

**Observer:** Betty Hayford

**Aldermen present:** All

**Meeting began:** 5:35pm

**Meeting ended:** 9:35pm

Virtual meeting over Zoom. Wilson moved to suspend the rules to allow a virtual meeting using zoom. The motion passed.

**Announcements.** The Mayor provided an update on the coronavirus. Cases have declined and the positive testing rate is 2%. There is a need for continued vigilance, including masks and social distancing. We expect to move to phase 4 on Friday. He recognizes the concern for racial justice issues, and a Police FAQ has been put on the City website. Discussions on policing issues will take place In July and will be part of budget discussions. Council will do a review of police operations.

The City Manager announced that the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration will be virtual and representatives of the July 4<sup>th</sup> organization outlined plans, including a theme Community United can not be Divided. EPD Chief Cook reminded residents that fireworks are illegal in Evanston, and he introduced two new Deputy Chiefs.

**Public comment.** 15 comments. 3 supporting Canal Shores and opposing NU request for approval of MWRD request; 3 opposing action on Police Review Board nominees; 2 supporting reducing police funding; 2 supporting African American historical sites; 2 supporting affordable housing; 1 urging reduced spending and supporting report of Compensation Committee; 1 supporting full census count; 1 property owner available to answer questions about special permit request.

**Special orders of business. (SP1) Approval of \$370,000 of ESG-CV Funding for Connections for the Homeless for Rapid Rehousing of Homeless Evanston Families (with children) currently in hotels.** This involves 21 families that will be placed in housing and provided support services for a year. The City expects additional funds. Aldermen were very positive and approved the measure 9-0.

**(SP2) 2020 Budget Update.** Erika Storlie, Hitash Desai and Kate Larkin-Lewis provided an update. Revenue projections continue to fall. Staff furloughs will reduce expenditures. There is hope for some federal or state aid. Budget planning for 2021 will begin this summer. Alderman Rainey questioned continued support for crossing guards and police in schools.

**(SP3) Reparations Subcommittee update.** Deputy City Manager Kim Richardson and Alderman Rue Simmons outlined the work of the subcommittee, currently working on housing as an initial effort. Initial goal will be to provide loans or forgivable loans for purchasing housing, to be followed by funds for renovation or preservation. The eligible group is defined by those (or relatives) showing effect of discriminatory policy in Evanston in a certain period (1919-1969). Alderman Fiske expressed concern about legal challenges and urged the legal department to review carefully. The City lawyer explained more work had to be done to identify discrimination and eligibility. Wynne said it is important that residents understand discriminatory policies and asked that the Redlining exhibit be made available.

**(SP4) Racial Equity Update.** Kim Richardson presented a detailed report on the framework for strengthening racial equity and eliminating the systemic impact of discrimination. The goal is to change the culture of city government. Mandatory equity training for staff will be implemented including

accountability measures. Community indicators will be established. Fleming expressed concern that no city staff member is identified as leading this endeavor, and Richardson has many other duties. There was good discussion and praise for the report and the work of Richardson. The report was approved 9-0 and placed on file.

**(SP5) Report on Proposed Compensation for Elected Officials.** The report recommends all elected officials receive no increase in compensation for 2021 and 2022 and in 2023 and 2024 receive the same increase as non-union employees, and that elected officials receive full coverage for individual medical insurance and have the option to purchase additional family coverage at their own expense. Alderman agreed to accept and place on file and referred to the Rules Committee for further discussion. Alderman will have to approve a final recommendation.

**Consent agenda.** Aldermen removed (A7), (A9), (R1) and (APP1) from the consent agenda. They approved the consent agenda 9-0.

(A7) Authorizing the city Manager to Consent to a Permit from MWRD for Northwestern Football Parking Events at Canal Shores Golf Club for five years starting in 2020. Alderman Revelle explained the request in detail and stated it is premature to approve this request. Northwestern has submitted the request without an agreement or even discussions with Canal Shores about terms for compensating Canal Shores for loss of revenue and service to administer the parking and events. Canal Shores has managed arrangements in the past in exchange for payments. She will not approve a request until NU has an agreement with Canal Shores. Other aldermen agreed. They voted to table the request until the July 13 meeting, recognizing that the football season will begin in August. The motion to table passed 9-0.

(A9) Amending City Code Section requiring sidewalks to be clear of Snow, Ice, Dirt and Weeds. This amendment was discussed in February when aldermen were concerned with both consideration for property owners and for pedestrians, as well as the problems created when plows blocked access from the sidewalk to the street. Aldermen Braithwaite said he believes the ordinance has been improved since his earlier concerns. The motion passed 8-1, Suffredin voted no.

(R1) The Rules Committee recommends amending the ordinance to require seven votes to dismiss a city manager. Discussion revolved around whether a super majority should be required or whether the current majority vote of Council is sufficient. The motion passed 7-2, Suffredin and Fleming voted no.

(APP1) Approval of Appointments to the Citizen Police Review Commission. The Mayor recommends nine appointments, for one- two- or three-year terms. Fleming and others complained that the appointees did not represent all wards. Wilson supported the list and argued that the diversity, fairness and expertise in the nominees was more important than representing all wards. Some suggested that a larger committee could better reflect the various wards, but Wynne asserted that a nine person board is a good number, capable of meeting quorum requirements and working together well. Rue Simmons said she believed a larger group would be better and she could not support this slate. The motion to approve this slate passed 5-4; Suffredin, Fleming, Fiske, and Rue Simmons voted no. It was agreed to ask the Rules Committee to consider the question of a larger Review Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.