

**Observer:** Betty Hayford

**Aldermen present:** All

**Meeting started:** 6:20 pm

**Meeting ended:** 11:00 pm

Meeting held via Zoom. Alderman Wilson moved to suspend the Rules to allow a virtual meeting. The motion passed.

**Announcements.** Mayor Hagerty opened the meeting by expressing regret for the three homicides during the week. He went on to say that people are observing health precautions and Covid cases are low. He turned the meeting over to Alderman Rue Simmons whose ward was the site of two of the killings. She expressed condolences to the families and friends of the killed and described the stress in the community. We need to reduce gun violence and create a sense of safety. Alderman Rainey expressed concern for the gunfire and violence in her ward. Chief Cook asked for community cooperation in solving the crimes and reducing violence. Audrey Thompson, Youth and Young Adult Services Director, described the efforts her Division is making to reduce violence and eliminate the sources of this violence. The Mayor then expressed concern about crowding at the beach and announced that new beach guidelines were being developed.

The City Clerk started to announce a new policy on releasing City documents which he has developed because he is the “sole custodian of all City records and documents.” The Mayor interrupted him and said he needed to consult the City Attorney before developing a new policy. The Clerk said he had the authority. A sharp exchange took place.

**Public comment.** 10 comments, followed by comments by Clerk Reid and his attorney. 6 supported defunding the Police. 2 supported a zoning change allowing the American Legion to sell liquor to non-members. Others supported affordable housing and community safety. The Clerk’s lawyer described his experience litigating for government transparency and commended the Clerk’s new policy. The Clerk said he is the custodian of all City documents and following the death of George Floyd he is creating a policy of transparency and will post all records of complaints against police. He threatened litigation and predicted the City would lose in court.

**Special Orders of Business. (SP1) Approval of ESG-CV Funding of \$445,000 for Rapid Rehousing, Homeless Prevention, and Case Management.** Fleming opposed the motion because she preferred the funds go to the City Health and Human Services Agency. Rue Simmons supported the motion. Most of the money will go to Connections for the Homeless which has done excellent work and is a good partner for City staff. Sarah Flax explained that most of the money going to Connections is a pass-through and goes to land lords and direct housing needs. Connections also gets money from the State for case management services. The motion passed 8-1, Fleming voting no.

**(SP2) 2019 Evanston Police Department Report.** Chief Cook and the Deputy Chief gave a power point presentation outlining police activity through 2019. Several Aldermen said the Report was useful but they asked for more detailed information. The Chief said the Report has been developed over several months and is time consuming. The Report has not been shaped by the conversation since the George Floyd killing. Rue Simmons asked about services for those leaving jail, and Rainey asked how many

Evanstonians are in jail. Alderman Revelle asked how many 911 calls are not police duties and whether other cities could provide models for reducing police work responding to 911. Extensive discussion followed, including requests for more dis-aggregation of 911 calls and how other services could be used. In response. It was agreed to ask Human Services to initiate discussion on how to follow up on these questions at the August 3 meeting. It was moved and seconded to accept the Report and place on file. The motion passed 9-0.

**(SP3) Update on Police Budget.** Police staff presented a summary of YTD expenditures for police and pointed out that 94% of expenditures are for personnel, including pensions. Staff pointed out that policing is a 24 hour operation, unlike any other city function (except fire). It was agreed to accept the Report and place on file.

**(SP4) EPD Update.** This Report described activities related to the Alternative to Arrest subcommittee, the Police Complaint Process, and the Mayor's weekly discussions on policing.

**(SP5) Update on EPD School Resource Officers.** The Mayor pointed out that the school districts make the decision whether or not to use School Resource Officers. Alderman Wilson pointed out that if schools wanted School Resource Officers there should be a discussion on cost sharing. Other Aldermen agreed.

**Consent agenda.** The Mayor asked Aldermen to remove items from the consent agenda they wanted to discuss. After removing six items, the consent agenda passed 9-0.

(A1) . Alderman Wilson moved to remove 4 bills from the Bills to be paid. These were payments for staff/consultant in the Clerk's Office. Wilson pointed out that the Clerk had requested to hire a part-time staff and HR replied that a hiring freeze was in place and he could not hire. The Clerk went ahead and hired the individual as a consultant. No one questioned the work of the individual, but argued that the appointment was not approved. The Clerk asserted he had the right to hire an assistant. After some discussion Alderman agreed that the individual should be paid and Wilson withdrew his motion. The Bills payment passed 8-1, Suffredin voting no.

(A9) Approval of Extending the Moratorium on water shut-offs until April 2021, and on late fees until September 1, 2020. (This had been amended in committee from the initial late fee moratorium until August 1, 2020.) The motion passed 9-0.

(A11) Approval of Change Order No 2 for the Robert Crown Center, increasing the charges by \$400,000. The addition costs will be covered by a donation from the Friends of Robert Crown. The motion passed 8-1, Rue Simmons voted no.

(A14) Extending the State of Emergency until August 10, 2020. Fleming asked why the City needs this authority. The Mayor explained it provide the City flexibility that might be needed. The motion passed 8-1, Suffredin voted no.

(A21) Authorizing 2020 General Obligation Bond Issues up to \$34 million for capital improvements. The motion passed 8-1, Suffredin voting no.

(A22) Amending the City Code to Permit Service of Alcohol to American Legion non-members in their building adjacent to Canal Shores Golf Course. Alderman Fiske moved to defer to a later meeting so she could meet with her constituents. Alderman Rainey moved to override the deferral. The amendment

has already been deferred, and the Legion needs to move forward for the summer activity. Fiske pointed out this would be a new development to allow the sale of liquor on public land. It was pointed out that liquor is being sold in the park on the corner of Lake and Sherman. The vote to override the deferral passed 7-2, Fiske and Wynne voting no. The vote on the motion passed 8-1, Fiske voting no.

The Clerk raised an objection to (R1) providing for nominating petitions for the Office of Mayor, saying it violated the Referendum ordinance. The City Attorney pointed out that the measure had passed on the Consent Agenda, and the Rules Committee believed it was the best way to clarify previous ambiguity and comply with State Law.

**Call of the Wards.** During the Call of the Wards several Aldermen spoke about gun violence and the need for a secure community.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 pm.