

**Observer:** Kristine Lofquist

**Council Members present:** Kelly, Nieuwsma, Braithwaite, Wynne, Revelle, Burns, Reid, and Geracaris

**Meeting started:** 7:15 pm

**Meeting ended:** 9:40 pm

Mayor Biss called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. The City Clerk took the roll call and noted there was a quorum.

**Announcements**

Mayor Biss read a proclamation declaring April 20, 2022 Snell VFW Auxiliary Post day in honor of the organization’s 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

City Manager Report – there was no report

City Clerk Report – Clerk Mendoza noted there were several public comments in favor of The Aux from several residents.

**Public comment.** There were 5 comments in favor of the ARPA funds request for the Northlight Theater and 7 comments in support of the ARPA request for the Aux. There was one comment against the Margarita Inn as a permanent shelter and one comment against the steel case vendor and requesting that Consent Agenda Items A4 and A11 be held. In addition, there was one comment concerning the size of the grants to Northlight and The Aux and requesting that those groups to pay back the ARPA money once they are profitable. This was followed by two comments concerning lack of transparency in the second city manager search process and two comments requesting revision of the ARPA grants to allow for clawbacks if projects do not achieve their objectives. There was one comment requesting that Northlight stay in Skokie, and one comment raising a concern that The Aux would be rented back to the Black business and would not be owned by them and expressing a wish that ARPA money be used for businesses that are already in existence. There were two comments against The Aux and Northlight ARPA fund requests and one comment against the proposed soccer field if it needs a variance.

**Consent Agenda.** A Motion was made and seconded to pass the Consent Agenda, after removing items A-4, A-6, A-7, A-12, A-15, P-1, P-2, ED1 and ED2. It was noted that Items A-6, A-7, A-12, and P1 were held at the Committee level until the next meeting .The Motion passed 8-0.

A-4 – Councilmember Kelly made a Motion to hold the item until there is additional information about Forward Space and to see if there are other vendors available for office furniture supply. Lara Biggs, the City Engineer noted that she could verify if this would be the only vendor. There was not a second, so the Motion failed. This was followed by a Motion and second to pass A-4. The Motion passed 7-1 with Councilmember Kelly voting no.

A15 – A Motion was made and seconded to pass the ordinance (as amended in committee) that would amend the City Code to add details regarding a commercial vehicle parking permit item. Councilmember Reid noted that the Committee removed B plates so passenger and fleet vehicles would have to pay a \$30 annual fee, but it would not address large commercial vehicles. He noted that he would like to have staff take another crack at . A Motion was made and seconded to hold the item to the April 25, 2022 meeting. Motion passed 8-0.

P2 - A Motion made and seconded to approve the plat of survey at 1224 Washington Street item as amended in committee. The Motion passed 8-0.

ED1 – A Motion was made and seconded to adopt item ED1 approving the ARPA funds for the Northlight Theater. Councilmember Kelly made a Motion to amend ED1 to include a ten-year claw back provision in the resolution and Reid seconded it in concept. Per Sara Flax, Grants Manager, there could be a 5-year clawback clause based on federal guidelines; however, because the ARPA program ends in 2026, the money would not go back to the City but would need to go back to the U.S. Treasury. City Counsel Cummings noted that the text of the proposed amendment could not be included in the resolution and would therefore be out of order. Mayor Biss noted that the claw-back could be discussed when the agreement is being made between Northlight and the City Manager but would not come back to the Council. Councilmember Nieuwsma noted there is a two-year lien in the contract.

The City Manager stated that the City negotiates agreements and records on property notes that the obligation is still owed to the City; however, she noted that in this case the funds would go back to the Treasury, not the City. A Motion to call the question was made and withdrawn. A Motion was then made and seconded to call the question. The Motion to call the question succeeded 7-1 with Reid voting no. A Motion was made and seconded to adopt the unamended ED1 resolution allocating \$2 million in ARPA funds to the Northlight Theater. The Motion passed 7-1 with Councilmember Reid voting no.

ED2 – A Motion was made and seconded to adopt item ED2 approving ARPA funds for The Aux. The councilmembers noted they were in favor and councilmember Reid asked for clarification from The Aux regarding the ownership of the building. It was noted that the building will initially be owned by The Growing Season, a non-profit but the goal is for it to be owned by the community by the end of 2022, although this is not guaranteed. He also asked if there is the “upon completion clawback” in the contract. The Economic Development Manager noted there is the option for a lien. Reid asked if the property is not transferred to The Aux LLC by 2026 if the money would be clawed back. The City Manager noted that they would make sure that this is a part of the agreement. A Motion made and seconded to call the question. The Motion passed 6-2 with Kelly and Reid voting no. A Motion was made and seconded to adopt the unamended ED2 resolution allocating \$1 million in ARPA funds to The Aux. The Motion passed 8-0.

### **Call of the wards.**

Councilmember Revelle had no report

Councilmember Reid reported on dates of future ward meetings.

Councilmember Geracaris had no report

Councilmember Kelly had no report

Councilmember Nieuwsma reported on dates of future ward meetings and discussions about the Margarita Inn

Councilmember Wynne expressed condolences to the Francellno family

Councilmember Burns expressed condolences to the Francellno family and reported on dates of future ward meetings. In response to Leslie William’s questions regarding the City Manager search, he noted he had worked with staff to fill out the toolkit and that those responses were provided to the council and are being used to in the City Manager decision. He also noted that there is a candidate evaluation manual on the City website and that there were over 900 responses to a survey that were provided to Council. He also stated that both The Aux

and Northlight projects are ARPA-approved and there will be other ARPA projects in the areas of affordable housing and jobs creation.

Councilmember Braithwaite offered condolences and also congratulated the VFW auxiliary.

A Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session. The Motion passed 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:40 pm.