

Observer: Kristine Lofquist

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

Meeting started: 7:03 pm

Meeting ended: 10:40 pm

Mayor Biss called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Clerk Mendoza took the roll call and noted there was a quorum.

Announcements

Mayor Biss indicated he had no report and that there were a lot of public comments.

The City Manager introduced the new deputy city attorney, Michelle Ozuruigbo.

The City Clerk acknowledged receipt of comments from several residents.

Public comment. There were thirty-two public comments via Zoom and in person (some on more than one issue). Issues commented on included: (a) concerns regarding the lake front lifeguard staff harassment incidents, (b) concerns regarding issuance of general obligation bonds, (c) concerns regarding lack of public input regarding the Fifth Ward TIF, (d) support for parking at Canal Shores during Northwestern games, (e) support against parking at Canal Shores during Northwestern games, (f) concerns that ARP funding allocations do not reflect community wishes and concerns during the recent meetings, and (g) comments against food carts at the lakefront.

Discussion of ARPA Funding Process. A Motion was made and seconded to discuss the ARPA funding process. The Motion passed 9-0. The City Council and City Staff discussed the ARPA Funding Process. The City Manager reviewed a report prepared based on the recent community meetings, broken down by category and proposed funding amount. Each Council Member discussed allocation of the funds, with some members suggesting the ARP funds not be used for some projects (such as lead pipe replacement) if funding can be found elsewhere. The City Manager agreed that the staff will look into other funding first. Mayor Biss noted that more public input is needed. In response to concerns regarding the citizens that really need assistance not coming forward, it was noted that the Economic Development Committee can use its own more proactive process that does not require citizens to come forward. The City Manager requested the Council’s consent to allow the City staff to proceed with research and recommendations for the economic development and social services pieces of the ARPA funding.

Consent Agenda. A Motion was made and seconded to remove items A1, A8, A9, A10, A12, A13, A14, H1 and R2 from the Consent agenda. The Motion passed 9-0.

A1 – A Motion was made and seconded to approve the City of Evanston Payroll and Bill List. The Motion passed 8-0, with Council Member Nieuwsma abstaining.

A8 – A Motion was made and seconded to authorize the City Manager to enter into a lease amendment with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. The Motion passed 8-1, with Council Member Revelle voting against.

A9 – A Motion was made and seconded to authorize the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the City, Northwestern University and Canal Shores for tailgating and public parking management during Northwestern Wildcat Football home games. The Motion passed 8-1, with Council Member Revelle voting against.

A10 – It was noted that this item would not be voted on as it has been held in the Administration and Public Works Committee.

A12 – A Motion was made and seconded to introduce an ordinance providing for the issuance of not-to-exceed \$18,500,000 General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, Series 2021, of the City of Evanston, to finance capital improvements and refund certain outstanding bonds of the city. Discussion followed and Council Member questioned City Manager Storlie and raised concerns regarding fiscal discipline. Ms. Storlie noted that the ordinance will not increase the City's debt. Council Member Kelly made a Motion to amend the ordinance and move it to the new Finance and Budget Committee. The motion was seconded. Following discussion, the Motion failed on a 4-5 vote. Following further discussion, the underlying Motion to introduce the ordinance was passed on a vote of 7-2.

A13 – It was noted that this item would not be voted on as it has been held in the Public Works Committee.

A14- A Motion was made and seconded to adopt an ordinance allowing a parking pilot program at the rate of \$3 per hour for streets along the lakefront with enforcement between 8am-9pm seven days per week from July 19, 2021, to October 31, 2021. It was noted that a vehicle registered to an Evanston address with a current year paid wheel will not need to pay for lakefront parking sessions. A Motion was made and seconded to amend the original Motion to begin the pilot program August 1, 2021. The Motion to amend the original Motion and begin the pilot program August 1, 2021, passed 7-2. The amended Motion then passed on a vote of 6-3, with Council Members Revelle, Wynne and Nieuwsma voting against.

H1 – A Motion was made and seconded to approve the staff recommendation that the City Council adopt an ordinance amending the City Code to change restrictions on food and drink vendors at City parks and beaches to allow pushcart food operators, and that a maximum of three licensed food carts be allowed in 2021 under the pilot program. The Motion passed on a vote of 6-3, with Council Members Revelle, Wynne and Nieuwsma voting against.

R2 –A Motion was made and seconded to pass a resolution to adopt the changes recommended to the Rules and Organization of City Council by the new Rules Committee, including the changes to the new terminology for councilmembers, as well as several rule changes, and including changes to comply with the Open Meetings Act. The Motion passed on a vote of 5-4.

Call of the wards.

Council Member Reid noted that his ward's next meeting will be held virtually on July 28 and that a newsletter would go out tomorrow. He noted his concern regarding the lakefront staff harassment incidents.

Council Member Fleming had no report.

Council Member Kelly noted she will write up her questions regarding the city budget.

Council Member Braithwaite also indicated his concerns regarding the lakefront staff harassment incidents.

Council Member Wynne expressed her opinion on those raising concerns regarding the lakefront staff harassment issues.

Council Member Nieuwsma thanked the young people who brought the lakefront staff harassment issues forward and noted his ward will have a meeting on August 3 at Crown Center.

Council Member Burns had no report.

Council Member Revelle had no report.

Council Member Suffredin had not report.

A Motion was made to convene an Executive Session. The Motion Passed 9-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 pm.