

## Observer Report: City Council

**Date:** January 14, 2019

**Observer:** Betty Hayford

**Aldermen present:** All

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

**Meeting started:** 7:50 pm

**Meeting ended:** 10:10 pm

**Announcements.** The Mayor noted the election of several new officials in Illinois following the November elections and the unfortunate closing of parts of the federal government. He regretted the death of Evanston pastor Carlis Moody. The City Manager announced City efforts to assist federal employees in Evanston who may be suffering from the government shutdown, and Sarah Flax outlined the extent of the shutdown and Evanston resources being made available for assistance.

The City Clerk announced that there will be a public meeting to consider options for the Harley Clarke mansion on January 24 in the Parasol Room. He reminded Evanstonians that he will be hosting a meeting with former Governor Pat Quinn on January 16 discussing citizen initiatives through referendum.

**Public comment.** Ten comments. A variety of concerns with a common thread of transparency and accountability: question on NU Good Neighbor Fund; opposition to Robert Crown cost; sale of 2222 Oakton; better access to Council material; concern for affordable housing; support for rezoning for doctor office on Main Street.

In response, the Mayor outlined his commitments for the Good Neighbor Fund, highlighting support for youth programs and employment programs, with \$150,000 still to be allocated.

**Special order of business. (SP1) 2019-2020 City Council Goals.** Council asked to review its goals and revise as appropriate. The City Manager suggested setting goals for two year period, and asked for priorities and measures from Council. Alderman Fiske asserted that economic development was the base of all other current priorities. Rainey suggested a special meeting on this item would be welcome; Braithwaite agreed. Fleming supported a separate meeting and establishing measures to determine progress. After further discussion, the City Manager identified Wednesday, January 30 at 6:00 for a meeting, in the Alderman Library.

**Consent agenda.** Alderman Rue Simmons introduced the consent agenda from **Administration and Public Works.** Minutes. Bills. Credit card activity without Amazon. Passed 9-0. Credit card activity with Amazon passed 8-0, Suffredin abstaining. Approval of contract for Chandler-Newberger Roofing Restoration. Approval of amendment to Consulting contract for water main engineering services on Sherman Avenue. Approval of change order increasing funds and extending time for Church Street Harbor renovation project. Approval of change order for 2018 50/50 Sidewalk Replacement Project. Approval of change order to Comprehensive Pavement Condition Evaluation to extend time with no change in cost. Approval of three year contract for Supplemental Plan Review and Building Inspection Services. Approval of one year single source renewal for services and maintenance at the 911 Center. Approval of Demolition of Abandoned Building at 1729 Dodge Avenue. Adoption of Amended City Sexual Harassment Policy to confirm to State policy. Adoption of two Resolutions to negotiate Temporary Construction Easement Agreements with two entities related to Main Street Corridor Improvement Project. Adoption of Ordinance amending portions of City Code on "Passenger Loading Zones" on

Simpson Street (Introduction). Authorization for City Manager to negotiate the sale of property at 1729 Dodge Avenue to ETHS for the Geometry in Construction Class (Introduction, Suspension of the Rules, Action). Approval of donation of surplus Ambulance to the North Regional Major Crimes Task Force.

Alderman Revelle presented from **Planning and Development**. Approval of \$2,500 grant to Age Friendly Task Force Housing Committee for an Affordable Senior Housing Feasibility Study. Approval of Amending Zoning Ordinance Procedure for District Designation and special uses in the oRD Redevelopment Overlay District (Introduction). Approval of Granting Special Use Permit for a Medical Office at 705 Main Street to Evanston Family Chiropractic and Wellness Center Medical Practice (Introduction). Approval of Landmark Status for 1225 Asbury Avenue. Alderman Fleming presented from **Human Services Committee**. Renewal of Service Provider Agreement with Presence Behavioral Health for the provision of 24 hour Crisis Line Access, Mental Health Crisis Intervention and community outreach. Approval of 2019 Mental Health Board allocations of \$763,373 to 19 non-profit agencies to provide social services. Approval of amending Food Service and Retail Food Store Sanitation Ordinance to align with revised State Code regarding Inspectors to conduct FDA based inspections. Approval of Appointments, 4 to Arts Council, 1 to Housing and Community Development Act Committee, 2 to Mental Health Board.

The consent agenda was moved and seconded and passed 9-0.

From **Administration and Public Works**, Alderman Rue Simmons presented amending the City Code to remove the taxicab stand on Howard Street. Alderman Rainey moved to suspend the rules and consider the item for introduction and action. The motion to suspend the rules passed 9-0. The measure was approved 9-0. Next was an amendment to City Code to permit certain trucks used as passenger vehicles to park in residential areas. Alderman Rainey moved to suspend the rules to allow introduction and action. The motion to suspend passed 9-0, and the motion passed 9-0. The next item amended the city code to allow applications for sidewalk cafes to require the approval of the Design and Project Review Committee except for requests to City Council to permit the consumption of alcohol in sidewalk cafes, for Introduction. Alderman Wilson requested that the ordinance be amended to allow appeal to Council if the application was rejected by DDPR. The motion passed for Introduction 9-0.

Next was an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to negotiate a redevelopment agreement and the sale of 2222 Oakton, the former Recycling Center. Alderman Rainey read a statement opposing the sale and criticizing the prospective buyer, Clark Street Development. She said the property and development need close monitoring by the City because it is next to James Park. She proposed a three-year lease to buy so the City could monitor the development. Wilson responded that a lease to buy is an inadequate base for a development project; he opposed any amendment. A representative from Clark Street Development described their plans that will bring benefits to the City: the sale, property tax revenue, and a very attractive partner, a climbing gym. Rainey proposed an amendment for a lease to buy agreement, including no sale of the parking lot. The Mayor pointed out that the parking lot is not on the agenda. Wilson opposed the amendment and said it would kill the sale. The amendment failed, 6-3, with Rainey, Rue Simmons and Fiske voting yes. Rainey then spoke further against the motion, saying it would be a disaster. Revelle pointed out that this motion authorized negotiation, and the actual sale contract would come back to Council for approval. The motion to authorize negotiation passed, 6-3, with Rainey, Fiske and Rue Simmons voting no.

A final measure amended the City Code related to Resident Only Parking districts for a specific block, allowing residents to obtain parking permits for cars not registered in Evanston. Wilson expressed concerns about lack of clarity. The motion passed 8-1, with Wilson voting no.

**Call of the wards.** During Call of the Wards, Suffredin referred a suggestion to staff to consider the renewal of wheel taxes from January to July. Alderman Fiske asked staff to provide a summary of the DPR Committee and how it operates.

Council adjourned to Executive Session at 10:10pm.