

## **Observer Report Town Board Meeting      December 5, 2011**

**Observer:** Jan Otwell (from TV)

**Present:** All present. Burrus a little late.

**Staff Present:** City Manager. No others participated so couldn't see if they were present. Am sure City Attorney Grant Farrar must have been there.

**Meeting Began:** 7:02 p.m.

**Meeting Ended:** 8 p.m.

**Purpose of the Meeting:** The Town Board meeting of Nov. 29 was adjourned to Dec. 5 to allow staff time to develop the wording of a resolution for an advisory referendum regarding the possible dissolution of Evanston Township. On the agenda were two resolutions:

- Resolution 4T-R-11: This was for an advisory referendum on the dissolution of the township
- Resolution 5T-R-11: To request the General Assembly to amend the Township Code and other statutes to permit lawful dissolution of coterminous Evanston Township.

**Action:** The trustees quite promptly and with little discussion took care of the two resolutions. Trustee Wilson moved for the passage of 4T-R-11 and the vote was 5-3, with Trustees Braithwaite, Holmes and Wilson (who had stated his opposition when he made the motion) voting against. The motion passed. Trustee Wilson moved for the passage of 5T-R-11 and the vote was 6-2 with Trustees Braithwaite and Holmes voting against. The motion passed.

**Citizen Reaction:** Citizens began putting their hands up and were recognized by the Mayor. They asked questions from their seats which were answered by various trustees. Trustee Rainey asked that a system be set up so that those who had questions could come to the mike. That worked a little better, but Trustee Braithwaite wanted a better system so people who may have felt uncomfortable before a mike could be put at ease. But the speakers recognized no time limits and the Mayor, understandably, didn't want to set rules after so many speakers had gotten underway. All speakers, who apparently were from Wards 2 and 5, spoke in behalf of General Assistance or the Township Assessor services. The Mayor asked the City Manager to reply to questions, and his rather ponderous explanations did not seem to answer the concerns, which were somewhat unanswerable anyway. One woman took up an inordinate amount of time with her own personal experiences. After finally being pressured by the Mayor into finishing so that another person could speak, she popped up again with something to say and had to be persuaded again to finish.

With the Mayor's insistence that the Trustees had another meeting to attend, the Town Meeting was adjourned at the appointed time of 8 p.m.