

**Present:** Aldermen Suffredin (as mayor pro tem), Braithwaite, Wynne, Rue Simmons, Revelle, Rainey, Fleming

**Absent:** Aldermen Fiske, Wilson, Mayor Hagerty

No mayor announcements.

City Clerk Reid received additional filings so there will be primaries in several wards.

City Manager Stolie asked about a third meeting in January.

**Public comment**

Don Wilson thanked essential health workers and commented that he has COVID.

Three residents urged council to vote no on SP1. Reparations should be cash and those harmed should decide what to do with it.

Misty Witenberg asked Rules Committee and Ethics Committee to examine their own actions and acknowledge that it's not the citizens who always are wrong.

Mike Vasilko asked about Robert Crown field maintenance cost. He also wondered about SP2, that the next council should not be held obligated to what this council decides; and SP3 is still an unnecessary tax increase. He said that the city manager stated in public ward meeting that she would publish memo with a list of potential staff reductions and has not.

Jamie Collier commended council and staff's perseverance in reducing the tax levy, but since the calculation was incorrect they can consider another source of funding – \$600K in fleet maintenance.

**Agenda items**

**SP1 City of Evanston Local Reparations: Restorative Housing Program for discussion.** Assistant manager Kimberly Richardson presented the city's program Restorative Housing Reparations. Funding is coming from cannabis tax. Due to state law she is not able to provide a publicly available revenue number because we have only one dispensary; however, the funding will be adequate to support the program proposed.

Housing is first initiative, with proposed a budget of \$400K. The initiative includes funding for home ownership, home improvement and mortgage assistance. The city could not give funding directly to individual because there is not the ability to not tax the amount, so it might impact other assistance the recipient might be eligible for. The program does waive many city fees. Richardson went through eligibility criteria and said they are working out administrative details.

The discussion first centered on the reparations program priorities. Rue Simmons said that they decided on the remedies with community input. Housing was identified as priority and cash payment was one of the methods discussed. There is high demand and not enough resources. They will have a subcommittee that works on delivery. She acknowledged the public comment that seniors should be prioritized.

Braithwaite said that he is discouraged that people are waiting for the program to fail. He asked for patience from black residents. He then gave a financial institution update: they have met with two financial institutions and hope to have a solid proposal within the next few weeks.

There was discussion about funding from the cannabis tax and the fact that there is only one dispensary. Rainey claimed that the program is constrained by lack of cannabis licenses. Currently they get about \$40K/month from the current dispensary. Suffredin thinks that the city should revisit zoning to be friendlier to dispensaries now that we know the purpose of the cannabis tax. There was discussion of the ability to change zoning and how to get more dispensaries and the right number so that they are successful.

Fleming said that they need remedies for elderly that aren't looking to buy/remodel a home. Wynne thanked the committee for preparing the history and believes that the report should be taught in high school. Rue Simmons agreed and said that they are looking at ways to support HR40 and state of Illinois program.

**SP2 Resolution 129-R-20, Committing to Funding of General Fund Reserves by 2025 For Action.** Motion made to suspend the rules and hold item until the next City Council meeting 7-0

**SP3 Ordinance 126-O-20, Amending Ordinance 112-O-20 Concerning Levying Taxes in the City of Evanston, County of Cook, and State of Illinois, for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2021 and Ending December 31, 2021 for introduction and action.** This ordinance is a correction. Hitesh explained that the city council intended to increase tax property taxes by 1%. He realized that their tax levy calculation was wrong. They need to file the tax levy by the last Tuesday in December. Moved to suspend rules passed 7-0. Item approved 6-1 with Fleming voting no.

**Consent agenda removed A2, A5, A7, A16, R2, H1 and P4.**

**Motion to suspend rules for P4 Ordinance 125-O-20, Special Use for a Convenience Store, "Munchies", at 1235 Dodge Avenue in the C1 Commercial District and A16 Ordinance 123-O-20, Amending the City Code to Establish a 4-Way Stop Control at the Intersections of Grey Avenue & Noyes Street, and Hartrey Avenue and Noyes Street passed 7-0.**

Consent agenda passed 7-0 (includes P4 and A16).

**A2 Approval of BMO Harris Amazon Credit Card Activity** passed 6-0 with Suffredin abstaining.

**A5 Approval of Contract Award with Modernfold for Automated Moveable Partition for Levy Senior Center Linden Room** was removed to that Rainey could explain that the Levy Center Foundation will pay not only for this item but additional items totaling \$300K. Passed 7-0.

P1 Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program Extension Funding passed 6-0-1 with Rue Simmons abstaining.

**A7 Approval of Contract Award with Christy Webber & Company Landscape for Landscape Maintenance at the Robert Crown Community Center (Bid No. 20-47).** Braithwaite wanted to ensure that we make an effort to use a local company. Dave Stonebeck said that the bid went to 24 companies, 5 were Evanston businesses. Some did not respond and some did not want the business. Item passed 7-0.

**R2 Resolution 126-R-20, Amending City Council Rule 6.9 to Include Virtual Platform Meetings.** Fleming believes the issue is how to get back to civility. She hopefully we can think creatively about how to adjust the virtual platform. She would encourage the new mayor to have more public facing meetings. Item passed 6-1 with Fleming voting no.

**H1 Contract Renewal for AMITA/ (Presence) Behavioral Health for Critical Health Services.** Fleming had suggested some changes and nothing was changed. Ike Obo said that minor revisions were made, but the staff uploaded the former version. There was some discussion around urgency of the contract. Motion to extend current contract to Jan 31 2021 passed 7-0.

### **Call of the wards**

Wynne – wished Don Wilson quick recovery and a happy, healthy safe holiday to everyone.

Rue Simmons – no report

Revelle – echoed Wynne.

Rainey – best wishes to the Wilson family. Referred to A&PW and ordinance for fee for fire service for NU.

Fleming – lost power.

Braithwaite – wants to look at models that can be pre approved for ADUs.

Adjourned into executive session at 8:15 pm