

Observer: Kristine Lofquist

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

Meeting started: 7:33pm

Meeting ended: 10:25pm

Mayor Biss called the meeting to order at 7:33pm. The City Clerk took the roll call and noted there was a quorum.

Announcements

The Mayor reported that a town hall meeting will be held on July 28 with the candidate for City Manager, Carol Mitten. He also reported that the National Night Out celebration is scheduled for August 2 at Arrington Lagoon from 4 to 9pm.

The City Manager had no report.

The City Clerk had no report.

Public comment

- There were two comments stating concern with the City’s audit
- There were nine comments regarding the city manager selection process, noting that is flawed and requesting that Council slow down or freeze the hiring process for Carol Mitten until the community has time to review her record. Several residents noted concerns regarding her lack of transparency in her current position as the city manager of Urbana, Illinois.
- Two commenters spoke in favor of ARPA funding for an early childhood provider bonus program
- There was one comment opposing the liquor license to Shop Now
- There was one comment asking the Council to vote no on H3, H4 and H5

SP1 – A Motion was made and seconded to accept and place on file the 2021 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The outside auditors presented the highlights of the report, noting that the report was submitted to the GFOA and was recognized for excellence in financial reporting. The Mayor noted that the report must be up on the state comptroller’s website by the end of August and that a 30-day extension had already been granted. He stated that the report will be discussed further at the Finance and Budget Committee but that it can placed on file. The Motion passed 7-0

SP2 – There was a presentation by City staff regarding the Evanston Service Center Facility Evaluation and Master Plan. It was noted that on September 13, 2021, City Council approved a contract with Greeley and Hansen (a consultant) for a Service Center Master Plan. The presenters stated that the service center was built 40 years ago and needs to be modernized to comply with CARP requirements and address storage issues. The City staff has been working with the consultant who proposed two options. Option 1 is estimated to cost \$44.2 million and Option 2 is estimated to cost \$95.9 million. The primary difference between the two options is that Option 1 would involve repairing Building D and Option 2 would involve rebuilding it. It was noted that City staff recommends Option 1. Funding for implementation will be provided from future General Obligation Bonds through the City’s Capital Improvement Plan. This item was for discussion only.

Consent Agenda. A Motion was made and seconded to pass the Consent Agenda, after removing items CM1, A3, A5, A16, 17 and 18, H4, H5, H6, P2, P3, P4 and P5 (it was noted that Items P2, 3 and 4 had not made it through Committee). The Motion passed 7-0.

CM1 – A Motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of July 11, 2022 and the Amended Special and Regular City Council Meeting. Councilmember Kelly asked interim city corporate counsel if the amended meeting minutes could be held until the next meeting; however, he noted that the minutes are already late and that there is now litigation and complaints regarding the open meetings act. City Clerk Mendoza stated that her staff had done the best they could to catch up on all the amended minutes and Mayor Biss thanked her and her staff for the additional work. The Motion passed 7-0.

A3 – A Motion was made and seconded to approve the Beck Park expansion project. Discussion followed regarding funding of the project. There was a question as to whether ARPA funds could be used instead of General Obligation Bonds and City staff noted that it was their understanding that it could be done but that would mean taking money allocated to another project. A Motion was made and seconded to amend the funding of the project to take monies from the general fund reserve as opposed to using general obligation bonds. Discussion followed and the Amended Motion passed 7-0.

A5 – A Motion was made and seconded to approve the Poplar Avenue resurfacing and Parking Improvement Project. Councilmember Kelly suggested this item be put on hold until Councilmember Revelle returns from abroad, due to residents wanting a community meeting before the project. Mayor Biss indicated that he had spoken with Councilmember Revelle and that she had thought the project could be started. The Motion passed 6-1, Kelly voted no.

A16, 17 and 18 – A Motion was made and seconded to suspend the rules in order for A16, A17 and 18 to be acted on together (approving liquor licenses). The Motion passed 7-0. Then a Motion was made and seconded to approve all three for final passage. The Motion passed 7-0.

P5 – A Motion made and seconded to adopt a revised ordinance dissolving the formal Design and Project Review committee structure and maintaining the projects and evaluation measures of the Design and Project Review. Councilmember Burns requested a hold on the item and Mayor Biss suggested tabling it to the first meeting in September. Following discussion, a Motion was made and seconded to table the item until the September 12, 2022 meeting. The Motion to table passed 7-0.

H4 – A Motion was made and seconded to adopt an ordinance that would amend portions of the City Code to include cannabis products in the Code and establish a maximum fine of \$50 for a person less than 21 years of age when attempting to purchase alcohol or cannabis products. Following discussion, and a question as whether Interim Police Chief Eddington agreed with the \$50 fine (to which he responded in the affirmative, the Motion passed 6-0. (Councilmember Kelly had stepped out of the meeting prior to the votes on H4, 5 and 6).

H5 – A Motion made and seconded to adopt a proposed amendment to the City Code that would delete the entire section as it pertains to persons under 19 years of age being in violation of the Ordinance by being present in proximity to legal drinking unless at a licensed facility for the sale of alcohol and clarifying that an individual under 19 years of age being present in the vicinity of where alcohol is consumed (but not consuming the alcohol) should not be considered a violation. In response to question from Councilmember Wynne, Interim Police Chief Eddington noted his concern with taking this tool out of toolbox to combat under-age drinking although it is rarely used. Following discussion, Councilmember Burns suggested moving the item to the Alternatives to Arrest Committee. Councilmember Reid made a Motion to move the item to the Alternatives to Arrest Committee and the Motion was seconded by Councilmember Burns. The Motion passed 4-3 with Councilmembers Suffredin,

Wynne and Nieuwsma voting no, Councilmembers Geracaris, Reid and Burns voted yes, and Mayor Biss breaking the tie by voting yes.

H6 – A Motion was made and seconded to adopt the amendment to the City ordinance proposed at the last meeting that expanded the ordinance prohibiting pedestrians under the influence of alcohol or drugs to walk upon a public right of way to be expanded to state that any person who is under the influence of drugs or alcohol shall not walk, without adequate assistance to reasonably mitigate the hazard, or operate a bicycle, motorized scooter or any other personal propulsion means of transport carrier on a public right of way. Following discussion, Councilmember Wynne made a Motion to strike the phrase walk “without adequate assistance to reasonably mitigate the hazard” and the Motion was seconded. Following the Motion to amend, Councilmember Reid made a Motion to move the item to the Alternatives to Arrest Committee and the Motion was seconded by Councilmember Burns. The Motion passed 4-3 with Councilmembers Suffredin, Wynne and Nieuwsma voting no, Councilmembers Geracaris, Reid and Burns voted yes, and Mayor Biss breaking the tie by voting yes.

Kelly returned to meeting at this time.

Call of the wards.

Most of the councilmembers had not report. Councilmember Reid noted that his next ward meeting was scheduled for the day of the town hall so it would need to be rescheduled and Councilmember Kelly reported there would be a meeting in her ward to discuss proposed construction.

A Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session. The Motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:25pm.