

OBSERVER REPORT, CITY COUNCIL, APRIL 24, 2023

Observer. Betty Hayford

Council Members present. Eight. Geracaris absent (family birthday celebration)

Meeting started. 8:40 pm

Meeting ended. 10:20 pm

Public announcements. The Mayor opened the meeting by expressing condolences on the recent killing at the lakefront. He expressed determination to take action to support youth, restrict guns and to keep people safe.

He announced that April 30 is Evanston is Family Strong Day. He praised the work of Dr. Marjory Fujara, an advocate for gun safety and family support. He announced April 28 will be Arbor Day, and May 7 to 13 is Evanston Public Service Recognition Week.

The City Manager announced that Evanston has been named a Bird City of Illinois by the Audubon Council of Illinois. A Representative from the Council outlined the strong position of Evanston in supporting bird populations.

Public comment. 5 people, including 4 ETHS students spoke emotionally about the need to restrict guns. 1 opposed Cannabis lounges; 1 asked for responsible budgeting; and Tina Paden complained about harassment of her family.

Special Orders of Business. (SP1). Climate Action and Resilience Plan Implementation Update. Cara Pratt provided an extensive, but concise, report on recent and planned implementation of the CARP plan, starting with the hire of two new staff who will strengthen outreach to businesses and residents. They have applied and are applying for several grants to support efforts. They are preparing legislation related to shopping bags, tree protection, phasing out of natural gas and cleaner building codes. She outlined a number of efforts being prepared, including solar panels on Robert Crown, one-stop shopping for building retrofits, integrating CARP into the new Comprehensive Plan, engaging the community, business micro-grants, strategic plan for parks and green space, and moving towards zero waste. Several council members made positive comments. It was moved and seconded to accept the report and put it on file. The motion passed 8-0.

(SP2) Pedestrian Crosswalk treatment recommendations. Edgar Cano, Director of Facilities, provided a report on new crosswalk protections outside of lights and four way stops. Some, like signage, are not expensive; others like curb extensions and raised crosswalks are more expensive. They plan to review possible options and gradually install more crosswalk treatments. The goal is to balance safety and cost. Several council members thanked him for this effort. It was moved and seconded to accept and place on file; the motion passed 8-0.

Consent agenda. Items were removed from the consent agenda. A2 and A3 were amended in committee. P4 was voted down in committee. This related to Cannabis Lounges. HS1 was linked to this issue and therefore is also off the agenda. A8, P3, and FB1 are off the consent agenda.

The consent agenda was moved and seconded. It passed 8-0.

A2. Approval of ARPA Allocation for Arrington Lagoon Patio Furniture and Lighting. The original measure allocated \$61,000 for the project. The committee reduced the amount to \$54,063. The motion as amended passed 8-0.

A3. Approval of Fee Structure for use of Public Space for Outdoor Dining. This was amended in committee so the use of public space would require a permit but no fee. The motion as amended passed 8-0.

A8. Approval of Change Order for the Evanston Shoreline Repairs. This allows additional time and funds primarily for ADA access at the dog beach. Lara Biggs, City Engineer reviewed the project and the planning. Council Member Kelly said the planning was not adequate and more consultation with the community was needed. She wanted to hold the measure to have time to revise it. She moved to table the measure for 4 weeks for more community input. The motion failed for lack of a second. The motion passed 7-1. Kelly voted no.

P3. Ordinance to eliminate the Design and Project Review (DAPR) Committee. Suffredin moved to suspend the rules to allow Introduction and Action. The motion to suspend the rules passed 8-0. The motion for Introduction and Action passed 8-0.

FB1. Authorizing the City Manager to Reduce the FY2022 Budget by \$34,438,897 to a new total of \$325,994,623. This is required by State law. It doesn't change any spending but only modifies the budget document to reflect actual overspending and underspending in different categories. Council Member Kelly pointed out that this approach to the state regulation is different than the one used in the past and she felt the process was not transparent. She questioned some of the figures in the packet. CFO Hitash Desai agreed that this is a new approach and asserted it is more transparent than the previous approach. The current presentation reflects both underspending and overspending. Kelly asked for more information and moved to hold. The motion to hold failed for lack of a second. The vote to Introduce the measure passed 7-1, Kelly voting no.

Call of the wards. Several meetings were announced, including a special meeting at the former King Home on Oak Avenue to get resident input into the proposal to establish an extended stay hotel on that site.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 to Executive Session to consider issues of purchase of property, litigation and personnel.