

**Observer Report
City Council
September 28, 2009**

Meeting Began: 8:35 p.m.

Meeting Ended: 11:35 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor and all Aldermen

Staff Present: City Manager Wally Bobkiewitz, Dennis Marino, Doug Gaynor,
Legal staff, among others

Media Present: Evanston Review, RoundTable, Northwestern Daily, Chicago Tribune, Evanston Now

Citizens Present: Several, who came and went according to the topic under consideration.

Proclamations related to Fire Prevention Week--City Fire Marshall talked about safety issues and announced open houses at all stations on 10/3. Second proclamation--Month of October is National Employment of Persons with Disabilities Month.

Mr. W.B. and Mr Gaynor announced Green Living Fest and also Bike the Ridge, to be held on Sunday, October 4th, from 8 to 12. Also noted Can Recycling Month in October.

Police Chief announced that Ann Rainey was awarded a Crime Stopper award, for providing an electronic message board for residents to state their concerns.

Mr. B. proposed structuring Specific Goal Discussions, for meetings to be scheduled over a period of time. This did not seem to be warmly received. The City Clerk mentioned a letter received, which seemed to relate to the request to establish a school on the Shure property. Ald. Rainey said the person should be at the meeting in person--objected to having the letter read. It was not read--aldermen all have copies. Alderman J. B. requested letter be sent to Rules Committee.

Mr. B. returned to subject of budget planning and preparing for presentation in January, and need for community input, as well as Council participation. All Aldermen participated in discussion. Ald. Glover moved abd Burrus seconded--Mayor appoint a task force. Motion passed unanimously .

Citizen Comment--support for Mr. Valavanis for appointment to the Site Plan/Appearance Review Comm.

Mr. Rizki objected to health benefits being provided to same sex partners.

Pro and con on traffic light at Church and Sheridan . A good deal of discussion of Green Building measure, which is on tonight's agenda. Mr. Perman, director of the Chamber of Commerce, praised the work done on the ordinance--thanked city staff--and proposed some "simple revisions" to bring opposing opinions closer together.

City retiree spoke about increasing cost of health benefits. Two children and father spoke in support of chickens.

Consent agenda accepted.

Off agenda-AP&W-complicated item re: Peddlars and Solicitors. Was this intended to deal with scalping and trademark infringement, counterfeit tickets, congestion caused by vendors, public safety, etc? Will this deprive some licensed vendors of income? Is this Evanston's problem or NW. Is ordinance heavy-handed?

Ammendment by Rainey, passed 5 to 2 to revisit this after basketball season. Ordinance, as ammended, passed 5 to 2--opposed were Fiske and Jean Baptiste.

After discussion, traffic signal at Sheridan Road and Church, passed unanimously.

Off Agenda--P&D- -Something about Loan Modifications--passed Unanimously with ammendment to exclude ECDA.

. Ordinance regarding location of outside air conditioning--passed unanimously with ammendment by Ald. Wynne.

Off agenda--Human Services--Long and complicated discussion regarding the Green Building ordinance. It was initially moved and seconded. Ald. John Baptiste offeered ammendments based on public comments made earlier. Ald. Burrus stated that so much time and effort had gone into completing version as presented tonight--why were these issues not dealt with earlier? Questions were raised by Ald. Wilson--answers were offered by staff from Building and Zoning and the Legal Dept. Ald. Wilson suggested that modest changes would improve the ordinance. Ald. Rainey asked whether city-owned property would be impacted by the ordinance..

Questions raised about the composition of the committee that developed the ordinance. Staff stated that the city would be affected just as a private entity would be.

Many questions and issues were raised--Ald. Holmes moved to hold the ordinance until there could be more clarification and resolution. Ald. Burrus suggested that so much time and effort was already invested--was it necessary to revisit? Tension was developing within the Counsel. The Chair was looking at the clock and recognizing that resolution would not be quick. I missed whether Ald. Holmes motion was accepted, but the flow was clearly in the direction of a motion to adjourn.

Somewhere along the way, the motion for health benefits for same sex partners seemed to have passed. Ald Jean Baptiste was selected as the new chair of the Civic Center Committee, scheduled to meet on the following day.

The call of the wards was attempted, but lapsed into confusion in the effort to adjourn.

Submitted by Frances Seidman