

## Elmhurst City Council Meeting

**13 present; 1 Absent- Wagner**  
*Public: 60; Staff: 4; Police/Fire:30;*  
*Press: 4*

**March 17, 2014**  
**7:33 pm – 9:53 pm**

**Observer: N. Talluto**

Mayor Morley called the meeting to order.

Sergeant Steven Wright was sworn in as the newest Sergeant in the Elmhurst Police Department.

### Public Forum

- Carol Whitt, First Grade Teacher at Emerson School, Chairs the Earth Ambassadors Conservation Club at the School for 1 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders. Several students read a statement regarding their support for improved business recycling and downtown recycling options in Elmhurst. More information about the group and their project can be found at [www.emerson.elmhurst205.org/recycling](http://www.emerson.elmhurst205.org/recycling).
- Dan Grant, 264 N. Glenview, spoke in support regarding the restrictions pending on Glenview related to KinderCare. KinderCare has begun parking on one side of their street causing a safety hazard for school children walking on the street (no sidewalks). KinderCare is putting the convenience of their employees ahead of the safety of neighborhood children.
- Pam Uselander, Bensenville, also the “Hot Dog Lady of Elmhurst” spoke regarding the potential of removal of mobile vending in Elmhurst. Her location is being considered for elimination. Her business should not be considered as a cause of failure of other businesses and her relocation or elimination will not change the business results of other local restaurants. She has operated her business for over 23 years that she is not a threat or public safety hazard.
- Peter Carillo, 267 Glenview, spoke in support of the parking restrictions on Glenview. He is a 11 year resident. There are even times when his wife has to call KinderCare to move their cars in order to get out of their driveway.
- Claude Pagash, 566 Gladys, spoke regarding the water main topic. He suggests that if the city does not maintain the water system, they are putting their residents at risk. He was surprised when the city said they could not afford a recent water system repair even though a new budget had just been passed. He also spoke about a meeting of prior elected officials who said “residents are not confident in how the city spends their money.”
- Jeanine Grant, 264 Glenview, spoke in support of the parking restrictions on Glenview. She shared a story about emergency vehicles not being able to get to her home during a recent emergency. The parking restrictions are needed to help her feel safe on her street again.
- Andrea Alvarez, 182 N. York, Citizens Advocacy Group encourages the Council to consider the referendum regarding the Addison Street Parking Garage.
- Joe Ukight, GC and Project Manager hired by KinderCare to assist with the parking situation near KinderCare. He shared that chains were put up in parking areas that used to be used by KinderCare. This pushed KinderCare parking into other areas. This company put together a project team to assess the situation and come up with a solution. The solution proposes a new layout that would add over 20 spots on KinderCare’s property.

They spoke with two aldermen and the City Manager with indication that this was a viable solution. He asks for latitude to discuss an extension to allow KinderCare time to fix their parking problems.

- Paula Pezza, 275 Cottage Hill, spoke as a resident regarding the Addison Parking Garage. She shared the “rumor” that the parking garage is only advantageous to a local wealthy businessman who is also building other developments nearby and that local residents and businesses do not support it. The residents deserve to know what is going on.
- Brian Davy, 253 Glenview, spoke in support of the parking restrictions on Glenview. The time is now to approve this ban.
- Tamara Brenner, 137 N. Caroline, shared that she is still waiting for the report from the Zoning Commission from a meeting from two weeks ago. She shared that the zoning commission’s decisions regarding the Addison Street Parking Garage was arbitrary and not in line with the zoning laws. She supports the referendum to get the residents opinion regarding the parking garage. She feels that most zoning meetings and “public forum” meetings allow for residents to “speak but not be heard”.
- Michael Krumery, who lives on Crocket, spoke regarding the Addison Street Parking Garage. The city is the applicant but Nathaniel Warner was allowed to present new information at a closed meeting without reports being posted to BoardDocs. As a concerned citizen in attendance, he could not speak up about all the faulty information being presented. He asks residents to speak up against the parking garage.
- Jennifer Marante, 216 N. Glenview, spoke in support of the parking ban on Glenview. Her children must walk on the street as there are no sidewalks. The employees parking there based on convenience cannot outweigh the safety risks for the residents of Glenview ave.

### **Announcements**

- Clerk Spencer announced primary voting for IL on 3/18. Polls are open from 6am – 7pm.

The **Consent Agenda** was passed (12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent) with the following items removed: 7.9, 7.13, 7.15.

#### **A. 7.9 – 2014 Contract Paving Program (PW&B)**

- a. Ald. Kennedy shared that this is the annual paving program where the city contracts with the lowest, responsible bid to repair Elmhurst City Streets.
- b. Ald. Healy recommends that the city approves the full budget amount in order to repair more miles due to the harsh winter even though the bid came in lower than that.
- c. Ald. Bram did not sign this report because concrete streets are not being repaired that are in dire need of repair. He must take a stand in support of his neighbors. He asks that the council reconsider the referral to make a proper allocation of budget to asphalt and concrete.
- d. Ald. Kennedy encourages Ald. Bram to call the city to get the particular pothole fixed to ensure public safety.
- e. Ald. Polomsky wanted clarification regarding a no vote – that a no vote would simply say no to the vendor but still leave the priority of streets up to city staff. She does feel that the city should consider how streets are prioritized.

- f. Ald. Dunn asked for clarification regarding the mileage for repair – the average is 5 miles per year but this year we are getting 7 miles due to a good bid.
  - g. Ald. Gutenkauf asks if the balance of concrete to asphalt is appropriate overall during the budget process. She supports the report as it is an outgrowth of the approved annual budget.
  - h. Ald. Bram clarified that it is 1.7 miles of concrete streets, unimproved roads and business district. There will only be .3 miles of concrete streets fixed in the northeast corner of the city. He also clarified that he has identified many potholes over the years.
  - i. Report passes (12 Ayes, 1 Nay Bram, 1 Absent)
- B. 7.13 – Report – Storm Sewer Extension Program (PW&B)
- a. Ald. Dunn summarized the report and thanked the committee for working through this difficult but important program. He is looking for clarification on Safety vs. Quality of Life and best practices for storm water management.
  - b. Ald. Kennedy summarized the report by saying that they wanted to provide better definitions for residents regarding various storm water mitigation options. The program does allow for residents to qualify for both the \$1,000 and the \$1,500 reimbursement if certain conditions are met.
  - c. Ald. Gutenkauf clarified that this report allows for a decision process when a resident is looking into connecting to the cities storm water system.
  - d. Ald. Healy stated that this is a one-time per household policy. It also allows for flexibility for staff to determine what is right for the particular site.
  - e. Report passes (13 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent)
- C. 7.15 – Report – Parking Restrictions: Glenview Avenue
- a. Ald. Leader shared that 9 – 12 KinderCare employees are parking on Glenview every day for long hours. As a result, residents on the street have asked for the parking restrictions and understand that the restrictions will apply to them. Ald. Dunn and Leader have been working to seek an equitable solution since September. In the meantime, the residents have taken it upon themselves to submit a petition to ask for the parking restrictions. Ald. Leader suggests that they can only lawfully support the resident’s legal petition. They are not against KinderCare, that are actively seeking a solution, but that solution will not be in place for 3 more months.
  - b. Ald. Levin suggests that he has also been contacted regarding this by people who are concerned about the impact that the restrictions will have on the operations of the site. He asked about the timing – if timing could be worked out to allow KinderCare to resolve the problem before the ban goes into effect.
  - c. Mayor Morley clarifies that the vote will require a change in city code and will take at least one month before the signs are installed even if it is approved tonight.
  - d. Ald. York asked why the restrictions start at 4pm when children get home before 3pm.
  - e. Ald. Deuter suggests that while we want to be a pro-business environment we should not expect our resident’s streets to be parking for local businesses.
  - f. Ald. Dunn recognizes that there are both sides to this issue and there is not a clear “right” answer here. He supports the resident’s application for the parking restrictions.
  - g. Ald. Bram states that this is a public street, not a residents street and also asked what other solutions were considered.
  - h. Report passes (13 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent)

## **Committee Reports**

### **A. 8.1 Report – Water Rate and Sewer Rate Recommendations (F, CA&AS)**

- a. Ald. York summarizes that the last time a rate assessment was conducted was over 10 years ago. Water costs from the City of Chicago has increased over 85% in four years. Additionally, large scale capital projects have been difficult to predict and require large scale bond issuance. The committee is recommending an updated rate calculation and overall water rates in general. The city is currently subsidizing every water user to some extent. The municipal utility fund covers the debt service and other expenses and is NOT covered by city levy. Several items will be pushed forward to the Public Works committee if this report is approved including capital expenditures to upgrade the water system. This will require additional financing but is accounted for in the upgraded rate methodology and rates. Capital Recovery Fee will be new and will help to recover costs that do not fluctuate with water usage (debt service). It will replace that minimum usage fee. This plan goes a long way to match revenues with expenditures. The report also includes a chart to calculate the expected water bill for an example resident. Additionally, he notes that the City of Elmhurst is below most other communities in DuPage county. He asks for the councils support of the report.
- b. Ald. Dunn feels that the team achieved a simple and balanced new approach to water in the city. He stated that they considered an “access fee” but it was too high and not fair to low water users. The process was collaborative and they worked with city staff and the consultants. The city drove many of the recommendations. He asks for the councils support.
- c. Ald. Levin asked about the fixed portion regarding the 1 inch vs. the 6 inch. Ald. Levin thinks the report is well done. He does not agree that the fixed portion should be tied to the size of the pipe. Is that really reflective of the difference in the costs compared to the usage?
- d. Ald. York replies that there are additional costs and maintenance required to service the larger meters and pipes.
- e. Ald. Bram asked about the different fund balance level that is proposed in the report – a change and that the fund balance level would not include the capital and debt service. Why would these items not be included and is there concern that we would go under the \$5mm mark?
- f. Ald. York responded that the 25% target is a best practice recommendation that we would like to be at.
- g. Ald. Healy thanked the finance team for their work and clarified that the MUF is not a revenue generator, rather all the money raised is put back into the system itself.
- h. Ald. Gutenkauf stated that this is a well thought out way to address how to support the infrastructure improvements that are needed.
- i. Report passes (13 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent)

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

- Mayor Morley shared that the St. Patrick’s Day Parade on 3/9/14 was successful and he thanked all involved. Also the Lucky Leprechaun Run was successful on 3/9/14.
- City Manager Grabowski announced that the staff will put forth a report regarding the snow expenses from this past winter.

- Ald. Bram asked for additional information on the city's assessment of concrete streets. He asked for a policy regarding concrete street repair.
- City Manager Grabowski responded that they assess all streets and that concrete streets last longer.

**Other Business**

- Mayor Morley announced that a past serving alderman had recently died and the council observed a moment of silence in respect.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:53 pm.