

Observer: Betty Hayford

Council members present: Six, and then seven. Fleming and Kelly were absent. Suffredin came late.

Meeting began: 7:05

Meeting ended: 8:55

Announcements. Mayor Biss expressed condolences to Council Member Kelly and Fleming at the deaths of their mothers. He said that he and Council Member Burns had attended the funeral for the young man killed on Green Bay Road, and expressed their commitment to maintaining a safe environment in Evanston. He expressed appreciation and gratitude to Interim Police Chief Aretha Barnes on the occasion of her retirement effective in January. He also expressed appreciation for the good work of city staff.

Interim City Manager Gandarski asked Toby Sachs, Chair of the Arts Council, to announce recent grants. Sachs announced two federal grants. One for \$150,000 is a one time grant from Covid relief funds. It will supplement the current grant program to local organizations. The second one for \$30,000 will supplement the regular city grants. Next year the grants to local organizations will increase from \$30,000 to \$195,000.

Daryl King of the Water Department announced the Illinois Water Ambassador Program which will inform the community of water operations.

Public comment. 13 comments. 6 supported resolution to rename street for Judge Lionel Jean-Baptiste. 2 opposed and 1 in support of 1900 Sherman Avenue. 2 expressed concern about budget and spending. 1 concerned about crime. 1 asked for information on the city manager search.

Before turning to the consent agenda, the Mayor called on Council member Braithwaite who moved item **A8, Designation of Honorary Street Name Sign**, renaming a portion of McDaniel Avenue, between Crain Street and Dempster, "Honorable Lionel Jean-Baptiste Way." This had been amended in committee from "Judge Lionel Jean -Baptiste Way." Braithwaite praised Jean-Baptiste's long career, including 10 years as second ward council member, and his leadership of the Evanston Haitian community and the broader Black community. The motion passed 6-0. Jean-Baptiste made appreciative remarks.

Consent agenda. A8 had been removed from the consent agenda, and P2 was removed. Council member Reid raised a concern that A12 and A13 had not gone through the Referrals Committee and were policy changes, so he moved to suspend the rules to allow consideration. Mayor Biss said he disagreed with the need to suspend the rules, because the changes were administrative changes, not policy changes. But he allowed the motion, which passed 6-0.

The consent agenda passed 6-0.

P2. Granting a major adjustment to the Planned Development at 1900 Sherman Avenue. Council member Kelly has opposed the development. In her absence Council members Nieuwsma and Reid asked questions she proposed. Nieuwsma said he supported the development, but asked whether Evanston would receive tax payments from the development. The Executive Director of CCHA replied that it would. The affordable units would be tax-exempt, but the market rate units would pay taxes. Reid

asked detailed questions about parking spaces and asked the Director to provide more public benefits. The Director explained the parking situation and said more public benefits might be considered as the building progressed. The motion passed 7-0 (Suffredin had joined the meeting).

Call of the wards. General expression of sympathy to Kelly and Fleming, and appreciation of the service of Chief Barnes.

Nieuwsma expressed appreciation for the long years of service by Interim Chief Barnes. He noted the concerns about conditions and oversight for Albany Care residents and reported that they are being addressed. City staff are working to address problems.

Reid explained his proposal to levy fees on lakefront property owners. He said some residents of his ward paid higher taxes, per square foot than some lakefront owners.

Braithwaite expressed concern about increasing loss of city staff and police. He fears that significant institutional memory is being lost. He noted the important discussions at the International Reparations meeting last week.

Wynne also expressed concern at numerous departures from city staff.

Nieuwsma move to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:55.