

## Elmhurst City Council Meeting

**14 present; 0 Absent**

*Public: 25; Staff: 2; Police/Fire:20;*

*Press: 3*

**Observer: N. Talluto**

**June 2, 2014**

**7:31 pm – 8:53 pm**

Mayor Morley called the meeting to order.

### Administer Oath of Office

- Administer Oath of Office for Fire Department Personnel: Firefighter Zach Russavage and Lieutenant Steve Reynolds

### Presentations

- 2014 Ruth Strand Poster Contest Winners – Elmhurst Heritage Museum Presented winners of this years' poster contest – all participants were second graders.
- Proclamation: Bike to Work Week, June 2014 – Kim Messina of the Elmhurst Bicycle Club spoke out in favor of bicycling in Elmhurst.
- Com Ed – Smart Meters and reliability upgrades for the coming year – George Galrup, Public Relations, ComEd and his associates presented the Elmhurst Smart Meters and reliability programs for 2014. Some of the highlights include:
  - Smart Meters
    - 5 years of experience from pilot conducted in other suburbs
    - EIMA legislation made this possible
    - 16,000 residential meters in Elmhurst – ½ in June and the rest through the course of the year based on manual meter reading routes
    - \$100MM in annual savings from operating expenses
    - Customers can optionally use the additional benefits of the smart meters
    - Notification comes through mail, resident does not need to be home for the installation if the meter is outside
    - Corex is the name of the contractor that is doing the work
    - Smart Meters can help get power back on after an outage more quickly because the smart meter helps verify which homes have lost power without sending a truck out – thereby using the trucks more efficiently to fix where the actual power outages are.
    - Residents can refuse a meter but will incur extra fees (about \$21.53/month) to cover the extra costs of sending out a manual meter reader
  - Reliability Improvements
    - Reliability is improving in Elmhurst
    - There are 47 circuits in Elmhurst
    - Smart switches continue to be installed
    - Storm hardening work on two circuits in last 2 years
    - Manholes are being repaired where appropriate
    - Tree trimming on 4 circuits in 2014

### Public Forum

- Claude Pagash, 566 W. Gladys, utilized sarcasm to make the point that the city has so much money that they can apparently give it away without hesitating. From tax incentives to parking garages since the city has so much money, then there should not be any tax increases in the future.
- Tamara Brenner, 137 N. Caroline, discussed the memo of understanding with Morningside Hahn, LLC to build a six story mixed use building. She feels that this is just another “sham” as the Addison parking garage regarding the zoning process.

### **Announcements**

- Ald. Leader spoke of good works done by various churches in Elmhurst and highlighted the Faith Evangelical Church of Elmhurst which on 6/22 will provide outdoor yard help for local residents in need of such help.
- Clerk Spencer announced the American Cancer Society Relay for Life on 6/6 at Berens Park.
- Ald. Bram mentioned that Nitty Development will host a community meeting on 6/10 at Angelo’s Restaurant at 7pm to discuss the old hospital property.
- Ald. York announced that the York Dukes, Boys Track Team won state this past weekend.

The **Consent Agenda** was passed (14 Ayes, 0 Nays) with the following items removed: 8.10 and 8.17.

- 1) 8.10 – Report – Water and Sewer Rate Study Recommendations (F, CA&AS)
  - a) Ald. Healy is in support of the report but had a question about item ‘c’ regarding monthly building and if electronic billing capabilities could be available in the future.
  - b) Ald. York indicated that the consultant was unaware of the actual billing cycle here in Elmhurst. The committee did discuss e-billing. It cannot be accommodated with the current system but is something we could do in 1 year to 18 months. There have not been many requests from residents about this.
  - c) Report passed (14 Ayes, 0 Nays)
- 2) 8.17 – R-39-2014 – A Resolution approving a memorandum of understanding by and between Morningside Hahn, LLC and the City of Elmhurst
  - a) Ald. Gutenkauf did not have a question; she pulled the report in order to vote against it.
  - b) Ald. Bram asked a clarifying question: why is the RDA timing so far out?
  - c) City Manager Grabowski suggested that the timing of 180 days is more than enough time to allow the petitioner to file any zoning petitions that they may need.
  - d) Report passed (12 Ayes, 2 Nays – Gutenkauf, Bram)

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

- Mayor Morley congratulated the York boys State Track team. Elmhurst City Centre Block to Block Party starts this week and goes through the end of August.
- City Manager Grabowski reported that the Rt. 83 project is completed and the North Ave. project has now started and will last through the summer. The City Survey has been tallied and results will be available at the next meeting. Discussions are continuing regarding the proposed off ramp off I-294 southbound to North Ave.
- Ald. Bram requested a report on the two open positions.

- City Manager Grabowski replied that an offer has been extended to a person for the communications manager, starting in July, and interviews should be starting soon for the Public Works director.

#### **Other Business**

- Ald. York reviewed the results from Electrical Aggregation special meeting of the finance committee. The city has reached a 3-year contract with a provider that will result in \$20 - \$25/year savings for residents and will improve the mix of “clean” energy that the city is purchasing. Additionally, e-certified reqs are now included. Letters to residents will go out starting within a month.

#### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.