

Observer: Kristine Lofquist

Aldermen present: All.

Meeting started: 5:45 pm

Meeting ended: 9:25 pm

Alderman Wilson moved to suspend the rules to allow having a virtual meeting following emergency guidelines from Governor Pritzker because of the pandemic. The motion was seconded and passed 9-0.

TEFRA Hearing for Educational Facility Revenue Bonds (Roycemore School)

Mayor Hagerty noted that the City Council would conduct a public hearing to receive public comments regarding the proposed issuance by the City of revenue bonds for the benefit of Roycemore School, an Illinois not for profit corporation. There were several public comments, with three opposed to the issuance of the bonds and two in favor. The Mayor noted that the City is serving as a conduit for private investors to get tax exemptions and that Roycemore will pay a fee to get the tax-exempt status; however, there is a processing fee to the City. He noted that this issue would be voted on later in the meeting.

Announcements

Mayor Hagerty referred to the recent violence in the City, as well as in the City of Atlanta and noted that we have a lot to do in our city to irradicate hate. He noted that Evanston has not had reports of hate crimes against Asian residents in several years.

Mayor Hagerty congratulated the ETHS mock trial team for winning the Illinois state championship for first time.

Mayor Hagerty updated the Council of the COVID-19 vaccination efforts in the last two weeks. He noted that the Cook County vaccines sites are now open to Evanston residents in Group 1B and thanked President Preckwinkle and the IDPH for making this happen. He reported that the teachers and staff in Districts 65 and 202 have been vaccinated thanks to a special vaccine event sponsored by Walgreens Health Solutions the past weekend. Mayor Hagerty reported that to date, 37,000 Evanston residents have been vaccinated and that 94% of residents 65 and older have been vaccinated once, and 59% have had their second vaccine. He noted that there would be several vaccine events in the coming days and that the City will be entering the Group 1B+ phase on Thursday. He indicated that Phase 5 of COVID restrictions will occur when at least 50% of those resident age 16 years and older have received at least one vaccine.

The City Manager had three announcements. First, the Evanston Police Department was presented with Special Accreditation from the ILEAP. Manager Storlie noted that the accreditation process started a year ago and that the objective of the accreditation is to show the professionalism of the department. Second, Manager Storlie noted that April is Earth Month, and it was noted that there will be several educational events (mostly virtual), clean-ups, tree planting, and challenges with prizes for the community. It was also noted that there will be two communications coming to residents soon regarding the electricity aggregation program and the community solar program. Third, Manager Storlie reported that Evanston will be receiving 50% of its allotment of the \$45 million it will receive from the recently

passed American Recovery Plan in mid-May. She noted that the payment will be made as a grant to offset the cost of operations and that there will be more information about this relief payment in the coming months.

City Clerk Reid updated the Council on the municipal elections to be held on April 6, 2021. He reported that early voting had started today and will go until April 5, 2021. He noted that mail-in ballots can be ordered up until April 1, 2021; however, there are no drop boxes available at this time in Evanston (although there is a drop box at the Skokie Court House). Clerk Reid reported that mail in-ballots will be delivered later this week or early next week. In addition, he noted his office had received a large number of communications in support of and in opposition to SP3, authorizing the implementation of the reparations restorative housing program, and requested that those comments be entered into the Council record. He stated that the comments were provided to Council members prior to tonight's meeting.

Public comment. It was noted that there were 44 public comments. A Motion made and seconded to suspend the rules to allow 60 seconds for comment, rather than the usual 45 seconds. The Motion Passed 9-0. There were 31 public comments regarding SP3, the reparations restorative housing program (with comments both opposed to and in favor of the program as written). There were 8 comments in favor of SP2, the amendment to the City Code regarding special uses to assist with pandemic economic recovery. There were three comments in favor of PD5, the zoning text amendment to permit establishment and regulation of efficiency homes. There was also a comment regarding concerns over vacant property and trash removal and a comment regarding the Clean Energy Jobs Act resolution.

Special orders of business. SP1. Approval of the 2020 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report for the City's Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships, Emergency Solutions Grant Programs. Alderman Rainey moved that the City Council approve the 2020 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). The Motion seconded. The Motion passed 9-0 on a roll call vote.

SP2 – Amendment to City Code Title 6 Regarding Special Uses to Assist with COVID-19 Pandemic Economic Recovery and Commercial Development in Evanston's Merchant District. Alderman Rainey moved that the City Council refer the issue of the special use permits for economic recovery to the Planning Commission for further review. Following discussion, the Motion was seconded. The Motion passed 9-0 on a roll call vote.

SP3 – Adoption of Resolution 37-R-27, Authorizing the Implementation of the Evanston Local Reparations Restorative Housing Program and Program Budget. Alderman Rue-Simmons moved that the City Council adopt Resolution 37-R-21 to authorize the implementation of the Local Reparations Restorative Housing Program and the initial program budget of \$400,000. She noted that funding will be provided from the Local Reparations Fund. Alderman Rue-Simmons gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the program. She noted that the resolution is part of a much broader reparations program, and that this particular program is addressing only one of the many documented harms. She stressed that community input will continue to be gathered. Alderman Fleming noted that, although she is in favor of reparations, she feels the resolution is a housing program that does not repair harm and that the money will go the banks and not to the people. Alderman Suffredin stated that the real issue may be the legal challenge that is coming from people outside of our town. The Motion was seconded. The Motion passed 8-1 on a Roll Call vote with Alderman Fleming voting "No".

Consent Agenda. A Motion was made and seconded to remove the following items from the consent agenda: A15, A19, PD2, and PD5. The Motion passed 9-0.

(A15) Adoption of Resolution 38-R-21, in Support of the Passage of the Clean Energy Jobs Act by the Legislature of the State of Illinois. A Motion was made and seconded to adopt Resolution 38-R-21 in support of the Clean Energy Jobs Act by the State legislature. The Motion passed 9-0.

(A19) Adoption of Ordinance 25-O-21, Amending the City Code to Increase the Number of Class J Liquor Licenses from Two to Three for Double Clutch Brewing Company, LLC dba Double Clutch Brewing Company, 2121 Ashland Avenue. A Motion was made and seconded to increase the number of Class J Liquor licenses from two to three for Double Clutch Brewing Company. The Motion passed 9-0.

(PD2) Adoption of Ordinance 28-O-21, granting a Special Use Permit for a Type 2 Restaurant, Ali's Halal Eatery, at 955 Howard St. in the B2 Business District. A Motion was made and seconded to grant the special use permit to Ali's Halal Eatery. The Motion passed 9-0.

(PD5) Adoption of Ordinance 13-O-21, A Zoning Text Amendment to Permit the Establishment and Regulation of Efficiency Homes. A Motion was made and seconded to establish a definition of Efficiency Homes and establish regulations for their construction and use within residential districts. The Motion passed 9-0.

Call of the wards.

Alderman Fiske– thanked Alderman Rue Simmons for her work on SP3. She also pointed to the need for additional training of the various Boards and Commissions

Alderman Braithwaite – thanked all of the residents who came out to speak and invited them all back to future meetings and to participate in what will now be the Reparations Subcommittee.

Alderman Wynne –indicated that she was proud of SP3 and thanked Dino Robinson and the Evanston History Center.

Alderman Wilson – thanked everyone for their work on SP3.

Alderman Rue Simmons – thanked everyone for their work on SP3 and thanked Clerk Devon Reid for his role. She noted that this was the first step for the community on its way to repair and healing and that the new Council and the new Reparations Subcommittee will continue to work on these efforts. She also reported that an organization called The Family Initiative has reached out to her to pilot a program for cash benefit programming for reparations and that more information will be forthcoming. Alderman Rue Simmons stated that the community should look for more stakeholder participation opportunities in the future. Finally, she offered condolences and love to the families of Demarcus and Jose, as well as the entire Fifth Ward community.

Alderman Suffredin – referred to the June 14, 2018 referendum and stated that City Council can put binding resolutions on the ballot and citizens can vote on them.

Alderman Revelle – thanked everyone, particularly Alderman Rue Simmons, Alderman Braithwaite, and Alderman Rainey.

Alderman Rainey – thanked all the citizens who came out to the meeting and thanked the Reparations Subcommittee

Alderman Fleming – stated there is Ninth Ward meeting tomorrow. She encouraged citizens to apply to be on the new Reparations Subcommittee of the Council and noted that the deadline to apply for the Subcommittee is March 21, 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm. There was no Executive Session.