

Observer: Betty Hayford

Council Members present: All

Meeting reconvened: 7:35 pm

Meeting ended: 9:30 pm

Call to order. Mayor Hagerty called the meeting to order. He handed the gavel to Mayor Biss. Judge Lionel Jean-Baptiste administered the oath of office to Mayor Biss. Mayor Biss called on the Clerk and Alderpeople to recite the oath of office together. Judge Jean-Baptiste administered the oath of office jointly. Paster Monte Dillard offered an Invocation, an Acknowledgement, a Celebration, a Transition.

Call of the wards. Mayor Biss presided over a Call of the Wards. Ward 1-7 Alderpeople made comments, most brief thanking supporters and pledging service. Some comments from new Alderpeople were longer.

Aldersperson Reid (8th Ward) made extensive comments pledging to work with colleagues and staff. Then he proposed a Special Order of Business for the next meeting to open beaches to all residents by providing free beach tokens. He proposed to use surplus funds from the 2020 budget and end the racist policy centered on beach tokens. Aldersperson Braithwaite suggested the proposal be referred to committee to discuss and ask city staff to provide relevant data, including the fiscal impact of the change. The issue needs discussion. Reid said he knew that beach tokens raise \$600,000. City Attorney Cummings said the motion was out of order because it was not on the agenda. Call of the Wards can make a referral but can not conduct business. After some discussion of parliamentary procedure, it was put to a vote to put free beach access for all Evanstonians on the agenda for the May 24 meeting. The motion passed 9-0.

Reid then asked City staff to draw up an ordinance to provide Hazard Pay for essential workers, particularly in food stores, on the May 24 agenda. Aldersperson Burns seconded the motion. Aldersperson Wynne pointed out that there is an existing process for putting ordinances on the agenda starting with discussion in committee. A proposal for hazard pay is an important and complex issue which requires investigation and consultation with constituents, including local business. Reid said he would invite union leaders, businesses and academic experts to the meeting. Braithwaite said he supported the cause but time was needed to have discussion with the business community. Being transparent requires broad discussion and the proposal should start with a referral to committee. Nieuwsma agreed that this is a valuable concept but broader consultation was needed. Reid said his ordinance was drafted to affect large national companies (such as Target) that had made large profits during the pandemic. Burns asserted that the proposal is time sensitive and should be a Special Order of Business. The motion to present the proposal as a Special Order of Business on May 24 passed, 5-4, with Braithwaite, Wynne, Revelle and Nieuwsma voting no.

Aldersperson Fleming asked to refer to the Rules Committee a review of the City Code allowing the Mayor, rather than the City Clerk, appointment of the Deputy Clerk.

Mayor Biss concluded by promising to listen carefully to all, not just his supporters and not just voters. He announced that he has appointed a committee to Reimagine Public Safety.

It was moved, seconded and agreed to adjourn at 9:30 pm.