

City Council Meeting, July 12, 2010

Observer: Sue Brady

Meeting Began: 7:00 pm (exactly)

Meeting Ended: 9:30 pm

All Aldermen were present

Media: Review, Evanston Now, students from NU??

Announcements

- Mayor commented on the death of Raymond Summers, talked about the 'Y' evacuation after an electrical outage and commented on the 4th of July activities.
- Representative from Comcast explained that all customers who had 'expanded basic' must have a box (free) installed by 8/3 in order to receive all stations and be digital.
- On 7/17, there will be document destruction at the Civic Center from 9-11 am. You can also drop off computer components in Glencoe on 7/17.
- Ethnic Art Festival and Cycling races will take place this week-end.

Citizen Comment

- Chr. Of Energy Commission recommended passage of Com. Ed. Contract. Representative of Com Ed. Also urged passage and explained various outages over the July 4th week-end.
- An Evanston firefighter urged attendance at the rededication of Fireman's Park on 7/22. Was completely restored by the firemen and neighbors gave total support.
- Sharon Eckerstall commented that assessor's office did not need 2nd staff person.
- Bennett Johnson lambasted 'an alderman' (later identified as Ald. Rainey) for derogatory statements after the shooting death of a 19 year old on Ridge Ave. After citizen comment, Ald. Rainey angrily denounced his statements as lies.
- Bonnie Wilson, Assessor, announced that reassessment letters would go out from the County on 7/15 and that appeals could be made through 8/16.
- Betty Ester commented on the 'Nudity Ordinance' saying it was unnecessary.

Township (special order of business): Ald. Holmes moved that \$ 20, 000 be deducted from Assessor's budget. Discussion followed between aldermen and assessor as to the necessity of a second full time person. Motion passed 9-0. Township Budget Ordinance was introduced but was not discussed further due to Supervisor Pat Vance being on vacation. It is scheduled to be voted on at next meeting.

State and Federal Legislative Priorities (special order of business): Staff person, Matthew Swentkofshe, who is city's Intergovernmental Affairs person (along with Holland and Knight, a Washington lobbying firm), reviewed the city's state, federal and regional needs priorities. He says that the "Sustainable Communities Law" offered the best chance of funding and that the city would be working with the CTA and Chicago to obtain some funding. Another priority is the West Side, funding perhaps from the same law. He will be giving monthly written reports to Council.

Consent Agenda passed. Other items discussed:

- Monthly Township bills had to be amended down \$ 100,000 as the accountant for the township made a "mental error" (ED's words) in her calculations.

- Com. Ed. Franchise Renewal: negotiations produced a five year contract with the City being able to renew for an additional five years. Moved to suspend the rules as contract expires on 7/15, but Ald. Rainey voted against so could not be done. She argued that it should be only a three year extension and that she would elaborate at next meeting-said service has been poor. Eventually, Council approved a sixty day extension of existing contract.

Call of the Wards: Most aldermen spoke of upcoming events.