

Observer Report

City Council April 26, 2010

Observer: Sue Brady

Meeting began: 8:00 pm

Meeting ended: 10:10 pm

All aldermen were present.

Marty Lyons was tonight's acting city manager.

Mayor's Announcements: Resolutions promoting National Volunteer Week, Evanston Public Service Week and National Drinking Water Week (asking that we drink only tap water).

Presentations

- Census Update from NU and Downtown Evanston: both did very aggressive campaigns to get students and downtown shoppers to fill out census forms. Are hopeful and optimistic about results.
- North Shore Health System : Mr Gallagher, president, gave report on hospitals' work: (there are four hospitals in system). Total employees in system are over 9,000, have 2,400 physicians. Benefits to communities total over \$ 195,000,000. In Evanston, pay \$ 2,073,000 in all taxes, employ 800 residents, are the 2nd largest employer in City, are donating an AED (?) machine to Fleetwood-Jourdain.
- Web site coordinator gave overview of new city of Evanston web page which will debut in June. Will use new software and be much more citizen friendly. Currently have over 48,000 hits a month.

As prescribed by statute, a bond hearing was held (no speakers) on approving a \$ 5,500,000 revenue bond to Montessori School for building improvements. School will pay off their present loans with revenue and have responsibility to then pay off revenue bonds at lower handling costs. City is not liable with this type of bond. (later passed on Consent Agenda)

Two citizens spoke, both against purchasing additional cameras for 'hot spot' areas.

All items passed on Consent Agenda with the exception of the 'Outdoor Camera Project'. Discussion among aldermen was about value of these cameras. Total cost is \$ 341,000-all paid with federal grants. Fiske and Jean-Baptiste voted against. Was intelligent discussion about the need, the effectiveness, the perception of monitoring cameras.

Call of the Wards: various announcements. Most interesting-Evanston Plaza now in receivership; 415 Howard(large Howard Street project) in foreclosure but has a new owner, the Sienna Building (old Wieboldt's) in foreclosure continues to have problems i.e. pooling water etc; Inland Bank has been asked to be more responsive. Fiske made a reference to P&D to ask that city amend zoning ordinance to deal with non-conforming uses in the T1 district.

Comments: very civil and intelligent meeting!!