

**MINUTES  
CITY OF BATAVIA  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
June 27, 2023**

Please Note: these minutes are not a word-for-word transcription of the statements made at the meeting, not 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 attended comments, nor the complete comments if referenced.

Chairman Chanzit called the meeting to order at 7:02PM

**1. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Chair Chanzit, Ald. Solfa, Wolff (remote), Baerren, Miller, Lanci, Beck, Pieper, Lehman, Malay, Uher, Ajazi, Cerone

**Members Absent:** Vogelsinger

**Also Present:** Mayor Schielke, Laura Newman - City Administrator, Chief Hanson - Batavia Fire Department, Police Chief Mazza, Peggy Colby - Director of Finance, Drew Rackow - Planning and Zoning Officer, Wendy Bednarek – Director of Human Resources, Howard Chason - Director of Information Technology, Rahat Bari - City Engineer, Max Weiss - Management Analyst

**2. Reminder: Please Speak Directly into Microphone for BATV Recording**

**3. Items Removed/Added/Changed : None**

**4. Matters From the Public (For Items NOT on Agenda): None**

**5. Consent Agenda:**

**a. Ordinance 23-29: Establishing SSA #70 (ZE 6/22/23) CD**

**Motion:** To approve Consent Agenda

**Maker:** Chair Chanzit

**Second:** Solfa

**Voice Vote:** The ayes have it. Motion carried

**6. Public Hearing: Annexation Agreement for 1535 S Batavia Ave (Moose Lodge No. 682)**

Community Development and Economic Development Director Scott Buening discussed the annexation process. Originally proposed in 1995. Grants E1 Church/Club license among other items. Applicant available for questions. McGrath: Typically the City doesn't allow parking lots unless there is some kind of barrier. Would this be phased in over time so we don't see the parking lot? Director Buening: No but during further development Mooseheart would have to comply with regulations.

**Motion:** To close the public hearing

**Maker:** Chair Chanzit

**Second:** Solfa

**Roll Call Vote:** **Aye:** Miller, Lanci, Beck, Pieper, Chair Chanzit, Solfa, Wolff (remote), Baerren, Lehman, Ajazi, Cerone

**Nay:** Malay, Uher

11-2 Vote, 1 Absent, Motion carried.

**7. Ordinance 23-26: Authorizing Execution of an Annexation Agreement for 1535 S Batavia Avenue (Moose Lodge No. 682) (SCB 6/14/23) CD**

**Motion:** To approve Ordinance 23-26

**Maker:** Chair Chanzit

**Second:** Solfa

**Voice Vote:** Ayes have it  
Motion carried

**8. Ordinance 23-27: Annexing Property at 1535 S Batavia Avenue (Moose Lodge No. 682) (SCB 6/14/23) CD**

**Motion:** To recommend to City Council approval of Ordinance 23-27

**Maker:** Chair Chanzit

**Second:** Solfa

**Voice Vote:** Ayes have it  
Motion carried

**9. Presentation: 2022 ACFR and Board Communication – Brian LeFevre, Partner, Sikich, LLP**

Finance Director Peggy Colby made introductory remarks. Ald. Lehman asked where the document could be found online. Director Colby said Government transparency page and in the Finance department section. Brian LeFevre from Sikich discussed highlights of the three sections of the 2022 audit ending 2022. Batavia won an award for the report; 15th consecutive year to receive this. There were no findings or questions from Sikich. Within the executive summary can find explanations of financial operations written by the city annual budget doc written by the city is also good to refer people. Pensions contributed to as required; things have rebounded in 2023 one audit adjustment - major accomplishment for the city and finance department in particular. Questions: Ald. Chanzit: Typical examples of problems other communities make? Cash information such as extending the dollars to have appropriate resources on hand. Staff asks great questions during the year. Director Colby and team have a great handle on the process. Things get recorded right the first time.

Council questions open by Chair Chanzit: none

**10. Presentation: Water Treatment Plant Rehabilitation & Lead Service Line Replacement**

Update EEI project engineer Emily Conti gave the presentation with slides. Chlorine pumps in operation, brine system complete fully operations and fully in service. Dulator #1 complete and back in service; next steps for the water treatment plant at the end of June amended final completion date.

LSLR program first large scale IEPA program 280 lead service lines 83 replacement completed Sod restoration has begun and staff are happy with the contractor's performance. Beck question: regarding anticipated February 2024 completion, can this work be done in the winter; yes per Conti.

### **11. Discussion: Recommendations for Rte. 31 to Improve Safety**

Sub-committee did a deep dive. Alderman Beck & Alderman Miller made a presentation with slides of possible recommendations to improve safety. These are the findings. Goal: review strategy; determine what to put forward to discuss with IDOT; they found it productive to sit down in small groups; pre road diet engineering : re-paint crosswalks and sight line improvements in progress, speed limit study underway by IDOT per Laura Newman, City Administrator. Alderman Miller talked about potentially using the HAWK system. Alderman Baerren: inquired if this is not a stoplight? Alderman Miller: vehicles would have to stop with the HAWK system City Administrator Newman noted we should work through our elected officials to change policy. Alderman Beck spoke about the effectiveness of HAWK. Mayor Schielke wants to get IL state reps in to discuss; he hears that state transportation IDOT is working but realizes they are understaffed. Alderman Miller: more street trees to help calm traffic. Mayor Schielke told a story about 8 to 10k planted trees between 1954 and 1957. The town is known for its tree inventory. Alderman Uher asked if the public would want to pay to plant trees; Ald. Pieper noted a stretch of road near the cemetery is open for tree planting. Inquired if there has been an analysis of trees on different types of roads. Putting trees in the middle is much more effective per City Engineer Rahat Bari. Ald. Miller: consider painting the intersection or around the crosswalks; "slow down" painting/markings on the road. City Administrator Newman noted that MUTCD needs to be followed. Ald. Miller: We are not altering the actual crossing. Chair Chanzit indicated that the sub-committee will continue to do more work on potential implementations. Chair Chanzit: Opened to public for discussion:

Ms. Hansen, 404 Union Avenue: did research and found overuse of the rapid flashing beacon can cause loss of impact; I can forward studies. Curious about conversation with IDOT We should not have the beacons even if the speed limit is reduced. Compare data from McKee with the situation at Millview. wondering why with average daily traffic can't we get approval from IDOT and what were the causes of injuries? due to lack of vision? City Administrator Newman: correction we made a petition to IDOT to remove the crosswalk at McKee after near miss with a child. IDOT then had not responded to a repair request for the flashing lights; then made a petition to remove the whole crosswalk asap and that's how that one was removed. The two causes, the one at Millview, the driver had no opportunity to stop; and there was no attempt to stop at Union. There are pending charges there.

McGrath, Elm Street: to clarify what neighbor said the manufacturer and federal government say rapid flashing should not be used on 4 lane roads. How and why did they get there? There are items citizens can do. There's a wall of bushes hanging over the sidewalk at Elm and 31 there has to be accountability. McKee street crossing is difficult to see but perhaps cut down big trees if needed; IDOT needs signage "intense pedestrian district ahead"

Dan Hengle: You give people too much credit, people can't see the flashing lights; we need to take the cell phones away'; there's no common sense. City Administrator Newman: There's a distracted driver initiative. Ald. Uher noted rapid flashing lights don't work; we need to look at traffic counts. City Engineer Rahat Bari noted FHWA study that says the lights can reduce incidents by 19% - 49% but

should be supplemented with overhead signs. Ald. Uher: The lights can make pedestrians assume the vehicle is going to stop and that's when accidents happen Hansen: If the crossing was taken away I don't think it would be an issue.

Mrs. McGrath, Elm Street: there are no crosswalks in Geneva; look at softer landscapes when looking at the road diet to slow down traffic. Ald. Baerren: step up our game with driver education at farmer's market for example; Ald. Lanci agreed about education City Administrator Newman: we are looking at interactive Tools to find where people are at Lanci: we are trying to do something about it. Ald. Uher inquired if there's an option to turn off the flashing lights if warranted?

## **12. Discussion: Safe Routes to School Layout discussion for Blaine Street, Webster Street and Republic Road**

City Engineer Rahat Bari made a presentation and identified 3 locations that are close to grade schools and need sidewalks. Don't want to cut down trees to avoid full phase 1 study. Spent quite a bit of time on the layout; Much of the time was spent on Republic. West side has electric poles. Straight forward problem. Questions:

Ald. Uher: What is the impact from an arborist of digging down 8" to impact a tree? City Engineer Bari: relied on Street Superintendent Haines' experience and would skip putting stone down where the roots are located. Will residents lose the ability to park? Can we paint the locations of the proposed sidewalk. City Engineer Bari noted we can layout the sidewalk. Ald. Uher: will parkways be replaced? Public discussion:

Dan Hengle: How wide is the parkway? City Engineer Bari: Trying to avoid the trees so it varies. Goal is not to lose any trees and anything we disturb will be replaced.

Larry Winters, 318 Republic We only had 2 days' notice. May 7, 2007 they tried to put a sidewalk in and it was voted down. If they put in sidewalks then it cuts off my parking by 2/3rds. We need a compromise that meets the needs of homeowners.

Christie Hillyard, 327 Republic – had moved here in October '21 how many kids are going to use the sidewalk? People don't use sidewalks; how to make sure property isn't going to be damaged? Sidewalks don't seem to be needed. Want to make sure everything is considered; opposed the project.

Bob Stanton 219 Republic: Take umbrage with the given opinions on trees; 20 years experience working within drip lines and asked the City to do a tree survey with a certified arborist. Root pruning should be considered. There's no history of accidents within the project site.. I lose 50% of my parking.

Roger Stone, 307 Republic. Opposed to sidewalk; the process feels intimidating; I will be impacted by the number of parking spaces; It doesn't feel like there's been a lot of thought. What's driving this?

Ald. Miller: It's a 100-year sidewalk plan. Ald. Baerren: safe route to the park as well as school. Chair Chanzit: We will discuss this at the next meeting. City Administrator Newman: it's a priority area since there's no sw on either side of the street.

## **13. Discussion: Variance Procedures and Requirements (SCB 5/9/23) CD**

Community Development and Economic Development Director, Scott Buening: memo provided findings: needs to make findings; fee suggestions for variance problems starting work without permits then coming in to get permits; increase fee to \$750- \$1500 when work done without a permit; penalty fee \$500 doing smaller projects.

City Attorney Kevin Drendel to field questions. Not all states have variances. Variances avoid a hardship of the zoning and the overarching difficulty; they are not self created. Changes in harmony with the zoning code; as a home rule city you can ignore your own rules; it's meant to correct unusual situations. Ald. Pieper: non-money solution? Get approval from the neighbors/stakeholders around small projects. Director Buening to provide

#### **14. Resolution 23-081-R Additional Personnel (HMC 6/2/23) CS**

Information Technology Director Howard Chason presented a summary of his memo. There's lots of projects coming up and we need people. We're growing, cyber security is becoming a bigger task. In 3 weeks, 400 requests for IT services. A job description was viewed by the alderman. We're spread very thin and we looked at alternatives. City Administrator Newman: Human Resources Director Wendy Bednarek has a standardized system to view to get qualified candidates.

Ald. Lanci is concerned about the pay grade; 67k to 92k Ald. Uher: concerned about pay grade for a technician; both thought it is high compared to the private sector. Finance Director Peggy Colby: We have a step program to go up each year. 30% over base salary. IT Director Chason: We should stay at the midpoint of the salary range.

**Motion:** To table Resolution 23-081

**Maker:** Uher

**Second:** Cerone

**Roll Call Vote:** **Aye:** Uher, Lanci, Beck, Ajazi, Cerone

**Nay:** Malay, Miller, Pieper, Chair Chanzit, Solfa, Wolff (remote), Baerren, Lehman,

5-8 Vote, 1 Absent, Motion denied.

**Motion:** To approve Resolution 23-081

**Maker:** Solfa

**Second:** Lehman??

**Roll Call Vote:** **Aye:** Solfa, Malay, Miller, Pieper, Chair Chanzit, Wolff (remote), Baerren, Lehman, Ajazi, Beck

**Nay:** Lanci, Uher, Cerone

11-3 Vote, 1 Absent, Motion approved.

#### **15. Ordinance 23-28: Declaring Certain Property to be Surplus and Authorizing Sale Thereof (MJ 6/16/23) CS**

Police Chief Mazza made a presentation. Two older vehicles meet criteria. 32 Body worn cameras not being used. voice vote

**Motion:** To recommend to City Council approval of Ordinance 23-28

**Maker:** Solfa

**Second:** Mallay

**Voice Vote:** Ayes have it.

Motion carried

**16. Ordinance 23-25: Amending Title 3 Chapter 4 of the Municipal Code Relating to Amusements in the City of Batavia (MW/LN 6/13/23) GS**

City Administrator Newman: Antiquated fees on businesses; this will update language for the liquor code.

**Motion:** To recommend to City Council approval of Ordinance 23-25

**Maker:** ??

**Second:** ??

**Voice Vote:** Ayes have it  
Motion carried

**17. Project Status**

Next week's agenda; Bicycle commission to get from bronze to silver. Multi - multi-year Highlands poles project is complete. The July 3rd meeting will happen.

**18. Other**

**19. Adjournment**

Chair Chanzit asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:20PM Made by\_\_\_\_\_, seconded by\_\_\_\_\_. Motion carried

Minutes prepared and submitted respectfully by Peter Gerardi on Thursday, June 29th