

**I. Call to Order**

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Roll Call

**II. Presentation**

- a. Agenda item 2.1- Superior Ambulance/Metro Paramedics presents a check to the City of Elmhurst. Mayor Morley explains that they provide the ambulance services for the city. They are corporate partners with the city under a contract that allows for the money earned over certain cap to be given back to Elmhurst. Mayor Morley gives the floor to VP of Metro Paramedics services, Mike Tillman, who thanks the mayor and the council for being able to give the presentation. Tillman says his company provides two fully equipped, advanced life support ambulances and 12 EMT paramedics. The billing rates for their services are established by the City Council. He says 90% of their revenue comes from billing the patients and that the most the city has had to come out of pocket for their services the past year was \$194,000. He also states that if Superior Ambulance/Metro Paramedics makes anything over \$930,000, the money is refunded to the City of Elmhurst. In this case it was \$158,071.

**III. Receipt of Written Communications from the Public**

- a. No member of the public has a written communication to submit

**IV. Public Forum**

- a. Claude Pagacz, 566 W. Gladys, says that the council has not mentioned storm water retention in regards to the Wilder Crossing project. He says the council did mention that there were numerous houses built last year in Elmhurst that required water retention and putting water retention at a new parking lot. He also says that the council was concerned over how much profit Wilder Crossing should make at the last meeting, and according to him, the council agreed that 10% profit would be appropriate at that they would provide public funds to maintain it. He says that some of the council objected to the project because it would be a gamble, but implies that the other council members agreed to do it anyway. He asks is this government “for the few, at the cost of many?”
- b. Sue Whitworth, 105 S. Arlington Ave, is at the council representing the League of Women Voters. She thanks the council and city hall for allowing the league to use the council chambers on Sunday to host the candidate forum. She also introduces observer reporter, Nezar Nafiseh, who is there to observe the council.
- c. Tamara Brenner remarks how she is amazed at how the council continues to disappoint her. Last time, she says, the chair of the finance committee (who is absent) talked about “playing with house money” in regards to a new development project. This is something she is not happy about. Another thing is that she says that it is better for locally elected officials to attend meetings regularly and actually be there rather than attend meetings by electronic means, as this would serve the citizens better. Brenner mentions the referral process which she believes is broken, and that the council has not taken the right course of action to fix it. She thinks that limits on referrals create potential for

abuse of the referral system, for instance, by the way committee assignments are made. She proposes that the city would be better served if an Alderman could bring an idea forward that merits discussion, even if it is an unpopular subject. She does not think Elmhurst City Council should emulate the practices of the Illinois state legislature, which is to “wipe the slate clean” every two years. She says it is not difficult to bring every referral forward to a committee. Brenner is also unhappy about the development of a community center being planned by a small committee instead of the council using a strategic planning process, given the size of the project. She criticizes the council for not using legitimate process to deal with the issue.

- d. Kathleen Sullivan, 133 Pine, says that she is in support of the proposal to approve engineering costs for the Pine-Avon area.

**V. Announcements**

- a. Ald. Dunn announces an open house at City Hall for the Crockett Ave. sidewalk project on 2/19/15 from 3:00-6:00 pm. Residents and non-residents of the street may attend.

**VI. Consent Agenda**

- a. Consent Agenda was approved (12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent) with the following items removed: 6.16
- b. 6.16-report- Laptop Computer Replacement Proposal
  - i. Clerk Spencer reads the recommendation of the Finance Council Affairs and Administrative Services Committee that the council approve waiving the competitive bid requirements and approve the purchase of 50 replacement laptop computers from Microcenter for \$599.99 per unit. The F, CA&AS committee also recommends suspending the rules for consideration of allowing Ordinance O-07-2015, which was signed by several alderman.
  - ii. Ald. Dunn motions to approve the report. Dunn says he wanted 6.16 removed from the consent agenda “in the spirit of full disclosure”. He explains that the council wants to waive the rules this time to pass the ordinance the same evening as the report. He says the purchase of the laptop computers is contingent on them being purchased before the end of February. To take advantage of the pricing, the committee thought it was efficient to approve it and waive the rules to have it passed.
  - iii. The report is passed (12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent).

**VII. Committee Reports**

- a. 7.1- report- Review of Meeting Attendance Via Electronic Means
  - i. It is the recommendation of the F, CA&AS that the City Council direct the city attorney to prepare the appropriate resolution to adopt the rules of the conduct of the city council and standing committee meetings via electronic means.
  - ii. Ald. Dunn motions to pull the report and the Mayor tells him it is not needed since he is Vice President of the committee with the President of the committee absent, and that he can look over it himself.
- b. 7.2-report- City Council Action Referral Process
  - i. It is the recommendation of the F, CA&AS that the City Council direct the city attorney to prepare the appropriate amendment to the city of Elmhurst

municipal code ordinance to codify the referral life span as defined in this report and to codify the requirement that a referral requires two aldermanic sponsors.

- ii. Ald. Dunn explains that the issues regarding the referral process were brought to the committee's attention by Ald. Kennedy and Ald. Mulliner. It was discussed between them and they talked about giving more formality and structure to referrals. They agreed to add a lifespan to referrals and Ald. Dunn claims it was consistent with other legislative bodies to clean up pending items on a periodic basis. Dunn says it is perfectly acceptable for someone to resubmit a request after its expiration. In addition the chairman would be able to resurrect old referrals that might see increased relevance depending on their importance to city council. The committee felt it appropriate to have two aldermanic sponsors for each referral as well as it was important to have someone who understands the intent of the referral advocate for it.
  1. Ald. Deuter references a survey that asked people from five different communities about the referral process. She explained that of the five communities that responded, there was no standard process. Three of the five communities require a show of support from an alderman for the issues they raise before the issue moves forward. She states that this is not efficient currently and says that city hall staff time would be better utilized working with referrals that "have the legs to move forward". She reiterates what Ald. Dunn said about how having a time frame for referrals is more efficient.
  2. Ald. Bram does not support the new restrictions on referrals. He also says that the sampling of the five communities was not exemplary of what their standard process is for referrals. He is discontented with the phrasing of "cleaning up" the pending items list and mentions that these referrals are usually from the constituents of an Alderman. Bram critically states that he does not see the logic in the expiration and then subsequent resubmittal of referrals the day after. He does not like the fact that the chairman is responsible for resurrecting the referral and that this power should not be vested in one individual. He claims that worrying about "staff's time" should not get in the way of debating ideas and that "wiping the slate clean" is not efficient. According to him, two Alderman approving a referral is good enough for consensus. Bram does not like that Elmhurst's government was compared to state government.
  3. Ald. Gutenkauf recalls two Alderman that sent a referral six years ago to the F, CA&AS committee which proposed an ordinance that would require individuals who owned more than 7.5% of any business organization, or any business that had real estate over a certain dollar amount in the city of Elmhurst to disclose their information of ownership interests, partnerships, trusts, etc. Ald. Gutenkauf explains that it would help make city operations more transparent. The item came before the committee chair who she says "tabled it". The referral

languished for six years. She gives a few other examples of reports that were never given the attention by the committee to be made into ordinances and summarizes it all by saying that the committee would rather not address these issues head on and wonders what they are hiding. She questions the extent to which committee members are burdened with the backlog of referrals, and if they are just waiting for them to “disappear”.

4. Ald. Levin says that the Alderman opposing the new restrictions are misrepresenting the true nature of it. According to him, other Alderman on the committee besides the chairman can resurrect old referrals. He believes that the reason these referrals languish is because no Alderman wants to move these issues forward. Levin also states that if there is not one other person to want to look at an issue, it is a waste of staff’s time to have them work with that referral because there are other more important ones to handle.
5. Ald. Gutenkauf is still against it. She says that the chairman of committees have too much power and that reports should be issued out of committee for the whole council to look at. She thinks their new powers to get rid of referrals quicker is unfair to the residents, council members, and is even disrespectful.
6. Ald. Dunn reiterates his support of the change. He gives an example of his experience bringing forth an issue about “having chickens” to the council at a past meeting and that council’s interest fizzled, and how it would be the type of item that could be taken off the pending items list.
7. Ald. Bram has asked many sources about pending items, and is offended that the pending items list is not updated regularly. He says if referrals don’t languish for six years there won’t be a reason to “refine and improve” referrals. He reiterates his prior position about not changing the referral process. He is against the idea of a “sunset clause” on issues that constituents or Alderman bring forth.
8. Ald. Healy supports Ald. Levin’s view that if there is not another Alderman to support a referral that is brought forth, the referral may not be necessary. He has never felt the referrals were not getting “a fair shake”. He thinks the new referral process works and that there is nothing restrictive about the process.
9. The report is passed (10 Ayes, 2 Nays, 2 Absent).

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

- a. Mayor Morley mentions that the League of Women voters kicked off Election season and that it was well-attended. He says it is the chance to get involved and vote for those who will represent the city for the next four to six years. He thanks the LWV for sharing information about the candidate forum on Sunday with the public. The EDC Women in Management event 2/17/15 had 65 people attend and the Mayor says he appreciates all of their hard work.

- b. City Manager Grabowski reminds the council and the public of the strategic planning sessions on Friday and Saturday.
- c. Ald. Bram wants to know the set dates for demolition to begin on a new building project. He wants it to be clarified if there is a set date and someone mentions it is not set yet.
- d. Ald. Kennedy states that he, Ald. Bram, and City Manager Grabowski attended a park district meeting last Wednesday that discussed a letter (sent from the city to the park district) about the storm water projects in Golden Meadows Park and at York Commons. He reminds the council of the letter's contents which stated that the park district would look at the projects based on three criteria: trying to help the city meet storm water needs if possible, insure that the parks sites used for retention retain their recreational function, and not adversely impact residents living in proximity to the parks. The park district deliberated and came to the same decision that the west slope of Golden meadows and the west slope of York Commons would be the projects. As part of the Public Works Committee, Kennedy says that they will prioritize these projects and make sure they are acted upon "as quickly as possible". Because the park district wants to know more about the potential use of referendums for different purposes, he requests of the city manager and city attorney make a presentation for "referendums 101" to show them what it is all about.

**IX. Ordinances**

- a. Clerk spencer reads the ordinance for agenda item O-07-2015- An ordinance waiving bid and accepting the proposal of Microcenter for the Purchase of Replacement Laptop Computers for the City of Elmhurst.
- b. Ald. Dunn reiterates its purpose.
- c. The ordinance passes (12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent)

**X. Other Business**

- a. Ald. Gutenkauf reports that she has heard that there are people posting fully scanned publications that the city owns copyright to. She requests that the Mayor have the city attorney investigate this and the Mayor states that she should bring the issue to the city manager who could then have the city attorney look into it.

**XI. Adjournment at 8:27 pm**