

Observer Report
City Council
December 14, 2009

Observer: Carol Mullins

Aldermen Present/Absent: All there.

Staff Present: Wally Bobkiewicz and department heads, transportation, legal staff and the chief of police.

Media Present: Bob Seidenberg and Evanston Now

Meeting Began. 8:35 pm

Meeting Ended: 10:05 p.m.

No. of Citizens in Attendance: very few, but most were thanking Council for skating rink on Kendall property.

Mayor Award Presentations: Distinguished Service award to Senator Jeff Schoenberg, who has advocated for improvement of el viaducts throughout the community, our “good guy” in Springfield. She also made a presentation to NU football Coach Fitzgerald on NU’s successful year. He brought t- shirts and caps for the Council and aldermen. There was a joke that Mayor Liz had agreed to wear Auburn’s t-shirt and vice versa, based on outcome of game. All wished NU well in the Outback Bowl.

Announcements Evonda Thomas, Health and Human Services Director, gave an update on H1N1. The flu appears to waning based on Dr.’s visits and other research in the community. Trash Schedule and Christmas tree removal were given by Bob Dorneker. Trees will be removed by parkways up until January 26, 2010. The Mayor commented that other mayors had been in a meeting where the Governor appeared to talk about pension issues. The suggestion was that the municipalities consider regionalizing services. The Mayor indicated that was not enough. Evanston will have unfunded pensions of 158 million dollars in 2010.

Communications: City Clerk: The City Clerk started out thanking the voters and ended up with emotionally laden comments suggesting that an alderman? had accused him of lying by modifying the tape recordings of the meeting on October 26th. He played the minutes of the motion that was in conflict, both the October 26th and November 23rd meetings. The issue appeared to be that an alderman thought a motion had been tabled when the motion read that a decision be made after the City Manager and others recommended a plan.

Citizen Comment: Nine spoke: most thanked City Council for Kendall skating pond, another spoke in favor of keeping the north branch library open and not cutting hours, based on citizen’s reading of budget recommendation, another spoke about construction employment via LEP.

Consent Agenda: All minutes and APW, P&D, Human Services Committee resolutions passed along with appointments to Ethics Board: Lynn Richmond; Firefighters Pension Board: John Sorenson; Ladd Arboretum Committee, Jerry Garner; Public Art Committee, Angela Renee along with meetings schedules through January 15, 2010.

Call of the Wards:

Fiske announced meeting, Jean-Baptiste questioned the unfunded pensions, praised Sam Hunter as he is retiring after 33 years from the Fire Department, urged more hiring of African Americans to Fire Department and commented that he knows there is very little, if any, turnover from the Department; Wynne asked about discussing Type II restaurants which are fast food, related to their trash. That was all of the substantive comments.