

Observer Report
City Council
June 22, 2009

Public Hearing on Town Budget

Before Council Meeting, began Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl convened Aldermen as Township Trustees for a Public Hearing on the proposed budget and appropriation for town purposes for Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2010. There was no public comment and only one trustee comment from Ann Rainey, who felt there did not recall there having been sufficient discussion of the proposed budget. Alderman Jean-Baptiste and Township Supervisor Pat Vance reminded Trustees that the budget had been presented and discussed at the May meeting. Trustee Holmes moved approval, seconded by Trustee Tendam. Trustees voted 7-2 to approve with Trustees Rainey and Burris voting no. Public Hearing adjourned. It all took no more than ten minutes.

Council or Committee: City Council

Date: 6/22/09

Observer: Jessica Feldman

Aldermen Present/Absent: All Present

Staff Present: All Department Heads noted (uncertain about all names) except David Stonebeck, Water & Sewers. Also, Pat Vance (but I didn't see Sharon Eckersall or Bonnie Wilson, former and present Township Assessors.).

Walter (Wally) Bobkiewicz, new proposed City Manager, was present and introduced. Consent agenda included approval of Resolution 53-O-09 authorizing interim City Manager to enter into an employment contract for a City Manager.

Media Present: Evanston Now and Evanston Review.. Did not see Mary Gavin of the RoundTable (but now that they sit in ante-room, I can't confirm her presence or absence).

Meeting began: Approx. 9 pm

Meeting Ended: 10:25 pm

Public Announcement: Doug Gaynor presented schedule for 4th of July activities and rules governing staking out and removal of viewing space items on parade route.

Mayoral Announcements: Read Proclamation designating "Olympic Day June 23, 2009 and announced and urged attendance at YOU Field Day June 26th from 3-7.

Citizen Comment: 9 speakers: LEED: four totally in favor of ordinance; three favor it with qualifications (need more carrot and less stick-- \$ deposit set arbitrarily too high); Clark Street bathroom: one strongly supporting moving forward with approval; one supports upcoming Alderman Fiske's tabling motion to allow for more scrutiny.

Discussion, Action: Consent Agenda approved unanimously with the exception of A3.1 RFQ 08-74—approval of contract for SCADA System Phase III engineering services being held in A&PW committee for inclusion of minority participation (held in committee) and A3.3 approval of lowest responsible and responsive construction bid for Clark Street Beach bathroom building and P5 Ordinance 53-O-09 granting a Convenience Store Special Use for Vinic Wine Company at 1509 Chicago Avenue. (both were approved after discussion-see below)

Clark Street Beach Bathroom Construction: Citing the need for more time to discuss this issue and expressing concern that perhaps the money would be better spent to make all lakefront bathrooms ADA compliant Alderman Fiske asked to table or put off the vote until there could be another community (neighborhood) meeting with the contractor to discuss the plan. The motion (?) was seconded but I didn't catch by whom. During discussion that followed it was pointed out that there had already been 31 community meetings on this issue; that the funding available for this project would be quite insufficient to renovate additional lakefront bathrooms to be ADA compliant; and that the lakefront had not been moved to the front of the priority list ahead of implementation of the West Side or Central Street plans, but rather finally getting its due after long years of being ignored. The motion was defeated by a 7-2 no vote with Aldermen Fiske and Jean-Baptiste voting yes. The Construction bid was then approved by a 7-2 yes vote with Aldermen Fiske and Jean-Baptiste voting no.

Convenience Store Special Use for Vinic Wines at 1509 Chicago Avenue: After Alderman Fiske attempted to expand the restrictions placed on this special use by the ZBA to shorten operating hours; expanding no sale of cigarettes to all tobacco products; and including no beer sales (outside of Council jurisdiction to determine this; solely responsibility of Liquor Control Review Board) the Council voted 8-1 to approve. Alderman Fiske voted no.

Adoption of LEED Requirements for Certain Construction and Renovation Projects: Following discussion, Council directed the Mayor/Interim City Manager Russell to coordinate further discussion which would include developers and owners in revising the proposed ordinance to include “more carrots and less sticks” as incentives to get broadest buy-in by those potentially effected while achieving City's desired goals. Revision to be available by first meeting in August.

Call of the Wards: Alderman Tendam requested City Manager Russell to enlist all City departments, as their crews go about their work, to assist in providing printed bi-lingual information to landscaping companies regarding the summer leaf-blower ban. Alderman are continuing to schedule ward meetings apace—the 7th Ward's will be July 16th and the 9th Ward will be July 29. Alderman Glover reminded everyone that the Race Against Hate will be June 27.