

OBSERVER REPORT FORM

Council or Committee: City Council/ Town meeting for Township

Observer: Carol Mullins, May 24, 2010

Aldermen Present: All present

Media Present: Evanston Review, Roundtable, Evanston Now

Meeting Began: 8: 15 pm
approximately

Meeting Ended: 10:10 pm

No. of Citizens in Attendance: 35-50?

Staff: Representatives from the Law, Forestry, Sustainability, Health Dept., Water, Human Services, police and fire departments.

Significant Discussion and Action Taken

I got there about 7:30 and heard the somewhat contentious end of P&D, I will explain further in report. The meeting was called to order by the Mayor. The meeting moved quickly to City Manager Presentations: Community service award for Pam and Jim Elesh for their \$45,000 dollar repair to the Jens Jensen grotto/water fall at the Lighthouse; preservation awards given for: 1046 Sheridan Road, 1419 Judson, 1024 Judson, 1801 Wesley. Memorial Day Trash pick up will be a day later for next week. COMMUNICATIONS: many congrats to Fire Chief Berkowsky, who will retire on Friday. There was discussion about keeping NU students and their end of year celebrations under wraps and an effort will be made to keep ETHS kids out of the celebrations. Dempster Street will be renamed Peter Knoebel way from Ridge to Asbury; Judson will be renamed Albe and Ned Lauterbach way from Kedzie to Keeney.

SPECIAL ORDER of BUSINESS: Health Department Work Plan- this was presentation about a federal qualifying health center by Evonda Thomas, Director of the Health Dept. There was a “scary” graph depicting a huge increase in STD numbers since Health Dept clinic closed in 2007. Ms. Thomas said that young people can get treated without consent in Health Dept., unlike school health clinic at ETHS. There was unanimous vote to encourage the process to become a federally financed and reimbursable clinic to be opened in Evanston by 2011;

location is to be determined after Evanston is approved. This clinic will accept all people on a sliding fee scale. Theoretically, no city monies will be needed.

Marty Lyons presented an interesting 4th quarter budget report for 2009-2010. The bottom line is that expenditures are coming in at about 2.6 million under budget. The sale of Chiravelle helps very much. Investment income is zilch. Police and Fire came in over budget. One reason is that there were 26.5 pay periods. On June 11th there will be another budget discussion and recommendation for a 10 month budget, so that budget year can change to January 1st in the future.

CITIZEN COMMENT: 2 comments, one by zoning comm member regarding 555 Howard, a convenience store/gas station that was discussed in P&D, another by a “groaner”, Kevin O’Connor, who speaks often to slap hands, this evening for holding Chamber after houses party at Schaefer’s in Skokie, another to Melissa Wynne for a comment about small business.

CONSENT AGENDA: Alderman Rainey presented this; a couple of items were pulled from this to vote on separately. One interesting item was the purchase of 16 tasers for police. A&PW: approval of payroll, bills, and approval of contract extension for debris handling- each recycling container costs \$4.30 for pick-up each week.

STANDING COMMITTEES: A&PW- discussion about modernizing traffic signals on Sheridan and Chicago avenues; P&D Rainey- discussion about 555 Howard, attorney and owner were there to plead for all night service in spite of many police calls there. Aldermen recommended extending hours to 7 days from 6, from 7am-7PM. Owner left, saying they would go out of business. If they change their operation, they will come back in 90 days if police calls have decreased, to ask again for all night opening. To be competitive, owner needs 24 hours opening because gas sales make no money since taxes in Evanston are so high.

Convenience stores are profitable.

CALL OF WARDS: Fiske: 1st ward meeting where discussion about Garret traffic light will be discussed; Baptiste: 2nd ward meeting Tuesday at Robert Crown to discuss recent shooting; Wynne: 3rd: Congrats to Lauterbachs, thanks to Ned and his foresight during Council days, we have wonderful water policy and “water is the new oil”, the big topic of conversation at National League of Cities; Wilson: 4th: meeting about shooting is priority; Holmes 5th -: YMCA evening was fabulous, (DH was high lighted in video, which is available from Y for \$25); Grover 6th: ; 7th Tendam ;8th; Burrus, all commented on Y and congratulating Berkowsky; Rainey 9th: Thanks to democratic process that changed her mind about constituent, 555 Howard .