

Observer: Betty Hayford

Aldermen present: Initially Rue Simmons and Braithwaite were absent. Braithwaite came later.

Media present. Evanston Now, Roundtable

Meeting began: 8:45pm

Meeting ended: 11:00pm

Announcements. Mayor Hagerty noted the significance of the commitment of tax revenue to a Reparations Fund. He said Alderman Fleming has stepped down from the committee planning reparations. He will schedule a council discussion in January to consider a replacement from council and/or appointment of a resident.

The City Manager announced a community meeting next Tuesday to discuss regulations related to recreational cannabis. She asked Dave Stonebeck, Public Works Director, to explain current planning for storm water management. Stonebeck said the city has invested strongly in storm water management over the last decade, but climate change is creating new challenges in keeping untreated water out of the lake and any water out of basements. The city will fund a two year study on how to respond to increasingly heavy rain falls.

Public comment. Twenty nine people spoke. Most expressed support for Kevin Brown, asked City staff to reconsider and reinstate him; some threatened litigation. Others urged support for buses and public transportation, opposition to NU liquor license, support for Central Street SSA, need for balanced budget and stable finances.

Special Orders of Business. (SP1) Approval of City Council 2020 Meeting Schedule. Before discussing the item, Fleming made a motion to support the reinstatement of Kevin Brown. Mayor Hagerty said the motion was out of order because it was not on the agenda and personnel action was not the responsibility of Council. Fleming said she knew it was not Council's responsibility, but wanted to make a show of support. The City Attorney said it was not Council's role. Voting on an item not on the agenda might be a violation of the Open Meetings Act. Hagerty said he would not allow a vote. Fleming said she valued public comments and urged Council to support them.

Then it was moved and seconded to approve the 2020 Council schedule. The motion passed 7-0.

(SP2) City of Evanston Workplace Considerations for Cannabis. The attached memorandum outlined workplace considerations for use of cannabis. Fleming said she was concerned about zero tolerance for cannabis use. In contrast, the City did not try to regulate off-duty consumption of alcohol. She agrees that employees should not be impaired while working, but she opposed zero tolerance. Attorney Maisoncup said the City will adjust employee standards but the process is hampered because the State is still modifying regulations. In response to a question from Rainey, Maisoncup said the standards would probably be similar to those for alcohol, and the focus would be on behavior, not just on a drug test.

Consent agenda. Mayor Hagerty asked which items should be removed from consent agenda. Several items were pulled. Hagerty called for a vote without reading each item. The consent agenda passed 8-0 (Braithwaite arrived).

From **Administration and Public Works**, (A2) Approval of BMO Harris Amazon Credit Card Activity. The motion passed 7-0, Suffredin abstaining.

(A6) Approval of Increased Rates in three City owned parking garages. The motion passed 6-2 with Fleming and Suffredin voting no.

(A7) Approval of One-Year Contract to provide two security guards for the Morton Center. The guards will work staggered shifts to provide coverage during business hours and evening meetings. Questions were raised about coverage, training, and whether guards would be armed. The EPD chief said they would be armed and would be trained to work with citizens. The motion passed 7-1, Suffredin voting no.

(A17) To put a referendum on the ballot for non-partisan elections in Evanston. Evanston has long had non-partisan local elections, but apparently a referendum is necessary. Extensive discussion took place, generally not on the specific issue which aldermen seemed to support. There was concern about another election issue, a lack of clarity about filing dates and whether and when primaries are necessary for mayor. Wilson encouraged moving forward on this issue and discussing filing dates at a later meeting. Clerk Reid explained the confusion about filing dates. Eventually Council followed Wilson's suggestion to move forward and voted 7-1 to put a referendum for non-partisan elections on the March ballot. Suffredin voted no. Clerk Reid asked Alderman to call for a special meeting. Fleming moved and Rainey seconded to have a special meeting in December to clarify other election issues. The motion passed. Staff was asked to find a date.

(A25) To Increase the Parking Tax in the Sherman Avenue Garage from \$50 to \$60. The motion passed 6-2, Suffredin and Fleming voting no.

(A26) Adding the 2200 Block of Lincoln Street to the Residents Only District. Suffredin said the situation was unsatisfactory for Metra commuters and the issue needs further study. Fiske agreed that Lincoln Street traffic is heavy and needs better regulation. The motion passed 5-3, Suffredin, Fiske and Rainey voting no.

(A37) Amending City Code to allow the sale of alcoholic beverages at Welsh Ryan arena. Alderman Revelle proposed two amendments. First, she moved to strike the last sentence of Section 4, so athletic events as well as other types of events would cease liquor sales 30 minutes before the end of the event. Wilson pointed out that the time of an athletic event ending is not always known, but Revelle said it could be worked out. The amendment passed 6-2. Revelle then moved that all purchases be limited to 2 drinks per person per sale. The amendment passed 7-1. The vote on the amended motion initially tied 4-4 with Suffredin, Revelle, Fleming and Wynne voting no. The Mayor cast the deciding vote in favor, and the motion passed 5-4.

From **Planning and Development**, a Revision of the Definition of Coach House. Staff requested that the height restriction proposed by the Plan Commission be reconsidered. This change might expand affordable housing opportunities. Revelle said she would be abstaining because of a potential conflict of interest. The motion passed 7-0.

Call of the Wards. Revelle made two referrals. She asked staff to develop guidelines for tail gating. She also asked staff to consider the question of the Chair of the Plan Commission. She suggested the Chair be appointed by the Mayor.

Fiske made a referral to Rules to consider requiring citizen proposals for resolutions be related to items within the jurisdiction of Evanston government. Resolutions on nuclear weapons, for example, were outside the scope of city government and could strain staff time and expertise in generating a response.

Council adjourned to Executive Session at 11:00pm.