

Observer Report

City Council Meeting February 11, 2008

Observer: Sue Brenner

Meeting Began: after 8:55 PM (scheduled to begin at 8:30)

All Aldermen Present, plus Mayor Morton, Assistant City Manager Aiello and City Clerk Morris

I. Mayor Public Announcements: Mayor Doug Gaynor of Parks/Rec announced that the city and Keep Evanston Beautiful won awards for the most innovative recycling initiative from Cash for Cans. The city got a check for \$5,000 and keep Evanston beautiful got a check for \$2,500.

V. Citizen Comment: Aaron Sanderson spoke about concerns about crime and increased police calls to his neighborhood just south of South Boulevard and east of Elmwood. Jean Baptiste asked him to talk to him after the meeting as this neighborhood has seen additional police responses and is one of his concerns. The second speaker spoke about concerns for raising taxes. He felt we should not raise taxes or cut programs. His suggestions were to raise property taxes on a graduated basis and have NWU assume its share of taxes. The third speaker was Dawn Mueller. She spoke about the resolution for sanctuary non documented aliens. She wants to make sure we do not pass such a resolution.

VI. Consent Agenda

All consent agenda items passed. Below are the details of those items removed from the consent agenda.

ADMINISTRATION & PUBLIC WORKS

(A1) Approval of City of Evanston Payroll 2/07/08

(A2) Approval of City of Evanston Bills through 02/12/08

See Sue Calder's report on Administration and Public Works for Feb. 11 for detailed items on consent agenda. Item A7 Prepared food and Non Alcoholic Beverage Tax had the wording changed to take out any reference to alcoholic beverages for introduction. A15 Ordinance 23-O-08 to have a license fee for home based business was held in committee. A16 for increases to the Taxi license renewal was held in committee. A18 to increase residential parking permits was introduced after being off the consent agenda. A19 parking meter and parking fine increases was separated into two amendments. The amendment to increase parking rates downtown was okayed for introduction. The piece to increase the snow emergency parking fine was sent back to committee for David Jennings to clarify the rules. The Yard Waste sticker program was

defeated in committee and removed from the agenda. Betty Sue Ester spoke about concerns of A&PW items regarding fee increases. When Aldermen ask for clarification from staff and memos are sent to aldermen she believes citizens are left out of the process. The last speaker, Mike Facilico(sp?) felt there had not been enough discussion around items that raise fees and license fees and wants our taxes to be lower.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

All consent agenda items passed. Below are the details of those items removed from the consent agenda.

P1- The request for a Home Funds Grant was withdrawn by the developer and removed from the agenda. The ordinance to charge \$40 permit/year license fee for all residential rental dwelling units was introduced and sent back to committee. This was approved by all aldermen except for Ald. Hansen. P5 did not have enough time to be presented in P&D. It will be on the agenda on March 10th and will be the only item on the agenda on March 17th. (see league action)

VIII. Call of the Wards: Ald Bernstein asked people to attend the Human Services Meeting about the immigration ordinance. He asked for information about 1817 Church St. a site identified for a Black History Museum. CDBG committee has had the city take back the site because of a lack of any forward movement. A touch subject as the city needs to make sure they are using federal funds carefully. Ald. Bernstein asked for information about the rental properties in the new parking garage. Ald. Bernstein also asked all not for profit entities trustees to step up and help the city with their budget problems (pension fund deficit) by making contributions. Ald Tisdale reiterated Ald. Bernstein's request of trustees of not for profits to come forward to help the city in solving the deficit issue. Ald. Rainey participated in a "Hands Across Howard" program to work with Chicago. Their first goal is to turn around the properties on Howard. Ald. Hansen expressed concern for the state of the streets and the fact that the curb cuts are piled high with snow and so people can't walk around the city. Ald Jean Baptiste asked for a moment of silence for those who died in Kirkwood. He also asked all to turn out at the Human Services meeting that will consider the immigration ordinance.