

## Elmhurst City Council Meeting

**14 present; 1 Absent** - Kennedy  
*Public: 28; Staff: 2; Police/Fire:1;*  
*Press: 3*

**July 7, 2014**  
**7:32 pm – 9:15 pm**

**Observer: N. Talluto**

Mayor Morley called the meeting to order.

### Presentations

- Presentation on architectural design of the Addison redevelopment project (Architect Louis Vandeloecht).
  - The architect presented several architectural drawings showing the design of the parking garage development.

### Public Forum

- Dean O'Brien, 790 Saylor, spoke regarding problems on his street with the new force main that the city is being installed. His family has had numerous problems with his plumbing since the city has started working on this force main. He has spent significant money to fix issues that are coming from this issue. He is also flooding now. He is asking the city to communicate better and rectify the situation.
- Mike Kacik, 748 S. Washington, spoke regarding the flooding. He has attended several meetings over the past couple months and encourages continued actions. He asked for an update on the meeting between the city and park district last week.
- Claude Pagash, 566 W. Gladys, publicly stated that he didn't want the garage in the first place on Addison. What he has seen is going to be an expensive parking garage that is difficult to maintain. He also brought up Findzall and complained that this consultant should not
- Todd Benson, 351 River Glen, announced and encouraged attendance at the Elmhurst Farmer's Market every Wednesday from 7 – 1pm through October.
- Tamara Brenner, 137 N. Caroline, noted interesting articles regarding the city in local papers. One was in reference to the LA Fitness development project. Another was regarding how the park district is conducting a peer review of the Burke engineering proposal regarding flood mitigation. She also spoke about the TIF request to make a profit of 10% or more. Finally, she spoke about the city survey and the results show that parking is shown to not be a problem for residents.
- Traci Fleischer, 736 S. Washington stated that she assumes that most residents would rather have progress on flooding than another parking garage.
- Kathleen Sullivan, 133 Pine Street, spoke about the budget regarding the parking garage and thanked the Mayor for ensuring that the city stays within budget on that project. She spoke about the anxiety and the value of property to have a town that floods so frequently.
- Julie Gatesman, 886 Parkside, spoke about the flooding on Monday night and how her plans changed to be home to ensure there was no damage. Her street flooded again.
- John Quigley, President of the Chamber of Commerce, noted that the city survey again showed that the top two things for residents are to have lower taxes and that the traffic is bad. He did not imply that parking was low on the list. Furthermore, he stated that the person that mis-quoted him should not do that as it was misleading and disingenuous.

- Kevin Paulin, 133 Pine Street, reiterated what his wife, Kathleen said about the flood. He is looking for a strategy to help fix the problem.

### **Announcements**

- Ald. Leader announced the new practice of the “roll-call” that Elmhurst police are starting to do in Elmhurst. He encouraged residents’ participation.
- Ald. York announced the second annual Elmhurst Cycling Classic on 7/25 from 11am – 7:30pm with several hundred participants and over 1,000 spectators.
- Ald. Gutenkauf, announced two ‘roll call’s’ in her ward – one on 7/8 and 7/26 both at 7pm.

The **Consent Agenda** was passed (13 Ayes, 0 Nays) with the following item removed: 6.4, 6.6, 6.9, 6.14.

- 1) 6.4 – Report – Existing home storm water management policy (PW&B)
  - a) Ald. Healy summarized that this is the followup to the new home policy for storm water management for existing homes. If an existing home wants to add more impervious surface to their property, they will need to follow similar guidelines as the new homes – namely, to mitigate the storm water/flooding impact of the new impervious surface.
  - b) Ald. Dunn wanted to clarify about the scale of the increased impervious surface and if a small-scale project was conducted would that warrant participation in the program given the administrative requirements to take care of that project.
  - c) Ald. Healy responded that there are small ways to offset small projects and the committee felt it was appropriate to keep them in.
  - d) Report passed (13 Ayes, 0 Nays)
- 2) 6.6 – Report – Residential storm water fee in lieu policy (PW&B)
  - a) Ald. Healy summarized that this is another follow up to the previous policy. This fee allows the city to gather funds for storm water mitigation when a resident cannot mitigate their storm water impact on their own property. This is very restrictive and the homeowner must prove that they cannot handle the problem on their own property.
  - b) Ald. Dunn requested clarification on the use of the word ‘variance’ in the policy.
  - c) Ald. Healy stated that the homeowner either pays the fee or fixes the storm water impact they create.
  - d) Report passed (13 Ayes, 0 Nays)
- 3) 6.9 – Ordinance granting conditional use and variations at the property commonly known as 624 N. York Street, Elmhurst, IL (Paragon Elmhurst Center LLC)
  - a) Ald. Levin offered an amendment in writing for all council members. The changes amount to clarifying that the drive thru conditional use applies to a coffee house type restaurant that might have a drive thru need. The second change related to the number of parking spaces, making the exact number more clear. Ald. Levin requests that the city council accept the amendment here versus taking the report back to committee, as is an accepted practice per the city attorney. Ald. Mulliner seconded.
  - b) Ald. Bram noted his concerns with the variances that are tied to LA Fitness specifically.
  - c) The motion to amend passed. (13 Ayes, 0 Nays)
  - d) The revised report passed. (13 Ayes, 0 Nays)
- 4) 6.14 – R-48-2014 – A resolution authorizing the execution of a consulting agreement between Findzall Community marketing and the City of Elmhurst, IL.

- a) Ald. Gutenkauf pulled the resolution to reiterate her concerns with the company, their quality of work and their professionalism. She does not support the resolution, especially considering the recent hire of the staff member for communications.
- b) Ald. Bram also reiterated his lack of support for this contractor.
- c) Report passed (11 Ayes, 2 Nays – Bram, Gutenkauf)

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

- Mayor Morley
  - a. Announced that the City of Elmhurst was recognized by Family Circle as one of the top towns for families in the USA.
  - b. Stated his support for the upcoming “roll call’s” by police.
  - c. Shared that there have been many submissions for the Sustainability Task Force.
- City Manager Grabowski
  - a. Dan Leahy, the new Communications Manager started on 7/7/14.
  - b. The meeting with the park district will occur tomorrow
  - c. Presentation of the 2014 Citizen Survey
    - i. Conducted since 1994, 44% response rate this year, results available at city hall, library and [www.elmhurst.org](http://www.elmhurst.org).
    - ii. Notable highlights:
      1. City operations viewed as improved.
      2. Biggest three problems for next 5 years includes: taxes, storm water, cost of living increases.
      3. Street maintenance went down.
      4. Commuter parking stayed flat but city centre parking convenience went down.
      5. Significant increase in residents concern about substance abuse.
    - iii. Several aldermen made comments related to increasing the percentage of younger respondents and looking into the increasing concern over substance abuse.

### **Other Business**

- None

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.