

Elmhurst City Council Meeting

12 present; 2 Absent – Kennedy
(present at 9:00pm), Polomsky
(present at 7:55pm)
Public: 17; Staff: 7; Police/Fire:2;
Press: 3
Observer: N. Talluto

September 2, 2014
7:32 pm – 9:08 pm

Mayor Morley called the meeting to order.

A period of silence was observed at the beginning of the meeting to pay respect to the recent tragedy in the Elmhurst community in which a triple-murder/suicide occurred.

Michael Cremerie submitted written comments to Clerk Spencer.

Public Forum

- Robert Starvel, Jr. 237 Butterfield Rd., a dentist in the community, came to speak about Cambridge parking restrictions. He spoke with Ald. Kennedy about the issue and also wrote a letter to the council regarding the proposed parking restrictions on Cambridge, which he states, will severely affect his practice. He is willing to compromise and work with the city but he feels that his reputation is on the line with this issue. He presented several alternatives in his written statement.
- Michael Cremerie, 570 W. Crockett, spoke regarding sign zoning laws in Elmhurst. He stated several sections from the Elmhurst laws. He then pointed out several establishments in Elmhurst that are in violation of the zoning code. One of the businesses was advertising record sales years, and that business was recently granted a tax incentive by the city.
- Kevin Graff, 233 Cayuga raised concerns that Mr. Burke had a condescending tone with the residents at a local resident meeting regarding storm water plans in that neighborhood. Cayuga residents are asking questions and stating facts and are not getting an answer from the city. He states that it is beyond reasonability that Cayuga residents would want to take on new storm water to benefit other people's homes. He suggests that the city's proposed solutions are not going to work.
- Tamara Brenner, 137 N. Caroline, was disappointed that the Economic Development Chairman will remain in the role while still taking on a new role as a Zoning Commissioner. She encourages the city to look to diversify the people holding commission seats. She spoke regarding \$725,000 budget item for "land acquisition in TIF II". She asked what the intended project is and what the public benefit will be.
- Kathleen Sullivan, Pine St., brought up the latest storm and its impact on her neighbors. She suggested that city officials should attend the Park District and School Board meetings to ensure good communication. She advocates for the retention project at Golden Meadows. She suggested that the city's press release following this storm was not truthful and it went against recent council voting regarding storm water mitigation projects.
- Maria Presnica, 239 Elm Ave., spoke regarding the storm issue in the first ward on Maple. She is now attending meetings to advocate for action by the city to fix

- Mike McGrath, 112 Clara Ave., is asking the council to put on hold the project at the Prairie Path and York Rd. in order to afford other projects for storm water mitigation. He runs on the path regularly and suggests that it is not that dangerous and there are less expensive ways to improve safety. He also asks for the resurfacing of the roads to be put on hold or linked to storm sewer replacement – so that you repair the road after you replace the sewer. He suggests that the city should be able to move forward more quickly with storm water projects to fix the issues.
- Olivia John, 914 S. Cambridge, says that Mr. Starvel is a nice man who has a parking lot that accommodates 12 cars but has staff of 10 – 15 and clients that park on the street. Her streets do not get plowed properly, garbage does not get picked up properly because of the Dentist office parking situation. It is difficult to drive on the street in and out of her house.
- Frank Madden, 924 Cambridge, 3 houses north of the dentist office. A petition was passed and the process started 18 months ago. Finally the dentist wants to compromise. He reiterates Ms. John’s
- Kathly Fowler, 908 S. Cambridge, attests that the parking is an issue on Cambridge. She suggests that the Dentist is now trying to work through a compromise. She proposes that eliminating parking on Cambridge will simply move the problem to VanBuren versus resolving the issue.
- Claude Pagash, 566 W. Gladys, suggests the council is working at cross-purposes. Instead of fixing the flooding issues, the city votes to support businesses in town. The sewer system is overwhelmed and the “greatest capital investment now requires additional millions of dollars”. Four years of discussion and not much action. He asks the council to start investing in the system below the surface.

Announcements

- Ald. Dunn thanked the city for the support of the Churchville School fundraiser which raised \$11,000 for the students at that school.
- Ald. Polomsky announced a Cool Cities program on 9/9/14 by John Rogers titled “Helpful hints on saving money and living healthier” at the Elmhurst Library at 7pm.

The **Consent Agenda** was passed (13 Ayes, 0 Nays) with the following item removed: 6.10, 6.15, 6.16.

- 1) 6.10 – Report – Parking Restrictions: Cambridge Avenue (PA&S)
 - a) Ald. Wagner requested to pull the report back to committee for further discussion.
 - b) Report will go back to committee.
- 2) 6.15 – Report – Regulation of outdoor recycling and donation collection bins (DP&Z)
 - a) Ald. Levin summarized that there was a problem identified that there were various recycling containers appearing throughout the city. The city staff suggested that the city should create an ordinance to help regulate these containers for safety, maintenance and trash collection purposes to ensure consistency throughout the city.
 - b) Ald. Bram thanked the committee for their work as it is thorough. He asked if there is an automatic increase in fees annually? He asked about the safety hazard/degradation of certain types of bins. He also asked about items left outside of the bin and how quickly they will be removed. Finally, he is concerned with allowing these bins on a sidewalk.

- c) Ald. Levin responded that the fees would increase as others do and the wood construction is addressed in the draft. They are not allowed on the sidewalk.
- d) Report passed (13 Ayes, 0 Nays)
- 3) 6.16 – Report – Proposed impervious surface regulations for residentially zoned properties.
 - a) Ald. Levin summarized the report with the rules for calculating the amount of pervious vs. impervious surface for these cases.
 - b) Ald. Bram is concerned with the report in that it automatically allows for an exception to the ordinance. Ald. Bram would rather see a variance approach vs. the exception that is currently in the report. He motions to amend page 3 of the report to remove the entire paragraph that references the exception. There was no second.
 - c) Report passed (13 Ayes, 0 Nays)

Committee Reports

- 1) Report – Majority Report – Residential concrete street resurfacing plan (PW&B)
 - a) Ald. Healy stated that both several aldermen and city staff recommended a comprehensive review of the plan for concrete streets. After city review, it was recommended that all concrete streets be replaced with asphalt. This requires an increase in the 2015 capital budget. The only difference between the majority and minority report is the funding amount to accomplish the concrete replacement.
 - b) Ald. Bram requested to defer debate to the next council meeting as several residents from his ward were unable to attend this weeks meeting. Ald. Polomsky seconded the request.
 - c) Report will be discussed at the next council meeting.

Reports and Recommendations of Appointed and Elected Officials

- Mayor Morley
 - a. Met with Congressman Quigley last week and received Mr. Quigley’s verbal support to “do what he could” to help with the cities flooding issues.
 - b. Mr. Morley voiced support for the upcoming “Rock the Block” party this weekend.
- City Manager Grabowski
 - a. He apologized for the city’s website being out of service for the past couple of days. A new server has been purchased.
 - b. The next city and school board meeting with be on 9/8. Another meeting for Cayuga residents has also been planned for the evening of 9/8.
 - c. Mr. Burke will also be available on 9/15 to present ongoing plans for storm water. He will be looking at three areas, by the high school Crestwood park and first and north.
 - d. A public works director from Hanover Park has been hired and will start on 9/29.
- Ald. Honquest thanked the city departments for their work over the weekend in a difficult situation in his ward.
- Ald. Bram requested a report from ComEd regarding infrastructure updates and smart meters.
- 2015 Five year Capital Expenditure Budget
 - a. Aldermen submitted questions from last meeting to address in tonight’s meeting.
 - i. Ald. Honquest requested additional capital to purchase homes in storm water mitigation plans.
 - 1. Mayor Morley seconded that request as he feels that acquisition of property may be a piece of the puzzle.

- ii. Ald. Mulliner requests to discuss “this” a little further. He suggests that there are a number of capital items that deserve more than simple committee discussion, namely full council discussion. He asks for a process to allow for discussion on large capital items like this.
- iii. Ald. Healy provided additional information specific to the Prairie Path. First, this topic has been before the council at least four times. Second, there have been two bike and car accidents at the intersection in the past month and a half. Third, the county data shows that this intersection has more accidents than any other intersections on the prairie path main stem. Finally, the committee is looking at alternative, less expensive solutions to a over or under pass.
- iv. Ald. Bram asked where in the budget the land acquisition dollars would reside – capital or operating?
- v. Ald. Dunn asked that all written questions and answers be provided to the full council.

Other Business

- Ald. Hipskind announced that September 15th will be his last meeting as an alderman. This is for both professional and personal reasons. He served for 10 years. Mayor Morley announced that a press release will be posted tomorrow asking for applicants to fill the role.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.