

Observer Report

Administration & Public Works

Monday, March 14, 2022

Start Time: 4:44 pm

End Time: 5:52 pm

In Attendance: Braithwaite, Nieuwsma, Burns, Kelly, Reid, (Chair)

DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Reid started this meeting in an Uber or Lyft and arrived at City Hall at 5:00

Public Comment – Two people.

Mike Vasilko- Don't turn off people's water. Look at bills more carefully.

CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under the Item IV Consent Calendar, are considered by the Committee to be routine and will be enacted in one motion without discussion. If discussion is desired, that item may be removed and considered separately.

FOR CONSENT AGENDA

FOR ACTION - PASSED

(AM1) Approval of Minutes from 2-28-22

(A1) Approval of the City of Evanston Payroll and Bills List and Credit Card Activity

(A2) Approval of BMO Harris Amazon Credit Card Activity

(A5) Approval of Contract with Insituform Technologies USA, LLC for 2022 CIPP Sewer Rehabilitation

(A6) Approval Change order No. 1 to the Contract with Garland/DBS, Inc. for the Civic Center Gutter Assessment and Repairs

(A7) Approval of 2022 Special Events

OFF CONSENT AGENDA But PASSED After Discussion

FOR ACTION

(A3) Approval of Contract with Drexwood Partners LLC for Lobbyist Services

Questions about how this differs from the position just filled. Braithwaite questioned the minority partner listed. Could not find any diversity on the firms website.

(A4) Contract Extension with SAFEbuilt for Supplemental Inspection and Plan Review Services

Kelly questions whether it wouldn't be better to have city staff do this work. Says in some cases people claimed things were "replacements" but they were actually new — but SAFEbuilt didn't catch it because they're working remotely. Staff explained they could not find qualified people and it would be more expensive.

III ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

FOR ACTION

(A8) Resolution 20-R-22, Authorizing the City Clerk to Sign an Illinois Department of Transportation Resolution for Improvement Under the Illinois Highway Code for patching Various Evanston Streets

FOR DISCUSSION

D1. Discussion on Resuming Water Shut-Offs As A Result of Non Payment

Staff is recommending resuming water shut-offs. Presentation given on all the ways a customer can get help with their water bills. Numbers given on number of overdue bills. Most single family, some business and some apartments. Council members seemed very reluctant to resume. Staff says when customers told water will be turned off many pay their bills. Reid suggests a lien on their home. Stoneback says doesn't want to shut off water — but has struggled to have good communication with people who aren't paying. Have reached out in numerous ways to get people to apply for the low income rate program. Not getting cooperation from CEDA, which administers the emergency water payment program. Will bring back to committee in late March with information about other cities and other ideas.