

Observer: Betty Hayford

Aldermen present: All

Media present: Four: Evanston Now, Review, Roundtable, NU Daily

Meeting started: 8:45 pm

Meeting ended: 12:25 am

The meeting started with several Public Hearings.

- A. TEFRA Hearing on Chiaravalle Montessori School Bonds.** Chiaravalle is refinancing its debt and borrowing from Fifth Third Bank. The City is “sponsoring” these bonds to get a lower rate. There is no liability for the City even if Chiaravalle defaults. The City is not lending Chiaravalle money. Two citizen comments opposing any city funds for Chiaravalle and wondering what TEFRA is. CFO Desai explained the city has done this before for Chiaravalle and Roycemore and other schools. This will not add to Evanston’s debt. Council had a long discussion in which Aldermen asked how these bonds work and why do this for Chiaravalle and why not do it for others – Family Focus for example. Suffredin suggested the city charge a fee. The hearing closed at 9:45.
- B. Public Hearing on Amendment to Howard Ridge TIF to extend size of TIF.** Presentation on proposal noting over 2000 notices sent to neighbors. Alderman Rainey explained the positive impact of the TIF and further benefits with expansion. No extension in life of TIF is requested. One citizen expressed his opposition to all TIFs as “slush funds.” Some discussion and hearing closed at 10:00.
- C. Public Hearing Truth in Taxation for 2019 Tax Levy.** One citizen comment opposed to tax levy. No discussion. Hearing ended 10:15.

Regular Council meeting. **Public comment.** 22 speakers. Most (16) opposed to Northwestern request to hold more events at Welsh-Ryan. Final speaker criticized Mayor and Council for limiting her right to speak and violating her constitutional rights. She began rationally and lost her cool and ranted long after Mayor Hagerty told her time was up.

Special Orders of Business. (SP1) Application for appeal of Preservation Commission Denying Certificate for 1040 Hinman Avenue to Install 18 Solar Panels on Roof. Revelle supported the appeal. She said there is a need to rethink the issue of solar panels as sustainable energy is so important. The motion to appeal passed, 7-2, with Fiske and Suffredin voting no. The appeal will be heard by Council on November 11.

(SP2) 2020-2021 Budget Proposal discussion. Mayor Hagerty suggested postponing discussion until November 11 meeting because of the late hour.

Consent agenda. (started 11:15) From **Administration and Public Works.** Minutes. Payroll. Bills. Accept and place on file Summary of Howard/Ridge TIF Plan for expansion. Approval of sole-source agreement to Provide Repairs to High Lift #4 Natural Gas Engine. Approval to accept Grant Awards to fund a Congregate Senior Meal Program at the Levy Center and the Fleetwood Jourdain Community Center. Approval to appoint a Director and Alternative Director to the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County. Approval to accept a Grant Award to fund and operate the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. Approval to Execute Intergovernmental Agreement with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to provide greater Cost Coverage for Ground Emergency Medical Transportation for Medicare Plans. Approval to Amend City Code to provide clearer guidelines on size and location of Collection Boxes (Introduction). Approval to raise current limit requiring City Council approval for purchases from \$20,000 to \$25,000 (Introduction). Approval to Sell Surplus Property Fleet Vehicles (Introduction, Suspension of Rules, Action). Approval to amend City Code to allow low speed electric bicycles and implement rules for bike sharing companies. Approval to amend City Code to update regulations for Gender Neutral Restrooms. Authorization to Borrow Funds from Illinois EPA Water Pollution Control Fund for the construction of the Large Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation Project – Greenleaf.

From **Planning and Development Committee**. Approval of Map Amendment to rezone the properties at 951 to 1125 Howard Street from the current C1 Commercial district to a B2 Business district.

The consent agenda was approved 9-0.

From **Administration and Public Works**, Three ordinances related to parking were presented, adding paid parking to Greenleaf Street between Chicago Avenue and Sherman Avenue, adding paid parking to South Boulevard from Chicago Avenue east to 516 South Boulevard, and adding paid parking to Sherman Avenue from the alley north of Main Street to the alley south of Washington Street. This was approved 6-3 with Fleming, Rue Simmons and Suffredin voting no.

An ordinance to amend the Code of Ethics was presented. Some discussion took place and Alderman Revelle asked about the ability of Aldermen to represent private parties before boards. Attorney Masoncup said that the 30 day period to train new employees was too short and should be increased to 90 days. Alderman Fleming said that if an alderman abstained from a vote, that abstention should be explained and the alderman should also refrain from speaking during the discussion. After some discussion, Alderman Wilson moved to amend the proposed ordinance to reflect the 90 day training period and the guidelines for abstention. The amendment passed. The motion to approve the amended ordinance passed, 9-0.

A proposal was presented to approve for Introduction the Issuance and Sale of Bonds on behalf of the Chiaravalle School, with no liability for the City of Evanston. Alderman Suffredin proposed that a fee be charged to compensate the city for this service. Wynne agreed it would be appropriate to impose a fee for future transactions, but not in this case since the date for closing on the bonds was in a few weeks. City Manager Storlie said the staff would draw up an ordinance providing a future fee and publicizing the process. The motion passed 6-3, with Suffredin, Fleming and Rue Simmons voting no.

From **Planning and Development**, a text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance was presented for Introduction to expand permitted uses in the U2 University Athletic Facilities District, allowing Northwestern to hold seven commercial events in each of two years at the Welsh Ryan arena. Neighbors expressed strong opposition to this change. Alderman Suffredin said Northwestern could not be trusted and should not be granted this change. Several aldermen said this is a limited proposal for a trial period and should be allowed and evaluated. The motion passed 6 – 3, with Suffredin, Revelle and Wynne voting no.

An ordinance allowing cannabis dispensaries in certain zoning districts and operating regulations was presented. Fiske amended to exclude the Noyes business district from the allowed areas. The motion as amended passed 9-0.

From the **Human Services Committee**, a motion to create a Citizen Police Review Committee was presented for introduction. Alderman Fleming opposed the measure because it does not provide an adequate role for citizens on the committee. The motion passed 7-2.

The **Rules Committee** presented an amendment to Council Rule 18.6 related to a motion to table an item. Alderman Revelle suggested any motion to table should include a specific date to return to the item. This did not lead to a motion to amend. The motion passed 9-0.

The meeting finally adjourned at 12:25 am.