

Observer Report

Rules Committee

Date: October 5, 2020

Observer: Sue Calder

Aldermen Present/Absent: Rue-Simmons chaired. Fiske was absent.

Staff Present: Richardson, Flax and an attorney

Meeting began: 5 pm

Meeting ended: 6:58 pm

Public Comment: Mike DeSilko– would object if salary is more than what was proposed. Betty Esther– from the packet reading does not understand the proposal for funding for CDBG and Mental Health. The chair said that would be more evident with the explanation.

Minutes: Wilson moved to hold since they were 8-9 pages long rather than in the usual summary form. Richardson said she was developing a template for minutes so there would be consistency. Council wanted to see the template. On vote, all in favor of holding except Suffredin.

Calendar for next calendar year: Concern that the calendar would be used by the new Council but Rainey said they could always amend it. Motion passed.

Compensation Report: Rainey wants all to get the same amount: salary plus the dollars used for family insurance. There was a general agreement on this, which would bring the total compensation to about \$37,000. Would all the money be taxed, even though some could be used for insurance? Insurance rates frequently rise; what would happen then? Question was raised whether they should deal with the mayor's and clerk's compensations; no decision. There was some question why the mayor should have a higher salary; Haggerty responded that the mayor goes to most other events while only some aldermen do and has other responsibilities with a wider community. Richardson said Mayor is also Liquor Commissioner. Why does Evanston have a compensation committee? Rue Simmons said this should be looked at in an equity lens. Suffredin stated there were legal and public policy issues involved and moved that the issue come back to a special Rules Committee on 10/19 at 5 pm. Motion passed.

Restructure of CDBG and Mental Health Funds: Flax stated that the proposal was in answer to the changes that have occurred since the pandemic and that it would have a provider and customer focus, rather than just provider, particularly for MHB funds. Customer focus might include child care, funding for minority health care providers so they would be able to serve minorities. It would allow for more flexibility and be more collaborative; it will not be the "usual applications" particularly for MHB. Staff from both CDBG and MHB were involved in this development, but there will be ongoing discussions with the boards between now and January.

Dissolution of Transportation and Parking Committee: Passed.

Commission on Aging: Membership will be reduced from 19 to 15, by attrition.

Reparations Committee: Will be a standing committee.

Decorum on face chat platforms: In order to speak, one must have his/her name on the slide, not just a nick name such as “Evanston Blacks,” “Democracy for All”, etc.

Changing Council Member Titles to Gender Neutral: Concern about equity for older women and men. Fleming was happy to run as an Alderman— every one knew she was a woman.