

**Observer:** Betty Hayford

**Council Members present:** All

**Meeting began:** 8:00

**Meeting ended:** 12:20

**Announcements. Mayor.** The Mayor announced that the meeting was starting late and Council has a full agenda. He said Council would move to Executive Session after public comment because there were serious issues to discuss in Executive Session. He also announced that September is National Suicide Prevention and Action Month, focusing on a serious public health issue.

The City Manager announced there will be a special meeting of City Council the third Monday in September, September 20, to consider developments related to Affordable Housing. She said the Civic Center is open for public meetings and will be fully open for business after Labor Day. She said that Evanston has been recognized as an All-American City, an award given to only ten communities. The Evanston application emphasized Equity and Resilience. The award was presented with high praise for Evanston.

Ike Ogbo, Director of Health and Human Services, presented an up-date on Covid 19. There has been an increase in cases over the past four weeks, but the positivity rate is still low and the vaccination rate is high.

**Public comment.** 31 public comments, some in person, some on zoom. Allowed one minute each. Several commented on the resignation of the City Manager; 3 supported Storlie, 5 expressed satisfaction that she is leaving. 6 criticized Council Member Wynne for her remarks at the last meeting. Most spoke about the sexual harassment issue and demanded accountability and transparency; several criticized the confidentiality clause in the proposed agreement. 2 expressed strong support for the proposed program providing a guaranteed income pilot program. General concern for public engagement and Council responsiveness to public views.

At 9:10, it was moved and seconded to adjourn into Executive Session. Council resumed to public session at 10:55. The Mayor explained that Council had not taken action on **SP1, Authorizing the Mayor to Execute the Separation Agreement between City Manager Storlie and the City of Evanston.** It was moved and seconded to table SP1 until a special meeting on Thursday, August 12. The motion passed 9-0.

**SP2, Authorizing the Allocation of ARPA Funds of \$300,000 for the Guaranteed Income Pilot Program.** Council Member Fleming explained that she had worked with NU representative Dave Davis to shape a program and provide City funds to match Northwestern's commitment of \$300,000. The program would provide \$500 a month for 12 months. There would be no restrictions on how recipients could use the funds. Details of the program would be developed, including the application process. She had an amendment to the proposal. Council member Braithwaite asked about evaluation of the program's impact. Davis said the program has a research component and Northwestern would direct its research capability to evaluate the impact of the payments. Fleming proposed an amendment, that the amount of City ARPA funds committed to the program be increased from \$300,000 to \$700,000. This would impact more people. Davis pointed out that communities around the country were experimenting with

guaranteed income programs, information about best practices is becoming available, and potential grants to extend the program might be available.

The amendment was voted on and passed 9-0. SP2 as amended was moved and seconded and passed 9-0.

**Consent agenda.** Mayor Biss asked what items should be removed from the consent agenda. Council members identified A2, A10, A13, A14, A15, P5, P6, R1, AP1. A6, A7, A9, and P7 were held or rejected in committee.

The consent agenda as revised was moved and seconded and approved 9-0.

**A2. Approval of BMO Harris Credit Card Activity** was moved and seconded. It passed 8-0 with Suffredin abstaining.

**A10. Approval of ARPA Funds amounting to \$43,173,654 for Water and Parking projects.** Council Member Nieuwsma wanted to hold the measure until guidelines for use of ARPA funds could be devised. Reid agreed. The motion passed 8-1, Reid voting no.

**A13. Amending the City Code to clarify the process of Sale of Real Property.** Several members were concerned that the public would not be informed of proposed sales of city property. Attorney Cummings assured Council that State law required the public be informed. The proposed changes were only to clarify how the public would be notified. Reid proposed amending to include a city web site with property sale information. Storlie agreed to include the amendment in the next meeting. This proposal is for Introduction. Fleming suggested a different process for large or small sales, but Cummings said state law required a consistent process. The motion passed for Introduction 8-1, Reid voting no.

**A14. Authorizing the Sale of an Evanston Fire Department 2003 Mobile Scotty House.** It was moved to suspend the rules for Introduction and Action. Reid protested that the measure did not go to the Referral Committee. The vote to suspend the Rules passed 9-0. The motion, for Introduction and Action, passed 9-0.

**A 15. Authorizing 2021 General Obligation Bond Issues.** City staff proposed to issue up to \$18,500,000 General Obligation Bonds to finance capital improvements and refund certain outstanding City bonds. The bond sale is tentatively scheduled for the end of August. Council Member Kelly spoke at great length in opposition to the sale. She believes the City has sufficient surpluses and should spend the surpluses before selling more bonds. CFO Desai and the City Manager explained that the "surplus" funds were designated for current projects already underway. She amended the motion to reduce the amount of bonds. Reid seconded the amendment. After extensive comment by Kelly and Reid and response from Desai and Storlie, it was moved to call the question. That motion passed 9-0. The Kelly amendment to reduce the amount of the bond sale failed to pass 4-5. Fleming, Kelly, Burns and Reid voted in favor. A15, unamended, passed, 5-4, the same four council members voting against.

**P5. Creating a Provisional Moratorium on the Permitting and Construction of New Non-Owner Occupied Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).** This is for Introduction. The motion passed 6-3. Fleming, Reid and Suffredin voted no.

**R1. Amending the City Code concerning Deputy Clerk Appointments.** Reid supported the motion. The motion passed 8-1.

**AP1. Approval of appointments to Boards, Commissions and Committees.** Names were submitted for the Finance and Budget Committee, the Housing and Community Development Committee, the Social Services Committee and the Liquor Control Board. The appointments passed, 8-1. Reid voted no.

**Call of the Wards.** Several Council Members announced meetings. Kelly asked for a clearer explanation from City Staff for Capital Improvement Project spending. Braithwaite praised City staff for good work and impressive recent efforts to plan and carry out events for the residents. Reid made several referrals, in a soft and indistinct tone. They included 1) a Fair Work Week, requiring work schedules from large businesses; 2) a review of the confidential informant policy; and 3) a review of compensation for Council Members.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20.