

Elmhurst City Council
November 17, 2008
7:30 to 10:45 p,m,

None Absent
Public: (ca.) 25
Mary Costello, Observer

During Public Forum, Council heard from several members of the Bicycle Club in support of creation of extended bike lanes. Also, a north Graue Woods resident complained of removal of 40 trees in area of northeast corner of North and 83. Another north Graue resident spoke to alert City about continuing gypsy moth infestation.

Accounts Payable dated November 17, 2008 totaled \$1,013,543. Highlights included:

- Am-Coat Painting, water tank painting, \$61,400.
- Cargill Inc., salt, \$23,794.
- DuPage Water Commission, fixed cost assessment, water consumption, \$185,196.
- Elmhurst Claims Acct., claims services and alternatives, \$81,679.
- Kubiesa, Spiroff, Gosselar, professional services, \$37,011.
- McHugh Construction, fire station construction, \$304,475.
- Mid American Energy Co., monthly electric, \$68,511.
- Texor Petroleum, gasoline purchase, \$17,936.

Consent Agenda included the following:

- Appointment to Commission on Youth, to replace Katie Murray, Patricia L. Palmer.
- Reappointment to Elmhurst Heritage Foundation, Leslie Leader and Tom Klein.
- Appointment to Veterans Memorial 'commission, representing Park Dist., Jerry Pask.
- Purchase of 750 water meters, \$61,500.
- MCO-27-2008 Ordinance requiring snow removal in all commercial districts.

Council discussed two requests for vacation of land:

For parcel at 170 E. South St., Council voted to charge homeowner \$20,000 for lot that is very oddly shaped, but has 96 feet of frontage, and is 2500 sq. ft. Voting Nay were Gow, Rose and Mulliner, who were opposed to charging for land, and Morley, who saw no need to vote on the matter, as owner, who was present, stated that he had no intention of purchasing it.

The second property, an alley between 166 and 172 E. Oneida. 16 feet wide and 138 feet long, is needed by prospective owner of large home being built at 172, to accommodate a driveway. In this case, Council was evenly divided. Mayor Marcucci invoked Rule of 7, voted Aye, allowing parcel to go free of charge.

Council discussed/debated these land vacations at great length. Two differing philosophies were evident. One said that all property has value and should come at some cost to homeowners. This view has been articulated forcefully in the past by Ald. Szczepaniak and is now supported by half or more Council members. The other view, held by Mayor Marcucci and supported by several others, holds that small patches of land with no functional value and collecting no property tax, should be given to adjacent owners and thereby placed on tax rolls. Several Council members spoke of the need to review City policy to guide Council in such cases.