

**Observer:** Betty Hayford

**Aldermen present:** All

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

**Meeting started:** 6:05 pm

**Meeting ended:** 10:40 pm

**Announcements.** The Mayor spoke at some length about the need for civility and respect. He shared a letter from a resident describing excellent service from a city staff member. The City Manager introduced Richard Monocchio, Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Cook County, who described plans to build a second building adjacent to the current Perlman Apartments on the corner of Emerson and Sherman. It will be 11 stories tall, with 8 floors of housing, affordable and market, 2 floors of parking, and a ground floor for retail or office. The architect presented very preliminary design drawings and explanations. Several alderman welcomed the proposal.

Deputy Clerk Gonzales, in the absence of Clerk Reid, expressed appreciation of the successful Fifth Ward Ice Cream Social, with the help of Alderman Rue Simmons. Several voters were registered.

**Citizen comment.** 23 comments. 8 spoke in favor of affordable housing. 5 urged Council to take possession of Lincoln Street Beach. 2 criticized the high cost of Robert Crown Center. 1 expressed concern about voting security; 1 supported social services in the budget; 3 supported local landlords who provided affordable housing and criticized an agency that wasn't treating them fairly (it turned out to be Connections); 1 reported that 3300 signatures supported a referendum on Harley-Clarke; 1 asked about the Ethics Board; and 1 launched an attack on the Council and City Manager as dishonest.

**Special Orders of Business. (SP1) 2019 Budget and Priority Based Budgeting Process.** CFO Hitesh Desai presented the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financial Overview which describes a good situation. Revenue is a little above projection and expenses are a little below. Fund and cash balances are a little stronger than a year ago. He expects the year to be balanced. Ashley King reported on the Priority Based Budgeting Project and outlined 12 memos that are being prepared on specific programs. Several aldermen raised questions. Kimberly Richardson explained that an Evaluation of 200 Social Service programs is being prepared and will be presented on September 17, including information on their impact, cost, program capacity and effect on equity. Police Chief Eddington and Fire Chief Scott talked about budget issues in their departments. The Fire Department is considering eliminating outreach programs currently engaging about 450 citizens each year; holding some vacancies which could lead to more overtime; and reducing minimum staffing. Pat Efiom reported on her efforts related to equity outreach related to the budget; she is

planning to reach 500 African Americans and Latinx for budget discussions in 8 to 10 meetings with community groups in different neighborhoods. She will be working with Advocates trained by Cradle to Careers.

The next public event will be September 13, the proposed budget will be presented on October 5, and a public meeting will be held on Saturday October 27. From October 5 to 25 there will be an online budget simulation exercise.

It was moved and seconded to accept the Report and place on file. Motion passed unanimously.

**(SP2) Resolution to require Contractors and Subcontractors to pay workers employed on public works construction project to pay the general prevailing wage.** It was moved and seconded and the motion passed on voice vote.

**(SP3) Storefront Modernization Program Applications for 1901-1903 Church Street and 1623 Simpson Street.** The Economic Development Committee is proposing a grant to six women or minority owned small business for Storefront Modernization. The Program allows 100% financial assistance in this census tract. Alderman Rue Simmons expressed support for the grant and pointed out that the Firth Ward has received very few grants from the program. These business provide many services to the community beyond the primary focus. The motion passed, 9-0.

**(SP4) Contract with Hillard Heintze for the Police Department Administrative/Community Services Review.** Approved 9-0.

**(SP5) Police Chief Recruitment Process.** The City Manager provided an update on the work with a search firm on identifying a new police chief. The search firm will meet with the community early in the process to get an understanding of community needs. Two aldermen suggested that the finalists appear at a community forum. The City Manager and Mayor said this could limit the interest of strong candidates, but they will mention it to the search firm. It was moved to file the report.

**(SP6) Affordable Housing Work Plan Progress.** Sarah Flax presented a detailed report on the work of the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance Subcommittee on additional sources of revenue, the rental of accessory units, the three-unrelated occupancy rule, landlord-tenant services, and the Landlord Rehabilitation Assistance Program. They are looking at increases in the Fee In Lieu of affordable units, and pushing developers to provide more affordable units on site. They are considering greater flexibility for trade-offs for more units. They have gathered comparative data from other community efforts. Alderman Revelle moved to accept the report and place it on file, and for the committee to continue its work. The motion passed 9-0.

**(SP7) Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program Renewal Funding.** Staff proposed \$300,000 in HOME funds to continue the current Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program

administered by Connections for the Homeless. The program provides stable housing and training for up to ten low income unemployed families for up to two years. The Director of Connections for the Homeless described the training programs provided to enable the families to gain employment and afford market rate housing. There were some questions, eventually focusing on the complaints made during comment period. The Director admitted there had been problems and efforts were being made to resolve them. It was agreed to postpone the vote until August 13 to allow the issues to be resolved.

**(SP8) 2018 Emergency Solutions Grant Recommendation.** The Housing and Homeless Commission and Staff recommended a grant of \$146,023 for the 2018 Emergency Solutions Grant, most going to two agencies, Connections for the Homeless and YWCA/North Shore that provide housing and services for individuals and families. The motion to approve the grant passed 9-0.

**(SP9) Lincoln Street Beach Ownership and Operations.** Staff recommended placing the report on file and authorizing the City Manager to negotiate a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Northwestern about operational details and maintenance responsibilities for the Lincoln Street Beach. The City Manager said he is working with Alderman Fiske to clarify the issues and an MOU may be premature. Fiske explained that the beach has never been a public beach, but she has heard that Northwestern officials said they do not own and have never owned the beach. Northwestern has operated the beach for its students and staff, and projected the view that the beach is part of the landfill that is their property. The City Manager said it will take some time to sort out issues of ownership, and he will return with more information in September. Fiske said it may not be so complicated, and Jeff Smith has provided some helpful information and analysis. Staff will continue to work on the issue.

**(SP10), (SP11) Appointment of Lydia J. Ellul and Jennifer Billingsley(Chair) to the Board of Ethics.** Both appointments were approved 9 to 0.

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 10:40.