

City Council Observer Report

September 10, 2007

Barbara Fowler, Observer

Members Present – all members of the City Council were present.

Media Present – one representative

Citizens Present: – approximately 25

Public Announcements: Prior to the actual council meeting, one citizen (Mr. Stonebeck) asked that the Flood and Pollution Control Commission be dissolved.

Mayor Morton presented plaques to two citizens (Ned Lauterback and Margaret Wold in appreciation of their service to the city by working on the above commission.

Mayor Morton asked from help from the Evanston community toward being good citizens. She had a telephone call from a woman who had flowers that she had planted on her front lawn stolen. Apparently such acts have been occurring recently in downtown Evanston and the Mayor wants citizens to help in stopping such actions.

The City Manager introduced new staff attorneys to the law department – Elizabeth Lowlett and Lisa Woods. The CM also introduced the new assistant director of the building and zoning commission – Jill Chambers who is an architect. This step was a promotion for her.

Other announcements: September 15 is non-profit day at Evanston's Farmers Market. All aldermen were invited to come on Saturday (the 15th) and pass out information to the citizens attending.

The IL State Treasurer's office has a loan program with an interest rate of 5.6% Participation is for one year. Lower interest loans may be available for those who need help in recovering from the damage from the recent storm.

September is National Preparedness Month – declared by Homeland Security. Mayor Morton declared this for Evanston as well.

Public Announcements/Citizen Comment:

1. Lack of public funds for required expenses – i.e. pension funds for the police and firemen, etc.; real estate transfer tax which leads to TIF
2. President of the Library Board thanked the community for voting for the Capital Improvements Program, especially for improvements for the children's programs.
3. Gerald Gordon – explained an analysis showing shortfalls for police and firemen. He questioned differences between published discrepancies between city and actuary. He wants to know the true shortfalls. Alderman Bernstein referred Mr. Gordon to the City Manager.

Alderman Moran read the consent agenda that required action. The following ordinances received action at this meeting:

CONSENT AGENDA
ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC WORKS

A10 Ordinance 86-0-07 Increasing Number of Class D Liquor Licenses: Alderman Rainey asked to suspend the rules. This was granted; she moved for passage and the motion was passed.

A11 Ordinance 88-0-0 7 Sheridan Road/Isabella Street Jurisdictional Transfer Agreement: Alderman Rainey asked to suspend the rules – passed – she moved approval and the ordinance was passed.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

P1 Ordinance 78-0-07 Amending Section 4-2-2 of the City Code to Prohibit Windowless Sleeping Rooms in new construction. This was held in committee.

P2 Ordinance 82-09-96 – Major Variation Request at 605 Davis Street. Aldermen suspended the rules and voted to pass this ordinance.

P3 Request for Home Funds from HODC for \$194,396 to rehab 1929 Jackson into two affordable home ownership units – held in committee.

P4 Ordinance 84-09-96 – Special Use Request for 2434 Main Street – referred back to committee.

P5 Ordinance 85-0-07 Special Use Request for 2434 Main Street – for introduction.

P6 Ordinance 83-9-96 Major Variations Request for 125-133 Clyde Avenue – suspended the rules; moved for approval and passed.

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEES
OTHER COMMITTEES

No action taken.

APPOINTMENTS

APP1 For appointment introduction: Plan Commission Charles R. Staley

CALL OF THE WARDS

Ald/ Tisdahl – Improvements at the library are wonderful for children.

Ald. Rainey – Wants more help for neighborhoods – wants a “gun turn-in” and a program for getting guns off the streets

Ald. Hansen – Impressed by Children’s Library. Construction of property in her ward started. Reminder: 9/11 – thanks to first responders and police.

Ald. Wollin – Two workshops – 9/19 and 9/20 – regarding the lake front. Master plan draft on 10/4. Kendall abolished, block will be seeded and construction will come.

Ald. Jean-Baptiste – Thanks to any who came out to Million Fathers March – successful. Thanked Districts 202 & 65 for help with initiative. Theatre district improvement with more police – good improvement in the area.

Ald. Wynne – Library has room to grow – shows great effort and great success.

Ald. Bernstein – Herman Ruff passed. He will be missed.

Ald. Holmes – Congratulations to all for the new library, especially the children’s area.

Ald. Moran – Citizens help, especially the library. Thanks to all.

Meeting Adjourned – 10 PM