

FINAL MEETING OF 80TH COUNCIL (2017-2021)

Observer: Betty Hayford

Council members present: All. Cecily Fleming came late. City Clerk was not present; Deputy Clerk Gomez conducted the Clerk duties.

Meeting started: 4:35 pm

Meeting recessed: 6:55 pm

Council Member Wilson moved to suspend the rules to allow for remote participation, due to an executive order issued by Governor Pritzker. The motion was seconded and passed 8-0. (Fleming is absent.)

Announcements. The Mayor explained that this meeting will start with the 80th Council, will conduct business, then will recess, then will reconvene as the 81st Council. He read a proclamation recognizing that May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Mayor Hagerty explained that the Mayor can award keys to the City to organizations or individuals who provide exceptional service. Although it was not possible to hold a public ceremony this year, the staff prepared a brief video of his presentations to five individuals/groups. The video showed the presentation of keys to 1)Evanston Owns It (Black Pastors raising funds for youth services); 2)Friends of Robert Crown, for raising funds; 3)Health and Human Services, and Director Ike Ogbo, for service during the Pandemic; 4) Jane Grover, for her unwavering commitment to good government; 5) Judge Lionel Jean-Baptiste, for uplifting the Black Community and commitment to good government.

City Manager Storlie announced the promotion of William Muno to Deputy Chief for Operations in Evanston Fire Department. He gave brief remarks.

Public comment. 10 comments. 5 opposed the full agenda for last meeting of 80th Council. 2 opposed and 1 supported the ordinance introducing consideration of a TIF in part of the 5th ward. 1 strongly opposed leaf blower ordinance and 1 supported.

The Mayor asked Council Members to identify items to be removed from the Consent Agenda. Members noted A7, A8, P1, P7, and R1. P2, amending the Tree Preservation Ordinance to expand protection of trees on private property was held in committee for further development.

Member Suffredin moved the **consent agenda**. It was seconded and passed 9-0.

The consent agenda included SP1-6, commending the service of retiring officers: Mayor Hagerty, Clerk Reid, Alderman Fiske, Alderman Wilson, Alderman Rue Simmons, and Alderman Rainey.

It also included SP7, a lease agreement for the Harley Clarke Mansion with Artist Book House for the operation as a venue for teaching creative writing, printing books, production of paper and bookbinding, as well as space for bookstore, library, art gallery, café, lecture hall, and classrooms. The lease runs May 10, 2021 to May 10, 2061.

Suffredin moved A7, Approving Meeting Dates for the Joint Review Board Meeting and Public Hearing for the Proposed TIF District in the 5th Ward. Member Rue Simmons asked staff to address the comments made in public comment that a TIF would force Black residents out of Evanston. She noted

that a TIF has been considered in this location for many years. It is an attempt to address underdevelopment in the area and is not an attempt to evict Black residents. Paul Zalmezak explained that the motion does not establish a TIF, but seeks authority to set up public meetings which would allow the Joint Review Board and the public to learn about and comment on the proposal. It does not grant the City the right to take land by Public Domain, which the City already has. The comments about a City plan to exercise the right of Public Domain were false. The proposed TIF is intended to be a financial tool to create new affordable housing or support renovation of existing housing. It could also be used for job training, and water and sewer improvements. Rue Simmons pointed out that the proposed hearing authorized by the ordinance will provide an opportunity to learn about options for development. The next Council will make any decisions on the proposal. Member Fleming urged the City to provide information for residents to learn more about TIFs, perhaps on the City website.

Rue Simmons moved to suspend the Rules for Introduction and Action. The motion was seconded and passed 9-0. The motion passed 9-0.

Suffredin moved A8, Amending Parking restrictions in Residents Only Districts, to correct the related ordinance adopted on April 26, 2021 related to parking on Sheridan Square. It was moved and seconded to suspend the Rules to allow for Introduction and Action. The motion to suspend passed 9-0. The motion passed 9-0.

Member Fiske moved P1, Extending the Expiration Date of Permitted Uses Within the UZ Zoning District (Northwestern Athletic Complex). Revelle noted opposition from the neighbors and urged a No vote. Fleming and Wilson expressed support. It passed for Introduction, 6-3. Suffredin, Revelle and Wynne voted no.

Fiske moved P7, Amending the Leaf Blowing Policy. Revelle said she supported the intent of the ordinance but felt it needed to be refined. The timing is poor, because landscapers have already signed contracts, hired workers, and purchased equipment. She asked that it be tabled and revised to take effect in 2022, not this year. Braithwaite agreed, and asked staff to meet with landscapers to reduce the disruption to their operations. Revelle moved to table the ordinance to the June 14 meeting. The motion to table passed 9-0.

Suffredin moved R1, Amending the Code of Ethics and Board of Ethics. City Attorney Cumings explained why the proposal to use an outside judicial officer would provide more efficient and timely adjudication. Wynne said she supported the motion because the current system with a Citizen Board of Ethics had been ineffective and very slow. The proposed system would be more expeditious and reliable. Council should adopt this system and evaluate after four years. Fleming moved to hold the item. Rainey opposed the move to hold. Wilson seconded Rainey's motion to overrule the hold. The vote to overrule the hold needed a 2/3 majority. The vote to overrule the motion to hold failed 5-4, with Rue Simmons, Suffredin, Revelle and Fleming voting no. (That is, they supported the hold.)

Call of the wards. Little of substance. Several meetings announced.

Recognition of Service. Hagerty presented a staff video presenting the work of the 80th Council, May 2017 to May 2021. It reflected highlights of the term: the Pandemic, Racial injustice, Climate Challenge, Build Better Evanston, the new Robert Crown Center, renovation of Fleetwood Jourdain, renovation of the Levy Center, more bike friendly streets, new sources of revenue particularly water sales, support for

the Arts, improvement to policing, marches for Racial Justice, Funding for Reparations, Expansion of Affordable Housing, and a strong response to Covid-19.

Member Wynne made two presentations in appreciation to Mayor Hagerty. She presented a gilded wrench used to open the new Water Works infrastructure, a gift from City staff. From Council she presented a gilt gavel in honor of his leadership of Council. She said Evanston was fortunate to have someone with his experience to guide the City through the Covid emergency.

The meeting recessed at 6:55 pm to reconvene as the 81st Council at 7:30.