

**Observer:** Betty Hayford

**Aldermen present:** Eight. Cecily Fleming absent.

**Media present:** Not sure while watching from home. Evanston Now, Review, Roundtable, NU Daily (?)

**Meeting started :** 7:50pm

**Meeting ended:** 10:20pm

**Announcements.** The Mayor announced that the Blackhawks Foundation has made a gift of \$50,000 to the Robert Crown Center. He also introduced Evanston Owns It, a coalition of Black churches that supports Evanston youth. The organization announced its continuing contributions of \$5000 to the Mayor's summer employment program and \$1000 to the Officers and Gentlemen program.

The City Manager announced that the City will be applying for a Cook County grant for a new expanded animal shelter. The shelter with a modest grant from the city and fund raising and volunteers assists many animals with a small and inadequate building.

**Public comment.** 30 signed up. Most spoke about a proposed resolution to express support for state legislation to allow terminally ill adults to request medical aid in dying. Many spoke in favor emphasizing the need for an option; many opposed, especially from the disability community, expressing concern about coercion. 2 spoke about snow removal, 2 about traffic ticketing around Oakton School, and 1 expressed concern about the proposed compensation committee and the resignations from the ethics committee.

Alderman Wilson stated that the sponsoring organization for the medical aid in dying resolution had asked to withdraw the item from the agenda so the community could have more discussion. He moved to strike it from the agenda on a point of order. The motion passed.

**Special orders of business. (SP1). Application for appeal of the Preservation Commission denial to replace 21 wood windows with vinyl windows at 612 Judson Avenue.** Alderman Wynne moved to accept the appeal and hear it at the next Council meeting on February 24. The motion passed 8-0.

**(SP2) Discussion on Lakefront stabilization.** Laura Biggs, City Engineer, presented information on destruction at the lakefront resulting from high water levels and more intense storms. The rate of damage is increasing. Staff proposes a contract for assessment and recommendations for action. Any reconstruction contracts would have three bidders. She outlined potential costs for reconstruction from the thousands to the hundreds of thousands to the millions of dollars. A declaration of disaster could lead to eligibility for grant funds.

**Consent agenda.** The mayor asked aldermen to consider items to remove from the consent agenda. They suggested several items. Alderman Rainey asked for correction in the minutes of January 27, which was agreed. The consent agenda passed 8-0.

A2, approval of BMO Harris Amazon Credit Card activity was approved 7-0, Suffredin abstaining. Item A5, amending the parking ordinance was held in committee for further discussion. Item A6, amending the parking ordinance, failed in committee. Item A7 amended regulations regulating snow clearance. Aldermen had many concerns. Braithwaite was concerned the proposed fines were too high, although Johanna Leonard pointed out the revisions actually reduced fines. Rainey was concerned that many days would pass before a ticketed property owner would go to court for a possible fine, and the enforcement process was slow. Fiske suggested different regulations for residential or commercial space. Leonard said this would be difficult to distinguish. Hagerty suggested the item be approved for Introduction and revised by staff for later action. The measure passed 8-0.

A9, granting a Class R-1 liquor license to Levy Premium Food Service at Welsh-Ryan Arena, 2705 Ashland passed 5-3, Suffredin, Reville, Wynne voting no.

APP1 approved appointments to the Compensation Committee. (Cheryl Wollin, Rebecca Berneck, Omar Brown, Nehanda Loiseau, Eric Marsh) The Mayor explained that every four years, before municipal elections, the Mayor appoints a committee to propose to Council compensation for the next group of elected officials. He said that this group of individuals has a useful and varied skill set, and the previous chair had recommended an odd number of members. The appointments passed 7-1, Suffredin voting no.

At 10:20, Alderman Wilson proposed going into Executive Session.