

**Observer:** Betty Hayford

**Aldermen present:** Eight. Alderman Wynne absent.

**Meeting began:** 7:20pm

**Meeting ended:** 10:00pm

**Announcements.** Mayor Hagerty announced National Hispanic Month, National Senior Center Month, and Nation Emergency Preparedness Month. The Emergency Preparedness Manager, based in the Fire Department, explained efforts to prepare for emergencies. Hagerty provided a Covid update, and said the City was doing well, but precautions were still needed. He reported on the City Manager search, announcing 70 applications had been received. On September 18, GovHR will report to City Council and on September 24 City Council will hold an Executive Session to review applications. Interviews with finalists will be held the week of September 28, and interviews with Council and community members will be held the week of October 5. On October 12 Council will select a new City Manager and announce the choice to the community on October 19.

**Public comment.** 10 comments on a variety of subjects. Several expressed concern about the city budget, about police training and accountability, and environmental justice. Others addressed unease about the proposed eviction moratorium and a special use for cannabis transportation. One expressed appreciation for the designation of Hispanic Heritage Month.

**Special orders of business. (SP1) Discussion of Mayor's Use of Force Pledge.** Hagerty acknowledged assistance from Northwestern in reviewing use of force in EPD (pro bono). In 2018, there were 27 use of force incidents, mostly weaponless, using tasers. The last 10 years had 4 uses of deadly force. Choke holds or strangleholds are not allowed. All police have de-escalation training and officers have duty to intervene if an officer engages in misconduct. Any use of force must be reported. He outlined other protections and suggested the report go to the Human Relations Committee for further review. Chief Cook agreed the report is useful, and a good foundation for further work. The Mayor concluded that good policies are important, then training, then accountability. Several aldermen said the report is a good basis for public discussion, and Alderman Fleming said in addition to restrictions on use of force, the police need to be trained to treat all citizens with respect.

**(SP2) Economic Development Update and Strategy.** Paul Zalmezak and Pauline Martinez provided a report focusing on describing a difficult economic climate for business in Evanston which will not improve soon. The City will need to develop a strategy and intervene to help businesses survive. They believe ecommerce will continue to be strong, and brick and mortar stores need technical help to use technology to continue. The City needs to make downtown an attractive place to visit, maintaining strong building standards, facilitating permit reviews, and requiring visual upgrades for empty storefronts. The City should support workforce development and should study possible sales of city property. It was moved and seconded to accept the report and place on file. The motion passed 8-0.

Before the consent agenda was considered, the Clerk asked Council to reconsider the past decision to withhold payment to an intern who had been hired without permission. No one moved to reconsider.

For the **consent agenda**, several items were removed and aldermen noted that (A16) related to parking spaces for electric vehicles had been removed by the committee. Items A19 to A 23 related to cancelling and adding liquor licenses were approved for suspension of rules for Introduction and Action.

Alderman Fleming proposed the consent agenda which passed 8-0.

Alderman Rue Simmons proposed A2 Approval of BMO Harris Credit Card Activity. The motion passed 7-0 with Alderman Suffredin abstaining.

A12, Creating a Provisional Moratorium on Tenant Eviction Notice was questioned by several aldermen as confusing because of ambiguity about its potential impact in light of related federal and state policies. Aldermen believed landlords as well as tenants needed support. It was moved to table the proposal until the next meeting. The motion passed 6-2, Suffredin and Fleming voted no.

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 10:00pm.