

OBSERVER REPORT
City Council
August 11, 2008

Observer: Betty Papangelis

Alderman Present: All Aldermen were present except for Alderman Jean-Baptiste

Attendance: The mayor, Acting City Manager, City Clerk and various department heads were present, as were the media: Evanston Review, The Roundtable and Channel 5 News. The Chamber was filled with citizens. The meeting was called to order at 8:35pm.

The Mayor announced that the son of the Town Assessor, Sharon Eckersall had died, and services will be held for him at St. Mark's Church. She also announced that former alderman Dennis Drummer had died in Louisiana. She called for the Council and all citizens present to stand for a moment of silence in memory of these persons, so important to the Council and our community. All the alderman spoke of their personal experiences, and high regard for Dennis Drummer. The Acting City Manager introduced the newly hired Finance Director Mr. Charles Lyons.

Citizen Comments: Many citizens spoke on these issues:

- 1) Pro and con for the use of the Frank Govern Memorial Golf Course (formerly Peter Jans) for parking during 5 daytime Northwestern University home football games.
- 2) Pro and con The maintenance of our local gun ordinance.
- 3) Pro and con of the curb cut on Emerson St to serve a new Trader Joe's Grocery Store.
- 4) Recognition of the National "Night Out" program which was a success in Evanston. The organization Poll for Peace presented to the Council with an art work promoting peace and reduction of violence.

Consent Agenda: Alderman Moran presented the consent agenda, which was approved by the Council.

Council Actions: The main actions the Council took were:

- 1) Approval of amending our city code on gun control to conform with the recent decision of the Supreme Court. Approved 7-1.
- 2) Approval of Ordinance to permit a curb cut on Emerson St. to serve a Trader Joe's Grocery Store.
- 3) Approval for use of Frank Govern Memorial Golf Course for parking for 5 Northwestern football games (one year pilot program)
- 4) Removal of the Ordinance authorizing The City Manager to negotiate a sale of 425 Dempster St (Montessori School) until several neighborhood meetings are held, to better inform the citizenry.
- 5) Introduction of an Ordinance establishing a committee to develop compensation report to The City Council prior to the next regularly scheduled municipal elections. (this is required by state statute)
- 6) Approval of increasing the Class B and Class C Liquor Licenses due to the opening of two new restaurants in Evanston: Jamaica Jamaica and Bravo Cucina Italiano.

Call of the Wards: The call of the wards was brief and included the following:

- 1) Thanks to the Cherry Foundation for its donation.
- 2) Comments about green alley resurfacing (Which uses a porous paving technique)
- 3) Report of the pothole at Chicago & Main, which hopefully will be fixed by the 700 Chicago Ave Project.
- 4) A plea for the Council to work on the problem of violence in our city.
- 5) A Tribute to the staff by Ann Rainey for their excellent research and presentation of some item (sorry I didn't catch it)

The Council adjourned in Executive Session at 11:05pm

Comments: A very subdued Council to-night. Items were passed with very little discussion or debate.