

Elmhurst City Council Meeting

12 present; 1 Absent - Leader

Public: 18; Staff: 3; Police/Fire:3;

Press: 3

Observer: N. Talluto

October 20, 2014

8:05 pm¹ – 10:02 pm

Mayor Morley called the meeting to order.

Recognition

- Receipt of the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference 2014 Municipal Innovation Award – Elmhurst Police Department Neighborhood Roll Call Program. (Photo Included in report).

Public Forum

- Claude Pagash, 566 W. Gladys, spoke regarding a flyer about a local business leaving town. He implied that this is part of a trend of businesses leaving. He spoke about Addison and the repaving and flower planters that will be put in there. He also spoke about how the council will speak about the tax assessment – stating that the general obligation bonds are expensive. He brought up the Hahn street project and the view that he has that the Elmhurst building code is too flexible and should be improved so there is not so much exception based zoning.
- Tamara Brenner, is not happy about the possible automatic license plate reader, she does not want the city to know where her car is at all times. The zoning commission is not deliberating during public comment for multiple projects in the city and Ms. Brenner is concerned that this is setting precedent and that 6-story use is now becoming the norm for the city. Ms. Brenner submits that the city should stop now and start over with public comment and without pre-conceived notions of what should be done.
- Paula Wolf, stated that she is a senior citizen and came to talk about the flooding. She does not understand why the city is building parking garages and tearing up streets when she thinks the streets should get the sewer fixed. She is concerned about the flooding in her house, which may prevent her grandchildren from enjoying her home. “Why does nobody care about the safety of the homes and the mold?”

Announcements

- Clerk Spencer announced the IL general election is 11/4/14 and Elmhurst is an early voting site. Early voting begins Monday, 10/20 through Saturday, 11/1. The hours will be Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 7:30 pm; Saturday, 9 – 5 pm. A government issued ID is not required per state law. The consolidated municipal election is in 4/7/15; packets may be picked up in the clerk’s office.
- Ald. Gutenkauf announced the 1st Ward Townhall meeting on 11/13/14, at 7pm at the Elmhurst Public Library.
- Ald. Healy announced the 5th Ward Townhall meeting on 10/22/14 at 7:30pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall on York.

¹ The start time of the regular meeting was postponed to 8pm due to Early Voting at City Hall, which ended at 7:30pm.

The **Consent Agenda** was passed (12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent) with the following items removed: 7.6, 7.9, 7.16 (back to committee), and 7.24.

- 1) 7.6 – Report – Replacement of vehicle E28 (PW&B)
 - a) Ald. Bram, who did not sign the report (all other committee members did), explained that he did not support because it is a departure from the past practice of putting older vehicles into the pool of vehicles. He feels that this departure is expensive for the city.
 - b) Report passed (11 Ayes, 1 Nay – Bram, 1 Absent)
- 2) 7.9 – Report – Residential storm water management incentive program (PW&B)
 - a) Ald. Dunn sought clarity on this report before voting. He wanted to confirm that the incentive is a 50/50 split as well as confirming that the policy allows for delays in the improvement project itself.
 - b) Ald. Kennedy clarified that most of the policy has already been approved in the past. Today's report simply asks for a modification to the policy to allow the city to be involved if a homeowner wants to disconnect their downspouts from the city sewer – so as to not impact their neighbors.
 - c) Ald. Healy reiterated what Ald. Kennedy stated and added that many residents have taken advantage of this policy such that the budget allotted for the year is almost used up.
 - d) Ald. Bram reiterated that he still does not support this policy.
 - e) Report passed (11 Ayes, 1 Nay – Bram, 1 Absent)
- 3) 7.16 – Committee Chairman Wagner pulled this report back to committee.
- 4) 7.24 – A resolution determining the estimated property taxes to be levied by the city of Elmhurst for the 2014 tax year.
 - a) Ald. York stated that this is simply a placeholder based on council approved algorithm to estimate the placeholder for the 2014 tax levy. This is not the final vote or final amount, but rather a placeholder required by law to estimate the amount until it is determined as final.
 - b) Report passed (12 Ayes, 0 Nays)

Reports and Recommendations of Appointed and Elected Officials

- 1) Mayor Morley
 - a) Last week the city held the city-wide storm water meeting to share what plans were in place and to have discussions about the future plans. Over 100 people attended.
 - b) Tonight is the beginning of the 2014 budget process.
- 2) City Manager Grabowski
 - a) License plate reader update – this is a tool for enhanced public safety given the increased burglaries in the area. This technology is used throughout the state on tollways and in other communities. The data is available to search by the police department. The city is considering a pilot test with a fixed location camera. The camera company holds the data for 6 – 8 months, not stored by the city of Elmhurst. If the city moves forward on a permanent basis, the camera costs \$5,000/camera + \$500 for software. The trial will be for 180 days and a decision will be made after that.
 - b) Ald. Mulliner supports the limited use of cameras for public safety in Elmhurst. He does not support cameras for use as revenue generators (like red light violation cameras).
 - c) Ald. Gutenkauf requested clarity on how the cameras/software work.

- d) Chief Ruth clarified that there are two primary uses for the information – comparing license plate data in two different areas to see if a common plate appears in the case of a crime and also for “high – level” crimes such as murder, child abduction when a plate matches.
- 3) Ald. Bram requested an update on the Waverton property.
- 4) Presentation: Update on economic development activities (Assistant City Manager Kopp)
 - a) The Economic Development Commission compiled a plan in 2010. Five recommendations came out of this plan.
 - b) Mr. Kopp took the council through the accomplishments of the commission.
 - c) The Vice-Chair of the commission spoke regarding the expansion of the membership of the commission, focus on the North York TIF district and the various redevelopment projects in the city.
 - d) Bill Shenk spoke regarding the retention goal of the commission. Over 461 retention visits since 2010. He spoke about a recent visit to a local fastener manufacturer that is looking to expanding into a new 100,000 square foot in Elmhurst.
 - e) Mr. Kopp illustrated that the city has improved its research tools online for businesses that are looking to come to Elmhurst.
 - f) 64 - \$10,000 retail grants awarded since 2002.
 - g) The City Communications Manager spoke about some opportunities to continue to enhance the City’s image and business and shopping opportunities – like “Choose DuPage” feature in September.
 - h) The vacancy rate in the city center is 4% currently. The average is 4 – 6% vacancy rate. The worst was 10% during the recession.
 - i) Mr. Kopp took a number of questions from the council.

Ordinances

- 1) O-47-2014 – An ordinance providing for the issuance of \$9,375,000 general obligation bonds, series 2014B, of the city of Elmhurst, DuPage and Cook Counties, IL, for the purpose of financing various capital improvements, refunding certain outstanding general obligations bonds and paying the expenses incident thereto and providing for the levy and collection of a direct annual tax sufficient for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds.
 - a) This allowed a refunding of 10% of the principal (over \$650,000) and landed at a refinanced rate of 2.6%, lower than the prior rate and lower than the target rate of 3%.
 - b) Ald. York reiterated that it is a testament to the city staff, council and management that the city has such good bond rating and can demand such great rates and less financing.
 - c) Ordinance passed (12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent)
- 2) O-49-2014-An ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of a settlement agreement and mutual release of claims agreement by and between Victoria Oltean, as trustee under trust agreement dated 9/10/93 and known as trust number 101, Katherine Jablonowski, Stephan Oltean, Victoria O’Sullivan and the city of Elmhurst, DuPage and Cook Counties, IL.
 - a) Attorney Storino stated that this was an issue of eminent domain to expand some property for city maintenance. The settlement was for approximately \$1MM.

Other Business

- None

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:02 pm.