

Elmhurst City Council Meeting
November 4, 2013
7:31 pm – 9:05 pm

14 present; 0 Absent
Public: 24; Staff: 3 ; Police/Fire:2;
Press: 3
Observer: N. Talluto

Mayor Morley called the meeting to order.

Public Hearing

- Claude Pagash expressed concern with the budget of \$142MM and the fact that all the different areas from the Library to the police needed more than they needed last year. DuPage county has a budget of about \$200MM. He wondered why no one asked the different entities if they really needed the money. He brought up the general obligation bonds and compared them to credit cards. He is asking the council to behave like anyone who has a household, spending money that you have and on the right things. Flooding is one of the top priorities for many residents in Elmhurst.
- Tamara Brenner expressed concern about how difficult it was to find out about the Public Hearing for the Budget meeting. She asks that the City Council put residents at the top of their priority list. She is concerned about talk regarding a new marketing role for communications. She doesn't understand how this will improve the communication to the residents and how it impacts the other consultants. Regarding the IT part of the budget, she brings up electronic signage and how she thinks that could lead to advertisements, which would be unwanted. Finally, the prairie path underpass still has monies set aside for engineering and she does not feel that this is necessary.
- Kathleen Sullivan stated that the budget is light on dollars apportioned to fixing the storm sewer issue in Elmhurst. Specifically, the cost of the electronic signage is more than what was originally stated as the cost to fix the flooding in her neighborhood.
- Eileen Hosit, a new resident of Elmhurst, IL, was surprised that there is not more focus on lowering the city's budget given the economic situation in this country. She looks for more ways to help families save costs in the future.
- The public hearing on the budget was adjourned at 7:53pm.

Public Forum

- Andrea Alvarez with the Citizen Advocacy spoke against Susan Rose's naming to the zoning commission in light of the person's past experience with the City Council and the Zoning commission. Additionally the Citizen Advocacy group supports a policy of complete recusal for anyone in the Council when there are conflicts of interest.
- Claude Pagash stated concern with the Addison parking Garage project and the lack of direction from the City who seem to not know what they want. He asks if there is a set of drawings or not. The city collected \$9.6MM for water last year and paid only \$4.6MM to DuPage Water Commission and Claude wonders why. He is asking what the difference is.
- Tamara Brenner expressed her concern about the appointment of a former council member to the zoning commission. She asks that that appointment be deferred and reconsidered. She supports BoardDocs as a good way for communication to the public. She requests that the city post without special requests.

- Marilyn Oredo spoke about a building sewer inspection program letter from the city. She attended the public meeting with other citizens, city staff and the consultants. They were not able to provide information if the home did not pass the inspection. She would like an answer to this. Additionally, overflow from the storm sewer goes into the sanitary sewer, which sometimes goes into peoples homes. She feels that more recent homes should disconnect from the storm sewers. She asks the council to pass ordinances to protect the citizens. The council from 1980 put a moratorium on building until the flooding was resolved. She hopes that this council will pass policy to disconnect rain gutters from the storm sewer.

Announcements

- Mayor Morley introduced and thanked Bob ? for his work on the Elmhurst Bike Task Force resulting in Elmhurst's Bike Friendly Community Award. Bob thanked the city, the council and the community for all that they did towards this effort. Elmhurst is 1 of 8 communities in Illinois to be awarded the Bike Friendly Community award.
- Ald. Deuter and Gutenkauf will host a meeting on the Hahn street project on 11/14 at 7pm at the Library, 2nd floor.

The **Consent Agenda** was passed (14 Ayes, 0 Nays) with removal of the following items: Item 6.4 and 6.1.

Agenda Item Discussion

- A. Item 6.4 – Appointment to the Zoning and Planning Commission – Rose (Mayor Morley)
- a. Ald. Bram suggested that some of the public members shared thoughts that he was going to share. Additionally, he brought up Alan Brinkmeyer has served for a while and wanted to continue to serve. He is concerned with the perception of a past elected official serving in this capacity as a conflict of interest. Finally, he did not know that this was going to be filled, it came up quickly.
 - b. Ald. Mulliner has a great deal of respect for both of the people being considered for this post. They both have extensive knowledge of zoning.
 - c. Ald. Levin does not have a problem with this appointment and a past elected official serving as a commissioner. He does not see any problem with non-recusal in the past.
 - d. Report passed (13 Ayes, 1 Nay - Bram)
- B. Item 6.14 – Report – Case number 13 P – 07/Zoning Ordinance Map and Text Amendment – Proposed C3A District for 140 and 160 W. Industrial Drive (DP&Z)
- a. The original request came from the property owner for a change to the zoning. The zoning commission rejected this. The commission created an overlay to allow some but not all of the industrial uses. The city came back to ask for an amendment to the map which was granted by the commission and the committee.
 - b. Ald. Bram feels that this is spot zoning and does not support the report. Two adjacent addresses were included in the overlay and one of them was not originally on the request. He feels that it is inappropriate for the city to be a petitioner. He asks his fellow colleagues to reconsider their support of the report. There were people that objected to the initial petition.

- c. Ald. Polomsky shared information that the committee considered. The 2009 comprehensive plan designated the two property addresses as businesses and therefore extending the industrial uses in in line with this.
- d. Report passed (12 Ayes, 2 Nays – Bram, Gutenkauf)

Committee Reports

- A. 7.1 – Report – Marketing and Communicataions Coordinator (DP&Z)
 - a. Ald. Levin shared that the City Manager made this request to the council in consideration of changes to various staff roles resulting in the net loss of a FTE of 0.5. Additionally, there has been much discussion about the need for improved city communications. This position would be similar to a public information officer function. This is a reallocation of resources, not an increase to the budget.
 - b. Ald. Polomsky supports this role to take on critical initiatives related to streamlined marketing and the City’s ability to communicate to residents, businesses. This role could help with the type of businesses being attracted to Elmhurst.
 - c. Ald. Gutenkauf thinks having a communications lead is a great idea. However, she still has questions about how this will work and how specific responsibilities will be shared by the various positions. It appears to her that the hours for the contractors have not been reduced yet the city will add this position, which seems strange.
 - d. City Manager Grabowski states that the consultants will be re-focused on activities that better take advantage of their talents, which is why the budget is staying the same.
 - e. Ald. Polomsky states that the consultants will be used to the best effect based on how the city needs their services.
 - f. Ald. Healy supports this position and hopes this position will improve daily communication and emergency communication with the residents especially with all the advances in communication modes.
 - g. Ald. Bram Supports Ald. Healy’s comments on improving communications. However, he does not support how the City is doing it. He feels that there should be a reduction in the consultant hours or focus of the consultants. He does not support this position, as he does not have a report from the committee on how this will be used.
 - h. Report passed (13 Ayes, 1 Nays - Bram)
- B. 7.2 – Report – Assistant planning and zoning administrator position (DP&Z)
 - a. Ald. Levin shared that the current Zoning staff is 1 staff member. There are increased demands on this commission with the increased building in Elmhurst. These increased demands would be abated by the position.
 - b. Report passed (14 Ayes, 0 Nays)

Reports and Recommendations of Appointed and Elected Officials

- Mayor Morley attended the Heritage Foundation Gala, a fantastic event for Elmhurst. Elmhurst Memorial Healthcare is opening their new cancer center next week. Finally, the next council meeting is 11/12 at which time the two finalists for the Hahn street will make their presentations.
- City Manager Grabowski shared that the city’s consultants will vet the financial assessment of the Hahn street.

- Ald. Bram clarified that the parking garage for Addison will be a 65-foot structure with variances.
- Ald. Gutenkauf clarified that the sewer inspection is only a fact finding event by the City to assess the extent to which these connections are in residents homes to base future policy off of.

Other Business

- None

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.