

Observer: Cheryl Wollin via live streaming on TV

Meeting Began: scheduled to start at 7:00 pm.; actually began at 7:41 **Meeting Began:** 10:06 pm

Mayor and Aldermen present: Hagerty, Revelle, Rainey, Fleming, Fiske, Braithwith, Wilson, Clerk Reid

Aldermen absent: Wynne and Rue-Simmons (at National League of Cities) and Suffredin

Mayoral Announcements:

Proclaimed Creative Arts Therapy Day on March 20, helping to promote mental health.

Proclaimed Mary Beth Schroeder Day thanking her for her leadership in Evanston Community foundation, Public Service Challenge, and Leadership Evanston, upon her retirement.

Introduced Matt (?), a colon-rectal cancer survivor to raise awareness of March as Colon-Rectal Month and encourage effective screening.

City Manager Announcements:

Manager introduced Kelly Gandurski as the new city attorney, who was previously with the City of Chicago. She in turn introduced her deputy attorney, Nicholas Cummings (who was staffing this Council meeting).

Next, the city manager asked for volunteers to help remove small rocks and stones from lakefront parks, due to recent storms & high waves. Meet at 9 a.m. March 21.

Third, she introduced Sarah Flax who gave an update on the importance of the Census 2020. Citizens should receive a letter from census between March 12 to 20. Fill out the form online. Library computers are available and some “pop-up” locations can be added to help residents without computers. The form is short and should only take about 10 minutes to complete. It is important for representation in IL as well as financial allocation for communities. For every one undercounted person, the city loses \$1,400 per year for all ten years until the next census.

The manager’s last note was to assure the city is prepared to deal with Covid19. As a certified public health department, all precautions are being taken. Wash your hands!

City Clerk Announcements:

Clerk advised that early voting was underway and going well. Hours are 9-7 weekdays, 9-5 Saturday, and 10-4 Sundays. If you are not registered, you may do it on the same day as you wish to vote, but bring two forms of identification, including one with your present address. He noted that in the fourth ward, there is a precinct voting at the NEW Robert Crown Center. On Wednesday, his office welcomes volunteers to come in to help text or phone to reminders to vote.

There is an open house at Robert Crown on March 14 from 10-1 for the public.

Public Comment: 30 persons were allowed 1 minute, 15 seconds each.

First speaker asked for the attorney fees for an outside consultant be removed from bills list. His reasoning was that if the mayor and Ald. Rainey were sued, they should pay their own lawyers.

(**answered later by Ald. Rainey in A&PW report.*)

There were multiple people (5) from Red Door Shelter concerning HS1 and the spaying, neutering of cats, dogs, and RABBITS. Since Evanston’s shelter does not accept rabbits, they bear the burden (492 rabbits last year). Rabbits can have a litter every 28 days!

The other large number of residents (5) had serious concerns about Smith Park (borders the 2nd and 5th wards) and Tape Coat company. The company produces a tape made out of coal tar and the fumes are toxic and produce a health risk. They have received warnings from EPA(?) but nothing is done. The density and speed of traffic there is also problematic.

Two residents (one representing SEA) called for the Harley-Clark process to be transparent.

Four neighbors from the St.A's area asked the council to reconsider the playground variance that was denied at the last meeting.

One resident asked why the city clerk's salary and rent were anybody's business.

Agenda:

Ald Braithwith: Having voted on the prevailing side of the motion for special use by St. A's two weeks ago, 166-0-19, he made a motion to reconsider. Seconded by Ald. Wilson.

The zoning board had recommended denial, the staff had recommended approval, and the Council voted 4-4 (tie vote fails). There was a lengthy discussion when Ald. Rainey pointed out that a reconsideration must be made at the same meeting, not two weeks later. Even though she had voted approval and still would. The new attorney, Mr. Cummings, seemed to have a very thorough knowledge of the rules. (I was impressed). Yes, she was correct, he noted. The alternative was to suspend the rules, and then ask for a reconsideration. Which is what they did. Ald. Revelle is willing to continue working through issues with the neighbors and the church. Both Ald. Fiske and Fleming said they still were not in favor..."parking sucks the happiness out of neighborhoods" (Fiske). However, after much discussion, the motion to table it until April 13th passed 4-2.

Special Order of Business: Appeal to the City Council of Preservation Commission Decision Denying Certificate of Appropriateness for 2390 Orrington Ave. to Construct a Single Family House with Attached 2-car garage. Ald. Fiske made a motion to deny the appeal, the vote was 5-1 to deny appeal. Size of proposed structure and historic trees were main issues.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Since there was not a quorum at A & PW, each item had to be read aloud by Ald. Rainey. Items taken off will be addressed afterwards.

CM1 Approval of the minutes of Feb. 24 City Council Meeting.

A1 Removed

A2 Approval of 2020 Special Events Five new events were approved: Pride Parade, PrideFest, Juneteenth Parade, 3v3 Soccer Tournament & Suffrage Rally.

A3 Approval of the Purchase of five vehicles for Public Works Agency and Fleet & Facilities Division

A4 Contract Award with Davis Bancorp for Armored Car Services

A5 Hold

A6 Contract Award with Patrick Engineering, Inc. for Main Street Improvements Project Phase II Design (RFQ 18-28)

A7 Contract Award to Interra, Inc. for FY 2020 Material Testing Services (RFP 20-10)

A8 Contract Award with Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc for FY2020-2024 Engineering Services to Prepare the Valuation of the Water Works Properties (RFP 19-50)

A9 Contract Award with Great Lakes Plumbing and Heating Company for HVAC Equipment at the Police/Fire Headquarters, fire Station #3 and the Levy Senior Center (Bid 20-04)

A10 Request for Funding for the 2020 Great Merchants Grant Program (RFP 20-02)

A11 Resolution 23-R-20, Authorizing the City Manager to enter into contracts to Design and Reconstruct the Fleetwood-Jourdain Gym Floor without utilizing a Public Bidding Process

A12 Hold

A13 Ordinance 20-0-20 Amending Title 10, Chapter 4, Section 1 “Stopping, Standing, or Parking Prohibited in Specific Places”

A14 Ordinance 26-0-20 Requiring Sidewalk installation or Replacement of Substandard Sidewalk Whenever New Construction is Erected

A15 Hold

A16 Ordinance 36-0-20 Amending City Code Subsections 7-10-3, “General Regulations” and 7-11-12, “Areas Prohibited for Bathing Purposes”, by Preventing Access to the Rock Revement along the Lakefront. Ald. Fleming noted that teenagers often sit or walk on rocks and signs alone will not stop this juvenile behavior. But due to the erosion and fragility of the rocks, signs should warn of extreme caution. Ald. Wilson suggested the signs be in both English and Spanish. Northwestern should also be notified of the danger. Passed 6-0

A17 Ordinance 37-0-20 Repealing and Replacing Ordinance 162-0-19 Levying Taxes for Special Service Area #7 (to correct a math error)

A18 To approve the Construction of a Local Improvement Known as Evanston Special Assessment No. 1525

A19 Hold

Items held:

A1 Approval of Payroll and Bills Ald. Rainey explained that the legal bills were to hire an outside counsel to represent the Mayor and herself who were being sued by a former governor. There had been criticism that they were using city attorneys who were “biased” in their favorite. It was felt that outside counsel was necessary in the lawsuit which was essentially against the city. Passed 6-0

A5 Contract Award with Elevate Energy for the Municipal Zero Emissions Strategy (RFP 19-67 Kumar Jensen explained the cost and project. Passed 6-0

A12 Resolution 24-R-20 Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Six month Extension to the City’s Electric Service Agreement with Dynegy Energy Services This is good news for the city since it is one and a half cent cheaper, and the new rate will apply immediately to the new Robert Crown Center. Other accounts not previously included, will now also receive the new rate. Kumar Jensen explained this one too. Passed 6-0

A15 Ordinance 27-0-20 Amending Title 10, Chapter II, Sections 10 “Limited Parking” and Title 10, Chapter 11, Section 18 “Residents Parking Only Districts” Ald. Revelle explained amending this to include parts of Chancellor from the north side dead end to Bryant. Passed 6-0

A19 Ordinance 24-0-20 Amending Section 7-2-9-3 Sidewalks to be Cleared of Snow, Ice, Dirt and Weeds Staff requests that this be sent back to A&PW and tabled until June 8 to do further research. Passed 6-0

CONSENT AGENDA FROM PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

P1 Ordinance 33-0-20 Extending the Time for the Applicant to Obtain a Building Permit fo 910-938 Custer Ave. Extends the time one year.

P2 Ordinance 34-0-20 Amending the Zoning Map to Remove 2044 Wesley Ave. from the oWE West Evanston Overlay District

Taken off the Consent Agenda:

P3. Ordinance 35-0-20 Amending Title 6, Ground Floor Uses in the D2 District Tabled in committee to discuss with downtown business owners.

P4 Ordinance 25-0-20 Amending Title 7, Chapter 8, Section 8 “Tree Preservation” Tabled to June 8.

CONSENT AGENDA FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

ED1 Ordinance 28-0-20 Amending Portions of the City Code Sections to Remove the Requirement for Business Licenses and Implement a Business Registration Program Ald. Fleming asked for a copy of the letter sent to businesses explaining the change. There is no cost for home-based businesses.
Passed 6-0

CONSENT AGENDA FROM HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

HS1 Ordinance 32-0-20 Amending City Code Title 3 to Restrict the Sale and Adoption of Cats, Dogs, and Rabbits. Ald. Fiske asked for introduction only, in order to consider individual breeders (such as Susan Clooney in public comment). Originally it was to be for action as well.

CALL OF THE WARDS

Revelle (7) Asked staff to investigate the situation at Smith Park and Tape Coat Co.

Rainey (8) No report

Fleming (9) Ward meeting March 18 at the Levy Center

Fiske (1) Thanked firefighters and neighbors for action during large house fire last night. Persons and pets were saved.

Braithwaite (2) Ward meeting is at 7 pm

Wilson (4) Also a fire in a high rise downtown, great work by firefighters. Asked the Rules committee to clean up any misunderstanding of reconsideration process

Before the motion to go into Executive Session, the Mayor requested that the date be changed to discuss the four Harley Clark proposals, since they could not meet the March 23 deadline. He suggested two dates, and the council chose May 18. All four will be allowed a fifteen minute presentation.

Went into Executive Session and adjourned at 10:06 p.m.