



Rules Committee

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 @ 6:00 PM

Virtual

**COMMITTEE MEMBER
PRESENT:**

Councilmembers Bobby Burns, Peter Braithwaite, Melissa Wynne, Cicely Fleming (until 7:15pm), Clare Kelly, Jonathan Nieuwsma, Devon Reid, Eleanor Revelle, Thomas Suffredin (until 7:15pm), and Mayor Daniel Biss

GUESTS:

Stephanie Mendoza, City Clerk

STAFF PRESENT:

Kelley Gandurski, Interim City Manager, Alexandra Ruggie, Assistant City Attorney, and Nicholas Cummings, City Attorney

(I) CALL TO ORDER - COUNCILMEMBER REID

Chair Reid declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

(II) PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Vasilko does not agree with R1.

Mary Rosinsky said the City should be more discreet about sharing names and needs more transparency in regards to PAC and FOIA.

Ray Friedman would like to finish the TIF hearing and would like more time to contribute.

(III) ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

R1. **Adoption of Ordinance 9-O-22, Amending Title 2, Chapter 17 of the Evanston City Code to Allow for Members of the Reparations Committee to Receive Benefits from the Reparations Fund**

Staff Recommends Adoption of Ordinance 9-O-22 Amending Title 2, Chapter 17 of the Evanston City Code to Allow for Members of the Reparations Committee to Receive Benefits from the Reparations Fund.

Moved by Councilmember Burns

Seconded by Councilmember Nieuwsma

Ayes: Councilmembers Kelly, Braithwaite, Nieuwsma, Burns, Revelle, Reid, and Mayor Biss

Approved Roll Call Vote 7-0

R2. **Adoption of Resolution 7-R-22 Amending City Council Rule 14.3 to Require the Mayor to Announce Mayoral Veto at the City Council Meeting Immediately Following the Veto**

Councilmember Reid recommends the Rules Committee consider amending City Council Rule 14.3 to require the Mayor to announce Mayoral veto at the next regular City Council meeting following said veto

Counsel Cummings: This only amends City Council Rules, it does not address the City code with respect to mayoral veto. Reid would like to update the City code at a later time.

Moved by Councilmember Burns
Seconded by Councilmember Nieuwsma

Ayes: Councilmembers Kelly, Braithwaite, Nieuwsma, Burns, Revelle, Reid, and Mayor Biss

Approved Roll Call Vote 7-0

R3. **Discussion Regarding Elected Officials Compensation**

Councilmember Reid recommends discussion regarding elected officials compensation or in the alternative, provision of an additional stipend.

Councilmember Burns makes a motion to move to the next Rules Committee.
Councilmember Kelly seconds.

Ayes: Councilmembers Kelly, Burns and Reid

Nays: Councilmembers Braithwaite, Nieuwsma, and Revelle, and Mayor Biss

DEFEATED Roll Call Vote 2-4

(IV) **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilmember Nieuwsma moved to recess into Executive Session pursuant to 5ILCS120-2C1 to cover the topic of personnel.

Seconded by Councilmember Revelle

Ayes: Councilmembers Kelly, Braithwaite, Wynne, Nieuwsma, Burns, Suffredin, Revelle, Reid, Fleming, and Mayor Biss

Approved Roll Call Vote 10-0

(V) **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

R4. **Update from the City Clerk Regarding Open Public Access Counselor (PAC) Matters**

The City Clerk will provide an update to members of the Rules Committee regarding open PAC matters for the City of Evanston.

Moved by Councilmember Nieuwsma
Seconded by Councilmember Revelle

The City Clerk provided an annual update and answers to questions about PAC determinations. See attached memo which shows an increase in FOIA requests and how the City lowered our response time. Alex Ruggie gave a summary of FOIA lawsuits.

R5. **Update on any new changes to the Illinois Open Meetings Act or Illinois case law regarding the Open Meetings Act.**

At the request of the Chair, guest speakers from Elrod Friedman will present for discussion any relevant updates or changes to the Illinois Open Meetings Act and / or Illinois case law pertaining to the Open Meetings Act.

Moved by Councilmember Nieuwsma
Seconded by Councilmember Revelle

We all operated under an exception to the open meetings act. In June, 2020, The Illinois State Legislature amended OMA to allow for remote meetings, such as the one happening tonight. The future laws oppose more permanent remote OMA.

R6. **Discussion Regarding Filling Vacancies of Elected Office**

Councilmember Reid requests discussion on filling vacancies on City Council following the resignation of Councilmember Fleming.

Moved by Mayor Biss
Seconded by Councilmember Nieuwsma

Councilmember Braithwaite is in support of the informal ward meeting. There will be an election regardless in 2023, serving until 2025, filling in the last two years of the vacancy. The councilmember who is appointed would be up for reelection along with other councilmembers in 2025.

Mayor Biss warned about what we institutionalize because expectations evolve. Councilmember Reid reiterated that we want transparency and consistency for the next time.

(VI) ADJOURNMENT

Chair Reid called the meeting to close at 7:56 pm.