

Observer: Betty Hayford

Aldermen present: All

Media present: Four: Evanston Now, Roundtable, Review, NU Daily.

Meeting began: 7:10pm

Meeting ended: 10:45pm

Announcements. The Mayor announced that in Executive Session Council had reviewed the performance of the City Manager who has completed nine years in Evanston and found it to have exceeded expectations in nine categories. They praised the City Manager in particular for leadership, strategic planning, and hiring a talented leadership team. They noted the successful completion of water sales and reported that the City Manager refused consideration of a salary increase.

The Mayor also announced World Polio Day on October 29 and praised the work of Rotary International in reducing polio outbreaks.

The City Manager introduced Lawrence Hemingway who introduced Kartwheel for Kids, a youth volunteer group which raised \$7400 for Fleetwood Jourdain food programs.

Public comment. 49 comments. Most criticized proposed budget cuts and offered support for Youth services, Mental Health Board, Health Department, victims' services, social services in general, Fire Department.

Special Order of Business (SP1) Presentation of the 2019 Budget. The City Manager, Erica Storlie, Hitash Desai and others provided a budget review of projected expenses, revenues and capital projects. They outlined priorities and asserted the need to provide a balance between services and resources. They explained the impact of the termination of the Washington National TIF on December 31. Alderman asked for explanation of the projected decline in revenues. Budget discussions are being held in every ward. Alderman Rue Simmons said she is working on plans to increase revenue at the Gibbs Morrison Center and asked that its closing be taken off the list of proposed actions. The City Manager said that other revenue options are being considered. Rue Simmons moved to take the center off the list of cuts. Wilson said it was premature to remove any thing from the list of proposed cuts. The motion passed 7 – 2, Wilson and Wynne voting no.

Braithwaite asked about proposed changes in Youth and Young adult program. The program should be kept intact and the community was anxious about proposed changes. An extended and contentious discussion ensued. Braithwaite moved to hold reorganization until after the budget was completed. Wynne and Wilson said this is not a budget issue and the City Manager has the authority to make personnel changes. Bobkiewicz explained that Council had asked to maintain Youth programs and Brown had built a strong program. Council had also emphasized work force development. He judged the Youth program had a strong team that could continue its good work and Brown could move to a new position to strengthen work force development.

Braithwaite again asked the City Manager to wait on reorganization and Bobkiewicz expressed frustration at interference in his authority. The Clerk said Braithwaite motion was in order, and the City Attorney said the motion was out of order because this was a managerial decision and was not on the agenda. Several aldermen said the motion wasn't clear or was out of order. Fleming asked the City Manager to explain the plan to relieve community anxiety, and the City Manager agreed to return with a clearer proposal on November 12. Braithwaite withdrew his motion.

Consent agenda. Alderman Rue Simmons presented the consent agenda from **Administration and Public Works.** Minutes. Payroll. Bills. Credit card activity excluding Amazon. Acceptance and Filing of Third Quarter Financial Report for FY 2018. Approval of contract with Patrick Engineering to provide engineering services for the Main Street Improvement Project. Approval of Change Order No. 1 to the Water Treatment Plant Door Renovation to extend the time for 75 days to 11/29/18. Approval of 6 month extension of the Comcast Cable Television Franchise Agreement. Authorization of City Manager to negotiate and execute a parking agreement with YOU at 1911 Church Street for usage of their parking lot including clean up and snow removal. Approval of naming the portion of Dewey Avenue between Crain Street and Greenleaf Street with the honorary street name sign "Pierre Jean-Paul Way." Authorization for City Manager to execute a partnership agreement with the Ridgeville Park District for the continuation of the middle school afterschool program at the Kamen East Fieldhouse. Resolution in Support of the City of Evanston and School District 65 Safe Routes to School Program. Authorization for City Manager to negotiate a three year lease with Northwest Center against Sexual Abuse for office space in the Morton Civic Center (Introduction). Authorization for City Manager to executive an intergovernmental Agreement with the CTA for the modernization of the CTA Purple Line in Evanston, with a matching grant from the Washington Nation TIF.

From **Planning and Development,** Alderman Wilson presented Approval of major zoning variations at 2415 Wade Street.

The consent agenda passed, 9-0.

From **Administration and Public Works,** Rue Simmons presented approval of Amazon credit card bills. The motion passed, 8-0, with Suffredin abstaining. She moved to approve the dissolution of the Washington Nation TIF as of December 31, 2018. This required a roll call vote. The motion passed 9-0.

From **Planning and Development,** Wilson moved to approve Granting Landmark Status to the building and lot at 2010 Dewey Avenue (Foster School). The motion passed 8 – 0 with Rue Simmons abstaining.

Call of wards. Alderman Rainey expressed concern about citizen misunderstanding of impact of proposed change in property transfer tax. She asked city staff to clarify misinformation.

On motion from Alderman Wilson, Council adjourned to executive session at 10:45pm.