

**Elmhurst City Council**  
**September 2, 2008**  
**7:45 to 10:49 p.m.**

**Absent: Mulliner**  
**Public: (ca.) 20**  
**Mary Costello, Observer**

Several residents spoke during Public Forum regarding proposed sales tax increase, possible rezoning of Eggleston at Spring Rd. Steve Hillsman, former alderman, voiced concern about indecisiveness and bickering of Council and mistrust of City staff.

**Accounts Payable** dated August 31, 2008 totaled \$1,040,569.76. Highlights included:

- Arrow Road Construction, 2008 contract paving program, \$317,852.
- Ashley's Custom Stationery & More, retail business grant, \$10,000.
- Clarke Environmental Mosquito Mgt., August mosquito management services, \$49,219.
- Dunteman, R. W., contract paving program, \$130,995.
- Elmhurst Claims Acct., claim service, \$42,500.
- FGM Architects Planners Inc., professional services, \$64,475.
- Metro Paramedic Services, Inc., ambulance service, \$21,484.
- Midwest Operating Engineers, H & W, health insurance, \$72,855.
- Texor Petroleum Co., gasoline, \$26,588.
- Winkler's Tree Service Inc., DED tree removal and injection, \$43,683.

**Consent Agenda** included the following:

- Appointments and reappointment to the Elmhurst Economic Development Commission: Mark Sabatino, Betty Hamisch, Scott LaMorte, Richard Reichert, Dan Hiffman.
- Reappointments to the Elmhurst Historic Preservation Commission, Charles Goding, Charmaine Tellefsen, Richard Sarna.

Council voted unanimously to approve membership in START (Solutions to Area Rail Traffic), which supports Canadian National plan to reroute Elgin, Joliet and Eastern RR. Freight traffic onto underused tracks, diverting trains from central area. This should cut some freight traffic through Elmhurst.

Council discussed at length the revenue options review and a proposed .50% increase in home rule sales tax rate. Ald. Moriarty filed a minority report objecting to the Finance Committee's recommendation, which increases sales tax from 7.50% to 8%, but excludes groceries, drugs and vehicles. She suggested the matter go to a vote by the Public. There were strong objections to this:

Leader: Laying off of firemen and police means lower bond ratings, increase in homeowners' insurance.

Morley: Up to half of the increase will be paid by non-residents.

Szczepaniak: Sales tax increase is the least onerous of all possible choices.

Shea: Customers are looking for lower cost items.

Rose: Everyone loves Elmhurst but no one wants to pay for it.

Hipskind: 90% of our sales tax comes from the industrial park and 83 and St. Charles; only 10% comes from the CBD.

The motion to replace Majority report with Minority report was soundly defeated, with only Moriarty and Nybo voting for. But deep Council division was evident in vote for Majority report, 7 to 6, with Nay votes from Gutenkauf, Shea, Bram, Moriarty, Nybo and Lomnicki. Rule of Seven was invoked, Mayor Marcucci voted Yes, expressed his disagreement with those who would cut services rather than raise taxes.