

Observer: Kristine Lofquist

Aldermen present: All.

Meeting started: 5:45 pm

Meeting ended: 8:25 pm

Alderman Wilson moved to suspend the rules to allow having a virtual meeting following emergency guidelines from Governor Pritzker because of the pandemic. The motion was seconded and passed 8-0.

Announcements. Mayor Hagerty welcomed Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle to the meeting. He thanked Cook County for the \$432,000 contribution from its Coronavirus relief fund. He also thanked Cook County for the FEMA funds that were used to assist in housing Evanston's homeless population during the pandemic and thanked the developer of the newly-approved low and middle income housing development at Sherman and Emerson. Mayor Hagerty then introduced. President Preckwinkle, who reported that the county has a balanced budget this year with no need to increase property taxes. She also reported that the county has budgeted for a \$100 million equity fund that is available to address issues such as public transit, public health, and criminal justice reform. President Preckwinkle thanked the Council, Mayor and City employees for their hard work in approving the first mixed-income senior living facility in Cook County.

Mayor Hagerty updated the Council on the status of COVID-19 vaccines. He reported that vaccines are now being offered to those individuals over 74 and the City plans to have more vaccines by early March. He also reported that the City is awaiting passage of coronavirus relief at the federal level. Finally, he reported that District 65 schools will be open to a limited number of students on an in-person basis beginning by March 12, 2021.

The City Manager reported on the Winter Games, which will be held throughout February in order to allow residents to get outside and explore a variety of winter activities, promotions and challenges in Evanston.

The City Clerk updated the Council on the primary elections. He noted that voting for the primary election on February 23 had begun. He reviewed the early voting hours at the Civic Center and encouraged voters who want mail-in ballots to apply for them as soon as possible.

Public comment. Twenty comments. Several people spoke about the possible TIF district at the current Civic Center, stating concerns regarding a lack of community input and separation of church and state. Several spoke on budget issues, others expressed concern regarding parking restrictions, snow removal, and the lack of affordable housing. Several expressed their opposition to removing the penalty for failure to used women and minority contractors on the general contractor for the Crown Center project. A number expressed concern regarding a racist comment made to one of the 8th ward candidates by the current 8th Ward alderman at a recent election forum, with some requesting a vote of censure. Several encouraged the renaming of a portion of Church Street as Dino Robinson Way.

Special orders of business. (H2) Resolution Designating the Portion of Church Street between Hartrey Avenue and Grey Avenue with the Honorary Street Name Sign, "Morris "Dino" Robinson, Jr. Way".

The Resolution designates the portion of Hartrey Avenue and Grey Avenue with the Honorary Street Name Sign, "Morris "Dino" Robinson, Jr. Way" at a cost of \$200 for three signs. A Motion was made and

seconded to approve the Resolution. The Motion passed 9-0. The Mayor introduced Dino Robinson and thanked him for his contribution to the City, including establishment of the Shorefront Legacy Center, the North Shore's only community archive for Black history in our community.

(SB1) Clearwell 9 Replacement Project Status Update. A Motion was made and seconded to recommend the Clearwell 9 Replacement Project Status Update. The Motion passed 9-0. The City Manager and Public Works staff reviewed the highlights of the project and reported that the Clearwell and pump are in service. Mayor Hagerty thanked the team for the nine-year project to keep the City's water safe and clean. He also thanked Northwestern for their partnership.

[SB2]. Lead Service Line Replacement Plan to be Used in Conjunction with the 2021 Water Main Replacement Project. A Motion was made and seconded to discuss the Lead Service Line Replacement Plan to be used in conjunction with the 2021 Water Main Replacement Project. Motion passed 9-0. David Stoneback, the Public Works Agency Director, presented an analysis of the program to remove lead piping on both the public and private portions of the water service line during water main construction. He noted that the Council had adopted an ordinance in 2017 to incentivize the replacement of the property owner's portion of the water service line by offering an interest free loan.; however, he reported that only about 7% of property owners had taken advantage of the loan program. Mr. Stonebeck presented several potential incentives to encourage more property owners to take advantage of the program, including improving the loan program and providing a grant for the entire cost to replace the private portion of the water service if the property owner is determined to be economically disadvantaged. He discussed the funding sources for the loan program and indicated it would be funded by deferring replacement of one of the water mains. Mr. Stonebeck also reported that the City is in the process of determining an affordable water/sewer rate and that a meeting is scheduled on February 19, 2021 for a recommendation.

Consent agenda. Aldermen removed items from the consent agenda: P2, A2, A4 and E1 and to suspend to rules for A13.

(A13) Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate the Sale of City-Owned Real Property at 1805 Church Street, 1708 Darrow Avenue, and 1710 Darrow Avenue. The item was moved and seconded and approved 9-0.

(A2) Approval of BMO Harris Amazon Credit Card Activity. The item was moved and seconded and passed 8-0-1, Alderman Suffredin abstained.

(A4) Approval of a Contract Renewal Award with Cleanslate Chicago, LLC, for Park Mowing Services and Authorization of Contract for Ice Refrigeration Maintenance Services at Robert Crown Ice Rink. Alderman Braithwaite expressed concern that the mowing contract was awarded to a Chicago-owned business when there are plenty of businesses in Evanston capable of doing the same work. The item was moved and seconded and approved 9-0.

(P2) Ordinance 5-O-21, Granting a Special Use Permit for a Planned Development located at 718-732 Main Street in the B2 Business District and oDM Dempster-Main Overlay District. Alderman Wilson indicated he had discussed the community input with the developer and they had addressed the concerns. He stated that the developer agreed to pay \$1,000 a year for a period of five years for tree works within 0.25 mile-radius of the property, and recommended that the special use permit be amended to include the developer payment for tree works. A Motion was moved and seconded and

approved 9-0 to amend the item to include payment for tree works Alderman Fleming expressed concern regarding the lack of affordable two-bedroom housing in the city for families and single parents and stated because of this concern she would vote against the special use permit. The item was moved and seconded and passed 8-1, Alderman Fleming voting no.

(E1) Resolution 19-R-21, Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute a Consulting Contract with Kane McKenna and Associates, Inc. to Study the Creation of a New TIF District. The Council members discussed the proposed development and concerns regarding lack of public comment and use as a gentrification tool, with several indicating they plan to support it. Clerk Reid noted that the City financial reports did not list TIF expenditures prior to 2017 and the City Economic Developer stated he would review this issue. The City Manager noted that the project is in the discussion stage and the resolution is for a study only at this point. The item was moved and seconded and passed 9-0.

Call of the wards. Several aldermen thanked the City snow removal staff for their work during the recent storms. In addition, they thanked Mr. Igbo of the Health and Human Services Department for his work in rolling out COVID vaccines. Several aldermen indicated Mr. Igbo will be attending upcoming ward meetings to discuss the vaccine process.

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:25 pm.