

MINUTES
February 28, 2023
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, Beck (remote), Connelly, Chanzit (remote), Solfa, Baerren, Leman, Ajazi (remote), Malay, Uher, Cerone, Vogelsinger

Members Absent: Ald. Russotto

Also Present: Mayor Schielke; Chief Shawn Mazza, Batavia Police Department; Laura Newman, City Administrator; Wendy Bednarek, Director of Human Resources; Gary Holm, Director of Public Works; Drew Rackow, Planning and Zoning Officer; Scott Buening, Director of Community and Economic Development; Rahat Bari, City Engineer; Steve Allen, Assistant Electric Superintendent; Zach Ewoldt, Planner; and Jennifer Austin-Smith, Recording Secretary (remote)

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

3. Approve Minutes for: November 29, 2022, December 13, 2022, January 24, 2023 and January 10, 2023

Motion: To recommend approval of minutes for November 29, 2022, December 13, 2022, January 24, 2023 and January 10, 2023

Maker: Solfa

Second: Malay

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

Nay:

13-0 Vote, 1 Absent, Motion carried.

4. Items to be Removed/Added or Changed

Remove agenda item seven to review recent emails and memos.

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

None.

6. Discussion: Carriage Crest Pumping Options Report Update with V3 (2/20/23 GH)

Public Works Director Holm discussed the Carriage Crest Pumping Options Report with V3. He showed the COW an aerial view of the site. The Committee discussed the trees that would have to be removed and the possibility of adding some nature component back to the site. Holm stated that if we could do something in this area that the neighbors would approve of that would be the best course of action.

City Administrator Newman stated that this project would be partially funded with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. She reported that the City was a recipient of 3.2 million of ARPA funds. City Council designated roughly half of that to go towards the cost of this project.

Chair Wolff opened the floor for public comment. Jason Lindstrom stated that there are four to five houses that back up to the wooded area. He noted that the area has a lot of garbage, debris and people use that area for yard waste. He appreciates the City trying to make this area pretty because it is good for the neighborhood but he is not sure in its current state you would want to salvage it. Lindstrom stated that timing is everything. Off-season rains are something that makes the neighbors concerned about flooding. Dennis Kelter stated that he agrees with Jason's statements and thanked the City Council and staff for this project. He encouraged the City to move forward on this project quickly. He continued that the site would be much better without the trees because it is very dumpy out there.

Mayor Schielke stated that he knows the flooding that has happened in that area in the past. He encouraged the City Council to approve the proposal as outlined by our City Engineer. The general consensus of the Committee was in favor of staff to move forward with this proposal.

7. Discussion: Gun Safety Consortium (SM)

This item was removed from the agenda to give the Committee time to review recent emails and memos.

8. Ordinance 23-07: Conditional Use Permit for Dave's Hot Chicken Drive-Through Restaurant – 125 S Randall Road (ZE 2/22/23) CD

Ewoltdt presented the ordinance to the COW.

Motion: To recommend approval of Ordinance 23-07: Conditional Use Permit for Dave's Hot Chicken Drive-Through Restaurant – 125 S Randall Road

Maker: Wolff

Second: Miller

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

Nay:

13-0 Vote, 1 Absent, Motion carried.

9. Ordinance 23-08: Amending the Zoning Map to Add a Planned Development Overlay District – 125 S Randall Rd (ZE 2/22/23) CD

Motion: To recommend approval of Ordinance 23-08: Amending the Zoning Map to Add a Planned Development Overlay District – 125 S Randall Rd
Maker: Wolff
Second: Solfa
Roll Call Vote: **Aye:** Wolff, Baerren, Leman, Ajazi, Malay, Uher, Cerone, Vogelsinger, Miller, Beck, Connelly, Chanzit, Solfa
Nay:
13-0 Vote, 1 Absent, Motion carried.

10. Resolution 23-039-R: Approving Final Plat of Subdivision – 125 S Randall Rd (ZE 2/22/23) CD

Motion: To recommend approval of Resolution 23-039-R: Approving Final Plat of Subdivision – 125 S Randall Rd
Maker: Wolff
Second: Solfa
Roll Call Vote: **Aye:** Wolff, Baerren, Leman, Ajazi, Malay, Uher, Cerone, Vogelsinger, Miller, Beck, Connelly, Chanzit, Solfa
Nay:
13-0 Vote, 1 Absent, Motion carried.

11. Resolution 23-043-R: Authorizing a Contract with MYS Incorporated for an Amount Not to Exceed \$128,694.29 Which Includes a 10 Percent Contingency Amount for Performing Modification of Wilson Street at River Street (RB 2/23/23) CS

City Engineer Bari discussed the resolution with the Committee.

Motion: To recommend approval of Resolution 23-043-R: Authorizing a Contract with MYS Incorporated for an Amount not-to-exceed \$128,694.29 Which Includes a 10 Percent Contingency Amount for Performing Modification of Wilson Street at River Street
Maker: Malay
Second: Uher
Roll Call Vote: **Aye:** Malay, Uher, Cerone, Vogelsinger, Miller, Beck, Connelly, Chanzit, Solfa, Wolff, Baerren, Leman, Ajazi
Nay:
13-0 Vote, 1 Absent, Motion carried.

12. Resolution 23-042-R: Authorizing a Contract with TransSystems Corporation to Perform Batavia Avenue Road Phase 1 Preliminary Engineering for an Amount Not to Exceed \$128,694.29, Which Includes 10 Percent Contingency Amount for Performing Modification of Wilson Street at River Street (RB 2/23/23) CS

City Engineer Bari discussed the resolution and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) requirements with the Committee.

Mayor Schielke asked that staff work with the residents at that Holmsted on the design. Mayor Schielke stated some recommendations from Holmsted residents are: a turn bay in the middle of Batavia Avenue so they could make a left turn into the Holmsted and better lighting at that intersection. Bari stated that the Holmsted and all residents are welcome to comment on the project.

Motion: To recommend approval of Resolution 23-042-R: Authorizing a Contract with TransSystems Corporation to Perform Batavia Avenue Road Phase 1 Preliminary Engineering for an Amount Not to Exceed \$128,694.29, Which Includes 10 Percent Contingency Amount for Performing Modification of Wilson Street at River Street

Maker: Malay

Second: Beck

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

Nay:

13-0 Vote, 1 Absent, Motion carried.

13. Resolution 23-040-R: Adoption of the Batavia Bike and Pedestrian Plan (LN 2/27/23) GS

City Administrator Newman discussed the resolution with the Committee. Beck stated that this is a guiding document and recommended putting upgrades to signalization back into the plan. Beck stated in addition to that, some short-term metrics and short-term goals could be included or discussed as part of the Strategic Plan.

Beck asked the group if the recommendation list reasonable and is a \$300,000 a year investment something we could commit to. Newman stated that she would include in the plan the short-term metrics, goals and revisit the information quarterly or semi-annually to create a report and some kind of dashboard. Newman noted that the \$300,000 recommended funding commitment does include the \$100,000 that City Council has already identified towards the annual sidewalk improvement so it would be a \$200,000 increase to that funding amount. All \$300,000 would be allocated among the three different projects that exist there. It would be beginning with the 2024 year because we have already allocated the \$100,000 from this year towards the Safe Routes to School project to add additional sidewalk in our community.

Holm stated that this is a living document and noted that the numbers could change in the Sidewalk Implementation Matrix on page 37 (thirty-seven) because they will swap to make projects work as they make sense.

Motion: To recommend approval of Resolution 23-040-R: Adoption of the Batavia Bike and Pedestrian Plan

Maker: Wolff

Second: Malay

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

Nay:

13-0 Vote, 1 Absent, Motion carried.

14. Resolution 23-041-R: Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Batavia and the Batavia Park District for the Installation of Fiber Optic Cable to the Hall Quarry Beach (SA 2/22/23) PU

Allan discussed the resolution with the COW.

Motion: To recommend approval of Resolution 23-041-R: Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Batavia and the Batavia Park District for the Installation of Fiber Optic Cable to the Hall Quarry Beach

Maker: Cerone

Second: Connelly

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

Nay:

13-0 Vote, 1 Absent, Motion carried.

15. Project Status

Newman reported on the following:

- Batavia Restaurant Week has 35 participating restaurants and will be held March 5-9, 2023
- Public Works held a kick-off meeting for designing the Catenary lighting for River Street.
- The Streets Department has been street sweeping in the downtown and industrial park areas.
- Plans for Phase 2a Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements have been advertised for bid.
- Police Department has participated in the Batavia Special Education Parents Network Resource Fair and our in-house social worker from AID.
- The first Coffee with a Cop event will be Thursday, March 21st.
- The Police Department will be holding an educational event regarding fraud against the elderly.

16. Discussion: Permit Approval Process

Uher stated that this is about process, not people. Uher suggested hiring a consultant coming in to review the permit approval process. Newman stated that she is not opposed to hiring a consultant but utilizing the experience of the staff here to put changes into place should be trusted in the first instance. We could then move to hiring a consultant. She is concerned that if the changes staff implement make a positive improvement then why did we spend money on a consultant. Chair Wolff suggested taking six months to see how things are going.

Uher asked if we could get some statements of work from consultants to see what it would be to get the ball rolling. Newman asked who objects to getting statements of work and quotes from consultants. There were no objections voiced by the Committee members.

Miller noted that staff is going to get very busy. As we get into this busier season we could have discussions and feedback from staff while considering the statements of work. Cerone asked how could we create a plan and a follow-up on feedback and communication. Baerren asked for a breakdown of the different permitting processes and what the best practice is for the time for that process. She asked staff to review how long does it take for standard permits and similar data, such as manual processing and automatic processing to be able to see if this is working and if we are improving upon it. Baerren stated she would like to have an understanding of where staff sees challenges.

Chair Wolff stated that this could go onto the first COW meeting in May. Beck commented that May is a long time away and perhaps it could go onto the March COW. Staff requested a little more time. Chair Wolff announced that this would go onto the first COW meeting in April.

17. Other

Solfa stated a resident would like dog stations in Big Woods Park. Solfa noted that he told her to discuss this with the Park District. Connelly stated dog stations are only available at the dog park that he has seen.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Purchase of Real Estate

Motion: To enter into Executive Session for the purpose of purchase of real estate

Maker: Malay

Second: Cerone

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

Nay:

13-0 Vote, 1 Absent, Motion carried.

The COW entered into Executive Session at 9:24pm and exited at 9:40pm.

19. Adjournment

There being no other business to discuss, Chair Wolff asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40pm; Made by Malay; Seconded by Solfa. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer Austin-Smith, Recording Secretary