

Elmhurst City Council
December 1, 2008
7:43 to 11:12 p.m.

None Absent
Public: (ca.) 18
Mary Costello, Observer

This meeting was viewed on television, Channel 6.

During Public Forum, Council heard from several residents of north Graue Woods regarding removal of trees from the northeast corner Rt. 83 and North Ave., north of the new commercial development, an area zoned C-R, Conservation/Recreation. More below.

Accounts Payable dated November 30, 2008, totaled \$1,888,768.68 and included:

- Allied Waste Services, refuse, service, waste disposal, \$210,521.
- Arrow Road Construction, street resurfacing, \$60,925.
- Benes, James J. & Associates, professional engineering services, \$27,170.
- Cargill, Incorporated, salt, \$17,905.
- Down Under Construction, water service upgrade, \$15,575.
- Integrys Energy Service Inc., \$30,270.
- Kings Point General Cement, watermain improvements, \$244,219.
- Metro Paramedic Services Inc., ambulance service, \$35,144.

Consent Agenda included the following:

- Intersection improvements, Rt. 56 (Butterfield) at Commonwealth, phase one, not to exceed \$112,522.
- Report on Sunday liquor sales, hour of opening to expand, from noon to 10 a.m.
- 08 P-13 Permission granted for LED sign at Elmhurst Presbyterian Church, St. Chas. And Spring.
- ZO-21-08 Permission for pylon sign, BP Oil, 217 E. Butterfield.
- ZO-22-08 Ordinance allowing side yard variation, from 5 ft. to 2 ft., to construct a second floor addition. 277 S. Berkley.

Ald. Rose requested a return to Committee of conditional use request from Cricket Communi - cations, which plans an extension from 75 to 90 ft. of cellular antenna in Industrial district.

Council debated at length proposed 4.5% increase in real estate tax levy. While Council generally regarded the amount, \$6,140,446, averaging \$18 more per year on a \$500,000 house, as modest, several were hesitant to approve any increase in today's economic climate. Council voted to leave rate at present level. Voting Nay were Regan, Gow, Hipskind, Szczepaniak, Morley and Mulliner. Several factors were mentioned: City has no control over Police, Fire and Library increases; only six percent of tax total comes to the City; failure to levy more money will require cuts in City services, as all other tax sources are down as well. Mayor Marcucci warned of danger of being "penny wise and pound foolish."

Council finalized and voted on land vacation.:

- O-34-2008 170 South St. Homeowner can pay \$20,000 within 180 days and own the property.

- O-35-2008 172 Oneida. The strip of land, used as a driveway, can continue to function as such, or can be purchased by the residents for \$10,000.

Ald. Gutenkauf inquired about recent action involving the destruction of 30-some trees north of St. Chas. And North Ave. Mayor Marcucci explained that although the property is zoned Conservation/Recreation, it is privately owned by Lee Fry, the developer of the adjacent land, a most unusual situation, but the land and the trees are his.