OBSERVER REPORT CITY COUNCIL FEBRUARY 12, 2018

**Observer:** Betty Hayford

Aldermen present: All

Media present: Three: Evanston Now, Evanston Roundtable, NU Daily

Meeting began: 9:00 pm Meeting ended: 11:00 pm

**Announcements.** The Mayor expressed condolences regarding two recent deaths. He expressed appreciation for good work in clearing snow. Lawrence Hemmingway, Director of Parks and Recreation, explained at great length the process for enrolling in summer day camps, the problems with planned enrollment on Saturday, and new enrollment procedures.

**Citizen comment.** Nine comments. Three expressed opposition to proposed affordable housing project at Dempster and Pintner; one called for imaginative ideas to revitalize Evanston by drawing on suffrage history; one asked to hold vote on Howard street theater contract; two criticized Council in general including a request to replace City Manager; one praised work of Council; one asked why Human Services meetings have been cancelled and raised concern about enforcement of Code of Ethics.

**Special Order of Business (SP1) Water Fund Update.** Dave Stoneback gave a detailed report on the Water Department, including status of water sales to neighboring communities and capital project plans. The City has sued Skokie over fees for water and the case is in court. Stoneback explained that different cities pay different rates depending on the percentage of water production they use and the use of treatment and distribution facilities.

Consent Agenda. Alderman Rainey introduced the Consent Agenda from Administration and Public Works. The Minutes were removed from the Consent Agenda after Alderman Wilson cited corrections were needed and noted the Clerk was not present to respond. Payroll; Bills; Credit card activity excluding Amazon; Approval of fuel purchases for the first six months of FY 2018; Approval of 2018 New Tire Purchases; Approval of renewal for Tire Repair Services; Approval of one year contract extension to provide required annual inspections for Heavy Fire Apparatus Vehicles; Approval of Contract to Study West Filter Plant; Approval of Renewal of annual Sole Source Maintenance and Support agreement for Utility Billing Software; Approval of contract for 2018 Sewer Flow Monitoring; Approval of Estimated Annual User Charge for 2018 with MWRD to Sludge Disposal; Approval of contract for procession oversize and overweight Truck Permits; Approval of Change Order No. 3 for Water Treatment Plant Reliability Improvements Project decreasing cost and extending length of contract; Approval of Change Order Number 5 to Dempster Beach Office Renovations contract to increase cost; Approval of Change Order Number 2 for the Church Street South Pier Reconstruction Project to increase the cost and extend deadline; Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Evanston and the Morton Grove/Niles Water Commission for the construction and operation of an intermediate booster pump station at 2525Church Street; Approval of Resolution appointing Ashley King as Interim Chief Financial Officer and Interim Treasurer; Approval of Resolution adding Ashley King, Budget Manager and Interim Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer and Andrew Villamin, Accounting Manager, as a Depository Signature (Introduction, Suspension of Rules, Action); Approval of Amending City Code to establish one-way south traffic on Hurd Street between Isabella Street and Park Place and one-way north traffic on Central Park Avenue between Park Place and Isabella Street adjacent to Willard Elementary School during drop-off and pick-up hours (Introduction); Adoption of amending City Code to establish permits and fees for excessive vehicle weight and size (Introduction, Suspension of Rules, Action); Amending City Code to

decrease number of Class D liquor licenses from 51 to 50 because Yahala Inn, 811 Church Street has closed (Introduction, Suspension of Rules, Action); Amending City Code to increase the number of Class D liquor Licenses from 50 to 51 and permit issuance to Good to Go Jamaican Cuisine at 711 Howard Street (Introduction); Amending City Code to Increase the Number of Class F Liquor Licenses and permit issuance of license to Target Store, 1616 Sherman Avenue (Introduction); Amending City Code to Reduce the Speed Limit on Ridge Avenue between Howard Street and Emerson Street from 30 mph to 25 mph (Introduction, Suspension of the Rules, Action).

From **Planning and Development,** Alderman Wynne introduced Resolution Granting Municipal Use Exemption for Public Utility (Water Pump Station) at 2525 Church Street; Approval of Special Use for the expansion of a Religious Institution, Lubavitch Chabad, at 2014 Orrington Avenue.

From the **Economic Development Committee**, Alderman Rainey introduced Approval of restructuring the Storefront Modernization Program guidelines for FY2018 to provide a targeted and equitable eligibility tier to provide 100% funding up front for façade renovations within the city's Neighborhood Stabilization Program geography; Approval of financial assistance on a 50/50 cost-sharing basis through the Storefront Modernization Program to Linmay Studio, 525 Kedzie Street up to \$696.66 for improved signage; Approval of financial assistance through the Entrepreneurship Support Program for up to \$1000 in assistance with City permitting and licensing and up to \$2,500 for equipment, work space and certifications for Lashing Out

The consent agenda passed 9-0.

Alderman Rainey explained that A and PW had heard from a representative from Goodwill opposing a proposal to execute a contract for residential soft recycling services which would undercut Goodwill and could reduce employment at Goodwill, a charity. The Committee agreed not to recommend the measure to Council.

Alderman Rainey introduced approval of Amazon Credit Card Activity. The motion passed 8-0, with Alderman Suffredin abstaining.

From **Administration and Public Works**, Alderman Rainey presented authorization for the City Manager to execute a contract to provide construction services for the Howard Street Theater for \$1,385,469 from the Howard Ridge TIF Fund. Rainey spoke at length about the value of this and other improvements to Howard Street. She will continue to resist small group of opponents. Alderman Fleming said she supports the project but some of her constituents object to use of TIFs. The motion passed, 7-2, with Fleming and Suffredin voting no.

Alderman Rainey presented recommendation from Public Works Agency staff recommending revising the street cleaning schedule in 2018 to change the days of some cleaning. Alderman Wilson opposed the motion because it might cause confusion among residents. The motion passed 6-3 with Wilson, Fiske, Braithwaite voting no.

From **Economic Development**, Alderman Wynne presented granting special use approval for a Special Educational Institution in the I2 General Industrial Zoning District in order to operate a high school for students with behavioral and emotional needs for Introduction. Rainey objected because of the zoning issue. The motion passed 8-1, with Rainey voting no.

**Call of wards.** Revelle announced a meeting on proposed Canal Shores developments including outdoor summer concerts and habitat restoration. Braithwaite commended good snow removal and the positive

progress in the Dempster-Dodge shopping center, including the introduction of Pet Supply. He asked that Economic Development consider the creation of a food incubator facility.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 pm.