

Observer Report

Council or Committee: City Council

Date: 10/26/09

Observer: Sue Calder

Aldermen Present/Absent: All there.

Staff Present: Pretty much usual – dept. heads

Media Present: Review, RoundTable, Evanston Now and a NU class

Meeting Began. 8:28 pm

Meeting Ended: 10:20 p.m.

No. of Citizens in Attendance: About 30

Announcements

Evonda Thomas, Director of Health and Human Services, announced that the H1N1 vaccine will be arriving in Evanston hopefully by Nov. 2nd. It should be available to the public by Nov. 7th.

Evanston was awarded the 2009 outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement of the Year for the \$5 million sewer relief/combined sewers that have been renovated from 1990-2008. This effort was successful as in 1990 there was a 100-year storm and many basements had 5+ feet of water and in 2008 when there was another 100-year storm (SBC: how is his possible?) only a few had some water.

Tele-Communicator Lynn Fishman received the Tele-Communicator of the Year Award from the IL Chapter of Associated Public Safety Communications Officials. It was explained that our 911 operators rotate from police coordination to fire coordination to talking with callers so that they don't get bored. Lynn did some neat stuff when talking to people and getting help to them.

Budget Planning Workshops. See attached flyer.

The Chief presented a slide show on the use of cameras and related technology. There are 77 in the main station!

The EPA has been hiring ex-offenders and additional jobs for ex-offenders at the EPA. The mayor appointed 7 members to a Green Building Ordinance Committee and one to city/NU committee.

Special Order of Business (These are reports on the list of 12 goal areas the Council came up with in September.)

Issues and Strategies for Economic Development The City Manager rolled through a powerpoint presentation and is working with the Economic Development Com. The committee's recommendations will be presented at the 11/21 Council meeting. No discussion by elected officials.

Efficiencies and Effectiveness of Services Again, the manager whizzed through a powerpoint presentation, but this time there was some aldermanic feedback: look for best practices, get feedback on customer services, cost efficiency of providing services, need effective response to requests for service, incorporate civility into all city actions, make code easier to find and use.

Citizen Comment

Junad Rizki commented that we need a policy on the use of cameras. Another stated that there was no value in the inspection of homes and rental properties. Three persons endorsed the proposed LEED ordinance; one was opposed. A Chicagoan said he wanted to participate in the committee which would review the NU peddler ordinance. One on concern about the Central St. overlay.

Council Action (Non-consent items)

- (Not actually off the consent agenda, but of interest) Approved a 2% raise for all non-union and salaried staff retroactive to 3/30/09 to keep in line with union employees. These were included in the FY'10 budget.
- Removed (had been for Action) a resolution for the manager to sign an extension of the City's electrical supply agreement.
- The NU peddler ordinance was delayed until after basketball season. It was hoped that input on this would not be limited to the manager and NU.
- Green Building ordinance passed (Ald. Rainey 1st wanted it tabled until Dec. when the ordinance could be perfected and then finally voted against it.). Ald. Wilson offered an amendment (passed) to refine Section 3 (interior renovations) and add a Section 8 that would allow projects in process at the time of the effective date to continue under the former rules. The amended ordinance passed and the new committee was charged to come back to Council at its December meeting with a proposed revision to Section 3