

Elmhurst City Council Meeting
May 6, 2013
7:45 pm – 9:30 pm

13 present
Public: 120; Staff: 4; Press:3
Observer: N. Talluto

Inauguration of Newly Elected and Re-Elected Officials – Scott M. Levin Presiding

The following elected officials now represent the Elmhurst City Council:

<u>Alderman</u>	<u>Ward</u>		
Deuter	1	Hipskind	4
Gutenkauf	1	Levin	5
Leader	2	Healy	5
Dunn	2	Kennedy	6
Polomsky	3	Vacant	6 (to replace Morley)
Bram	3	Mulliner	7
York	4	Wagner	7
Morley	Mayor	Libovicz	Treasurer
Spencer	Clerk		

Mayor Morley called the meeting to order.

April 18th Storm Update & Flood Mitigation Update

- Ald. Kennedy, the head of the Public Works Committee, served to communicate the city's updates and progress on flood mitigation.
 - After the 2010 storm, two task forces were formed to evaluate options for flood mitigation.
 - Southwest Elmhurst wet weather facility project will have the greatest impact on southwest Elmhurst and will be online in 2014. This is the largest single recommendation to pursue.
 - There has also been 11 areas identified to hold overflow water. The City is working with the landowners (District 205, Elmhurst Park District) to work towards preliminary plans. Cost and prioritization will be critical to seeing these projects moving forward.
- City Manager Grabowski updated the council on what the city's responses were and are.
 - Scheduled street sweeping was conducted.
 - Early on 4/18, Jackson St. pump shut down but the alarm didn't go off. 20 minutes elapsed while water did not pump into Salt Creek.
 - Sewer pump at East End also failed for 9 hours. 4 pumps need to be replaced or repaired. The transformer needs to be elevated.
 - FEMA update: Ongoing FEMA investigation, and awaiting for Presidential announcement for federal disaster assistance for individuals. Citizens can go to the Dupagecounty.org website for updated information. The City also incurred over \$400,000.00 in losses and is working towards a municipal disaster relief area. The City is in contact with all state and federal elected officials to ensure that our City is included in the process.
 - What will Elmhurst do to prevent this in the future? Capital projects, such as the Southwest wet weather project, which was recently approved by the council, are

- being considered. Additionally, land held by the school and park district, could be converted to multiuse properties including water overflow and park facilities. The engineering group that has been working with the city has prepared conceptual drawings to show what could be done. The City will work with individual areas in the city, including the residents, school and park districts setting up meetings with these areas to discuss in public.
- The Engineering group went over the proposal. He highlighted the benefits of the concept – a depressed field, with proper drainage and ability to hold overflow water in the event of a storm.
 - Public Works Director Hughes elaborated on the concept of getting water out of a problem area, to a holding facility (like the new park concept), then allowing the city to drain, then the park. Significant work remains to evaluate the costs and benefits of the concept as well as the details and operational plan if the city decides to move forward. New areas may need to be added based on the events of April 2013. A separate storm sewer drain system would need to be created to move the water from the problem areas to the holding areas – gravity fed and drained so as to not require pumping to move the water.

Public Forum

- Flood Comments
 - The first citizen suggested that the removal of water during the storm needs to be improved as well as the appraised value of the homes in affected areas.
 - The next citizen, from 4th ward, is beginning to organize their response to the city. The group, representing a number of homes, experienced sanitary back ups. He requests that the inconsistencies be discussed and a plan worked on together. He stressed that if the pumping station at East End Park was only for sanitary water, then it was inconsistent with water being removed once the pumps started working again.
 - The next citizen discussed backflow check valves as a way to help prevent significant water back up into basements.
 - The next resident represented the north side of Elmhurst suggesting that more needed to be done for that part of town. He also suggested a couple of ideas to help the situation.
 - The next resident appealed to the audience to get them to stay involved to pressure the council to do something.
 - The next resident is concerned about only fixing her property – creating a problem for her neighbors, requests that flood plain definition be reevaluated and that the city looks at the system as a whole.
 - A representative of York Township noted that residents could apply for assistance from York Township for damage done during the flood.
 - A representative of the 2010 Storm water sub-committee task force requested that their original report be posted online along with the video of the presentation. She also notified those present that the task force has been disbanded.
- The final resident announced that the Zoning commission is holding a hearing on 5/9 about the Addison St. project.

Announcements

- Ald. Gutenkauf announced the 7th annual 1st ward town hall meeting, 5/16, 7pm at Elmhurst Public Library. Ward1news@hotmail.com for newsletter.
- Clerk Spencer announced the Spring Clean pick up dates – June 12 – 14 during regular garbage pick up.
- Ald. York announced the elected officials bike ride this Sunday. Kick Off for Kids, Annual Golf Outing on 5/31, more at kickoffforkids.org.

The **Consent Agenda** was passed (13 Ayes, 0 Nays) with removal of the following items: Item “H”.

Agenda Item Discussion

A. Item H – Report – Case Number 13P-02/Chick-fil-A Conditional Use and Associated Variances (DP&Z)

- Ald. Polomsky provided background stating that the variance is for a drive thru and sign.
- Ald. Gutenkauf asked if there was a conversation about storm water with this development.
- Ald. Polomsky stated that the applicant didn’t have any concerns prior to the storm, but then saw it during the storm. The engineer stated that their plans called for the restaurant to be above the water and that the water displaced would not impact other businesses in the area. The City’s concern was how the water would be handled. The impervious surface would be decreased with this project.
- The report was passed. 13 Ayes, 0 Nays

Ordinances and Resolutions

- A. O-28-2013 – An Ordinance approving the 29th Amendment to Real Estate Purchase Contract for the purchase of the Real Property commonly known as 260 N. York Street, Elmhurst, IL (“Pauli”) (Due Diligence Extension)
- 1) The ordinance was passed with 13 Ayes, 0 Nays

Reports and Recommendations

- A. Mayor Morley would like to thank the city staff and Alderman regarding their support and hard work during the flood. Communication is key during these times to keep facts straight. The “notify me” program is a way for any citizen to get email or text updates in emergency situations. A lot of inter-government cooperation will be needed to work together to fix the problem areas. He also stated that he was contacted by a number of public officials offering their support and he will be taking them up on it. Mayor Morley needs to find a replacement for his vacant seat. Mayor Morley also asks for the council to provide them with their preferences for committee seats.
- B. Ald. Bram stressed that an ordinance exists to ensure new homes are not built higher than the prior elevation. He also stressed the “notify me” program and encourages residents to stay up to date.

Presentation to Ex-Acting Mayor Levin – Distinguished Service Award

Presented by Mayor Morley to Ald. Levin