

Observer: Betty Hayford

Aldermen present: Eight, Melissa Wynne absent

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

Meeting began: 8:00 pm

Meeting ended: 9:00 pm

Announcements. The Mayor announced February is Black History Month. A brief report was made on changes to bodies providing oversight for Evanston Police Department. Further discussions will be taking place. The Mayor announced that the Summer Youth Employment Jobs Fair will be on Saturday March 11 and jobs will be available for all interested youth.

The City Manager introduced a report from the Task Force on Refugees describing the number and situation of refugees in Evanston: 100 legal refugees are in Evanston schools and about 100 households of legal refugees are in the city. There are other undocumented refugees. Refugees come from many countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Communication is a major concern because of the wide range of languages. There is a work group including resettlement agencies, school districts, city agencies and other groups and there are unmet needs for both goods and services.

A report was provided on 2016 crime statistics including a 20% reduction in violent offences and increases in burglaries and motor vehicle thefts.

Laura Biggs announced that Evanston has received an award from the American Public Works Association for an outstanding transportation project, the Emerson/Ridge/Green Bay intersection redesign.

Public comment. Two public comments, one asking for the resolution to the problems in the Sherman Plaza garage and thanking Council for support, and one complaining about confusion in the election process and also expressing concern about the Welcoming City ordinance and the possible loss of federal funds.

Consent agenda. Alderman Rainey introduced the Consent Agenda. From **Administration and Public Works:** Payroll; Bills; Approval to execute one year contract extension of the 2016 Distribution System Material contract for Water Distribution System Materials; Approval of the renewal of the contract for maintenance and support for computer systems; Approval of the Estimated Annual User Charge for 2017 with MWRD for disposal of sludge generated by the water treatment process; Authorization of contract for Fog Houses Roof and Masonry Improvements; Approval for contract for Engineering Services and Building Improvements for South Standpipe Pump Station Motor Control Center; Renewal of the Annual Maintenance Plan Agreement for Sherman Plaza; Approval of the repurposing of Fleet Vehicle #317 (Ambulance) as a dedicated Evanston Fire Department Underwater Rescue Response Vehicle as a cost effective transfer; Approval of an Agreement with Smithereen Pest Management Services for the provision of rodent control services for residential properties and public places for three years; Authorization for City Manager to enter into a one year parking lease for 50 vehicles at the 525 Church Street Parking Garage with Northwestern University; Authorization for City Manager to enter into a one year parking lease agreement for 150 parking spaces at the 1800 Maple Avenue Parking Garage with Northwestern University; Resolution to advocate that the Illinois General Assembly should repeal the preemption of local government regulation of pesticides; Authorization for the City Manager

to sign the Local Public Agency Agreement for Federal Participation with the Illinois Department of Transportation to fund the local share of construction costs for the bike parking project at the Main Street CTA Station of which 80% will be paid for by the federal grant; Authorization for the City Manager to submit an application for federal grant funds for the Emerson Street Signal Modernization Project for which federal funds could pay 80%; Authorization for the City to borrow funds from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for the construction of the Large Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation Project to control water pollution(Introduction); Approval to amend various sections of the City Code to reduce the Permissible Sound Levels for Mechanical Equipment (Introduction); Authorization for the City Manager to Execute an Agreement to sell water to the Villages of Morton Grove and Niles for 40 years with two 10 year extension provisions.

From **Planning and Development:** Approval of a proposal from Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH) to administer a centralized wait list for affordable units; Granting special use approval for a Micro-Distillery at 600 Main Street (Introduction, Suspension of the Rules and Action); Approval of special use for a Type 2 Restaurant, Insomnia Cookies, 1725 Sherman Avenue allowing the 3:00 am closing time proposed by the applicant.

From **Economic Development:** Approval of funding the Black Business Consortium of Evanston/Northshore for up to \$2,100.95 for costs associated with Le Tour de Noir Enterprise Evanston and Black Business Expo; Approval of funding for the Evanston Explorers business group up to \$1,120. To cover marketing costs associated with the group's kickoff event and first year of website and mobile app services; Approval of proposed revisions to the Evanston Great Merchant Grant program; Authorization for the City Manager to negotiate an agreement with Sweet Vendome to lease City-owned property at 633 Howard Street.

The consent agenda was moved and seconded and passed 8-0.

Alderman Braithwaite presented items from **Administration and Public Works.** First was a recommendation to receive a report on Northwestern University's recent acquisition of 1840 Oak Avenue within the boundaries of the Research Park zoning district and refer the item back to Administration and Public Works for further discussion at its March 13 meeting. Alderman Fiske praised city staff for research on initial arrangements anticipating that property in the Research Park would stay on the tax rolls, and emphasized the importance of having all agreements in writing. The motion passed 8-0.

Braithwaite presented a report updating discussions with Skokie and Lincolnwood on water supply. The report includes an agreement with Skokie extending the water supply agreement ending on February 28 for ten months. Skokie wants the agreement extended at the current rate while Evanston expects to increase the rate to match the rate with other cities. Both the Mayor and the City Manager emphasized that they did not expect to cut off water to Skokie, but they expected to negotiate a new rate. The motion to accept the report and place it on file passed 8-0.

Regarding an updated report and authorization for the City Manager to execute Change Order No. 2 to provide Sherman Plaza residents with transponders for access to the Sherman Plaza Parking Garage including installation of new equipment because the initial system didn't perform as expected, Fiske moved to fund the transponders, and asked the City Manager to pursue recovery from the initial vendor if feasible. Rainey agreed that the change should be made to resolve the problems faced by parkers, but the city should pursue compensation. The motion passed 6 to 2 with Braithwaite and Holmes voting no.

Before adjournment at 9:00 the Mayor announced a Town Hall Meeting with the Mayor on February 21.