

## **Evanston Human Services Committee, May 1, 2023**

5:00 pm

Observer: Jennifer O'Neil

Present: Council Members Eleanor Revelle, Juan Geracaris, Bobby Burns (online), Devon Reid, and Krissy Harris

Staff: Corporate Counsel, Ike Ogbo, Director of Health & Human Services, and Ms. Whyte

- (I) CM Geracaris called the meeting to order at 5:06
- (II) **Approval of Revised Minutes of Feb 7, 2023** approved, roll call vote  
**Approval of Minutes of March 6, 2023**, approved, roll call vote

### **(III) Public Comment**

Dan Coyne (9<sup>th</sup> ward) in favor of piloting gaming

Sales rep for Eureka, gaming sales – agreement w/Fireside Grill, Bluestone

Argument – you can gamble on your phone and in other communities – may as well keep the money here

Speakers from Westminster Place, Presbyterian Homes, Three Crowns, Mather, Sandi Johnson/ 1<sup>st</sup> ward resident oppose Fair workweek ordinance for them as well as health care facilities

Two speakers in favor of Geraldine Pace Way

NU student speaking in favor of decriminalizing certain controlled substances; also ACLU speaking in favor (online)

Speaker re: Rodent control – feral cats work – please consider more natural ways of control; 2<sup>nd</sup> speaker – real problem, city very responsive but need more help

Online - Support for fair workweek, except nursing homes and child care  
Letter received from SEIU about fair workweek, saying do not remove nursing homes

### **(IV) ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

#### **HS1. Rat Control Progress Report For Action: Accept and Place on File**

Rat Control Progress Report -Public Health Mgr, - HHS staff and contractor pest control  
Discussion: cats, different ways of collecting trash, roll call vote to place the report on file: passed

## **HS2. Proposed Modification to City Code 9-5-8 in Regards to Gambling**

For Action

Discussion: source of revenue, state law allows gambling, you can gamble on your phone but Evanston's ordinance is out of date. Evanston hasn't enforced gambling laws for over a decade. Can City just focus on video gaming?

Motion to consider modifying city code related to gambling, reconsider in three months - roll call vote: passed

## **HS3. Decriminalizing Certain Controlled Substances (to the extent possible under home rule) possession of entheogenic plants such as psilocybin. For Action**

EPD has this as a low priority, Felony – but can determine to charge as less than a felony, establish action to be taken. Vote: does not pass

## **HS4. Resolution 32-R-23, designating that portion of Main Street, Between Pitner Avenue and Grey Avenue with the Honorary Street Name Sign, “Geraldine Pace Way”**

Vote: passes

## **HS5. Ordinance 24-O-23, Establishing Evanston's Fair Workweek Ordinance - For Action**

A good deal of discussion among committee and audience members to clarify ordinance as well as service provider needs and challenges. Nursing industry a major outstanding question. CM Revelle raised issue of child care workers – not in Chicago ordinance. She's concerned.

Motion to remove child care and nursing care from the ordinance

CM Revelle moved to withdraw motion and moved to table ordinance for a month

Mayor Biss – comments: retail core to this ordinance- suggested taking out nursing and child care but moving forward on retail. CM Revelle withdraws motion to table. Forward ordinance to City Council without long term care and child care.

Roll call vote on amendment passes but observer did not hear a vote from CM Burns.

Final vote on revised ordinance passed 4-1 with Burns voting against so the revised version goes to City Council.

## **HS6. Ordinance 47-O-23, Amending Title 8, Chapter 26 “Leaf Blowers”.**

**Councilmember Revelle recommends the Human Services Committee approve Ordinance 47-O-23, Amending Title 8, Chapter 26 “Leaf Blowers” specifically the**

**Permitted Hours of Leaf Blower Use, and forward it to the City Council for adoption.**

**For Action**

Vote: passes

**HS7. Ordinance 1-O-23, Amending the City Code and Creating Section 3-2-22 “Retail Single Use Bag Tax”**

**For Action**

There was much confusion over language/ specifics – clarifications discussed  
Original version – vote – roll call: fails

Alternative version – CM Burns amends to ban; CM Reid wants to amend to keep original version; CM Revelle wants to stick with bags and not deal with single use plastics like straws etc. Reid says no, put single use plastics back in as originally planned. A very confusing discussion followed with several amendments and an argument as to whether CM Burns actually made a motion or not because he said “I would like to make an amendment” rather than “I move to amend”. There were amendments to ban all plastic bags 2024, all single use plastics, then amendments were withdrawn.

Final decision was a unanimous vote in favor of the revised version to ban plastic bags at large retailers beginning in August, so the plastic bag tax moves to City Council,

**HS8. Ordinance 27-O-23, Amending Portions of Title 7, Chapter 11, “City Beaches and Boat Ramps” of the City Code**

For Action

Vote – passes

**(V) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**(VI) ITEMS FOR COMMUNICATION**

**(VII) ADJOURNMENT 8:55 pm**

Note: all votes were roll call