

Observer: Betty Hayford

Council Members present: All. CM Suffredin participated remotely. Minutes and roll were taken by Deputy City Clerk.

Meeting began: 6:10 pm

Meeting ended: 9:30 pm

Announcement. Mayor Biss proclaimed November 28, 2022 Morris “Dino” Robinson Day. He made a brief statement praising Dino’s work founding Shorefront Legacy Center in 1995, his work as Executive Director and his extraordinary contribution to Evanston. Dino was on Zoom and accepted graciously, saying he was speechless. Biss presented the plaque to Dino’s mother who gave a brief speech explaining the important work of Legacy. Then Dino returned to show a video about Legacy and make extended remarks about its development. He introduced Laurice Bell, succeeding him as Executive Director. The discussion lasted about 30 minutes.

The City Manager reported that the City continues to develop a response to the reports of discrimination and said a response would probably be available at the end of the week. He called on Edward Keno to introduce the new Public Services Bureau Chief, who will be overseeing five divisions, including snow and ice clearance.

Public comment. 21 speakers. Most (13) urged Council to fully fund police and fire pensions; in some cases suggesting finding funds would be simple. 3 raised questions about proposals from the Social Services Committee to fund mental health services; 2 praised the work of Shorefront, 1 asked for more public input in budget, 1 concerned about truck traffic, 1 accused Evanston of being anti-Black.

Special orders of business. (SP1) 2023 Budget. Council Member Kelly moved to amend to fully fund the police and fire pensions to reach 100% by 2040. The motion included taking \$4.5 million from end of year surpluses. Nieuwsma supported the motion, and explained that the surpluses this year would enable this additional funding, but in future years comparable surpluses would be unlikely, and raising property taxes would probably be necessary. Council should work early next year to develop a long term funding plan. Suffredin asked how much property tax increase would be needed next year. Desai suggested perhaps 8%, although there is no reliable way to predict. Suffredin expressed concern about property tax increases. The motion to amend passed 8-1, Suffredin voted no. The vote on SP1 for Introduction passed 8-1, Suffredin voted no.

(SP2) – (SP8) proposing various tax levies were moved together. They passed for Introduction 8-1, Suffredin voting no.

(SP9) Amending the City Code related to possession, open carry of alcohol and cannabis. Reid introduced the measure and asked to suspend the rules to allow Introduction and Action. The motion to suspend the rules failed, Revelle voted no. The motion would allow alcohol and cannabis in vehicles. Revelle said she was opposed because the police department was opposed. Chief Stewart and Sergeant Scott Sophier explained their opposition and the need to confirm to state law. The police do not oppose all the proposed changes, but oppose some. Council members expressed some confusion about what the proposed amendment would do. There was extensive discussion between Reid and Sophier about what the change involved. Biss noted the lack of clarity and suggested tabling the measure to get a

clearer understanding of the measure before a vote is taken. Police concern seemed to be with public consumption, not just possession. Stewart said she would like a clearer understanding and Counsel Cummings said he would work with the police and Reid to have a clear proposal by December 12. Wynne moved to table until the December 12 meeting in order to get a clearer understanding. The motion to table passed 9-0.

(SP10) Directing the Chief Financial Officer to transfer \$2 million from the General Fund to the Reparations Fund. Reid explained that these funds would enable the Reparations Committee to fully fund all the Ancestors and make us whole. He acknowledged that using General Funds for racially based Reparations carried a risk of legal action. Revelle pointed out that \$1 million had already been authorized from the property transfer tax for Reparations. This is a sizable amount and may drain the capacity of the administrators. Cummings explained that the risk of litigation is real, and it might be prudent to move slowly. If litigation ensued, it would probably result in an injunction against any reparations payments. Burns moved to table the measure until December 12 and asked Cummings to gather more information about the risk of litigation. The vote to table passed 9-0.

Consent agenda. Items A4, A5, R1, R2, S1 were moved from the consent agenda. The consent agenda passed 9-0.

(A4) Authorizing City Staff to Issue a Memorandum to Evanston Police Department Regarding Delivery Trucks to Evanston Lumber. Nieuwsma explained that large trucks needed to change their route to Evanston Lumber from the current Main/Custer route to Oakton/Custer because of the unmanageable turn at Main and Custer. The proposal does not change the city code, and the Oakton route is currently allowed. The measure authorized the City Manager to send a memo to the police not to ticket trucks on Oakton. There might be 30 trucks a week. Geracaris spoke against the measure, expressing concern about trucks on Oakton and pedestrian safety, particularly school children. Reid urged a no vote on the measure, expressing concern about air pollution in south Evanston. Burns said he would vote no because a vote or a memo was not really necessary. The motion failed to pass, only Nieuwsma and Wynne voting yes.

(A5) Amending City Code to prohibit trucks on certain streets in the 8th Ward making deliveries to a nursery. Reid proposed the motion, and moved to table until the July 24 meeting. He explained that the neighbors were complaining about trucks running motors and blocking driveways. The police had met with the nursery in June but their understaffing prevented follow-up. Tabling the motion would allow time to meet and determine how to reduce the problem. The motion to table passed 9-0.

(R1) and (R2) would amend City Council Rule 9.7 to add a cosponsor mechanism to the referral process. Reid moved to table until December 12 so the Rules Committee could develop a clear process. The motion to table passed 8-1, Revelle voted no.

(S1) Approval of Mental Health Service Providers to Provide Residents Holistic Case Management Services. The Social Services Committee recommended an initial budget of \$150,000 to individual/family counseling and \$200,000 for group counseling services and service agreements with three providers. Public comment speakers had criticized the choice of providers, including a for-profit agency. Sarah Flax provided extensive explanation of the services to be provided and the thorough review of appropriate providers by the Social Services Committee. Some non-profit agencies that had worked in Evanston for years could not provide the necessary services. The recommendations are based on the needs of the clients. Reid moved to refer to the Committee to reconsider its recommendation and report back on

December 12. Revelle asked the purpose of sending it back to Committee which had developed a new approach in order to best meet new needs. Burns suggested that additional providers might be added. Flax pointed out that there were no additional funds and that all agencies receiving funds would be assessed on their performance. The motion to refer back to the committee until December 12 passed 8-0. Suffredin did not vote.

Call of the wards.

Several meetings were announced. Burns announced that at the next meeting he would move to amend the budget to provide funding for Shorefront Legacy. He asked for staff support to assist him in finding funds. Reid expressed his pride in Council's good and cooperative work. People were committed to working together and "getting to yes." Harris reported that she has been meeting with City staff to learn more about their work, and will be having additional meetings. She is impressed with the dedication and hard work from city staff.

Council adjourned into Executive Session at 9:30.