

Elmhurst City Council Meeting
April 15, 2013
7:39 pm – 9:15 pm

14 present
Public: 30;Staff: 7;Police: 1;Press:2
Observer: N. Talluto

The meeting was called to order by acting Mayor Levin.

Proclamation – World Autism Awareness Month

- Acting Mayor Levin presented Mayor DiCianni with an award recognizing him for the significant work he has contributed towards Autism treatment in Elmhurst over the past years. Mayor DiCianni spoke briefly about the work that he will be spearheading through his role on the DuPage County Board regarding Autism and treatment of this condition in DuPage County.

Public Forum

- The first resident spoke about taxes and the supermarket getting a liquor license. He also mentioned that he was unsure why the school is paying more for water and sewage than the residents. Finally, he is concerned with the City proceeding to get a property through eminent domain and thanked Ald. Pezza for her work on the council.
- The next resident spoke about the IL AG finding the City Council had violated the OMA. He observed that his wife, Ald. Pezza, did a good job working to call attention to this issue. He thanked her for her service, highlighting all the good things that she did for the community during her service.
- The next two residents thanked Ald. Pezza for her service to the city and for being their mom.

Announcements

- Ald. York announced that on 5/11 at 2pm, Elected officials bike ride will be held to draw awareness to biking safety in Elmhurst.
- 1,050 ballots were cast during early voting according to Clerk Spencer.
- 4/27, prescription take back day at Police Station.

The **Consent Agenda** was passed (14 Ayes, 0 Nays) with removal of the following items: Item “K”, Item “Q”, Item “R” and Item “S”

Agenda Item Discussion

Item K – Disposition of Stop Sign Request - Emroy Avenue and Lake Street Frontage Road

- Ald. Polomsky is pleased with this item given the significant amount of resident requests for this stop sign and additional traffic control at this location.
- The report was passed. 14 Ayes, 0 Nays

Item Q – Assigned Vehicle Use Policy

- Ald. Hipskind summarizes that this is simply a consolidation of various existing laws and policies that retains flexibility in times of emergency.
- Ald. Bram describes three underlying reasons for originally sending this to committee. He cannot support this agenda item because it does not resolve all three of the points originally stated in the referral. He asks that it be sent back to committee to resolve.
 - Providing policy for evening, short term or emergency use.

- Providing policy for city staff to use vehicles to get to and from work.
- The third was not listed.
- The report was passed. 11 Ayes, 3 Nays

Item R – Case Number 13 ZBA-03/Spiller Variation – 141 N. Larch

- Ald. Morley suggests that Ald. Leaders signature was inadvertently attached to the report when he was not in attendance. He wanted to clarify that the signature should be noted as “inadvertent”.
- The city attorney states that it is ok to leave the signature since it does not alter the effectiveness or validity of the report.
- The report was passed. 14 Ayes, 0 Nays

Item S – Case Number 13 ZBA-04/Dettman Variation – 310 S. Prospect

- Ald. Morley refers this item to the same situation as item R.
- The report was passed. 14 Ayes, 0 Nays

Committee Reports

Report – Sewer Rate Review

- Ald. Hipskind summarizes this report as keeping up with the market rates. The committee looked at many different angles to see if there was any other option.
- Ald. York suggests that this is a user fee, not a tax and that this rate increase covers all users in the case of an emergency. Two big projects have been added that have contributed to the need for good cash balances and the user rates for these services. Some debt may be called for to put the cost for some of the improvements, which are long term ones, on users in the future.
- Ald. Bram asks for clarification on where the difference from 4.5% to 9% came from? He doesn't support even 4.5% as it includes the wet weather facility, which he voted against.
- Ald. York answers that some costs were taken out which accounted for the decrease from 9% to 4.5%. In addition, the contemplation of some debt related to future capital expenditures allowed for the rate to be brought down.
- Ald. Bram asks if there was consideration for less than 4.5%?
- Ald. York answers yes, but that lower rate brought the cash balances too low and was not fiscally responsible.
- Ald. Kennedy thanks the committee for the hard work. He suggests that a number of important projects are covered here.
- Ald. Hipskind thanks the committee, council and city staff for the work on pulling this together.
- Ald. Dunn suggests that this was a difficult problem to solve and appreciates the work to bring the rate increase down from what was 9% to 4.5%, even though this is still high. He appreciates a ten-year planning outlook.
 - The report was passed. 13 Ayes, 1 Nay

Reports and Recommendations

- City Manager Grabowski reminds all that the 95 Gal garbage cans are being swapped out this week for the 65 gal. can for those that requested the smaller size.
- City Manager Grabowski announces that the Arbor Day Foundation recognized City of Elmhurst again as Tree City USA. Also, GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association)

recognizes Elmhurst with The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its comprehensive annual financial report.

Ordinances and Resolutions

A. O-16-2013 – Budget for fiscal year 5/1/2013 – 12/31/13

- Ald. York thanks all involved for the hard work and for the effort at producing an 8-month fiscal budget. He is pleased with the budget that increases city services with minimal increases. He also notes that the general fund is much more healthy than it was four years ago.
- Ald. Morley thanks all the city staff for their hard work.
- The ordinance was passed with 14 Ayes, 0 Nays

B. O-24-2013 – An Ordinance authorizing the acquisition of property through eminent domain or otherwise for the North York street redevelopment plan and redevelopment project (260 N. York St.)

- Ald. Pezza is opposed to this ordinance as she feels that it is not in public best interest, which is what eminent domain, should be used.
- Mayor Levin states that the city has been in negotiation with the property owner for over 3 years. Eminent Domain does not mean that a lawsuit will be pursued but that it is the first step down the path.
- Ald. Gutenkauf is opposed to this ordinance.
- The resolution was passed with 9 Ayes, 5 Nays (Morley, Mulliner, Pezza, Gutenkauf, Bram)

C. MCO-04-2013 – amendment of liquor license municipal code.

- The resolution was passed with 14 Ayes, 0 Nays

Recognition of Outgoing Council Members

- Ald. Pezza's Retirement from the City Council
- Ald. Pezza shared her experiences while on the Council, thanked those that she served with and reiterated her support of American Government.
- Mayor Levin presented Ald. Pezza with a Distinguished Service Award for her service to the City as Alderman from 2008 – 2013.
- Acting Mayor Levin's move back to Alderman
- Ald. Morley thanked Acting Mayor Levin for his service during the past months in his role. He led the council through a number of difficult situations with skill and calm. Thanks for your service.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.