

Observer: Kristine Lofquist

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

Meeting started: 7:27 pm

Meeting ended: 9:34 pm

Mayor Biss called the meeting to order at 7:27 pm. The City Clerk took the roll call and noted there was a quorum.

Announcements

Mayor Biss reminded attendees of the primary elections tomorrow and noted the substantial number of early votes already cast. He also announced a town hall meeting on the status of the City Manager search on July 12 at the Civic Center.

Mayor Biss made a special proclamation that July is Parks and Recreation month. He also honored and congratulated the athletes and medal winners who represented Evanston at the US Special Olympics.

City Clerk Report – It was noted that tomorrow was election day.

Public comment.

- One comment opposed to the City buying the Jackson and Emerson buildings in the 5th Ward, five comments in favor of the purchase and three comments requesting additional information and better communication as well as concern regarding lack of public input on the purchase.
- One comment against changing the noise ordinance.
- One comment in favor of placing ranked choice voting on the ballot and one in favor but wanting to postpone it until all residents in all wards can be educated.
- One comment on loose dogs on the beach.
- One comment opposed to elimination of DAPR and one comment in favor, with the stipulation that the current proposal was insufficient due to lack of public comment.
- One comment inquiring on the status of the City Manager search
- One comment regarding the cost of the Nissan Rogue

Consent Agenda. A Motion was made and seconded to pass the Consent Agenda, after removing items A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, P2, P4, H1, H2, and R1. The Motion passed 9-0.

A6 –A Motion was made and seconded to lease the Nissan Rogue to be used by the Parking Division. The Motion passed 9-0.

A7 – A Motion was made and seconded to approve an agreement with DeliberationWorks (a subgroup of DeltaLab, which is based out of Northwestern University) to design a participatory budgeting process not to exceed \$100,000. The PB process was approved by City Council to engage Evanston residents, particularly historically disenfranchised groups, so that new voices are heard. The process will use grassroots organizing to reach people who usually do not participate in the local government process. The Motion passed 7-0 with two abstentions (Braithwaite and Geracaris).

A8 – A Motion was made and seconded to hire a participatory budgeting staff on a temporary basis using ARPA funds at a cost not to exceed \$200,000. The Motion passed 9-0.

A9- A Motion was made and seconded to approve a contract for the City to purchase the Jackson and Emerson properties for \$1.675 million in order for site control in order keep affordable housing in the community. Discussion followed with Councilmembers Burns and Reid answering some of the questions and concerns raised in the public comments. In response to a question on the source for the demolition, it was noted that TIF dollars would be used. It was also noted that the appraisal was as of June 1, 2022. Councilmember Burns noted that this resolution was for site control only and that no decision had been made on whether it would be rental or ownership property. In response to a question regarding community involvement, he stated that community members had been contacted. Councilmember Wynne commented in favor of the ability of the City to assure that there would be affordable housing in the right size for the community's needs and not determined by developers. The Motion passed 8-1 with Councilmember Kelly voting no.

A10- A Motion was made and seconded to authorize the City to issue a settlement payment in Louden v. City of Evanston. Councilmember Reid noted he was voting in favor but noted his concern that this is a case where the City paid an information for information in order to arrest the plaintiff. The Motion passed 9-0.

P4 – A Motion was made and seconded to table the dissolution of the formal committee structure of the Design and Project Review (“DAPR”) of the City Code until the July 25 meeting in order allow for additional public education on the issue. The Motion passed 9-0.

H1 –A Motion was made and seconded to adopt an ordinance regarding possession of burglar’s tools with the intent to burgle as it was found to be unconstitutional in Chicago and would bring the City Code into alignment with the State Code. Discussion followed. Chief Eddington noted the police department wants the option as to when to apply felony charges and when to apply another alternative resolution. Councilmember Reid clarified that the ordinance was not changing the law regarding actual burglaries. The Motion passed 9-0.

H2 – A Motion was made and seconded to table the ordinance amending portions of the “Noises Prohibited” section of the City code until the August meeting. The Motion passed 9-0.

R1- A Motion was made and seconded to hold the November 8, 2022 ballot referendum allowing voters to use ranked choice voting to elect Mayor, City Clerk and City Councilmembers until the July 11 meeting in order to allow time for additional ward meetings and education. It was noted that no vote was required for a hold.

Call of the wards.

Councilmember Braithwaite thanked the community for their support. He announced his resignation from Council after the July 11, 2022 meeting and stated he will have more written comments later. Many of the other councilmembers expressed their surprise and gratitude. A number of councilmembers announced upcoming Ward meetings and office hours. Councilmember Burns thanked his colleagues for the land acquisition item and thanked others that were part of the team effort. Mayor Biss thanked Councilmember Braithwaite for sharing his experience and helping newer City Council members as well as himself in learning their roles.

A Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session. The Motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:34 pm.