

Batavia Village Council
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, February 12, 2024

The Batavia Village Council met in regular session on Monday, February 12, 2024, at 7:00 pm with Mayor Runck presiding. Mayor Runck called the meeting to order at 7:00.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Cub Scouts Boy Scout Jack Garrison.

Roll Call of Members Present

Mr. Gipson, Ms. Cole, Mr. Garrison, Mr. Pryor, Mr. Meyer Ms. Turner was absent

Village Officials Attending the Meeting: Mayor C. Scott Runck, Administrator Ken Geis, Fiscal Officer John Waite, Zoning Administrator Chip Stewart, Police Chief Jim Young

Also attending were Police Officers Fletcher, Kuhl, McAdams, Olson, Warner and Whitaker

Others Attending the Meeting: Jo Ann Martino, Ed Hemming, Bonnie Hemming, Mary Moore, Stephen Frye, Jack Garrison, Jeff Bach, Nolan Pierce. Batavia H.S. Principal Andrea Conners, Batavia H.S. Vice-Principal Matt Lewis

Reminder to Audience Regarding Questions or Comments:

The Mayor asked the audience to mute their cell phones and reminded the audience that there will be a chance for comments or questions during Public Participation at the end of the meeting.

Special Proclamation from Mayor

The Mayor recognized Jack Garrison for having achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts. The Mayor presented Jack with a Certificate of Achievement from the Village.

Approval of Financial Reports:

Mr. Gipson made a **Motion** to approve the January Bank Statements and Cash Journal, seconded by Ms. Cole. The **Motion** passed 5-0-

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Gipson made a motion to approve the minutes of January 22, 2024 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Mr. Pryor. The **Motion** passed 5-0.

Police Department: Chief Young

Report on January activity

414 Calls, 31 Traffic Stops, 16 Citations Issued, 15 Written Warnings, 12 Mutual Aid Calls
There were 240 more tickets issued in 2023 than in 2022.

All of the Police staff have returned to good health and are back at work.

There have been thefts at Streamside during the night. On January 24 a bathtub and 2 side walls were stolen. On February 1 three windows, 45 sheets of plywood and extension cords were stolen.

The Chief is implementing other investigative resources to assist in the investigation and deterrence of these crimes.

Special Recognition for School Resource Officer Christopher Warner

Officer Warner has been a police officer for 30 years. Since he joined the Batavia Police Department as a School Resource Officer he has not only done a superior job within the school, he has also been active in programs helping students and their families outside of the school. The Batavia High School Principal Andrea Connors and Vice-Principal Matt Lewis spoke telling the audience how happy they are with Officer Warner's performance and how helpful he is with the students. The Chief presented Officer Warner with a Meritorious Service Award.

Police Staffing

The Safety Committee met on Wednesday, February 7. An item on the agenda was a discussion about the Police Department staffing shortage. The Chief is requesting approval to hire one additional full-time police officer to replace the three part-time police officers that were lost in 2022. The process of an immediate search for candidates, interviewing prospective candidates, selecting and recommending a candidate to be hired, and receiving approval from Council to hire the recommended candidate is expected to take about two months. The Chief is hoping to hire a full-time police officer by April 1.

The Chief told Council that the Police Department has lost 3 part-time employees and that he currently doesn't have enough staff to be able to send Officers to training.

Mr. Pryor asked the Chief the cost of hiring a full-time officer? The Chief responded that the cost for salary and benefits would be approximately \$100,000. He also reminded Council that the Batavia Schools are currently paying the Village \$88,000 for the 2 School Resource Officers.

Mr. Pryor asked the Chief that given the expected growth of the Village, how long will the Police Department be able to cover the Village before there will be the need to get another officer? The Chief said that there will not be a need for another officer for several years.

Mr. Gipson said that Mr. Geis has had experience as a Safety Service Director and Mr. Gipson wanted to hear Mr. Geis's opinion. Mr. Geis replied that when a Police Chief tells you that another officer is needed then you either need to rely on the Chief or if you don't have confidence in the Chief you need to replace the Chief.

Mr. Pryor made a **Motion** to approve hiring one more full-time police officer and authorizing the Chief and Safety Committee to begin the process of searching for and selecting a candidate to hire subject to the final approval by Council regarding hiring the selected candidate; seconded by Mr. Gipson.

Vote by Roll: Mr. Gipson, yes, Ms. Cole, yes, Mr. Garrison, yes, Mr. Pryor, yes, Mr. Meyer, yes
Motion passed 5-0

Village Administrator: Ken Geis

Community and Economic Development

Electric Vehicle Charging Station at corner of Bauer Road and Winemiller Lane

We continue to work on this project and site access.

New Zoning Case

The Planning & Zoning Commission held a meeting for PUD Project for a part of the “Red Barn” property at 255 Haskell Lane on January 16, 2024. A large group attended the meeting, and the Planning & Zoning Commission unanimously approved the case with conditions.

We will hold the next Public Hearing on 2/26/24 for the Council Approval. The Developers asked that we delay the Public Hearing for the project until 8:00 pm because of a conflict from the Developer.

Streamside

The Village has sent out the PILOT Payments invoices to the homeowners.

CIC Meeting

I would like to schedule a CIC meeting before the first Council Meeting in March. (We should conduct at least one meeting a year, per Statute).

Road Improvements

S.R. 222

- ✓ The State is continuing the final design and environmental work for the project. During the project, the contractors will close the road and the ODOT will create a detour.

Salt Storage

The Salt Storage Facility is complete and loaded with salt.

Water and Sewer Utilities

Water Utility

We continue to work on this transfer.

Hike Bike

I met with Ed Williams with TEC engineering and reviewed the parameters of the report. I will update Council on the progress.

General

I sent a notice to our General Property Casualty Insurance Carrier to allow us to accept other quotes for insurance.

The Mayor, Mr. Pryor and I met with UC about collaborating on a new electric sign at West Main/College Drive. We collectively agreed to begin researching the possibility of a pole sign that can be seen from SR 32. The sign would be paid for by the University and the Village would pay for the electric and insurance expenses. The Village would control the input of messages to the sign.

Mr. Gipson asked if the large electric sign would be a safety issue. Mr. Geis told him that the sign would be further up College Drive and would face SR 32. It would be similar to the sign at Baxla Motors.

Zoning Administrator: Chip Stewart

Report on 2024 zoning applications for new residential units

Streamside - There have been 5 Streamside permits so far this year.

Harvest Meadows - There have been 26 Harvest Meadows permits so far this year.

Fischer Homes has started breaking ground for new homes.

Zoning Violations and Enforcement

There are currently 37 violations in progress. 4 in court process. 19 violations remediated in 2023.

Crosswalks

The Crosswalk signs have been ordered by ODOT. We have been advised the remaining parts should be in by March.

Verizon Cell Towers

Only the one on W Main Street is active. MCI is currently working on running fiberoptic cable to the remaining towers. We have been advised that these should be complete by March.

Grant Application for LED lights on S.R. 32

We have submitted for a grant to replace the old halogen lights on SR 32 with new LED lights. The light poles have been GPS mapped for future reference.

Public Hearing for Zoning Change

A Public Hearing is scheduled for the Feb 26 Council meeting for River Pointe Apartments for a zone change (includes the concept plan) from I/O to PUD for 255 Haskell Ln.

There will be a Public Hearing at the February 20 Planning Committee regarding the adoption of and Amended Zoning Code

Village Solicitor: Christopher Moore

The Solicitor worked on nuisance matters.

There was a court hearing last week and the Judge set the matter for another hearing in 3 weeks.

The owner of the Wilson property has been unresponsive so we are proceeding with court action.

The Solicitor has assisted the Administrator by reviewing several documents.

Mayor: C. Scott Runck

The Mayor reviewed the discussions he had with UC Clermont regarding the electronic sign.

The Mayor informed Council that there are 133 businesses in the Village. He wants to send out a quarterly newsletter to all of the businesses.

