

Observer: Kristine Lofquist

Council Members present: Kelly, Wynne, Nieuwsma, Braithwaite, Burns, Suffredin, Revelle, Reid and Fleming

Meeting started: 5:42 pm

Meeting ended: 7:50 pm

Mayor Biss called the meeting to order at 7:13 pm. Deputy Clerk Gomez took the roll call and noted there was a quorum.

Announcements

Mayor Biss introduced Interim City Clerk Kelley Gandurski. He then made a proclamation that October 2021 would be National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and recognized National Coming Out Day and Indigenous Peoples Day.

City Manager Report – Ms. Gandurski introduced herself and thanked staff and council for assisting in the transition process.

City Clerk Report – Mr. Gomez noted vital records will be available October 18, 2021.

Public comment. There were seven comments via Zoom highlighting the work the Evanston Cradle and Career initiative has done in the community and asking that the organization continue receiving funding, three comments objecting to the new water plan, one comment requesting assistance for small business minority landlords, one comment for to request ARP money be allocated to help businesses in the 5th ward, one comment rejecting the TIF, one comment regarding the land commission being formed without public comment, a comment from Mr. Sutton about water by his home, and one thank you for the apology to the lakefront staff from Council.

Consent Agenda. A Motion was made and seconded to remove items A1, A2, A6, A11, A13 and P2 from the consent agenda. The Motion passed 8-0, Councilperson Nieuwsma abstained.

A1 – A Motion was made and seconded to approve the City of Evanston payrolls and bills lists. The motion passed 9-0.

A2 – A Motion was made and seconded to table approving the payment to Evanston Cradle to Career until November 22, 2021, in order for the council to get more information from City staff and Cradle to Career regarding the program outcomes. The Motion passed 6-3.

A6 – A Motion was made and seconded to sign the first amendment to the service agreement for crossing guards. In response to a question from Councilperson Fleming regarding absences, it was noted that the crossing guard are older retirees, some of whom have resigned due to COVID concerns. Ms. Fleming asked that the City parking manager contact District 65 to let them know what to do when crossing guards do not show up for work. The Motion passed 9-0.

A11 – A Motion was made and seconded for introduction to make the lakefront parking pilot program year-long. Discussion followed. Councilperson Kelly noted complaints from residents and asked for a cost/benefit analysis or five-year projection of revenue and expenses. The City parking manager noted that the pilot program made \$81,000, with less than 10 complaints and stated that he will come back to the Committee with revenue projections. Councilperson Reid suggested expanding the paid parking to Evanston residents to offset the free

beaches. Councilperson Revelle stated the lakefront is a regional asset and noted concern regarding parking at Lighthouse Beach for Artist Book House employees who are not city residents. It was noted that the parking lot is not included in the lease with Artist Book. The Motion for Introduction Passed 6-3.

A13 – A Motion was made and seconded to suspend the rules and allow for introduction and action on an amendment to the Civil Service Commission Rules to allow the Fire Department to hire new firefighters more easily in order to stop incurring overtime. It was noted there were currently three vacancies. The Motion to introduce passed 9-0. Discussion followed with Councilmembers Burns and Reid noting concern regarding passing over Evanston residents for positions and wishing there could be further discussion. A Motion was then made and seconded to take action to suspend the rules. Mayor Biss thanked fire chief and expressed interest in further discussion on hiring practices at a later date. The Motion passed 8-1.

P2 – A Motion was made and seconded to approve and take action on a special use permit for construction of a multi-unit housing development at 1012 Chicago. In response to a question from Councilperson Fleming regarding more two bedrooms for families, Councilperson Wynne stated there was more of a balanced mix of affordable units than in the past, and that the building will not be a luxury building and will include live/work units and stayed below height limit. The Motion to passed 9-0.

Call of the wards.

Councilperson Suffredin stated he would like to consider a way for the City to find an appropriate way to acknowledge the fact that the City was named after an individual involved in the massacre of native people.

Councilperson Revelle had no report.

Councilperson Reid echoed Councilperson Suffredin’s comments and noted the next Ward meeting will be October 28.

Councilperson Fleming offered condolences to the family of Mary Ann Flynn and noted there would be a Ward meeting on October 16.

Councilperson Kelly had no report.

Councilperson Braithwaite stated there would be a Ward meeting October 14 and noted concern regarding aggressive panhandling issues near downtown. He stated he had met with Councilpersons Nieuwsma and Wynne and discussed better accountability from social agencies and support from police officers with the understanding that everyone needs to be safe.

Councilperson Wynne had no report.

Councilperson Nieuwsma also spoke about the aggressive panhandling, noting there had been several meetings, and that the appropriate City and state officials are aware of the issue and will work to correct it going forward. He also noted that the next Ward meeting would be November 12.

Councilperson Burns stated the next Ward meeting will be October 28.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.