

Observer. Betty Hayford

Aldermen present: Eight. Alderman Revelle absent. The Mayor was absent. Alderman Braithwaite chaired.

Media present: Three. Evanston Now, Roundtable, Review.

Meeting began: 6:15 pm

Meeting ended: 11:00 pm

Announcements. The City Manager introduced Joey Roger who described a new initiative from Interfaith Action, a group of 2 community organizations, the Community Discovery Project. The project will identify all community groups serving the homeless and hungry, survey the needs of the homeless and hungry, and develop a gap analysis. The goal is to plan how to better meet the needs, with an expected completion date of 2020.

Public comment. 16 speakers. 5 supported Hewn Bakery. 4 criticized the Mayor, particularly for calling for investigation. 3 spoke about affordable housing. 2 spoke about need for police review. 1 urged the city to get a grant writer.

Consent agenda. Alderman Rainey introduced the consent agenda from **Administration and Public Works**. First it was moved and seconded to suspend the Rules for items (A20) and (A21) for Introduction and Action. The motion to suspend the Rules passed 8-0. Consideration of Minutes of July 15 and July 22 was removed from the agenda. Approval of purchase of one hook lift truck for the Public Works Agency for forestry and snow operations. Approval of agreement with We Got Game for the City Athletics Programs at Robert Crown and Chandler-Newberger for three years with option to renew. Approval of three year contract with Robothink for Robotics and Coding Camps at Chandler-Newberger. Approval of special event request from the Main-Dempster Mile to hold a summer concert and street fair on August 23. Approval of purchase of CiscoSmartNet annual licenses and software for support for the City's essential computer networking system. Approval of Great Merchant Grant of \$250 to Howard Street Business Association. Approval to Amend City Code to Set Rates for Football Parking (Introduction). Approval of Sale of Surplus Vehicles (Introduction and Action). Approval of Special Use Permit for Commercial Indoor Recreational Facility, Lock Chicago, at 2510 Greenbay Road (Introduction and Action). Approval to amend portions of the Zoning Ordinance to Update the definition of Craft Alcohol Production Facility. Approval of the 2019 Emergency Solutions Grant allocations to Connections for the Homeless and the YWCA Evanston/Northshore to provide housing and services for families who are homeless or at risk for homelessness. The consent agenda passed 8-0.

Alderman Rainey presented further items from **Administration and Public Works**. First, Authorization to approve a contract for the Emergency Siren System. Alderman Rainey asked about the use of the system. The system is used only for snow emergencies and tornados, with Tuesday tests. She wondered about other emergencies, such as terrorist attacks. She was informed that the system can not accommodate other emergencies, and its purpose needs to be clear. Other uses may be developed. The motion passed 8-0. A motion to approve financial assistance through the Entrepreneurship Support Program to Charisse Roberson, Gettwisted Designs (\$2,160) and Rachel Holmes, Confidence Now Consulting (\$1,000). The motion passed 7-0, with Rue Simmons abstaining. A motion to Authorize the City Manager to pay bills and fund payroll through August 30, 2019 was questioned. The City Manager explained that it was necessary to pay bills while Council was not meeting, and he would circulate a list of bills to be paid. It was approved 8-0.

A motion to execute an easement agreement with Northwestern University for a utility easement on Sheridan Road in order to install a chilled water piping system for 30 years elicited a question about other easements and whether payments were up to date. Some information was provided by Director Stoneback, and Rainey asked for a complete list. The motion passed 8-0. A motion to amend Council Rules to state that an ordinance is approved if passed by a majority of aldermen present was opposed by Rainey and Fleming. The motion failed. A motion to allow parking on portions of Pitner Avenue had Rules suspended for Introduction and Action. It passed unanimously. A motion to amend sections of the Liquor Code was presented. It was explained that these changes

apply to Class V permits, of which there are currently none. The changes do not affect the issue of liquor sales at Welsh Ryan arena. It passed unanimously. A Report from the Citizen Police Advisory Committee stimulated a request from Fleming for more information about complaints. It was approved without dissent to accept the Report and place it on file. A Report on the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program administered by Connections for the Homeless was Accepted and Placed on File. Alderman Fleming asked for more information about how families are approved for the program. A Report on the Death Notification Process of the Human Services Advocates was accepted and placed on file, and it will be referred to the Human Services Committee for further development.

Twelve items for consideration were on the agenda. Most, but not all, were discussed. **(A1) Social Services Review Recommendation.** Deputy City Manager Kimberly Richardson presented a detailed report outlining the Resident-focused intake process, the process of getting community input, the decision to prioritize Mental Health Board and CDBG Funding to external funders, and a proposed realignment of the Health and Human Services Department. She emphasized the importance of a racial equity impact analysis. She said the reorganization would take a year to complete and will require budget increases. The motion to receive the report and authorize continued work was approved without dissent.

(A13) Resolution to Endorse the Application of Hewn Bakery to the Cook County Assessor for Class 6b Status Designation for Commercial Development of a Vacant Building at 1731 Central Street. Alderman raised several questions, particularly why there was not more time to consider this request, and why the Economic Development Committee had not reviewed it. Questions were raised about opportunities for employment by Evanston residents, any why Evanston should subsidize this one bakery. (In fact, there is no Evanston subsidy involved.) In order to move forward, Alderman Wilson moved to table the resolution to provide an opportunity for the Hewn owner to work with Johanna Leonard to add working describing steps to employ Evanston residents. The motion to table until later in the meeting passed.

(A22) Approval of a Major Adjustment to a Planned Development at 1815 Oak Avenue. Alderman Braithwaite moved to suspend the Rules for Introduction and Action. The motion to suspend passed. Alderman Rainey praised the developer for providing affordable housing units and fees that are not required and for a commitment to hiring Evanston residents. The motion passed 8-0.

(A26) Equity and Empowerment Commission Status Report. Jane Grover, Chair of the Equity and Empowerment Commission presented a summary of the public comment and priorities identified regarding policies and actions to begin to remedy the City's role in historical and institutional racism and discrimination. There is also interest in how to rectify the wealth gap. The Commission hopes to have recommendations to present to Council next month. The motion to accept and place on file passed without dissent.

(A4) Contract with Bodala, dba Central Rug and Carpet, for Fleetwood-Jourdain Interior Renovations. The motion was passed without dissent.

(A19) Ordinance to form a "Citizen Police Review Commission" and (A32) seeking direction from Council for a Diversity and Inclusion Policy for City Boards, Committees and Commissions were tabled and referred to Human Services Committee for further development.

(A2) 2019 Mid-Year Budget Update. Several City staff members presented information on the Mid Year Budget Update in some detail. The Current Year Financials were presented. Generally, Revenues and Expenses are on track. There are some improvements in Revenue processes, and efforts to control overtime expenses by Police and Fire Departments. Plans for 2020-2021 budget were outlined, and a two year budget is planned. Wages are set by recent contracts. Medical insurance costs are moderate and debt service is consistent with expectations. The City Manager said they are looking into a moderate increase in sales tax levels, parallel to recent increases from Skokie and Chicago. He said they are looking into possible revenue from red light cameras and Alderman Braithwaite said that would not be approved. Lara Biggs outlined proposed Capital Projects. She noted proposed traffic and park projects. She explained that the Civic Center had serious needs, particularly HVAC as well as some realignment of space and electrical wiring. Capital needs of the Civic Center could range from \$10 million to \$17

million. This caused several aldermen to raise the question of moving city operations to another location rather than spending such large amounts.

The calendar for the budget discussion was described, starting with public outreach the week of September 16. A draft budget will be released on October 4, with Council discussions during October and a public discussion on Saturday October 26. The date for adopting the budget is November 25. This schedule is similar to past years. The plan for a two year budget is similar to actions in other Illinois communities. Council approved accepting this report and placing it on file.

Alderman Wilson moved to take (A13) the Hewn Bakery Section 6b endorsement, off the table. Efforts to hire Evanston residents were described in additional paragraphs. The amendment to the resolution was approved. The Resolution to support the Hewn application was approved, 7-1, Fiske voting no.

(A27), City Council Agenda Management Process Update will allow meeting packets to be distributed on Wednesday, for Council by September and at a later time for Committees. It was moved and seconded and approved. **(A33) Healthy Work Environment Complaint** process will be referred to committee for further development.

Call of Wards. Alderman Fiske asked staff to develop a procedure for preventing bicycle riding on downtown sidewalks by adults.

Council adjourned to Executive Session at 11:00 pm.