

Observer: Betty Hayford

Aldermen present: All. Braithwaite was a little late. The Mayor was absent. Wynne chaired the meeting.

Media present: Three. Evanston Roundtable, Evanston Review, NU Daily

Meeting began: 7:00 pm

Meeting ended: 9:20 pm

Announcements. The Mayor Pro-Tem announced that April 2-6 will be National Public Health Week. The City Clerk announced that Election Day is tomorrow. Early voting totals this election are the highest ever.

Public comment. Four comments. One expressed concern about the safety of the planned marshmallow drop. One proposed a monument and/or park to recognize the important contributions by Evanston women. One criticized Council, urged that the City Manager be replaced because of the financial crisis, criticized the recent presentation on water operations, and demanded that people be held accountable. One, an NU student, expressed thanks to Evanston Police Department and NU Police Department for thorough response to recent gun threat.

Consent agenda. The City Manager proposed to start with the Consent Agenda and then move to the Special Orders of Business. From **Administration and Public Works**, Alderman Rainey noted there were no items on the Consent Agenda. From **Economic Development**, Alderman Rainey presented for action a Great Merchants Grant to Herrera Landscape for 2018 Business Districts Planters and Landscape Improvements. The motion passed 8-0.

From **Administration and Public Works** Alderman Rainey presented a Request for Financial Assistance as a loan for \$25,000 from Good to Go Jamaican Cuisine to purchase additional equipment needed to open their new location at 717 Howard Street. The motion passed 7-1, Suffredin voting no. She presented for Introduction, Suspension of the Rules and Action the Creation of a new Class F-2 Liquor License for a retail liquor/gourmet food and amenity store. It was amended by the committee to set the license fee at \$45,000 for the initial year and \$15,000 for renewals. She asked that the rules be suspended because the process had already been delayed and no meeting will be held next week. Wilson said he only reluctantly supported suspending the rules and Fiske said she was generally opposed to suspending rules. The motion passed 7-2, with Fiske and Suffredin voting no. Rainey then introduced an Amendment to the City Code Creating a new Class X Liquor License allowing arts and crafts studios to sell beer and wine in the evenings. The operator of a new business offering arts and crafts experiences explained that other franchises around the country all served beer and wine for adult events in the evening. Food service is required for serving liquor; this establishment does not have a kitchen but will serve packaged food. Fiske expressed concern about using power tools and serving liquor. The motion passed 8-1, Fiske voting no.

Special Orders of Business. (SP1) Mayor's Climate Action Resilience Plan Working Group Update.

Kumar Jensen presented a report from the Working group of 17 active community members. The goals are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and plan for effects of climate change. Evanston has been recognized for progress in reducing emissions. Possible effects of climate change by 2050 or 2100 such

as storms, flooding, insect damage, increasing warmth, are being identified and precautions are being addressed. A final report will be issued in October.

(SP2) Evanston Fire Department 2017 Annual Report. EFD Chief Scott presented the annual report. The number of Emergency responses was a record high. Response times are excellent and above national standards.

(SP3) Evanston Police Department Stop and Frisk Policies. Chief Eddington prepared this report in response to Aldermen requests. He made an interesting introduction explaining the national context including a Supreme Court ruling and the impact of extensive stop and frisk activities in New York. He explained the different aspects of stop and frisk and the importance of training officers to treat citizens with respect to defuse the risk of confrontation. He presented charts on the numbers of stops and arrests by race. African Americans are over represented as victims of crimes and targets of stops or arrests. Aldermen Fleming and Braithwaite asked several questions and requested that this and other data on stops be available on line.

(SP4) Public Benefits and Impact Fees from Planned Developments. Staff had prepared a list of current public benefits. Wynne asked that the list be sent to the Planning and Development Committee with a request to discuss and revise as needed. The goal is to clarify expectations for potential developers. She suggested this be delayed until May when Ms. Leonard returns from leave. The motion to refer was approved without dissent.

(SP5) 2017 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships and Emergency Solutions Grant Programs. This report is required for HUD grants. Alderman acknowledged the good work in the report and voted to accept the report.

(SP6) 2019 Budget Projections and Priority-Based Budgeting. The City Manager explained that this is the earliest budget discussions he has requested. The 2018 Budget is solid and reflects the needs of the community, but the Manager is worried about the trends for expenditures, pensions and debt management. It is necessary to identify Evanston's most valuable programs and to include measures of equity in the continuing programs.

Ashley King presented a report on 2019 projections showing anticipated increases in expenses, and slight decrease in revenues leading to a deficit of \$3.1 million in the \$100 million –plus operating budget. She outlined a process for Priority Based Budgeting, in which each Department would review and evaluate its programs according to Council goals. Then programs will be re-aligned and prioritized. Staff will rank programs in March and April, and City Council will review at the end of April. In May there will be public meetings and outreach, and in June Council will again review and discuss and a report will be prepared.

The City Manager pointed out that his chief worry is that the potential \$3 million deficit is only the tip of the iceberg since the city has major capital needs, the pension funds need to be increased and debt service is a concern. He expects Evanston will have to cut some programs or services and citizens will be unhappy.

After a brief call of the wards the meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.