

## Regular Meeting of the Elmhurst City Council

Monday, May 15, 2017  
City Hall, 209 N. York St.  
Elmhurst, IL 60126  
Council Chambers, 7:40 p.m.  
Steven M. Morley, Mayor

Attendance: ~70 residents (incl. 6 Lions Club);  
~30 police; 14 Aldermen; Atty. Storino; Clerk  
Spencer; Mgr. Grabowski; Treas. Libovicz;  
3 press; LWV observer: B. Lipton

1. **Executive Session** - Conf. Room #2 - 6:30 p.m. for the Purpose of Discussing: Purchase of Real Property pursuant to the Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/5 (c)(5) and Collective Bargaining Negotiations pursuant to the Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2)

2. **Call to Order** - Pledge of Allegiance; Roll Call – no aldermen absent - quorum

### 3. Swearing In

3.1 Police Department Promotion: Sergeant David Rivkin to Police Commander

3.2 Police Department Promotion: Detective Brendan Bruckner to Police Sergeant

### 4. Presentations

4.1 Proclamation - Lions Clubs International Week 6/30/17 – 7/4/17

4.2 Proclamation - Mike LaSpisa Day May 15, 2017. Mayor Morley explains that LaSpisa set up Kickoff for Kids charity 15 years ago; raised a lot of funds to benefit Elmhurst children. Mike and 6 family members came up to the front of the room for the reading of the proclamation.

5. **Receipt of Written Communication from the Public** two submissions.

### 6. Public Forum

Mayor Morley states that the report regarding Elmhurst Extended Care Center will be pulled back to the DPZ committee for re-evaluation, so people may or may not want to speak.

- Roz Long, 186 Grace, founder of Art in the Parks and other cultural events in Elmhurst. She speaks about her mother who spent her final weeks in EECC and had a very positive, caring experience. Long describes the excellent care her mother received there; compared to the other 3 nursing homes her parents had to rely on at various times EECC was outstanding.
- Richard Peter, 1675 Iowa Drive, speaks about the 10 years that his relative has been in EECC – she has been treated exceptionally well, like family. He doesn't understand the neighbors' opposition to the expansion of the center because they are not planning to expand the number of people, just the quality of care. The elevations he has seen make the proposed building look a lot like the new buildings along St. Charles Road.
- Rob Goldstein, 173 E. Fremont Ave. says it is frustrating for the neighbors to hear these submissions after all the discussion of this issue over the past months. He doesn't dispute that the EECC provides high quality care. He understands that the EECC lawyers are planning a lawsuit, but they should remember that it can only go forward based on the appropriateness of the structure, not the quality of nursing care. The DPZ committee already found that the construction of a huge building and parking lot in the middle of a residential area is not appropriate. He just reminds Council that this is about the fit of the structure in the residential area, not about the quality of the care EECC provides.
- Cindy Cabrilla, activity director at EECC. Explains that this is about building single rooms, not about adding patients. Also over the years many local citizens have volunteered, some have later become residents. We all are getting older and wouldn't it be great to have a great nursing home right here in Elmhurst.
- Deacon John Feeley from IC, has had a mother and a mother-in-law in EECC, states ~30 parish members are now in the nursing home. Every week he goes for prayers, it is a clean, wholesome, caring environment. Not only Catholics, but all denominations are there and getting excellent care.
- Todd Benson, 391 River Glen, moved to Elmhurst 24 years ago, speaks positively about the new construction everywhere here in Elmhurst. Describes the lineup for Music in the Gazebo this

summer on Thursdays on Spring Road. He also mentions the beginning of the Elmhurst Farmers Market on Wednesday June 7, to continue through October.

- Diane Damico, speaks in favor of EECC, she is a member of the Elmhurst Sr. Citizens Commission and director of marketing at EECC. Her mother spent 7 great years at EECC before her passing. Families want spacious accommodations, large gardens and public rooms, so that is the reason for the proposed expansion.
- Bill Barkowicz, 504 N. Greenridge, has worked at EECC for 19 years, he is activity director. 57 years ago when the facility was built it met requirements, but now it is outdated. He describes the cramped conditions in detail. He feels it is hypocritical for the neighbors to remodel their own homes but to oppose improvements to the home of people who cannot speak for themselves.
- Charlene Weisinger, Larch Ave. reads a letter from Mrs. Feeley, whose brother lives at EECC.
- Paula Fabry Morrow, 126 Clinton Ave. lives in Elmhurst past 20 years, she is an occupational therapist. She has witnessed many changes over these years in Elmhurst, like the new parking lots downtown, the 56 new construction homes on the old hospital site, etc. These were all opposed by residents, but the Council approved them for the benefit of the whole city. The people who are against the EECC expansion do not understand that the residents deserve a rehabbed home, too.
- Julia Morrow, her daughter, is a York H. S. senior who has volunteered at EECC since 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and has had a great experience. She encourages young people who oppose the EECC expansion to open their minds or even go over there and meet the EECC residents.
- Cynthia Dvorak, a former Fremont Ave resident who grew up there. Supports Mr. Goldstein that the neighbors do not object to the EECC's quality of care, but they do feel that a several thousand foot parking lot as well as a structure that is much higher than the surrounding homes is just not appropriate for this neighborhood.
- Carl Peterson, director of business development at EECC, speaks in favor of the expansion.
- John McNichols, 105 E. Fremont, lives immediately adjacent to the proposed expansion. Thanks the DPZ Committee members and staff for all their work, and he is disappointed that the issue will not be coming to closure tonight. He reviews the process, restates that the issue is whether the facility should expand to a residential street, not about their quality of care. In their last-minute letter EECC states they have no alternatives, yet they have changed their plans several times. It is not clear that they have explored all the possible alternatives. They threaten a lawsuit. The property values will definitely decrease and the 35-foot high structure will deprive his property of sunlight. Urges Aldermen to vote against expansion when it finally comes to the Council.
- Greg Dvorak 174 Fremont, restates several points of the neighbors' opposition to EECC.
- Marie Desoma, N. Grove Ave., travels every day from Oak Park to visit her mother who has been in EECC for 5 years. She speaks in support of the expansion.
- Claude Pagacz 566 W. Gladys, wants to change the subject to the state proposal to legalize recreational marijuana in order to bring in tax revenue. Gambling didn't work, now they want a sugar tax, raised gas tax, raised water rates.
- Rachel Troy, works for EECC, doesn't understand why people are objecting on the basis of how the EECC expansion will look.
- Ed Manion, Elmhurst resident since 1963, his wife has been in EECC the past 46 months. Speaks in favor of the expansion, citing the exceptional level of care.
- George Zapata is also an IC parishioner, thanks DPZ committee for its sound recommendations and doesn't understand why the issue is going back to the committee except that they have been out-lawyered. All the facts are there; he hopes the issue will be settled correctly and soon. Urges Council not to be intimidated by the EECC scare tactics.
- John Masard, Rosemont, his family built EECC, he worked there 46 years as the administrator. It is one of the few family-owned nursing homes in Illinois, it has been a good neighbor. The facility

needs to be rehabbed, it is a teaching facility, sponsored Little League, bowling teams, etc. Mr. Masard reviews the history of EECC in Elmhurst. Asks for support of the facility.

- Artha Clark, her mother has been in EECC for 12 years. Supports its expansion.
- Noreen Thermis, reads a letter she sent to all the Council members. Speaks in support of EECC.
- Eileen Oser, states opposition to the EECC, despite that her grandmother received great care there. The neighbors object to the expansion because of the large proposed structure.
- Teresa McCarthy, a physical therapist and a rehab physician, who has worked in EECC. She objects to a huge 50,000 sf facility going in to the residential area.
- Julie McNichols understands that the EECC submitted a petition supporting its expansion with 50 signatures; the neighborhood group submitted ~175 signatures in opposition from residents all across the city.
- Mark Escarino, Fremont Ave. resident, speaks in opposition to the EECC expansion.

## **7. Announcements**

- Ald. Dunn points out that the O'Hare 'fly quiet' runway rotation started last week, with overnight aircraft landings we will be impacted the weeks of June 4 and July 2. There is a meeting this Friday of the O'Hare Noise Abatement Committee.
- Ald. York – on Sat. May 27 Elmhurst College will graduate 761 seniors and 214 graduate students.
- Ald. Mulliner thanks Elmhurst Police officers for their service as this week is National Police Week.

## **8. Consent Agenda** All items approved unanimously.

8.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Elmhurst City Council on May 1, 2017

8.2 Accounts Payable - May 11, 2017 - Total \$ 4,672,556.06

8.3 Committee Appointments - 2017-19 (Mayor Morley)

8.4 Appointment as Chairman to the Zoning & Planning Commission - Rose (Mayor Morley)

8.5 Appointment to the Heritage Foundation - Rasho (Mayor Morley)

8.6 Appointment to the Heritage Foundation - Baker (Mayor Morley)

8.7 ZO-07-2017 - An Ordinance Amending Ordinance Number ZO-08-2016 to Authorize the Extension of Time for the Amendment to a Conditional Use Permit, with Associated Variations, for the Purpose of Constructing a Reconfigured Existing Parking Lot for the Property Commonly Known as 123 East St. Charles, Elmhurst, Illinois (Redeemer Lutheran Evangelical Church)

8.8 R-55-2017 - A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Issuance of a Notice of Award for the 2017 Storm/Sanitary Line Cleaning and Televising Project

8.9 R-56-2017 - A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Issuance of a Notice of Award for the 2017 Sanitary Sewer CIPP Lining Project

8.10 R-57-2017 - A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Issuance of a Notice of Award for the 2017 Water Main Improvements Project

## **9. Reports and Recommendations of Appointed and Elected Officials**

9.1 Mayor Morley, thanks council for approving his committee appointments.

9.2 City Manager Grabowski notes this Friday Police will host a Cop-on-Top fundraiser for Special Olympics.

- Last week letters went out to notify ~100 residents to participate in the pilot project for changing out the water meters.

Ald. Bram requests a future meeting to deal with concerns about the proposed widening of I-294 and how it will impact Elmhurst. Mayor Morley agrees.

## **10. Committee Reports**

10.1 Report - Case Number 17 P 02 and 16 P 12/Elmhurst Extended Care (DPZ) – pulled back for further committee evaluation.

## **11. Other Business**

- Other Business: None

**12. Adjournment** 9:30 pm - Presentation by Mayor Morley: "Elmhurst City Council 101: Understanding Your Local Government". PowerPoint slides available on the City web site.

PLEASE NOTE: Related documents can be accessed online at:

<http://www.boarddocs.com/il/coe/Board.nsf/Public>

and video recording of this meeting can be found at [www.Youtube.com](http://www.Youtube.com)