

2-18-19 City Council Observer Report

Committee: City Council

Observer: Jessica Feldman
(by TV)

Meeting began: 6:10pm

Meeting Ended:

Committee Members: All present except Aldermen Rue Simmons and Rainey

Staff Present: Erika Storlie; Dave Stonebeck, Fire Chief Brian Scott and new Police Chief Demitrous Cook; Edgar Cano staff person in charge of snow action; if others, I could not see them.

Media Present: Ev Now and three young women **who could only be seen from their backs** (I believe two from Northwestern and 3rd could be from Ev Review.

Citizen Comment Four people signed up. Two object to cost of new Crown Center; one objected to extending police power to public works personnel and one agreed with the other three.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

For Action

(SP1) City Council Minutes from February 4, 2019 and February 11, 2019 For Approved.

For Discussion

(SP2)2019-2020 City Council Goals

Staff recommends City Council to approve dates to schedule special meetings for discussion of 2019 and 2020 City Council goals. March 2 and 14th approved for these special meetings after proposal by Alderman Wilson.

(SP3)Evanston Fire Department's 2018 Annual Report

Annual Report presented by Fire Chief Scott City. Average response time is 3.1 minutes which is under the four-minute national goal. Mayor Hagerty commented that two thirds of the calls are ambulance calls. Said have to address the increase in call volume; though Chief Scott said vast majority of EMS calls are valid emergency. Mayor asked can triage calls to reduce demand; Chief Scott said vast majority of EMS calls valid emergencies. Says must respond to whatever emergency arises. Chief Scott said he plans changing the Fire Explorer program into a fire apprenticeship program that would provide Evanston residents a more direct route to careers with department. Alderman Fleming suggested possibly using smaller vehicles to respond to some incidents. It was agreed more resident education is needed to make them more aware of different types of services that don't require calling fire or police.

(SP4)Evanston Police Department 2018 Annual Report

2018 Annual Report presented by Police Chief Cook. Noted that while violent crimes increased, property crimes declined. Said there were three formal complaints against police officers out of nearly 87,0000 calls to which police responded. The total use of force incidents was 27. Says he carefully reviews incidents in which officers bring charges of resisting arrest or obstructing police because there's a risk of abuse if those aren't monitored. Said the city has 444 sex offenders. Alderman Wilson said that was a much larger number than the 20 shown in State records. Traffic bureau issued more than 8,000 citations in 1918.

For Action: Accept and Place on File

(SP5)Street Light Master Plan

Lara Biggs, city engineer, presented the Plan. She said she spent a lot of time talking about lighting for the Emerson-Ridge-Green Bay plan. That made it clear that City needed to come up with standardized plan for new projects and retrofits. Mike Kerr from City consultant Christopher Burke Engineering presented survey results. Said need to reduce number of light fixture types. Wants to use LED fixtures. Alderman Fiske asked about returning to the original Tallmadge polls, which she says were shorter than the current ones. Alderman Wynne said replacing all the poles would be extremely expensive. She wants to move forward and get the new polls ordered. Alderman Fiske said she's impressed with how short the light poles are in Wilmette, but those seem to light the sidewalks pretty well. Ms. Biggs said some poles on major streets are rusting out because they're exposed to a lot of road salt, but on side streets many polls could probably last another 20 to 30 years. Ms. Biggs said new Tallmadge fixtures would be dark sky "friendly" but not dark sky "compliant" -- because they would still let some light escape upward. Report accepted and placed on file.

For Action

(SP6)Tallmadge Street Lights Request for Proposal

Staff sought approval to proceed with Request for Proposal from streetlight manufacturers to provide proposals to cast a mold for a Tallmadge street light pole, supply Tallmadge poles and luminaries for either a 5 year or 10-year contract for the following materials: cast iron, ductile iron, steel, aluminum, and fiberglass. Funding for casting the Tallmadge street light pole will be provided from the Capital Improvement Program with a budget of \$70,000.

Approved

(SP7)Alley Paving Special Assessment Process

Staff recommended changing the special assessment process to a cost split of 75% payment by the residents and 25% payment by the City. Additionally, if residents choose to pay 100% of the alley cost they can move to the top of the wait list. Alderman Fleming raised concern some residents may not be able to pay bills for this. Public Works Director Dave Stoneback said individual property owners can get CDBG funding to cover their portion of the alley paving cost. Alderman Suffredin said he believes residents don't much like the 50/50 split now and a 75/25 split would probably be even less palatable. Alderman Revelle asked about payment plans. Mr. Stoneback said resident can either pay all at once or can finance over 10 years. Alderman Fiske was opposed to changing the existing funding model. Aldermen unanimously rejected the 75/25% cost share (residents/city) model, leaving it at 50/50%. Aldermen approved plan to get same-year paving for residents who agree to pay 100% of cost and city would waive the in-house legal and engineering costs (which typically amount to 9% of the cost). Alderman Wilson expressed concern that if just over 50% of residents want to do the 100% approach that amounts to a big expense for those who didn't agree. Alderman Wynne said should need a super-majority vote. Aldermen informally agreed with Mayor Hagerty who suggested sending the 100% plan back to staff for further review.

(SP8)Bridge Improvements Project Design

Chris Venatta, senior project manager, did the presentation seeking direction to the City Manager on the preferred method of improvement to the Union Pacific Railroad bridge at the intersection of Emerson St. Ridge Ave. and Green Bay Rd. Venetta said that because the bridge has lead paint they have to completely enclose every section when/while the work is being done. Mayor Hagerty, who agreed the bridges are a complete eyesore, met with UP, which says it has easements and maintains them structurally but doesn't have the means to keep them looking attractive. Mr. Stoneback said UP only painted the Central St. bridge because they were doing structural repairs to that bridge. Alderman Wilson asked about the role of lead remediation ordinances in such a circumstance; Alderman Suffredin suggested the City take down the covering and put up a sign saying, "Hey, its not our bridge."; Alderman Fiske wants to take down the burlap and would like to get it painted. Assistant City Manager Erika Storlie said she can get a report from UP on when all the bridges were last inspected. Alderman Wynne said NU Engineering School did a study of CTA bridges a few years ago;

maybe they could look at UP bridges as well. Conclusion was to take down the burlap and continue considering what else to do.

(SP9) Proposed Projects Funded by Waste Transfer Station Funds

Staff recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to: 1) Proceed with the engineering design for the 2019 alley improvements to be funded by the waste transfer station funds; and 2) Authorize staff to begin discussions with ComEd to obtain property adjacent to the alley north of Lyons, east of Darrow, in order to improve this alley in 2020. Funding for the construction of the alleys installed in 2019 would be provided by the Capital Improvement Program Fund. This account draws funds from the settlement funds awarded to the City in 2016 (in the amount of \$1,263,247.90) and the per ton host fee paid to the City which has a current balance of \$86,412.00. The estimated cost to improve the three alleys scheduled for 2019 is \$560,000. Approved 7-0.

(SP10) Additional Street Cleaning Dates

Staff recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to provide additional street sweeping at the end of the season if weather conditions permit. Suggesting that people would prefer getting a text to a ticket, Alderman Braithwaite asked whether City could push text messages to people even if they haven't signed up for them. Ms. Storlie said staff can look into that. Council voted 7-0 to approve posting temporary signs indicating additional street cleaning dates and also encourage residents to sign up for email or text messages.

(SP11) Winter Weather Aftermath

Staff recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to prepare City Code modifications to improve the safety for the general public and improve services provided by the City. Edgar Cano, staff responsible for snow clean up, said we are getting more multi-day storms which leads to more OT and an unusual amount of ice as well as ice storms, apparently because of climate change. Alderman Fiske asked if we could use sand instead of salt. Mr. Cano said sand only provides traction no melting, also gets into sewer system that causes problems later on. Alderman Fleming wants City to do a better job of clearing crosswalks—especially on routes to school. Mr. Stonebeck said entire City staff teamed up to help during the polar vortex. Mr. Cano complained about private plows are pushing snow from parking lots out into streets. Alderman Fleming said City should require salting sidewalks. She also asked about trash cans that get plowed in on streets. Mr. Cano says he's mainly concerned about commercial-size dumpsters. Ms. Storlie said she will prepare ordinances on these issues.

For Introduction

(SP12) Ordinance 15-O-19. Amending Portions of City Code Title 7. “Public Ways.” Chapter 8 “Trees and Shrubs”

Staff recommended that City Council adopt Ordinance 15-O-19, which will amend portions of City Code Title 7, “Public Ways” Chapter 8, “Trees and Shrubs” to correct staff title updates and clarifying public parkway allowed plantings. Alderman Revelle doesn't want to ban anything taller than three feet; in a lot of areas suggests that would not be a problem. Mr. Stonebeck said police want a clear view from the street into homes—even in the middle of the block. Alderman Fleming said tall plants create harborage for rats. Ike Ogbo of the Health Dept. said rat problems are a combination of height and density. Approved 7-0 for Introduction

(SP13) Ordinance 10-O-19. Amending Portions of City Code Title 7. “Public Ways” to Include Police Powers to the Director of Public Works

Staff recommended that City Council adopt Ordinance 10-O-19, which will amend portions of City Code Title 7, “Public Ways” to include police powers to the Director of Public Works. Mr. Stonebeck said it would be to issue citations and tickets and would be for supervisors in the department. Approved for Introduction 6-1 Ald. Fleming voted no.

(SP14) Ordinance 13-O-19, Amending City Code Section 8-4-6(C) – Private Scavenger Provided Receptacles

Staff recommended that City Council adopt Ordinance 13-O-19, which will amend City Code Section 8-4-6(C) - Private Scavenger Provided Receptacles, requiring trash receptacles be kept locked in the downtown zoning districts. Approved 7-0 for Introduction.

Call of the Wards:

Before motion to adjourn into Executive Session, Ms. Storlie said there are 23 registered sex offenders in Evanston. Chief Cook misspoke earlier; 400+ number included all weekly check ins.

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