

Observer: Betty Hayford

Council Members present: All. Mayor Biss absent. Eleanor Revelle Mayor Pro-Tem.

Meeting began: 7:35 pm.

Meeting ended: 10:20 pm.

Announcements. Acting Mayor Revelle proclaimed October as National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Month.

Public comment. 15 comments. 4 opposed, 3 in favor of Vacation Rental license for 2545 Lawndale Avenue. 2 in favor, 1 opposed to Amended Fair Housing Ordinance. 1 supporting more affordable housing; 1 opposing housing development at 1900 Sherman; 1 criticizing the Parking Study; 1 asking to rebid the proposal for a raw water intake; 1 concerned about cracks in concrete at Robert Crown Center.

Special orders of business. (SP1) Presentation from Trilogy about their First-Response Alternative Crisis Team (FACT) A Trilogy spokesman reported on the work of Trilogy since January providing an alternate response to mental health crises in Evanston. The program has operated 24/7 since August. Trilogy meets with the Alternate Response subcommittee every month. They have an effective partnership with Evanston Police Department. They radio the police if necessary. The presentation did not mention the number or outcome of people served, but the presenter said numbers are in the report being submitted for the third quarter.

Cecily Fleming, Chair of the Alternative Emergency Response subcommittee, added more information. She said Trilogy can be reached at its own phone number or through the national 988 number. It is paid by the state, and works in several municipalities. It reports to the state and to Evanston. It is a crisis response program and the community needs to understand their role.

Council Member Burns added that the program is excellent, but there are additional needs. The Trilogy quarterly report has more data about the service. There was some discussion about how calls are routed to Trilogy.

A city staff member provided information about the proposed Living Room program as a site for people in crisis. A design for renovating the house provided by St. Francis is being developed. The building is rudimentary, and the anticipated cost of the renovation has been increased to \$600,000. So far the city has committed \$250,000. CM Revelle pointed out that several organizations, including Peer Services and the Moran Center, will be providing services there.

(SP2) 2022 Parking Study Final Report. There was a presentation from WGI who did the study. The study was launched in 2019, but was delayed by Covid which distorted traffic patterns and downtown activity. The purpose was to review current conditions and compare Evanston with comparative cities, mostly cities with universities. Later, CM Revelle said Wilmette should have been a comparison because of its proximity to Evanston. The study made a number of observations and recommendations. It said that hourly parking rates could be increased and rates could be adjusted for demand in different areas and at different times. The day garage rate could be increased and parking fines could be raised. The number of tickets issued is higher than in comparative cities. It concluded that Northwestern home football and basketball games did not create traffic or parking problems. (This was challenged by some council members.)

Council Member Reid encouraged raising parking fees as a way to increase revenue to support important services. He also expressed concern about equity related to off-street parking permits in denser or less dense neighborhoods. Nieuwsma said he is not willing to raise parking fees downtown as long as the downtown businesses are still suffering from Covid slowdowns.

City Manager Stowe said that staff would not respond to the parking study until the new year and the review of the business district study currently underway. The proposed budget would not include an increase in parking fees.

An oral vote agreed to accept the study and place it on file.

(SP3) Approving a Plat of Subdivision for 1224 Washington Street. There was some discussion about proposed curb cuts. The Plat of Subdivision was approved 9-0.

Consent agenda. It was agreed to remove A1, A8, P1, P2, H1, R1, R2 from the consent agenda. Items A12 and P4 failed or were tabled in committee.

The consent agenda passed 9-0.

A1. Approval of Payroll and Bills was amended in committee to provide a payment of up to \$2100 to pay an employee in the Clerk's Office in 2020. Wynne said she would vote no because this amendment contradicted two votes by the prior City Council to deny this payment because the hire had not been approved by Human Resources. Suffredin suggested the amendment might violate the Open Meetings Act related to payments. Counsel Cummings said the amendment was not appropriate because it was a reconsideration of a prior Council vote and it might violate the Open Meetings Act. Reid said it did not violate the Open Meetings Act. Burns defended Reid. He said the employee did the work and deserved to be paid. The opposition to paying the employee stemmed from opposition to Reid.

The motion passed with 4 ayes, 3 noes and 2 abstentions. Suffredin, Wynne and Revelle voted no. Nieuwsma and Harris abstained (Nieuwsma because his wife works for a company being paid by the city). Burns, Geracaris, Reid and Kelly voted yes.

A8. Approval of contract for investigation related to Robert Crown Floor Slab Cracking. The original proposal for a contract of \$46,400 was amended in committee to provide a contract of \$12,800. Nieuwsma objected to the reduced payment because the floor needed attention. The motion passed 7-2, Nieuwsma and Wynne voted no.

P1. Approval of a Vacation Rental License for 2545 Lawndale. Suffredin urged a no vote because many neighbors objected. Cummings explained that the motion should include a reference to the findings of suitability of the request. Nieuwsma amended the motion to refer to the suitability. The amendment passed. Burns pointed out that the neighbors were objecting, but there were no specific problems that a vacation rental actually presented. If violations occurred, the license could be revoked.

The motion passed 5-4. Suffredin, Reid, Kelly, Harris voted no.

P2. Extending the time to obtain a building permit for the proposed Planned Developments at 1012 Chicago Avenue, 1900 Sherman Avenue and 605 Davis Street. It was moved and seconded to suspend the rules for Introduction and Action. The motion to suspend passed unanimously. The motion for introduction and action passed 9-0.

H1. Amending the City Code “Fair Housing Ordinance” to include Protections for Persons with Covered Criminal History and Status as Victims of Domestic Violence. This amendment brings the city into compliance with Cook County Fair Housing codes. The proposal had been amended in committee to include enforcement. The motion passed 9-0.

R1 and R2 Amended City Council Rules relating to the Referral Committee requiring two co-sponsors in some cases. Council Member Reid moved to hold until the next meeting of the Rules Committee. Burns seconded. The motion to hold took effect.

Call of the wards. Various meetings announced.

The Council adjourned to Executive Session at 10:20.