

Elmhurst City Council Meeting
March 16, 2015
7:30pm- 8:12pm

14 present; 0 absent
Observer: N. Nafiseh

- I. Call to Order**
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Roll Call
- II. Receipt of Written Communication from the Public**
 - a. No submitted communications
- III. Public Forum**
 - a. Claude Pagacz 566 W. Gladys says in regards to last week's meeting of the council, he does not like the administration charges such as spending 2 million dollars to improve the computers system. He says it seems like a rather large amount of money for administration. He mentions that the hiring of a consultant to handle the downtown area is unnecessary because the plan for downtown was already decided by the council. He implies that "applying for variances" is a redundant reason to have him work for the city. He thinks that anything the consultant says will not have an effect on the council members who will almost certainly reject the variant.
 - b. Mary Moi-Greg owner of OMG! Brunch and Boutique at 105 S. York Rd. reminds the council that she has applied for a liquor license for her restaurant. She proudly asserts that her restaurant will have fresh food only and that the cuisine will be a global one that will feature "breakfast around the world". She describes how it will feature dim sum and even French crepes as menu items and posits that every item will be 500 calories or less. In terms of the liquor license, Moi-Greg says she will serve "brunch cocktails" and hopes that the council members will all approve her liquor license.
 - c. Michael Kremery of the 500 block of West Crocket says that he notices in the minutes of the F,CA&AS committee meeting that there was a discussion of the rules of city council and commends the committee for their 7-day response time. He then criticizes the council for lack of flood water mitigation responsiveness for the bulk of Elmhurst residents that it matters to. He says that the person who speaks the most in front of council should not be the only person helped.
- IV. Announcements**
 - a. Ald. York says the 6th annual Elmhurst Children's Assistance Foundation Casino night will be held the coming Saturday night March 21st at 7:00pm. The Diplomat West Banquet hall will be turned into a Las Vegas-style casino and there will be food and libations. He says more information is available on the web at ecaf4kids.org.
 - b. Clerk Spencer reports that the Consolidated Election will be on Tuesday April 7th 2015, with poll hours from 6am to 7pm. Voting for the April 7th election will be March 23rd until April 5th and Elmhurst will serve as an early voting location (except Sunday April 5th). The hours for voting are Monday through Friday, 8:30am-7:30pm and on Saturday from 9:00am -5:00pm.
 - c. Ald. Honquest announces that Saturday March 21st is World Down-syndrome Day.
- V. Consent Agenda**
 - a. Ald. Bram asks Mayor Morley if item 5.13 can be removed from the consent agenda.
 - b. Ald. York asks Mayor Morley if item 5.12 can be removed as well.
 - i. Consent agenda is approved (14 Ayes, 0 Nays) minus agenda items 5.12 and 5.13.
 - c. 5.12 report- City of Elmhurst and Elmhurst College Commission (F,CA&AS)

- i. Clerk Spencer reads that it is the recommendation of the F,CA&AS committee that the city council approve establishing a City of Elmhurst and an Elmhurst College Commission.
- ii. Mayor Morley asks the council for a motion to approve the report.
 - 1. Ald. York asks that the chair recognize Ald. Deuter for comments regarding the background on the report.
 - 2. Ald. Deuter explains that Mayor Morley and former President Alan Rey of Elmhurst College were discussing the great things happening in the city of Elmhurst and Elmhurst College. According to Deuter, four people met to create a framework for a formal partnership between the college and the city by looking at examples of other similar partnerships. Their idea was to have a city of Elmhurst commission with eight members, four of which were recommended by the college, and four recommended by the city, with all eight being appointed by the mayor. The topics the commission would consider would be community relations, housing, sustainability, economic activities, land use and development, recreational and cultural activities, health and safety, and education. She respectfully requests the other council members for support on the report.
 - 3. Ald. York thanks Ald. Deuter for her explanation. He mentions that there is great excitement at the college for this collaborative opportunity. He also asks for support from the other aldermen.
 - 4. Ald. Bram asks if Elmhurst College would mandate or recommend the type of representatives for the City of Elmhurst side (such as having the 1st ward Alderman be a representative because of the college being located in the 1st ward), and what these requirements, if any, might be.
 - i. Ald. Deuter says they have not spoken about which alderman will represent the commission.
 - ii. Ald. Bram asks if the commission could have an “ad hoc or a “non-voting position”.
 - iii. The mayor says committee planned for equal representation.
 - iv. Clerk Spencer calls for a vote on the report and it passes (14 Ayes, 0 Nays).
- d. 5.13 Report- Case Number 15 ZBA -02/ Heritage Realty Services Variations- 236 North Route 83 (DP&Z)
 - i. Clerk Spencer reads the recommendation from the DP&Z committee that the city council approve the applicant’s request for a variation to the number parking spaces.
 - ii. Mayor Morley asks for approval of the report as written.
 - 1. Ald. Levin says it is a straight-forward application and seemed like an appropriate variance to the committee.
 - 2. Ald. Bram questions if the monument sign for the business that is going to be constructed will interfere with line-of-sight issues for traffic on Route 83. He also shows concern for how the filling and leveling of the parking lot will affect storm-water drainage and Salt Creek during flooding season.

3. Ald. Levin explains that the committee had not talked about the sign and that as far as the floodwater is concerned, the floodwater is going to be addressed in the permitting process instead of the zoning process. He says there is no storm water retention required.
4. Ald. Bram says he would like details about how the floodwater issues are being resolved in the permitting process.
5. Ald. Mulliner says that the City of Elmhurst and the County are two parts working on the permitting process and that it is the County's responsibility to make sure the floodwater mitigation is handled properly. He also adds that the Forest Preserve is also involved and wants to make sure it is addressed properly.
6. Ald. Bram wants to clarify that it is the County and the Forest Preserve who are the sole groups involved with floodwater mitigation issues.
7. Mayor Morley adds a comment that the city engineers will be assisting the project as well.
8. Ald. Bram insists that his question about the specifics of how the floodwater will be handled, has not been answered yet.
9. The Mayor asks City Manager Grabowski to address the question, but Grabowski says he does not have the specifics on the matter and can discuss it with Ald. Bram at a later time.
10. The report is approved (14 Ayes, 0 Nays).

VI. Report and Recommendations of Appointed and Elected Officials

- a. Mayor Morley says there is a job fair coming up on April 15th and Youth Awards on March 19th at 6:00pm where the youth commission will be recognizing young folks at Sandberg Junior High. The Saint Patrick's Day Parade was really successful and credits Jim O'Connor who was the chairman of the parade. He also thanks all of the volunteers and people who worked hard to make the parade happen as well as fellow elected officials and Governor Bruce Rauner.
- b. City Manager Grabowski reports that Elmhurst will have a new government affairs representative from ComEd.
- c. Ald. Healy, in regards to item 5.7 from the consent agenda (annual contract paving report), says the low bidder for the package was roughly \$125,000.00 over the budget and so the Public Works Committee and support staff had to decide whether to go over budget or not. Luckily, he says they found a way to get TIF-1 surplus money to fund it and that the budget is going to be over anymore.
- d. Mayor Morley says the Local Government Distributive Fund (tax dollars from Springfield that come back to Elmhurst every year) is proposed to be reduced in the State of Illinois by Bruce Rauner. It could mean about a \$2.2 million dollar reduction in revenue for the City of Elmhurst, so Elmhurst city council should be aware. Mayor Morley also clarifies that Ald. Healy misspoke by referring to a "TIF-1 surplus" which he says is actually a TIF-1 increment created with tax-dollars received.
- e. Ald. Bram to ask two things. First he wants an update on the status of Whole Foods and wants to know their grand opening day. The Mayor politely interrupts Ald. Bram to ask him if he was going to also ask about Paragon, and the response is "yes".
- f. Mayor Morley says that demolition is underway and that in 3-4 weeks from the start of demolition, it will be done. Whole Foods is supposed to be open in spring.

VII. Ordinances

- a. 7.1- An ordinance to amend section 36.11, Entitled "Limitation of Number of Licenses", of Chapter 36, Entitled "Liquor", of the Municipal Code of Ordinances of the City of Elmhurst, Illinois (OMG! Brunch and Boutique).
- b. The ordinance passes (14 Ayes, 0 Nays).

VIII. Other Business

- a. No other business.

IX. Adjournment at 8:12pm.