

Observer: Betty Hayford

Council Members present: Kelly, Nieuwsma, Burns, Revelle, Reid, Geracaris (remote). Wynne and Suffredin absent.

Meeting began: 8:00 pm

Meeting ended: 9:35 pm

Announcements: Mayor Biss asked Hitash Desai, CFO, to introduce the new Budget Manager, Clayton Black.

Public comment. 11 speakers on a variety of topics. 3 asked for transparent process for City Manager search. 2 urged caution on expenditures and the budget. 2 asked for resident input into planning for Fleetwood Jourdain and Gibbs Morrison; no need for consultant. 1 supported bird friendly legislation; 1 asked for transparency in Police Chief search; 2 supported continued funding of reparations; 1 asked support for Hispanic businesses.

Special orders of business. (SP1) Midyear Financial Update (6/30/2022). Hitash Desai, CFO, presented the mid-year finances. Revenues were generally higher and expenses a bit lower. The fund balance is above its target at \$47 million. Most but not all tax revenues are higher than budgeted. Police and fire overtime are close to budget. The parking fund is below expectations. The ARPA grant of \$43 million has been received. \$4.5 million of ARPA funds supported the budget. Union contracts are up for renewal and personnel costs will be higher in 2023. At the end of the year there may be a budget surplus of \$5 million. Budget planning has begun and a proposed budget will be submitted on October 10. One concern is that the second property tax installment will be delayed and there may be cash flow problems. Reid asked if there was such a concept as "mandatory spending." He was told there is not. He said he hoped to transfer funds from the general fund to the reparations fund. Nieuwsma expressed concern about the personnel budget. Expenditures are below budget this year because positions are unfilled, but next year wages will increase and staff will increase and there may be budgetary pressure.

SP2. A Resolution Reaffirming Evanston's Commitment to Fundamental Reproductive Health Care Rights. Biss explained that Geracaris had asked him to work on this ordinance. Geracaris said this is an important step in protecting individual rights. Reid agreed that individual rights to bodily autonomy are important and he hoped they could be extended to personal use of drugs.

The motion passed 6-0.

Consent agenda. Several items were removed from the consent agenda: CM1, H1, RE1. Items A18 and P2 were not moved out of committee. The consent agenda passed 6-0.

RE1 was address first because interested members of the public were present. This was a Resolution Authorizing additional funds, up to \$3,450,000 allocated to the Local Reparations Restorative Housing Program from the Local Reparations Fund. This will allow the dispensing of money as it becomes available. There was discussion about the availability of cannabis tax revenue, and Corporation Counsel Derke Price stated very clearly that Illinois regulations required confidentiality regarding cannabis sales tax revenue. Reid had been requesting information, and he concluded that he supported allocating general city funds to the Reparations Fund. The motion passed 6-0.

CM1. Approval of minutes for City Council meeting of July 25, 2022. Council Member Revelle said she would abstain because she had not attended the meeting. The motion passed, 5-0, Revelle abstained.

H1. Amending Portions of the City Code on “Noises Prohibited.” Reid moved to send the item back to committee until the January Council meeting. Revelle explained that questions had been raised about music on outdoor patios. Addressing this issue would require zoning changes which will take time. The motion to table passed 6-0.

Call of the wards. Several meetings were announced.

Council Member Nieuwsma moved to adjourn to Executive Session, and at 9:35 the public meeting adjourned.