

Elmhurst City Council Meeting
Feb. 19, 2013
7:30 pm – 9:14 pm

No Dunn, Healy
Public: 5 Staff: 4 Press: 3
Observer: N. Talluto

The meeting was called to order by acting Mayor Levin.

ComEd Community Update: John O’Halloran provided an update from ComEd to the City Council. EIMA will drive the modernization of the power grid in Northern Illinois including smart grid technologies, improved service, greener options, reduced power outages and job creation. The final bill approved by the State and the ICC will impact the total project funding. The amount is less than originally expected. A number of projects that are part of the EIMA will benefit Elmhurst. They include: Storm Hardening (tree resistant spacer cables on overhead lines) and Distribution Automation (smart switches installed on overhead lines to re-route power as needed). ComEd will provide the 2012 Annual Report in Q2’13 including final 2012 reliability metrics as well as additional 2013 reliability improvement work. The company will continue to work with City Staff on new issues and long-term infrastructure plans.

During **Public Forum**, the first individual expressed concern with the increase in tax rates while perceiving a reduction in city services such as water, street paving, etc. The next citizen spoke about the amount of money voted to go to the Elmhurst Chamber of Commerce for the “Got it” program without proof that it is helping. The same individual compared paperwork mistakes on the recent early childhood school application to a mistake made regarding a pawn shop in the city in the past. The CEO of the Elmhurst Chamber of Commerce thanked the City for the support of the “Got It” marketing campaign. He stated that the click through rates on the website are 3 – 4 times higher than the national average. He also summarized other promotional and marketing activities that the campaign has supported indicating that sales revenues have increased since the beginning of the campaign. The Chamber will host a candidate forum for mayoral candidates in the next month. The next speaker, the leader of the St. Patrick’s Day Parade advertised the parade, sponsorship opportunities, parade participation details and the date of the parade on March 9, 2013 and encouraged participation to make it a great event. The last citizen expressed concern that the Addison Street project discussion continues to be held in executive session instead of in public meetings, contrary to the Mayor’s statement in the prior council meeting that parts of the project would be discussed during the public meeting on 2/19/13.

Announcements:

- Acting Mayor Levin affirmed that he did say during the 2/4/13 council meeting that the Addison street project would be discussed on 2/19/13. That is not happening on 2/19 (this meeting) due to the fact that there are still zoning and planning committee meetings and decisions that need to be made before it can be brought to the public. On 2/28/13 the Zoning commission will have a public forum to discuss this project, then it will be brought before the council.
- Ald. Bram stated that the mailing materials for the new refuse program are in the mail and that the fees are the monthly costs going forward, not in addition to the current fees and are lower than the current fees.
- Ald. Wagner announced the spring session of the Citizens Police Academy from March – June and applications could be picked up at the Elmhurst Police Station.

- Clerk Spencer announced that Elmhurst would not be an early voting location for the April elections. The city website will list what early voting locations are open.
- Ald. Leader announced an electronics and recyclables event on 2/23/13 from 9 – 2pm at Mary Queen of Heaven Church in Elmhurst.
- City Manager Grabowski announced that there would now be three sites for collecting the old recycling bins.
- Ald. York announced the 4th ward town hall meeting tomorrow night.

The **Consent Agenda** was passed with removal of the following items:

Item “J”, Report – Southwest Elmhurst Wet Weather Control Facility Final Design (PW&B)

Agenda Item Discussion

A. Item J – Report – Southwest Elmhurst Wet Weather Control Facility Final Design (PW&B)

- Ald. Kennedy summarized the history of sanitary storm water improvement efforts since 2010. There are a number of specific initiatives to improve conditions resulting in 2MM gallons of storage close to the sanitation plant leading to improvement of storm water issues for many citizens in southwest Elmhurst. If approved tonight, the improvements could be in place by spring/summer 2014.
- Ald. Bram clarified that this report is for sanitary improvements only. Ald. Bram cannot support this report because the contractor did not initially recommend the storage facility. He further states that the report does not meet the objectives of the initial report and the funding is being provided by the city while the contractor states that the problem is primarily caused by private sources.
- Ald. Mulliner supports this plan as the first phase of a number of steps to a complete solution. This project will protect 2300 homes, not 23. He clarified the specific items that will help solve the problem. He argued the amount of money the city is going to spend is well worth the cost that the citizens are taking to deal with the sanitary problem.
- Ald. Pezza agrees that this project is easier to accomplish but asks when will the city / committee be able to address the bigger challenge of the private side issues?
- Ald. Gutenkauf states that certain parts of the overall storm water control project will be on different timelines based on the practical concerns of construction timing.
- Ald. Wagner suggests a town hall may be a good first step to address the private side issues.
- The report was passed. 11 Ayes, 1 Nay (Bram), 2 absent

Reports and Recommendations

A. Acting Mayor Levin stated that there would be information from the city’s efforts with District 205 in the next meeting.

B. City Manager Grabowski provided a summary of the 2013 budget and process. This will be an 8-month year, as we will be switching to a new fiscal year with the 2014 budget. The proposed revenues are lower due to the 8-month year. Revenues will exceed expenditures in 2013. The City Staff feels the budget is well balanced and asks the council for their consideration. The council will discuss the budget on 2/25 after committee meetings.

Resolutions and Ordinances - None

Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned at 9:14pm.