

MINUTES
February 22, 2022
Committee of the Whole – Hybrid Meeting
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, Connelly, Solfa, Baerren (remote), Leman, Ajazi (remote), Malay (entered the meeting at 7:22pm; remote), Uher, Cerone, and Vogelsinger (remote)

Members Absent: Ald. Chanzit

Also Present: Laura Newman, City Administrator; Gary Holm, Director of Public Works; Scott Buening, Director of Community and Economic Development (remote); Wendy Bednarek, Director of Human Resources; Shannon Jarmusz, Economic Development Manager; Anthony Isom, Assistant to the City Administrator; and Jennifer Austin-Smith, Recording Secretary (remote)

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

3. Items to be Removed/Added or Changed

Newman asked that litigation be added to the Executive Session. There was no objection from the Committee.

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

John Hamill, Bar Evolution, representing businesses on River Street. He asked for updates on the possible closure of River Street. The questions the businesses have is where does the one-way stand. He stated that when we first started closing River Street the City asked us to program it. Over the last two years, during COVID especially, businesses have pushed to make River Street a destination place for people in Batavia as well as outside of Batavia. It has become a place where the people of Batavia have a place to go that is outside. The concern is if this street is changed in a large manner, people will be limited and they will go elsewhere. We want to keep people here in Batavia. With the new comedy club, people are going to our businesses after the shows or before. We are seeing a greater amount of people walking through the City.

Hamill stated that business owners never want to be a burden on anyone. They would like to have a discussion with City staff to address the issues of the expense of garbage clean up. They would like to pick up the expense for such but would like it facilitated by the City since the City has a relationship with Waste Management. They are happy to do the daily street clean up. The

business owners would like to have the opportunity to use the tables the City has purchased over the last two years that create a lot of ambiance as well as the lights.

Hamill stated that if the street turns into southbound only they would like the street closed off every night. Every week is a special event. If it is not going to be changed by the end of April, they would like to see the street closed off like it has been the past two years. For our businesses, the outside area gives us an advantage to serve people outside and not in a closed in space.

The retail concerns are the street has not been vibrant during the day and we agree. We are willing to open up for lunches, at a risk, to create vibrancy for the retail community. We could also ensure deliver trucks to do not impede customers visiting stores.

Newman suggested having this discussion placed on a future COW agenda and invite the River Street business owners. Chair Wolff suggested having this placed on the COW agenda in two weeks.

Alderman Malay entered the meeting at 7:22pm

5. Presentation: Waste Management Solid Waste Collection (GH)

Vaughn Kershner, Public Center Rep for Waste Management for the City of Batavia, addressed the Committee of the Whole (COW). He introduced the Senior District Manager for Batavia Sites and the Market Area Director for Customer Service. He distributed a document titled "Waste Management Customer Service" to the COW. He discussed the customer service options for Batavia residents with the Committee. Newman stated that this information would be made available on the City's website and through e-news. Kershner left some hard copies of the document for the COW members. Solfa asked for the document to be emailed to the COW so they could send it out when residents have questions. Newman stated that she would email the document to the COW.

6. Resolution 22-033-R: Authorizing a Final Balancing Change Order In the Amount of \$32,664.55 for MP System Contract to Complete Breaker Replacement at Batavia Substations (RB 2/18/2022) PU

Holm discussed the resolution with the COW.

Motion: To recommend approval of Resolution 22-033-R: Authorizing a Final Balancing Change Order In the Amount of \$32,664.55 for MP System Contract to Complete Breaker Replacement at Batavia Substations

Maker: Cerone

Second: Uher

Roll Call Vote: **Aye:** Cerone, Vogelsinger, Miller, Russotto, Beck, Connelly, Solfa, Wolff, Baerren, Leman, Ajazi, Malay, Uher

Nay:

13-0 Vote, 1 Absent, Motion carried.

Ald. Vogelsinger exited the meeting at 7:38pm

**7. Resolution 22-030-R: Approval of Self-Generation and Net Billing Policy (GH 2/17/22)
PU**

Holm discussed the resolution for the approval of the Self-Generation and Net Billing Policy that the Committee discussed at the February 15, 2022 COW meeting. The COW discussed residential, industrial, and School District responsibility. Chair Wolff opened the floor for public comment.

Andrew Greenhagen, Environmental Commission (EC), stated that the EC recommends removal of the distribution system upgrade cost for the consumer.

The Committee discussed revisiting this policy every six months.

Motion: To recommend approval of Resolution 22-030-R: Approval of Self-Generation and Net Billing Policy

Maker: Cerone

Second: Uher

Roll Call Vote: **Aye:** Cerone, Miller, Russotto, Connelly, Solfa, Wolff, Baerren, Leman, Ajazi, Malay, Uher

Nay: Beck

11-1 Vote, 2 Absent, Motion carried.

8. Resolution 21-032-R: Customer-Owned Self-Generation Interconnection Policy (GH 2/17/22) PU

Holm stated the COW reviewed this policy at the 2-15-22 COW meeting.

Motion: To recommend approval of Customer-Owned Self-Generation Interconnection Policy

Maker: Cerone

Second: Uher

Roll Call Vote: **Aye:** Cerone, Miller, Russotto, Beck, Connelly, Solfa, Wolff, Baerren, Leman, Ajazi, Malay, Uher

Nay:

12-0 Vote, 2 Absent, Motion carried.

Ald. Vogelsinger returned to the meeting remotely at 8:05pm.

9. Discussion: Customer-Owned Self-Generation Facilities Interconnection Agreement

Holm stated that no direction is needed at this time. Holm discussed the agreement with the COW.

10. Discussion: MainStreet Grant Requests

Newman reported MainStreet had an outstanding grant of \$8,000 that they were initially going to add additional boardwalk shops but they decided instead to utilize those funds to build a picnic area on the west side of the boardwalk shops.

With the funding, they would like to address a safety issue. The boards on the boardwalk could become slick in wet weather. The non-slip materials are expensive. It will cost MainStreet \$11,000 and he would like to ask City Council if instead of utilizing the \$8,000 to build the picnic area if they could use those funds towards the safety concerns with slipping. The consensus of the Committee was that utilizing the funds towards the safety concerns were an appropriate use of those funds.

Cerone asked about the grant for the Spider Box. Newman answered that the Spider Box and treads would be a good use for the Economic Development Fund. Newman will create the paperwork and bring this to a future COW meeting.

11. Discussion: City-Owned Redevelopment Site Signage

Jarmusz discussed signage with Shodeen's withdraw of the One Washington Place Project we had follow-up discussions with Council on a three pronged approach to do our best to market and attract redevelopment to key locations in town and some planning processes. She discussed the draft proposed development sign with the COW and the City properties where the signs would be placed. Some suggestions from the COW were to make the sign smaller, QR code option, and moving the sign father south into the corner to less mar the visibility of the Boardwalk Shops.

12. Discussion: 2022 Bike Share Program

Newman announced for any programs for 2022, if we wanted e-bikes we needed to place orders by November 30th to make sure we would get them in time for this year's program. Newman reported that the price for electronic bikes have increased by 30% since the original contract. We contracted originally for seven e-bikes and that was \$1,700 a piece. At a 30% increase they are \$2,200. At that price we would be able to afford five bikes with our contract. If we were to go with the original seven, we would be increasing our contract to \$15,600.

Newman continued because the City of Batavia had the most popular nodes of the system, Colony has asked if the City would be willing to have another rack of five standard bikes anywhere in the City that we would want and Colony would provide that under the current contract for a total sixteen standard bikes. Chair Wolff stated that the City should get the extra standard bikes. Newman suggested North River Street as the location for the new rack. Chair Wolff directed staff to get the additional bikes and the additional rack.

13. Project Status

Newman reported on the following:

- Community Engagement Meetings start tomorrow for the Bike and Walking Plan

14. Other

None.

15. Executive Session: Personnel and Litigation

Motion: To enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel and Litigation
Maker: Uher
Second: Cerone

Roll Call Vote: **Aye:** Uher, Cerone, Vogelsinger, Miller, Russotto, Beck, Connelly, Solfa,
Wolff, Baerren, Leman, Ajazi, Malay
Nay:
13-0 Vote, 1 Absent, Motion carried.

The Committee of the Whole entered Executive Session at 8:44pm and exited at 9:27pm.

16. Adjournment

There being no other business to discuss, Chair Wolff asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:27pm; Made by Uher; Seconded by Solfa. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer Austin-Smith, Recording Secretary