

**Observer:** Kristine Lofquist

**Council Members present:** Kelly, Nieuwsma, Braithwaite, Wynne, Revelle, Burns, Reid, Geracaris, and Suffredin

**Meeting started:** 5:48 pm

**Meeting ended:** 9:11 pm

Mayor Biss called the meeting to order at 5:48 pm. The City Clerk took the roll call and noted there was a quorum. A Motion was made to go into executive session. The Motion passed 9-0. Mayor Biss noted that a “surprise issue” had arisen, hence the executive session. The executive session began at 5:50 pm and ended at 6:45 pm.

**Announcements**

Following recommencement of the public portion of the meeting at 6:45 pm, Mayor Biss read a proclamation declaring the week of May 23, 2022 to May 29, 2022 as Violence Prevention Week and June 3, 2022 as Gun Violence Prevention Day.

City Manager Report – Interim City Manager Gandurski reported that the city’s fleet management ranked among the “100 Best” in the Americas.

Mayor Biss commended the city staff’s outreach team as well as Angel Moms for violence prevention efforts.

City Clerk Report – Clerk Mendoza made note of public comments.

**Public comment.**

There were several comments in favor of the selection of John Fournier as City Manager and several against. There were several comments concerning the lack of response to the noose incident at Haven Middle School. There was a comment regarding the TBRA rental assistance program.

**SP1-** A Motion was made and seconded to authorize the appointment of John Fournier as City Manager for the City of Evanston. Discussion followed and the Motion passed 9-1 (with Councilperson Kelly voting no and Mayor Biss voting yes). Mayor Biss spoke at length about both candidates, noting that they had different strengths. He stated that Fournier is knowledgeable, precise and organized. Mayor Biss noted that the transition to the new City Manager will be overseen by City Council with close collaboration with the Mayor and City staff. The Council thanked Interim City Manager Gandurski for her work as Interim City Manager. Mayor Biss introduced John Fournier who spoke briefly to the Council and attendees, noting he looks forward to July 18, 2022 to begin working with the Mayor and Council to help achieve their ambitious goals.

**Consent Agenda.** A Motion was made and seconded to pass the Consent Agenda, after removing items A-6, A-9, A-10, A-12, HC-1, F-1, and F-2. The Motion passed 9-0.

A-6 –A Motion was made and seconded authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Board of Education of Evanston/Skokie School District 65 regarding crossing guard services. Under the agreement, District 65 will take over the administrative and financial responsibility of the crossing guard program starting in the 2022-2023 school year, with the City making partial reimbursements through the 2026-2027 school year. The Motion passed 9-0.

A-9 – A Motion was made to eliminate water shut off at residential properties for non-payment of the water bill. The Motion failed for lack of a second.

A-10 - A Motion was made and seconded to adopt an ordinance excluding the presence of cannabinoids in the City's pre-employment drug screening program. In response to a question from Councilmember Braithwaite , Counsel Cummings noted that testing of large vehicle operators is regulated by the FTC and that Illinois state law requires public safety worker drug screenings to be part of the collective bargaining process. Interim City Manager Gandurski noted that there is a distinction between safety and non-safety positions and that non-safety positions that are test positive are reviewed on a case-by-cases basis, and that the City of Chicago uses similar process. The Motion passed 9-0.

A12 – A Motion was made and seconded to adopt an ordinance allowing for a \$5 increase in the City Wheel Tax, with the additional revenue funding the Climate Action Resilience Plan (CARP) budget line item. The amended ordinance allows one citation for non-payment of the Wheel Tax, per license plate, to be waived if the registered owner becomes compliant and purchases the Wheel Tax within 7 days of receiving a citation for non-compliance. In addition, the proposed Ordinance eliminates the late fee if the citation is not paid within ten (10) days. The Motion passed 5-4 with Councilpersons Kelly, Braithwaite, Suffredin and Wynne voting no.

Councilperson Kelly then made a Motion to re-open Item A-9 to eliminate water shut-offs. Councilmember Reid asked Mr. Stonebeck for the average late bill amount and Councilmember Nieuwsma noted that the average was in the minutes of APW. Mr. Reid asked if there were other communities that did not shut off water for late payment and Mr. Stonebeck noted he was aware of only one community (Chicago) that does not shut off water for late payment. Councilmember Reid made a Motion to call the question, which was seconded by Councilmember Wynne. The Motion to call the question passed 9-0. A roll call vote was then taken on the ordinance. The Motion failed 5-4 with Councilmembers Reid, Geracaris, Kelly and Burns voting in favor.

HC1 –A Motion was made and seconded to approve \$200,000 of HOME Investment Partnerships Funding for the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program for a new cohort of families in the program, which is administered by Connections for the Homeless. It was noted that the TBRA program serves families with children in schools so that children who experience homelessness do not fall off school rolls. Councilmember Kelly discussed the issue raised by Ms. Paden during public comment and Interim City Manager noted that they will meet with Ms. Payden again to review the underlying concerns, but noted that this program and the other concern are two separate issues. The Motion passed 9-0.

F1 – A Motion was made and seconded to authorize the City Manager to increase the total fiscal year 2021 budget by \$11,554,473, from \$296,146,105 to a new total of \$307,700,578, as recommended by the Finance and Budget Committee. The Motion passed 8-0 (Suffredin had left the meeting).

F2- Ms. Gandurski asked Mr. Desai to give an update on the financials as of March 31, 2022. He noted that the budget looks good mainly due to receipt of the first installment of property taxes and that he will have a better idea after the second quarter.

### **Call of the wards.**

Councilmember Revelle had no report

Councilmember Reid noted there will be a ward meeting on Thursday at 6 pm via Zoom and that there will be a discussion of ranked voting.

Councilmember Geracaris noted the next ward meeting will be on the first Thursday of the month. He weighed in on the noose incident at Haven Middle School and stressed that disturbing acts of violence should not be minimized and that those who were responsible should be held accountable. He also noted that there will be

town hall meeting tomorrow evening to give the Latinix community the opportunity to provide feedback on desired qualities for the next police chief.

Councilmember Kelly offered condolences to Councilmember Braithwaite on the loss of his mother.

Councilmember Braithwaite thanked friends and community partners for their condolences.

Councilmember Wynne offered condolences to Councilmember Braithwaite. She noted there would be a ward meeting on Thursday.

Councilmember Nieuwsma offered his condolences as well and noted his next ward meeting will be on June 7 and that on the agenda would be the vote project and an update on Albany Care

Councilmember Burns expressed condolences to the Braithwaite family. He noted that this Thursday is the ward meeting, at which discussion will include the new city manager and the search process, an update on the 2022 health equity report, and a presentation by a retrofit program to assist in repairing housing in the ward. He also noted a town hall meeting is scheduled for tomorrow at First Church of God to gather feedback on qualities for the next police chief.

Mayor Biss also offered condolences to Councilmember Braithwaite.

A Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session. The Motion passed 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:11 pm.