

Observer Report Form

Evanston City Council

June 11, 2007

Observer: Sue Calder

Aldermen Present/Absent: All except Moran and Wynne

Staff Present: Carroll, Hill, Wolinski, et al and Sharon Eckersoll

Media Present: Evanston Review, RoundTable

Meeting Began. 9 pm

Meeting Ended: 11 pm (to exec. Session)

No. of Citizens in Attendance: 40ish

Seven spoke in to support the downtown moratorium; one in opposition. Raised the issue of what constitutes “being in the pipeline” to be grandfathered in to current development rather than being put on hold for a moratorium. Plus a handful of others.

Significant Discussions, Action Taken:

Preservation Commission Referred to Rules the ordinance on the powers and duties of the Preservation Commission.

Downtown Development: Moratorium was passed but not without considerable discussion. After much input, City Manager Julia Carroll concluded: We need to change the standard on the definition of what is in the “pipeline”; it should not include projects that have only started with the request for a zoning analysis. Because of the controversy, Ald. Rainey moved that the motion be held over but there was no second. Much of the discussion on the motion, of course, was triggered by the two new proposed projects for Fountain Square. There was a question about projects that meet all standards and could move right through the system or should the moratorium just apply to planned projects which would need some allowances. Under the adopted motion, they too would be stalled.

Fountain Square: Minimal repairs will be undertaken for Fountain Square while development discussions are underway.

Township Assessor’s budget: Township Assessor Sharon Eckersoll handed out a sheet – probably explaining some items questioned earlier. Ald/ Bernstein questioned individual line items. It was explained that one item for the yet-to-be-passed budget was for dealing with the new assessments and that money had already been spent. (!) Ald. Rainey moved that this part of the Township budget bottom line be reduced by \$54,800 (equivalent to the salary of the part-time assessor). Ald. Rainey explained that the Township Trustees (i.e., Council members) do not have the authority to amend line-items, only the bottom line; the Assessor could meet the new budget in any way she so chose. Motion passed.