

**Observer:** Mary Gavin

There was a full contingent at the meeting. Council members Kelly, Wynne and Nieuwsma and, it looked like, only public member Dzeikan attended in person. It took a few minutes to get Google Meet set up, so the meeting did not start until about 6:10.

It was CM Nieuwsma's first time as chair. Even with only two items for action and one for consideration, the meeting took an hour and a half— two-thirds of it taken up with the request by the Rebuilding Exchange.

The Rebuilding Exchange, which began more than a decade ago as the Rebuilding Warehouse then "acquired/merged with" the Chicago group, asked for \$2 million of ARPA funds allocated to "negative economic impacts." The organization wants to purchase the building at 626 Hartrey as well as keep its current place. Public commenters and most EDC members support the organization but felt \$2 million was too much. CM Reid thought the City should buy the building then lease it to the RE then sell it to them at a "lower cost." CM Harris and others did not think the city should be landlords. The agreed-on amount to recommend to City Council was \$1.2 million.

If Council agrees to this amount, \$4.7 million would remain in the ARPA fund for "negative economic impact."

Soul & Smoke, 1602 Payne St., would like to expand its facilities inside and outside and asked for \$650,000 in TIF funds. Since the restaurant is in the Five-Fifths TIF and there is not a lot of money there now, the city would make distributions on a reimbursement basis. This passed unanimously.

CM Reid talked briefly about his proposal for a Special Service Area for both the Evanston and Chicago sides of Howard Street. There was no discussion on the issue.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:30.