

Elmhurst City Council Meeting
August 19, 2013
7:33 pm – 9:42 pm

14 present; 0 Absent
Public: 20; Staff: 4 ; Police/Fire: 3;
Press: 4
Observer: N. Talluto

Mayor Morley called the meeting to order.

Public Hearing – Special Service Area Number 16 (Howard Avenue)

- The special service under consideration for this SSA 16 is installation of sidewalks.
- Public Comments
 - The first resident spoke out against the installation of sidewalks. He also stated that it is strange to have a sidewalk on one side but not the other, that it is a sidewalk to nowhere, that there aren't many young children anymore on the block, that there should be less concrete to help absorb storm water and the cost is a lot.
 - The next resident also spoke out against the sidewalk as her young children would not be able to go anywhere on the sidewalk. She just bought the house and will now be responsible for extra cost that she wasn't planning on.
 - The next resident was also against the sidewalk. He stated that the survey results were slightly flawed and there wasn't a majority. The cost is significant – about \$5,000 estimate.
- Public hearing was adjourned at 7:42pm.

Public Forum

- Terrence Mullins stated concern with the amount and speed of traffic on Adelia especially given the high number of children on the street. The residents had signed a petition, with the support of Ald. York to get a stop sign at the corner of Chandler and Adelia. The resident urged the council to approve the stop sign this evening.
- Mike Killian (? Spelling of last name?) would like to see a better sound barrier and maintenance of the I290 extension area. He suggests that the city has an opportunity to divert traffic to Grand and North and would help with economic development.
- Brittney Smith, Miss Illinois, spoke on Character Counts, a volunteer organization that Miss Illinois works with.
- Pete DiCianni spoke about Autism and the issue. The Brianna fundraising event will be renamed and will be moved to a 5k. It will be held on 9/15/13.
- Claude Pagash suggested that the Park District does have money to maintain the Beren's park retention pond given it has made significant improvements to the parks. At the meeting, the city and the Park district failed to discuss the fact that there are serious flooding problems.
- Jason Janes also supported the stop sign at Chandler and Adelia.
- Kathleen Sullivan was pleased that the PB and Zoning committees met last week to discuss some policy topics that may help to decrease the flooding issues in the city. She was also pleased with the retention ponds discussion with the park district. However, she is concerned with an item on the agenda that would add additional 'holes' to the system.

Announcements

- Lincoln School Dads group is hosting a bags tournament.
- Ald. Wagner announced that the 30th Annual Turkey Trot would have a new route highlighting the downtown area. Register before 9/30 gets a discount.

The **Consent Agenda** was passed (14 Ayes, 0 Nays) with removal of the following items: Item 7.6, 7.16.

Agenda Item Discussion

- A. Item 7.6 – Report – 2013 Storm Sewer Extension Program (PW&B)
- a. Ald. Gutenkauf was unable to attend the committee meeting when this was discussed and has some questions. She has concerns in that the council is supposed to be making policy, but that this program is not part of a broader plan. She feels that the broader context should be part of this.
 - b. Ald. Kennedy provided history of the Storm Sewer Extension Program. Various events culminated in a 50/50 cost share program that the residents requested to help them prevent flooding in their backyard. One thing they are considering is having new homes have a holding system or a rain garden to help with the problem. All these things work together. The committee is recommending this be a 1 year approved program – in the past it has been multiple year.
 - c. Ald. Gutenkauf did not feel that her specific questions were answered. She believes that a bigger puzzle needs to be painted before this program should move forward. She supports putting this program on hiatus until a broader picture is laid out.
 - d. Ald. Healey understands that this program has been in place for a long time and states that ‘it was good policy then and its good policy now.’ Homeowners sign up for this because they are concerned with water pooling in their backyard that could affect their homes. He’s concerned with discontinuing this program without any other solutions for the residents.
 - e. Ald. Bram agrees with 95% of Ald. Healey’s comments. This is part of the overall solution. Ald. Bram is in support of this for now.
 - f. Ald. Dunn supports this good program. This helps homeowners especially when most of the time, the problem is not from there property, but rather from neighbors.
 - g. Ald. York supports the committee report but shared that some of his neighbors had issues where their rear yard drain actually caused the flooding in April. Even with that, he supports this as this helps many residents in small to medium storms.
 - h. Ald. Gutenkauf states that this will not change anything.
 - i. Ald. Kennedy states that there have been two separate discussions going on and they should be separated.
 - j. Report passed (13 Ayes, 1 Nay-Gutenkauf)
- B. Item 7.16 – MCO – 09 – 2013 – An ordinance amending section 44.74, Entitled ‘Yield Right-of-way streets’ of Article V, Entitled “Driving, Overtaking and Passing,” of Chapter 44, Entitled “motor Vehicles and Traffic,” of the Municipal Code of the City of Elmhurst, IL (Cedar/Barclay at Madison)
- a. Ald. Bram wanted to reiterate his argument against this from two weeks ago given the full city council is in attendance this evening. Even though the city engineers approved the stop sign at this location, Ald. Bram feels that the applicable

laws/documentation are out of date and not applicable to this particular location. There is no problem that is being solved. Ald. Bram cannot support this and hopes that no other aldermen support this either.

- b. Report passed (12 Ayes, 2 Nays – Gutenkauf, Bram)

Committee Reports

A. 8.1 Report – Stop Sign Request: Chandler Ave. and Adelia Street (PA&S)

- a. Ald. Wagner stated that this is very similar to another intersection that came up a couple years ago. That situation worked out well even though the intersection did not meet MUTCD or city staff approval. We need to pay attention to the residents. The committee approved a four way stop to help improve the traffic flow. This does not meet MUTCD or city staff approval but should still be considered.
- b. Ald. Leader urges strong support for the resident's wishes. Traffic control devices, which are appropriate for a community of older people, may not be appropriate for a community of younger families.
- c. Ald. York brought attention to a traffic study conducted while school was still in. The report showed that there is a lot of cut through traffic to avoid St. Charles. In fact, cars build momentum from the last yield before they get to Poplar.
- d. Ald. Gutenkauf states that the staff report and other research does not support the use of a traffic control device at this intersection.
- e. Ald. Mulliner agrees this is a difficult issue. He supports research and also says that the data that Ald. York presented swayed him.
- f. Ald. Bram suggests this is a complicated interpretation of the MUTCD. He went on to interpret the MUTCD for the intersection in question. Traffic control devices do not control speed. 2 of the 4 residents at the corner are not in favor of the four way stop.
- g. Ald. Deuter agrees that we all want safer streets. She believes it is important to follow the professional's recommendation on this.
- h. Ald. Levin believes we need a good reason to override the professional's recommendations. He does not feel there is a good one here.
- i. Ald. Dunn respects the city staff and visited the area several times and did not get the impression that there is a problem. He does not support the four-way stop. Too many stop signs increases noise and pollution.
- j. Ald. Hipkind agrees that a petition is not the right way to make policy. He agrees that studies should be done. However, there are times when exceptions and actual circumstances need to be considered. He stops there always and drives it every day. It is worse at the times when kids are walking to and from school.
- k. Ald. Mulliner wants to note the dates of the studies. The time of year is very relevant to this particular item.
- l. Report passed (8 Ayes, 6 Nays – Polomsky, Bram, Levin, Gutenkauf, Deuter, Dunn)

B. 8.2 Report – 2003 General Obligation Bond Issue Refunding (F, CA&AS)

- a. Current bond is approximately \$7MM, asking for about \$2MM new money for currently budgeted infrastructure projects.
- b. Ald. York summarized this as a good story for Elmhurst. There are favorable interest rates for municipal bonds and refinancing this will save the residents about \$500,000.

The additional dollars will help the city with important projects such as storm water remediation.

- c. Report passed (14 Ayes, 0 Nays)

Reports and Recommendations of Appointed and Elected Officials

- A. Mayor Morley attended last weeks park board meeting. City staff presented storm water mitigation plans. It was well attended by the public. The park board acknowledged that this was a problem all are facing. So that communication can be clear, he has been forming an ad-hoc committee for improved communications to the boards and the public. Ald. Polomsky and Ald. Kennedy are the city council appointees.
- B. City Manager Grabowski presented the 2014 5-yr. Capital Expenditure Budget
 - a. CIF – Capital Improvement Fund Revenue Sources
 - i. State income tax (80%)
 - ii. Home rule sales tax (33%)
 - iii. Telecom tax (25%)
 - iv. Grants
 - v. Others...
 - b. Funds used towards
 - i. Infrastructure
 - ii. Sidewalks
 - iii. Bond service
 - iv. IT
 - v. Etc.
 - c. Some highlighted projects
 - i. '14 \$1.7MM street resurfacing project
 - ii. '14 Prairie Path Underpass at York St. – has '14 funds to complete the engineering (\$150k)
 - iii. IT
 - 1. Police RMS (Records management system)
 - 2. Telephone System
 - 3. ERP System
 - iv. Public Works
 - 1. Water main, hydrant and valve and water meter replacement
 - 2. Sewer/WWTP – sewer lining, water treatment units and influent screw replacements, SW wet weather Control facility project (\$8.4MM in '14)
 - v. Storm water Detention project = \$10.7MM over 5 years weighted up front.
 - 1. Grant funds from IEMA may be available (up to 75% of the cost of the project)
 - vi. TIF Funds – all three TIF districts
 - d. Even with all these projects, the City would be well under the limit of debt to EAV target of 5%.
 - e. City Council reviews come next leading to approval of the capital budget in November.

Ordinances

10.1 O-50-2013 – An Ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of a non-exclusive license agreement by and between Matthew Bute and the city of Elmhurst, DuPage and Cook Counties, IL (Lincoln Bags Tournament) – Ordinance was passed (14 Ayes, 0 Nays)

Other Business

- Ald. York thanked all who helped and participated in the Elmhurst Cycling Classic – it was a great success. They are looking to make it even better next year.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:42 pm.