

**Observer:** Betty Hayford

**Council members present:** Seven. Wynne and Suffredin absent.

**Meeting began:** 7:10 pm

**Meeting ended:** 10:30 pm

**Announcements.** Mayor Biss announced the recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day. He said it is an important opportunity to think about the issues involved.

City Manager Luke Stowe expressed appreciation to EPD Chief Eddington for 12 years of service to Evanston. He introduced Schenita Stewart as new Chief for the Evanston Police Department. She is an Evanston native and an experienced Police officer, and the first continuing female police chief for Evanston. Mayor Biss swore her in and her mother came to the dais and pinned on a corsage. Council members made positive remarks of welcome. A large crowd of police officers, friends and family attended the swearing in.

**Public comment.** 21 speakers spoke on a variety of subject. Greatest number (7) in support of opening the dog beach. Others: support Amendment to Artist Book House contract, or oppose it until relationship with Jensen Garden settled; support for new Police Chief; request to reduce City spending; support for new animal shelter; concern that residents get more assistance before immigrants or animals; opposition to Rules change to require co-sponsors for Referrals. Other comments supported City purchase of 1808 Hovland Court (derelict property); request for more public input into budget.

**Special Orders of Business. (SP1) Authorizing the Creation of a Refugee Resettlement Fund of \$50,000.** This was proposed by Council Member Reid who spoke at length explaining its importance and the great need. The amount was insufficient but it is an important first step. Council Member Kelly asked for more details. Reid and Health Director Ogbo explained some of the ways it would be used.

It passed, 7-0.

**(SP2) Discussion on Re-opening the Dog Beach.** Deputy City Manager Stoneback said water levels have fallen since two years ago, but the beach is still regularly inundated and unsafe; on calm days there is sufficient beach that is accessible. State law requires ADA compliance and registration, including proof of licenses/vaccinations etc for dogs. The beach can not be monitored or reopen officially this year, but access could be allowed. Staff need guidance on expectations for 2023.

Council Member Reid initiated a substantive discussion. He encouraged staff to move forward and open the beach. He suggested the City could be casual about some regulations. The beach would have to be ADA compliant. He urged staff to move forward with a plan to reopen. Nieuwsma agreed on opening the beach with a laissez-faire approach. ADA access is essential. Kelly agreed.

Stoneback acknowledged the consensus and said the beach could be informally opened for the fall, and plans will be made for opening officially in 2023. A consultant would be needed to design an appropriate access ramp.

**Consent agenda.** A11, A12, A15, HC1, R1 and R2 were removed from the consent agenda. A3 and A10 had been held in committee so were also removed from the agenda. The consent agenda passed 7-0.

A11. Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement with LEAP concerning the Reimagining Public Safety Committee and Low-Priority 911 Calls. Council Member Burns supported the contract for a 12-15 month project to gather data on 911 calls to allow the police to prioritize use of their resources. Council Member Kelly suggested this project is premature and the new police chief should have a chance to comment on it. She believes a more coordinated approach is preferable and she is meeting with representatives from other cities, including Denver and Eugene, which have done similar work. She moved to hold, but there was no second.

Nieuwsma agreed a coordinated approach is needed, and input from the police department should be gathered. Reid supported moving forward with this proposal while engaging the new police chief in the discussion. Burns noted that the current proposal has two parts: the LEAP research and the hiring of a staff member to support the Reimagining Public Safety Committee and suggested dividing the measure. Nieuwsma moved to hold the item until Chief Stewart can comment on the issue. The motion to hold the item until the October 24 meeting passed.

A12. Authorizing the City Manager to Waive the Standard Purchasing Process for Construction for the Temporary Housing of Animal Shelter Animals. This is necessary in order to meet the construction timetable and the deadline for receiving the Cook County grant. Kelly expressed concern about the high cost for the new shelter and suggested revising the plans. Others pointed out that the cost of the new shelter includes planning, rehousing and other services. The motion passed 7-0.

A15. Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Lease Amendment for Artists Book House at the Harley Clarke Mansion. The lease amendment involves an extension of the proposed schedule for fund raising and construction. Kelly proposed holding the item because of a separate concern about reaching an agreement between Artist Book House and the group working to restore the Jens Jensen garden. Then she moved to send the item back to Committee to work through the issue. The Director of Artist Book House asked Council not to delay acting on the measure so they could re-establish the fund raising operation. The motion to return to committee passed 5-2. Revelle and Geracaris voted no.

HC1. Approval of HOME Investment Partnerships Program using HOME-ARP funding of \$1,298,584. This involves a federal HOME grant. Sarah Flax explained some of the requirements and conditions of the grant. The motion passed 7-0.

R1 and R2 add a procedure for co-sponsors to the referral process. Reid moved to table, seconded by Kelly. Reid explained that more time was needed to revise the measures. He said there is no urgency for the matter. Biss requested that the measure not be tabled. He has prepared an amendment to the measure. Reid moved to adopt the Biss amendment. There was some discussion about correct procedure. The motion to amend passed 7-0. Reid then moved to send the amended item back to committee to be brought back to Council in November. The motion passed 6-1, Geracaris voted no.

**Call of the wards.** Several meetings were announced. In addition to announcing a meeting, Council Member Reid referred to the recent step by President Biden to pardon simple federal cannabis possession convictions, and moved to amend city ordinances prohibiting the possession of cannabis on city property. He proposed this to be a Special Order of Business at the second meeting in November. Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0 (Kelly had left the meeting).

At 10:30, the meeting adjourned to Executive Session.