street and allow MainStreet to work with City staff to try to close River Street off. We have a development coming and people are creatures of habit. We need to start creating that habit to keep people coming downtown when that street gets partially closed off for the development. We need to start this today and we can't have three more months of conversation otherwise nothing will get done. He knows more than anyone else that government moves slow, but it doesn't need to. We owe it to the town to continue the vision.

Newman stated that staff would have to start working with IDOT for permission to close the road. River Street is an IDOT intersection.

Russotto stated that this is a great opportunity with the Farmer's Market and we have talked about closing River Street on a weekend basis. This would be a great test case. We could close River Street Friday to Sunday. Beck stated that she loves this idea. The Farmer's Market is her favorite time the whole week and to see it spill over to the Friday night was great. It would bring foot traffic to our downtown and it would be amazing. She gave examples of other cities that are doing this to grow the community.

James Joseph, owner of the Book Shop in Batavia, stated that the Farmer's Market is incredibly vital. Every event on River Street are the most unbelievable things he has ever seen in his life. The vitality of the Book Shop is due to MainStreet and how they work with the local businesses

in town. He expressed his appreciation for the support MainStreet provides to business owners like himself. Joseph stated that it does make sense to create the habit of closing River Street to bring people to the downtown. The River Street events support nearby businesses.

Wendy Reed, 15 East Wilson Street, stated that she opened her restaurant on River Street due to the beauty and charm of River Street and the support of Batavia MainStreet. She has celebrated her five-year anniversary last week. Reed stated that it is highly European what we have here in downtown Batavia, creating a meeting ground for people. She is in support of closing River Street. She stated that in order to succeed you must take a risk. She believes with all of her heart it is worth a try to do this. It will attract people. She noted that winters are tough in downtown Batavia and if we could get people in the habit of spending time on the street freely and make it a gathering place for people to come to maybe we could get through those hard times and the impeding construction that will be happening.

John Hammill, owner of Bar Evolution and Pal Joeys, addressed the Committee. Seven years ago he came to this Council with the intention to bring Pal Joeys downtown to make the downtown revitalized. The City Council gave him a TIF Loan that was paid back. Bar Evolution has come along and went through the same process with the City. The City has been very generous to him. He is here tonight to make this a priority because it is so important to the City. River Street is a huge investment and asset to the City. Every business owner along River Street has invested a lot of money. The City of Batavia is a hard community to run a business in because it is very seasonal. When it is wintertime it is a ghost town. One Washington Place is a huge opportunity for the businesses. River Street needs to be a focus and it cannot be just a street. He asked the Committee to start thinking out of the box, take a look at the permitting process, and review the rules for liquor. He suggested a Mardi Gras type of event. In order for us to move forward we need to look outside what the norm is.

Newman stated that she is hearing from the Committee to direct staff to look at the feasibility of closing River Street from 4pm on Friday until Sunday afternoon. She asked that all relevant departments have sufficient time to review MainStreet's plan. Staff will discuss the street closure options and then discuss with MainStreet.

Callahan asked for another alderman to join him giving direction to staff to bring back some options for street closures whether it is working with MainStreet or it is a Council policy decision and if we did it by ordinance. Meitzler joined Callahan with this request and asked that there be an actual calendar date scheduled for this discussion. Salvati concurred, and asked that other communities be reviewed to see what their best practices are.

Christopher Faber, Executive Director of MainStreet, addressed the Committee. He stated that the City of Elgin is allowing alcohol at their Farmer's Market but that is not what Batavia MainStreet would like. Oktoberfest is our main concern. MainStreet would like local businesses to be able to sell liquor to patrons who could then take the liquor outdoors to join the Oktoberfest activities. He stated that they are willing to work out whatever the Police Department says to do with that. They do not intend on having open carry of alcohol every Friday night.

Newman asked MainStreet for a plan on what would be happening at 4pm on Fridays until noon on Sundays for the street closure. The City should not close the street without an event in place. Brown suggested that MainStreet supply a bullet point memo on what it is they are looking for and get it to Laura by the end of this week for distribution to staff and City Council members. Brown suggested Committee of the Whole schedule a special meeting.

Callahan asked that staff contact IDOT to see if closing down River Street is even a viable option. Holm noted that the contact person from IDOT is on vacation so a quick answer to that question may not be received.

7. Discussion: Prairie Street Update (RB 8/9/19) CS

Rahat Bari discussed the Prairie Street Update and where they are with the process with the Committee.

Mayor Schielke shared that he has some problems with the design of Prairie Street. He is of the opinion that the bike routes should be removed. He explained that he is concerned that there is going to be a fatal accident. He asked the Police Department to make a video of the bicyclists on South Prairie Street. The video has been prepared. He will show the video at a later COW meeting to respect time. Mayor Schielke stated that he believes that this should be a shared street where the bicycle and the car share the street. He is also disappointed that we plan on having a twelve-month long parking ban on Prairie Street. A lot of residents out there are older people and family parties in November and December will have no street parking during a time of year when there will probably be no bicycle riders on that street. He asked that this be discussed next week with the presentation of the video. Bike riders continue to run the intersection at Laurel and Prairie. Mayor Schielke shared that he would not sign the contract for the previously approved design of Prairie Street.

Charles Lentz, 526 South Prairie, addressed the Committee. He asked why downtown we do a shared lane that gets more traffic than Prairie Street. He asked why a shared lane is not considered for Prairie Street. He does not understand why there is a need for a dedicated lane that takes parking off of the street.

Holm stated that this is one hundred percent a City street and Prairie Street is a FAU route and we are following Federal guidelines in order to receive Federal funding.

Beck commented shared lanes are very uncomfortable and less safe for cyclists. If we increase the level of comfort than more cyclists will use it. Removing of safer infrastructure because some people break the law does not make sense. She jested since cars often break the law, than no new roads until they could all follow the law. People who do not drive cars deserve safe infrastructure to get around town as well. The intersection at Pine needs to have the issues addressed as well.

Cerone stated that he as a resident would not like the parking removed from his house. The benefit is a small strip for bicyclists it is a huge negative for residents on that street and he will not support it. Uher stated that if we are going to lose funding due to no bike lanes being put in there than we will not be able to redo Prairie Street because the City does not have the money to do so on our own. We wanted to make this a less car dominated society. Callahan stated that it is

tied to funding why it is being designed this way and we are now able to redo the street at lower cost to tax payers.

Holm stated that staff presented to City Council different design options on five different occasions and City Council voted five times for the bike lane option. There was another option that allowed for parking and shared lane concept that is an improved idea that could still happen. We would have to back to the phase one process again. Staff is here tonight following the direction of City Council. Chair Wolff noted that in 2007 we approved the bicycle plans for the City and that laid out bike routes throughout the town. This is part of the plan and that is why we are doing this. To not follow the plan to tie the community together in this way is very short sighted and takes away from a lot of work that has already been done in this community to try to make that happen. He concluded to separate the bikes and the traffic on this street is a good thing.

Steve Ericson, Bike Commission, stated bike lanes create riding opportunities for riders who are not as experienced. They benefit the most from protected bike lanes. You create opportunity to get out and enjoy the community. He referenced a Denmark study with 30,000 cyclists in which 5% broke the law when there were bike lanes present and 15% when no bike lanes were present. He supports this and it is a great thing for Batavia.

Scott Resal, Bike Commission, stated these bike lanes are for those who are not competitive cyclists. He backs the enforcement. Removing the lanes is removing something for young families to enjoy. We want to continue to be bike friendly and be safe. He respects the Mayor's opinion. However, we should voice our opinion and save our bike lane.

Mary Beth Stevens, 511 and 527 Prairie Street resident and property owner, stated she is very concerned. Traffic has still not slowed down. They continue to have issues with cars not stopping and driving erratically. Nothing shows her that the bikes are going to slow them down. She is concerned about the safety. She is not happy to not having parking. She has two properties this would affect. She asked if this is going all the way to Pine Street. She stated that you can't tell me somewhere in the Batavia budget there is not some money to pave the street. That is what she is hearing tonight. She asked to keep one side for parking, at least for the holidays and possible work vehicles. She only has one spot in her short driveway. She shared she has lived on that street for sixty-five years and she knows that street. She asked why this road could not be made a foot or two wider. She would also like signs that state no semis allowed on Prairie Street.

John Gabrielson, 518 South Prairie Street, stated that they are very much against this. He has a long driveway but do have family parking on the street during parties. Losing street parking is not a good idea. There are several neighbors with small driveways and they would have to park their friends and relatives somewhere. With traffic in general it is difficult to get in and out of their driveway. People on Pine and Prairie don't even slow down for the stop sign. He stated that they counted five semi-trucks on their street today.

Chief Eul addressed the issue about semi-trucks. He stated trucks are not prohibited from being on Prairie Street. Through traffic is. Several years back regulations on trucking were reduced and traffic going through for delivery to business in that area is not prohibited on Prairie Street.

Joanne Spitz, Bike Commission, shared that as a bicyclist she would not ever ride on Prairie Street right now. She follows the rules of the road, most people do and some don't. We should not let the few that do not follow the rules dictate what we want Batavia to be. We want this to be a bike friendly community. Drivers are far more distracted than any cyclist. The cyclist will always loose in a crash. The result of a motorist not following the law is so much greater and could lead to death. A cyclist not following direction would rarely lead to death or injury.

Andrew Greenhaven, 202 Adam Street, Chair of Environmental Commission, stated that for the environmental reasons alone they recommend the City stay with the design planned for Prairie Street.

Anna Baker, Environmental Commission, stated that she is not only for the sustainability aspect but asked that the Committee consider the kids.

Brad Garrett, 253 North Harrison, is not in support of getting rid of dedicated bike lanes. He explained that it is terrifying to ride on a bike in a shared road. He added he would love a bike lane on McKee.

Bari stated that the project starts a little bit north of Webster and just south of Wilson. The street needs to be rebuilt, not just to be repaved. Sidewalk to sidewalk will be rebuilt. Wolff stated that this was planned for a long time in our budget and has carried over to get to this point. Bari stated that the streets will not be widened due to the cost, the storm sewer would have to be moved.

Micheal Willham, East Side Resident, stated it would be great for the kids to bike from one part of town to the next utilizing bike lanes on Prairie. On the east side there are many high school kids that follow the bike path.

Sylvia Kippel, 1420 Becker Avenue, asked if there was some reason the bike lane could not be moved one block west VanBuren since it is less traveled. Why not consider moving bike lane down. Salvati stated that it is a much narrower street and people do drive fast down that street. Newman added that there is no stop sign at Wilson.

8. Approval: Class D-1 Liquor License Application for Oak and Swine Restaurant (DME 8/1/19) GS

Motion: To approve the class D-1 Liquor License Application for Oak and Swine Restaurant
Maker: Chanzit
Second: Cerone
Voice Vote: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent
Motion carried.

9. Discussion: Amending the City Code Regarding Body Art Establishments (JLS 8/6/19) GS

Strassman asked the Committee if they would be open to amending the City Code regarding body art establishments to allow for one or two more body art establishments in the downtown. There is a business owner who is looking to submit an application for a conditional use, which is required for tattoo businesses in the downtown.

The consensus of the Committee was in favor of removing the cap. Microblading at a salon is one of the current tattoo uses in the downtown. Microblading was not the intent of the original use for body art establishments. Staff was asked to amend the code to remove the cap on the number of body art establishment businesses.

The Thin Line Tattoo owner addressed the Committee. He fully supports where the conversation is going. He asked for special consideration on the reason why this shop is opening. It is not his place to speak on a private matter but he asked that consideration be taken in this instance.

10. Resolution 19-092-R: Adopting a City of Batavia Logo Design (GP 8/9/19) GS

Griffin Price handed out the City of Batavia Log Proposal 'Exhibit A' displaying several color options. Salvati would like to see two more logo options for a total of three options. Chanzit stated that he feels that the best design was brought to the Committee but he would feel stronger about his opinion if he were able to see the other two designs to verify that this truly is first place. Callahan stated that he wanted to like the logo because of the last branding process that was not a positive experience. He did not have anyone from the public that said they loved the logo. There was a lot that stated it was decent. He would also like to see more options. Price stated that he and Laura Newman reviewed the other options and did not feel that they were the best options to present to the Committee but he is happy to bring those options to the Committee so they could see that. Chair Wolff opened the floor for public comment.

Sylvia Kippel stated she would like to have seen more examples to choose from. The font is too loose. This designer was better with web presence. She discussed this logo with people outside of Batavia. People from the outside may not understand that it is supposed to be a windmill. Her friend asked if it was a wagon wheel with spokes. Her daughter thought it looked like a ball, especially when it is smaller. She asked why not put this out to anyone who wants to contribute a design. She likes the concept of our current logo. It has history to it. The windmill and FermiLab are distinctive to Batavia. Another option is to modernize the current logo. Make it sharper and not so dated.

Britta McKenna, 512 North Avenue, stated that logos are difficult by committee. However, every time she is involved with one she receives three choices to look at. She would have liked to see three. This logo is okay and it is safe. She does not dislike it or love it. When you see something new it is hard to love it because it is a change. She would like to see red represented for the high school.

Staff was asked to return with two other logo options and other font choices. This will not be going to Council as of yet. It will be at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

11. Discussion: Zoning Text Amendments: Beekeeping and Industrial Landscape Islands (SCB 8/5/19) CD

Buening reported that beekeeping is allowed as animal raising in the R-0 District. Staff performed research and provided the research to the Committee. Each town has differences in their regulations such as number of hives allowed, location, licensing, and insurance. Buening stated an option for the Committee is to do the zoning similar to the chicken ordinance with a little difference with the setbacks. Staff would appreciate any specific direction the Committee could provide as to how to treat beekeeping.

Buening continued the other section is the Industrial Landscape Islands and whether we want to change it from one to ten to one to fifteen. Some of the things staff has talked about are green roofs and permeable pavers. Buening stated that if we were to implement more green options it would make sense to go back to one to ten but allow for reduction if they comply with some kind of performance standard. Buening stated that this is for discussion and direction.

Callahan stated that this discussion is for education and he would like to hear what the public has to say about this topic first. Callahan opened the floor for public comment.

Charlie Mill addressed the Committee. He stated that what is proposed appears pretty restrictive. For instance, the six-foot fence and ten foot from the property line. Bees come out of the hive, take a sun shot, start a clock so they know where the sun is. The clock is necessary because the sun moves fifteen degrees per hour. The bees are out collecting nectar to make honey. There is nothing to fear from bees. Yellow jackets and wasps are something else. He stated that the City should try to encourage beekeeping. Two acres is too much land. He has a half acre lot with three hives and no problems from the neighbors.

Callahan asked about best practices for beekeeping. Mill answered that the State of Illinois requires the hives to be registered because the State tracks bee diseases. A City licensure does not make much sense.

George Ingersoll, President of the Fox Valley Beekeepers Association, addressed the Committee. He stated that part of the proposed regulations are backyards only. His sideyard, the way his lot lays out, is farther from anyone than in his backyard. Making anything too restrictive takes out the best judgment of the beekeeper. This is not a cheap hobby. A package of bees to get started can cost up to \$150. That is not including the hardware. There is no way a beekeeper would want to put their hive anywhere in danger. When you are working the hives, you know how each hive reacts. This is not a hobby people can take lightly, you have to work the hives. Right now we are fighting the feral mite. Right now there are no feral bees left. Bees cannot make it without beekeepers helping them out and treating them. Bees do not make it into the winter due to the feral mite. The mites bring a whole colony down. He stated that the more restrictive the ordinance, the harder it is for someone to use their best judgment to place the hives. He continued that their neighbors are their best honey customers. He noted that they do not get rich selling their honey but it does help offset some of the cost.

Knopp asked if there is a such thing as too many hives in one yard. Ingersoll answered that it is the area in general. A bee will go two and a half miles for foraging. He encouraged everyone to plant a diverse selection of flowering trees and plants to help the bees throughout the year.

Ken Bolan, member of Fox Valley Beekeepers Association, from Elburn. He shared that he is on his third year keeping bees. He has found bees to be fairly harmless, unlike dogs, cats and even chickens. You can't put them on a leash or fence them in or cage them. They will do what they need to do, which is pollinate plants, which is something you would want. You want them to pollinating your landscaping and gardens. Putting restrictions on beekeeping in your community is reducing the opportunity to provide that service.

Chanzit stated that the chicken ordinance was written to protect people. He asked how we could right the beekeeping ordinance to protect bees. He noted if you flip the discussion it really changes the perception. Bolan stated you could restrict pesticides and herbicides on suburban lawns. Most of that gets washed into the storm systems and into the river. He has registered his hives with the State so they could be inspected at any time. But he has also registered with Bee Watch, which is a joint organization of beekeepers and crop dusters so when there is a crop duster in his area he will receive a phone call informing him when there is crop dusting so that he could cover his hives to protect the bees. Chanzit stated he is inclined to not do an ordinance and if anything leave this alone.

Jay Williams, Batavia, nine-year beekeeper, stated that helping bees would be greatly reducing pesticides. He shared that he started keeping bees because he noticed that there were none left. All the flowering plants in his yard had no bees whatsoever. The only bees you see are a beekeeper's bees. There are no wild ones left. It is one of the most expensive hobbies you could get into. He just harvested over two hundred pounds of honey from two hives in his backyard. He gives them away to family, neighbors and friends. He suggested the City work with the Fox Valley Beekeepers Association to create a common sense based ordinance to promote beekeeping and keep the pesticide companies from spraying his trees.

Tom Luppino, one of the original founders of the Fox Valley Beekeepers Association, shared the he helped St. Charles create their beekeeping ordinance. He suggested if the City is to create an ordinance at all to model it after that ordinance. He stated one should encourage beekeeping and not restrict it. Beekeeping is beneficial and doesn't hurt anyone.

Ana Baker, Batavia Environmental Commission, stated that she saw this discussion coming up and she reached out to the Fox Valley Beekeepers Association because they are a big stakeholder and they did not even know about this. She stated that if these issues are coming out it would be great to communicate with the stakeholders. Baker offered to work with the Fox Valley Beekeepers Association on behalf of the City in any way.

Richard Benson, Cadia Repair on Route 25, stated that he has eight hives. He has had bees for twenty-five years now and he and his wife are enrolled in Cornell University to become Master Beekeepers. He explained that every beehive is an entity on its own. There is only one queen and it all her children. They grow in numbers as the season grows and they will shrink down into a cluster and it is really hard to maintain them through the winter. It is more beneficial to have

more hives than less. Restrictions down to two hives limits a lot one could do as a beekeeper. Eight hives would be a good number. Hives are one entity on its own. One or two hives are a hard number to work with to be a sustainable beekeeper. This is not a profit making business but it is something that he likes to do. He welcomed anyone to come for a tour of his hives.

James Conrad, beekeeper, stated he wonders why we are trying to regulate these insects. They are going to do what they do no matter what we do. All bees do is collect pollen, collect nectar, make new bees and make honey. The State Department of Agriculture has all kinds of rules and regulations and suggested the City look at that. All the regulations have been set by the State and we have been doing fine following those regulations. He asked about the City's role in compliance and if the City is going to hire someone to look at the hives. Conrad stated that the greatest fear of bees is people think bees are going to sting you. He stated a bee does not want anything to do with you. If you get in its way it might buzz around you, sniff you and determine you are not a flower, and continue on with its mission. If you cause them problems then they will get defensive. There is a difference between aggressive and defensive. What are we regulating, an insect that is doing its thing and provides us a majority of the food we put on the table everyday. It is just something to think about.

Beck asked about how bees communicate using the waggle dance.

Sherry Benson, becoming Master Bee Keeper, addressed the Committee. She explained how bees communicate through vibration, smell, waggle dances. Bees are to get to that flower and get back home with their goods. Bees really are not a nuisance. The garbage we put into our land around her in the form of herbicides and pesticides are a lot more damaging to our environment and to ourselves than having a few bees around.

Beck stated we have an Environmental Committee who are environmental experts. She would love to initiate a process that go through experts before it gets to the Committee level. That way we have expert opinions before it comes to us and they could provide us with options, guidance and references. Callahan agreed and stated that this would be a great opportunity to work with the Fox Valley Beekeepers to craft an ordinance that permits and encourages beekeeping. Newman stated that she has heard tonight the fewer restrictions the better.

Callahan asked that staff draw up an ordinance solely to allow it. Wolff stated that we should be as simplistic as we can to allow it. Callahan stated that a hive should not be considered a structure in the ordinance so that it does not qualify towards the structure ordinance.

Sylvia Kippel, non-beekeeper, stated that bees are a good neighbor and we are glad to have them. She is in support of beekeeping.

The consensus of the Committee was to have staff return with an ordinance that allows for beekeeping. The Committee directed staff to send the industrial landscaping islands back to Zoning Commission to come back with a formal plan for adoption. Buening suggested having the Environmental Commission prepare an informative presentation to the Plan Commission with their recommendation. There was no objection from the Committee.

12. Resolution 19-091-R: Authorizing Execution of a Contract with Denler, Inc. for the 2019 Crackfilling Program (TFG 8/7/19)

Bari overviewed the memo with the Committee.

Motion: To approve Resolution 19-091-R: Authorizing Execution of a Contract with Denler, Inc. for the 2019 Crackfilling Program for \$195,107.38 with 5% contingency

Maker: Wolff

Second: Knopp

Voice Vote: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent
Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

13. Resolution 19-094-R: Rejecting the Bid by Utility Dynamics Corporation to Construct New Feeder Line from NE Distribution Substation and Re-bid the Project (RB 8/9/19) PU

Bari overviewed the memo with the Committee.

Motion: To approve Resolution 19-094-R: Rejecting the Bid by Utility Dynamics Corporation to Construct New Feeder Line from NE Distribution Substation and Re-bid the Project

Maker: Wolff

Second: Knopp

Voice Vote: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent
Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

14. Discussion: Strategic Action Plan 2019 2nd Quarter Update (LN)

Tabled due to the late time.

15. Discussion: Ongoing Infrastructure Maintenance Costs (GH)

Tabled due to the late time.

16. Discussion: Carriage Crest Stormwater Recharge Basin Engineering (GH)

Tabled due to the late time.

17. Project Status

There was no project status report.

18. Other

There were no others.

19. Adjournment

There being no other business to discuss, Chair Wolff asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:28pm; Made by Salvati; Seconded by Callahan. Motion carried.

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Minutes submitted by Jennifer Austin-Smith, Recording Secretary, on September 16, 2019.