

## Elmhurst City Council Meeting

**12 present; 2 Absent** – Gutenkauf,  
Levin

*Public: 14; Staff: 4; Police/Fire:2;  
Press: 2*

**August 18, 2014  
7:30 pm – 9:15 pm**

**Observer: N. Talluto**

Mayor Morley called the meeting to order.

### Public Forum

- Brian Elliott Black, 275 E. Cayuga Ave., thanked the city for the public forum on the York Commons flood mitigation project. He is a long term resident and there is concern from many residents on Cayuga about what seems like a short-term project. He also urges the city to consider a truly long-term project and to not make a hasty decision about \$7.5 MM to help only 35 homes in the city.
- Claude Pagash, 566 W. Gladys, shared that he had the opportunity to attend a recent TIF meeting. There were many local legislators there. He's pleased that the city is starting to talk about the flooding but is concerned that it will cost so much.
- Tamara Brenner, 137 N. Caroline, announced that Literacy DuPage is seeking volunteers; more information at [literacydupage.org](http://literacydupage.org). She stated that the most recent appointment to the zoning commission is another well orchestrated shuffling of Elmhurst insiders. There seems to be storage of construction materials on the Addison space and she questions if this is appropriate. Finally, she would like to be able to read every public document that is published by the city and she doesn't always have access to them on BoardDocs.
- Tom Parbola, Elmhurst City Center, invited all aldermen and Elmhurst to First Annual Rock the Block party on September 5 – 6, to showcase the downtown and its businesses. The location will be on Schiller and Commerce parkway. There will be a free concert on both Friday and Saturday night as well as food and drink. City center will be selling beer and wine and visitors will be able to stroll the street with food and beverage. Local museums will also be involved with family activities.
- Kevin Graff, 233 Cayuga Ave., thanked his aldermen and the engineering company for making changes in an attempt to make the plans better. He hopes that the city reconsiders the plans given the impact it will have on his house and the other houses that are in the affected area. He supports fixing Crescents' issues but not at the expense of others and short term plans.
- Kathleen Sullivan, Pine St., thanked the cities support for finally sending four plans to the School Board for consideration regarding the flooding issues in Elmhurst.

### Announcements

- None

The **Consent Agenda** was passed (12 Ayes, 0 Nays) with the following item removed: 6.13.

- 1) 6.13 – Report – Case Number 14 ZBA-07 Peterbilt Sign Variation, 216 W. Diversey (DPZ)
  - a) Ald. Polomsky summarized that Peterbilt requested a setback and a change to the sign area in order to gain more visibility on the alternate cross street. The business is located in a wholly industrial area.

- b) Ald. Bram was concerned with over a 50% increase in the sign size and questions if it is necessary given it is in an industrial area and the speed limit is 30 mph. He doesn't see the plight, which is required to gain the zoning variance. He also noted that two commissioners voted nay even though it passed.
- c) Ald. Polomsky suggested that this business moved from another city and is requesting the variance in order to use their existing sign as well as to help their semi-truck customers see the sign well from industrial drive versus from the smaller Diversey St.
- d) Ald. Bram suggested that the drivers have a GPS and shouldn't have any problem finding the business location. Additionally, the size increase versus the zoning policy is material and is more than the city should allow.
- e) Report passed (11 Ayes, 1 Nay - Bram)

### **Committee Reports**

- 1) Report – Strategic Plan Development Process (FCA&AS)
  - a) Ald. York shared that this process is something the city has needed for a while and that it includes many inputs into the process including local residents and city staff.
  - b) Report passed (12 Ayes, 0 Nays)

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

- Mayor Morley
  - a. Last meeting was a unanimous vote to prioritize four storm water projects – 2 for the schools and 2 for the parks. Mayor Morley and Mr. Grabowski worked together to write letters to both boards and members and they were sent via e-mail last Friday. The next step is to get their boards approval on these projects before spending more money on engineering projects to move any forward. He requested to hear from the boards by the end of September.
  - b. Mayor Morley has also been meeting regularly with Elmhurst college president to work more collaboratively with them. The Small Business Institute is one of the first projects where the city can help. The Mayor will be helping to select some of the first scholarship recipients for this program.
- City Manager Grabowski
  - a. O'Hare Airport Report update: there have been more noise complaints lately and Mr. Grabowski and Mr. Levin were able to talk with the FAA regarding the changes in traffic patterns. In 2001, plans to modernize the runways were approved. The changes are being built now and will be finished in 2015. Due to some traffic safety issues at the end of 2013, they had to reroute some traffic to the runway that affects Elmhurst. There are a number of construction projects that need to be completed before the traffic patterns will improve for Elmhurst. Net is that Elmhurst will still be experiencing similar traffic patters until at least the summer of 2015. Several lawmakers are involved at the state level as well.
    - i. Ald. Bram thanks Mr. Grabowski for the update as he has heard numerous residents complain about the increased noise. He shared that he has heard that the banking to the south is what is the issue.
  - b. Shopping District Trolley Service: The idea of a trolley for Elmhurst was brought up in the last meeting. Mr. Grabowski showed a map of a potential route for the free City Trolley. Mr. Grawbowski proposed a 6-week trolley service Friday and Saturday from

6 pm – 12am. The estimated cost would be \$10k - \$15k for the trial period and would be spent in the next fiscal year. While the spending limit is under the discretionary spending of the City Manager, Mr. Grabowski is asking the Council to support the idea.

- i. Ald. Mulliner acknowledges that this has been brought up many times. The concern has always been that certain businesses will be left out. This also hasn't gone through a committee meeting at all. He believes this should be brought through committee. Finally, while this is within the City Managers discretion, the code specifically says only for pre-approved budget items or in emergencies.
  - ii. Ald. Healy has similar concerns to Ald. Mulliner as well as asking how will this be measured at the end of the trial period? How will we advertise this? How will it be paid if it is successful?
  - iii. Mayor Morley shared that at one point in the past the referral went to Public Affairs. He emphasized it is only a trial and if it is successful, it could be expanded to include more businesses.
  - iv. Ald. Bram shares similar concerns as the other two Aldermen. He also shared concern about the issue of people drinking, getting on the trolley, and then getting dropped off at parking lots to drive home.
  - v. Ald. Deuter echoes many comments and added that a trial should be the best plan to succeed and that this program hasn't been given the proper thought.
  - vi. Ald. Honquest supported the pilot program as a way to learn by doing and to move quickly and test the program before the winter sets in.
  - vii. Ald. Dunn has concerns over the concept and wants to think through a little more to ensure the plan is better set for success. He would like to see a set of rules for how something like this would operate.
  - viii. Mayor Morley summed up everyone's comments with the consensus that the idea is good but that it should get more thought with a target of running the trial period next Spring.
- c. 2015 Five year Capital Expenditure Budget
- i. Capital Expenditures are  $\geq$  \$25,000 and have various classifications and priorities.
  - ii. The entire Capital Expenditure plan is available on board Docs through the City of Elmhurst website.
  - iii. The total 5 year plan is \$97MM over 5 years with Floodwater mitigation, Street maintenance and resurfacing, municipal utility fund and parking garage as some of the top expenditures in the budget.
  - iv. Top funding sources for the capital expenditure projects would be GO bonds and/or IEPA Loans.
  - v. Top revenue sources will be the Capital Improvement Fund and the General Fund.
  - vi. Various Aldermen asked some questions regarding the budget. The Mayor recommended that the City Staff allow for more questions from the Aldermen in the next meeting. The Aldermen should submit them prior to the meeting to allow staff time to respond.

**Other Business**

- Ald. Bram requested an update on the Hahn street project.
  - Morningside has a zoning meeting date of 9/11 for a variance request.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.