

Observer Report

Council or Committee: Rules

Date: 9/07/21

Observer: Sue Calder

Aldermen Present: Wynne (chair), Kelley Braithwaite, Nieuwsma, Burns, Revelle, Reid, and Fleming

Staff Present: Francellino, Cummings, and Gandurski

Meeting Began. 5:10 pm

Meeting Ended: 8:25 pm

Public Comment Four: All on Ethics Committee - concerned about hearing officer (how paid, no citizen involvement, who chooses and vets, need 5 members, don't need legal training but critical thinking)/

For Discussion

R5. Review of Council Rule 9.8 and conflicts to committee chair schedules. (This consumed 51 minutes of the meeting and the discussion was very convoluted - even after rewatching, I was still confused. Has been discussed at 4 prior meetings.) Reid questioned the conflict with Wynne currently chairing two standing committees and suggested that using the seniority method and avoiding conflicts, he should become the chair. Wynne suggested the problem could be solved by exempting Rules from 9.8 (a councilmember shall chair only one standing committee at a time). Fleming stated that Francellino was to redo the schedule to eliminate the "double chair issue" and Gandurski agreed even tho' that would be time consuming for Dar. Braithwaite pointed out that if Reid was chair it wouldn't solve the problem over the next 3.5 years. Reid moved that he become chair at the end of this meeting (cutting Wynne's time) and then serve a full term from Dec. thru next April (which would make him the longest serving chair in history). Burn seconded and stated that only Reid had expressed a passion for being chair. Wynne stated that all would like to be chair and indicated that such a statement moved the issue into the political arena. Cummings stated that the Council had adopted the seniority approach and that the issue was only listed for discussion. Kelley agreed with the seniority approach. Reid stated that eventually a conflict-free schedule should be adopted and asked who developed the agendas. The original motion passed 5-4.*

R7. Items to Referrals Committee. Items are currently "scored" on amount of time and the committee chair determined whether or not to put the item on the agenda. Reid stated that staff-initiated items must go to the referrals committee. Fleming would like updates on what the staff is working on. Fleming (chair) suggested public could email suggestions.

R8. Appointment of Chair of Finance and Budget Committee. This is currently a "special" committee where the mayor would appoint the chair; it has five council members and three citizens. But since it was not intended to be an "ad hoc" committee, it would fall under the rule where Rules committee would appoint the chair. The decision was to move that Wynne be chair and where to place it - either as a special committee or a standing committee - could be decided later. Motion passed 9-0

For Action

R6. Amend Title 1, Chapter 10 of the City of Evanston Code of Ethic and Board of Ethics. Currently the staff would vet the proposed hearing officer. Kelley stated that the Council should do the vetting, Reid said that citizens should be involved in the vetting. The vote to reinstate a

board of ethics with three members who would review and accept or reject the finding of the special counsel and that of an administrative hearing office passed 7-2 (Kelley and Reid)

* This was my thought and I spoke with Eleanor this morning and she thought so too, but all think its not totally clear.