

**Observer:** Betty Hayford

**Aldermen present:** Eight; Alderman Suffredin absent

**Media present:** Evanston Now, Evanston Roundtable, Evanston Review, one or two others.

**Meeting started:** 7:15 pm

**Meeting ended:** 10:15

**Announcements.** Several announcements from the Mayor: National Senior Health & Fitness Day; National CPR and AED Week; 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for Canal Shores Golf Club; 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Illinois Being the First State to Ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment – June 10, 2019. Thanks to League of Women Voters of Evanston for important work. Picture of League members with Mayor on Facebook.

Several announcements from Deputy City Manager Kim Richardson: We're Out Walking (WOW) Kick-Off; US Lifesaving presentation; Fire Department promotions.

Extended comments from City Clerk opposing Mayor Hagerty's proposal to appoint additional FOIA officers. FOIA is important to democracy and the proposal will weaken the authority of the City Clerk. The Clerk's Office is committed to transparency and accountability. Clerk offered illustrations of when he has challenged decisions from other offices. He said he is uniquely versed in issues related to FOIA and made references to racial disputes in Chicago and Evanston.

**Public comment.** 24 comments. One supported the motion to add additional FOIA officers; 1 concerned about wheel chair access to picnic tables in parks; 1 supporting new approach to juvenile justice; 1 supporting animal shelter; 1 opposed proposed change in downtown zoning; 2 concerned about Robert Crown meeting; 1 encouraged more investment on West Side. All others opposed to SP1 adding more FOIA officers because of concern for democracy and transparency, support for Clerk Reid and his values. Many were from Reclaim Evanston and many were passionate: "We the people smell corruption."

**(SP1) Approving Designation of Additional Freedom of Information Act Officers.** It was moved and seconded. Mayor Hagerty explained why he is making the proposal. He has thought about it for the past 10 months because of increase in FOIA requests. Other cities have multiple FOIA officers. Clerk Reid will continue in his role.

Alderman Wilson spoke extensively about the motion and his support. All the individuals to be appointed are City employees already working on FOIA requests. They are collaborating in the process and will continue to collaborate. All Council members are committed to transparency, and the City website continues to publish more information about City activities. There are advantages in having multiple FOIA officers. Alderman Braithwaite announced that he has been a supporter of Clerk Reid and will continue to do so. This resolution does not reduce the authority of the Clerk and he will support it. Critics should read the material in the packet

explaining the resolution. Alderman Fleming spoke about the complexity of the issue and the possibility of waiting until the law suit filed by the Clerk is settled.

Clerk Reid spoke at some length to defend himself. He asserted that there is no problem with FOIA responses and additional officers are not needed. He cited several incidents where racial profiling had taken place. He asked for the motion to be tabled and said any alderman who voted for the motion should be ashamed.

With no further comments from Aldermen, the Mayor asked the Clerk to call the roll. Alderman Rainey wanted to hear more about the past requests that had been disputed. The Deputy City Manager called the roll. The motion passed 5-3. Rue Simmons, Fleming and Rainey voted no.

When the measure passed, the City Clerk left the meeting and did not return.

**Consent agenda.** Alderman Rue Simmons presented the consent agenda from **Administration and Public Works**. Minutes. Payroll. Bills. Authorization of Contract for the 2019 Structure Lining Bid. Authorization for the 2019 Motor Fuel Tax Resurfacing Project. Authorization for Contract Extension for Reclamite Pavement Sealing. Authorization for Contract for the Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center Interior Renovation. Authorization for the Garden Park and Playground Renovation Project. Approval of Office, Library and General Purpose Furniture for the Robert Crown Center. Approval of pre-school Furniture Purchase for Robert Crown Center. Approval of Public Art Contract for the Robert Crown Center. Approval of the Sole-Source Repair of Street Lighting Fixtures. Approval of Great Merchant Grant for Noyes Business District and West Village Business Association. Approval of Funding for 12-months for Chicago's North Shore Convention and Visitors Bureau. Authorization for City Manager to apply for IDOT Highway Safety Improvement Funds for Intersection Improvements along Ridge Avenue. Approval of Appointing a Director and Alternate Director to the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County. Authorization for City Manager to sell City-owned Property at 1824 Emerson Street to ETHS for affordable housing (Introduction). Authorization to Establish a 4-Way Stop Control at Intersection of Brown Avenue and Noyes Street (Introduction). Authorization to Amend City Code to Change Parking Restrictions on Howard from Chicago Avenue to Ridge Avenue.

The consent agenda passed 8-0.

From **Administration and Public Works**, Alderman Rue Simmons presented an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to sell City-owned property at 2222 Oakton Street to Clark Street Real Estate. Alderman Rainey explained at some length why she was opposed to selling this property to this active real estate developer. It will be used by a climbing wall company. In response to her request to delay a decision, Rue Simmons asked to hold the matter until the next meeting on June 10. Alderman Fleming asked to have more information about the storage needs of the city that the sale would create.

Alderman Rue Simmons presented items from the **Human Services Committee**. First, a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with the Evanston Animal Shelter Association to fund operations with a grant of \$100,000. Aldermen Braithwaite and

Fiske expressed strong appreciation of the good work of the Association. The motion passed 8-0. The next item was the adoption of a resolution In Support of Employing Administrative Adjudication as an Alternative to the Criminal Justice System for Juveniles and Incorporating Restorative Justice Practices for Minors. Several aldermen expressed appreciation and support for the work done to create these changes. The motion passed 8-0.

**Call of the Wards.** Alderman Rue Simmons condemned recent shootings and asked all citizens to share any information about shootings with the police. She supported the efforts of the Equity and Equality Commission to investigate the possibility of reparations for slavery. Alderman Revelle praised the work of Canal Shores Golf Club in restoring the environment and being good stewards of the natural resources. Alderman Rainey asked city staff to investigate the connection of the reconversion of condos to the Inclusionary Housing Act.

Alderman Braithwaite reported on the community meeting on the Robert Crown Center. The City had prepared a video to provide information about the financing of the Center and the projected programming. He explained to attendees where they could find answers to their questions on the City website. Many people in attendance were impatient with the meeting format and expressed criticism. He was concerned about the lack of civility and disorderly behavior. Alderman Wilson thanked all Evanston residents who attended Council meetings and listened to the work of Council, especially the League of Women Voters.

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 10:15 pm.