

MINUTES  
ELGIN CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
ELGIN PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNEX COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
404 NORTH MAIN STREET  
MAY 4, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Ramirez called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Ron Ramirez, Mayor  
Sue Brashar, Mayor Pro Tem  
Mary Penson, Council Member  
Jessica Bega, Council Member  
Juan Gonzalez, Council Member  
Susie Arreaga, Council Member  
Thomas Ibis, Council Member  
Alvis Prince, Council Member  
Forest Dennis, Council Member

Mayor Ramirez stated there was a quorum and that all members were present.

**Staff:** Thomas L. Mattis, City Manager  
Charles Cunningham, Finance Director  
Michael Gonzalez, Public Works Director  
David Harrell, Planning Director  
Pamela Sanders, HR Director  
Amy Miller, Community Development Director

**INVOCATION**

Council Member Gonzalez gave the invocation.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michel Garvey spoke and thanked the Council for their service. She referenced a handout she provided to Council regarding the covid virus and the ineffectiveness of mask wearing in stopping the transference of the virus. She stated that Ordinance 2021-01-19-02 had which required face masks had expired but that businesses in Elgin still had notices up along with face mask signage and asked that all businesses be notified of the governor's executive order number 34 which removed all restrictions requiring face masks and have them remove the signage.

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Grant Hennig spoke and thanked the Council for passing Sip, Shop and Stroll but stated he had concerns that he had mentioned in the past about Main Street getting so crowded and he suggested closing off two or three blocks due to the traffic going through there and the parking making it very dangerous. He asked that they have the police enforce the truck route on main street because they are up and down all day long. Mr. Hennig also suggested moving the elections to the rec center or the church or school because last week the meeting was virtual due to early voting held here.

Mayor Ramirez read a letter sent in by Deb Warmund regarding her concerns about flooding in the Elgin Old Latin Cemetery and asked the Council to consider long and short-term solutions to mitigate the flooding of city park runoff into the cemetery, solicit descendants to actively address deed and land ownership of the land, and identify entities that can address preservation of the cemetery.

### **PRESENTATION**

Mayor Ramirez read the proclamation for the National Historic Preservation Month and presented it to Theresa McShan.

### **CITY MANAGERS REPORT**

1. Discussion and Possible Direction to Staff Regarding Potential Neighborhood Traffic and Safety Upgrades at Ramirez Rd. and South Avenue C.

City Manager Thomas Mattis stated that this item was for further discussion and that this had been discussed over the last few months by Council about potential traffic and safety improvements in different locations around town. Mr. Mattis stated that a particular area is Ramirez Road that has been discussed but no decision had been made, but it was agreed at the last meeting to extend the truck route here. He stated no decision had been reached about what to do on South Avenue C at the intersection. He stated the Mayor had an idea and had met with the Engineer and had a potential solution. Mayor Ramirez stated that it was his opinion to see what the results of the no truck route would do to the street if they passed the no truck route and if the truckers abide by it, that will clear up a lot of the congestion at that intersection.

Another item that was discussed was putting up barriers or guard rail at the corners coming off 1704 where some cars are plowing off into the ditch.

Council Member Penson moved to make this a temporary project and evaluate the effectiveness. Mayor Pro Tem Brashar seconds the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

2. Update on COVID-19 Pandemic Restrictions Related to City Operations and Facilities.

City Manager Thomas Mattis stated that over the last six months the city had lessened restrictions as it related to city buildings and property.

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He stated that the intention was to reopen almost completely the city buildings and field facilities starting Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. He stated that face coverings would still be required wherever plex glass barriers or social distancing is not possible and continue to lessen those restrictions. Mr. Mattis stated that staff was working on trying to open the swimming pool by June 1<sup>st</sup> but having difficulty in hiring people to work there.

3. General Activity Report and/or Project Update.

City Manager Thomas Mattis mention that the city election was held over the weekend and would be seating three new Council Members over the coming days based on the preliminary results we have been provided. He stated that the election results would be certified on May 10<sup>th</sup> and then canvass the ballots on May 11<sup>th</sup> with only two Council Members required to be present.

Mayor Ramirez called Council Members Gonzalez and Penson to come to the front and presented them with a plaque thanking them for their years of service.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. City Council Meeting Minutes – April 20, 2021.

Mayor Pro Tem Brashar moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member Dennis seconds the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Projects and Funding to be Included in the City of Elgin 2021 Certificates of Obligation and 2021 Refunding Bonds Program.

Grant Hennig spoke and stated that he still thought that it should go to the public to vote and have a say in it and that he understood there were some must do items and appreciated the City Manager composing the must do list. He stated that he thought there should be a mobility bond for different road projects, a public works bond for a new city hall, and that he was still against the central park thing because it's next to the railroad track. Mr. Henning also discussed his concerns with downtown parking, and water rate increases.

Mr. Mattis stated that this had been discussed in great length and that the previous evening there had been a public forum where there were opportunities for questions and comments and exchange of ideas. Mr. Mattis provided must do projects with some of the changes discussed at the last meeting and shared last night. Mr. Mattis discussed the ordinance that would be coming and that it would be a 32-page ordinance with the most pertinent section for the Council would be the recital and the purpose of the certificates. He stated that unless staff got different direction from the Council that staff was moving forward with the assumption this issue would be ready for a vote on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

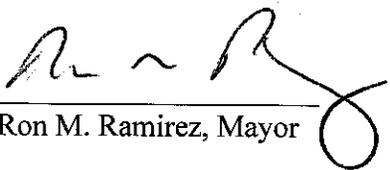
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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

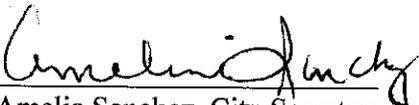
Mayor Ramirez wished Council Member Ibis a happy birthday and also that this Sunday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church they would be providing covid vaccinations and people could pre-register or just walk up.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Ramirez adjourned the City Council Meeting at 8:23 pm.

  
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Ron M. Ramirez, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
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Amelia Sanchez, City Secretary