

Regular Meeting of the Elmhurst City Council
Monday, November 2, 2015
City Hall
7:30 p.m.
Observed by Becky Lipton

Attendance: Steven M. Morley, Mayor
Aldermen: All 14 present
Staff: Mr. Grabowski, City Mgr.; City Attorney;
City Clerk Spencer; fire and police officers
Residents: approx. 150 members of the public

Following the Call to Order & Pledge, led by Boy Scout Troop 42, a swearing in ceremony for 6 police officers was held. The ceremony ended at 8:00 pm. The regular council meeting convened at ~8:10 pm.

Written communications were entered into the official record; then 50 members of the public addressed the City Council. Each speaker was allotted 3 minutes; the majority of speakers addressed the issue of whether video slot machines should be allowed in bars and fraternal organizations in Elmhurst. There were 26 speakers in favor, primarily bar/restaurant owners and officers of fraternal organizations (American Legion, Elks, Knights of Columbus); their reasons included competition from neighboring towns which have the slot machines; no additional decrement in quality of life; added revenue for the City. There were 19 speakers opposed to allowing video gambling machines based on such reasons as the family-oriented character of Elmhurst; gambling losses by residents who may not be financially able to absorb them; a need to support veterans organizations using alternate means. Five speakers addressed other issues: 3 opposed the placing of a cell-phone tower in Mt. Emblem Cemetery; an engineer from T-Mobile explained the safety measures to be used; one citizen spoke against the City's plan to remand approximately \$200,000 in sales tax revenue back to Ed Napleton KIA. The Public Forum ended at 10:02 pm.

After a short break the meeting resumed with announcements. The council unanimously adopted the Consent agenda, except item 7.15 referring to the cell-phone tower, which was deferred until the next meeting. Because of the extraordinary length of the Public Forum segment of the meeting, it was announced that discussion of the upcoming City budget would also be postponed for 2 weeks.

Aldermen discussed and ultimately voted 11 to 3 to reject the proposal to allow city-wide video gambling. It was mentioned that they had been inundated with emails and phone calls from residents and business people on this issue. A petition with 525 signatures was submitted in opposition to the video slot machines. Mayor Morley thanked residents and business owner for their respectful and cordial participation. He announced the re-dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Wilder Park on November 11. Mr. Grabowski announced 2 upcoming meetings, Joint Review Board on 11/9 and the Stormwater Task Force on 11/12, as well as a schedule for street repaving. The Council voted 11-3 in favor of remanding the \$200,000 in sales tax revenue back to Ed Napleton KIA without discussion. The meeting adjourned at 11:55 pm.

Link to official documents and video:
<http://www.boarddocs.com/il/coe/Board.nsf/Public>