

Observer: Betty Hayford

Aldermen present: All

Meeting via Zoom

Meeting started: 6:45 pm

Meeting ended: 10:00 pm

The City Clerk was absent. Deputy Clerk Gomez attended.

Alderman Wilson moved to suspend the Rules to hold a virtual meeting. The motion passed.

Announcements. Mayor Hagerty provided an update on the pandemic. The number of cases and deaths continues to be low and stable. There is a need for continued precautions. The level of cases in the state is rising slightly.

Hagerty announced a continuing set of meetings to review police operations in Evanston, held regularly on Mondays. One fact to consider is the ratio of police to population. Council will begin to discuss the overview at the next meeting.

July is Parks and Recreation Month. Lawrence Hemingway introduced a video on Evanston Parks and Recreation.

The City Manager announced a change in beach regulations to limit evening access at 9:00.

Public comment. Seven comments on a variety of subjects, including defunding the police and cutting city spending.

Special orders of business. (SP1) Approval of Evanston CARES Act amendment. This involves the second allocation of ESG-CV funding of \$419,890 to respond to the coronavirus. Sarah Flax explained that most will be used for housing.

(SP2) Civic Center Update. Lara Biggs presented a preliminary plan to move about six departments and 30 staff to the third floor of the Library. Many staff will continue to work from home. There is not sufficient space on the third floor of the library for more workers or document storage. The focus would be on public facing, customer service operations, including the Collector's Office and Building Permits. The City is also considering setting up offices in community centers such as Robert Crown, Levy Center, or Gibbs-Morrison. The Library would allow one-stop service to residents. Biggs mentioned that it was unlikely that the Civic Center could meet health expectations to host early voting in the fall. The cost of moving to the Library in this model might be about \$75,000 which would mostly be electric and computer cables. This upgrade would continue to be used by the Library after the City moved out. The location of City offices in the Library might be for three years which would allow planning for more comprehensive, long-term arrangement.

Extensive questions and comments from Aldermen followed. Rainey said she opposed the plan as "crazy." Scattering offices around the city would be confusing. She proposed committing funds to make the Civic Center workable. Wynne supported the Bigg's proposal. Upgrading the HVAC system at the Civic Center was too costly and the building is inefficient. She supports planning for a gradual move away from the Civic Center. Fiske agreed with Wynne and thought moving some City offices would

contribute to the vitality of downtown. Several aldermen said the plan needed more discussion with the community, especially about the future of the Civic Center. Storlie explained that no steps would be made about the future of the Civic Center without extensive discussion among Council and the community. Hagerty summarized the discussion as an agreement that staff return with more specific recommendations on a partial move of city staff.

Consent agenda. The Mayor asked aldermen to name items they wish to remove from the consent agenda. Following listing items to remove, the motion to approve the consent agenda passed 9-0.

Alderman Wilson removed the minutes for June 8 to correct a report of citizen comment. The minutes were corrected. The corrected minutes for June 8 were approved as corrected. The minutes for June 22 were approved.

Wilson asked to remove four items from the City bills. The four bills were payments to election consultants for the City Clerk Office. Wilson said the bills were paid after the election and more information was needed. The items were removed from the bills to be paid. The amended list of bills was approved 9-0.

(A12) Authorizing the City Manager to consent to a Permit for Northwestern Football Parking at Canal Shores Golf Course had been withdrawn by the applicant and was not considered.

(A15) Extending the Declared State of Emergency had been amended in committee to extend the Declaration until July 27, the next Council meeting. The original measure extended the State of Emergency until September 14. Alderman wanted more information about the purpose of the State of Emergency Declaration. The motion as amended passed 9-0.

(A17) Amending the City Budget policy to increase the limit on tax-supported general obligation debt from \$152,000 to \$155,000 passed 9-0.

(A18) Authorizing the City Manager to increase the total fiscal year 2019 budget by \$14,852,441 to a new total of \$334,017,889 passed 7-2, Suffredin and Fleming voting no.

(A19) Providing for the issuance of General Obligation Bonds up to \$34,000,000 to finance capital improvement improvements and refund certain outstanding bonds passed 7-2, Suffredin and Fleming voting no.

(A26) Amending City Code to allow the sale of liquor to American Legion non-members at the American Legion site. Alderman Revelle asked for the suspension of Rules to allow Introduction and Action but Council agreed to introduce only. Alderman Revelle said it would help the American Legion and provide refreshments for golfers and others. Alderman Fiske opposed the measure because it violated the general prohibition of liquor sales in open space or park areas. The motion for Introduction passed 8-1, Fiske voting no.

(ED2) Approval of Funding for North Shore Convention and Visitors Bureau of \$41,805, half the usual amount. Suffredin suggested it might be an expenditure that could be dropped or deferred in hard budget times. Paul Zalmezak, Economic Development Manager, said Evanston hotels and restaurants needed the marketing assistance from the Bureau more than ever and it was a useful investment. The motion passed 7-2, Suffredin and Fleming voting no.

Call of the Wards. Fiske asked to refer to the Planning Commission rezoning for a residential block of Orrington, passing on a request from the property owners.

Wilson made a referral to the Planning Commission asking them to consider repealing the ordinance prohibiting more than three unrelated people in a residence.

Rue Simmons supported the request to Defund the Police and suggested it presents an opportunity to change the way we think about policing.

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 10:00 pm.