

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELMHURST, ILLINOIS
HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2012
209 NORTH YORK STREET
ELMHURST, ILLINOIS**

CALL TO ORDER /PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL

Attendance: 31

1. The Special Meeting of the Elmhurst City Council was called to order by Mayor DiCianni at 6:34 p.m.

Present: Paula Pezza, Diane Gutenkauf, Norman Leader, Bob Dunn, Michael J. Bram, Dannee Polomsky, Kevin L. York, Stephen Hipskind, Chris Healy, Scott Levin, Jim Kennedy, Steve Morley, Mark A. Mulliner

Absent: Patrick Wagner

Also in Attendance: City Treasurer Dyer, City Attorney Storino, City Attorney Baugh, City Manager Grabowski, Assistant City Manager/Fire Chief Kopp, Battalion Chief Wallace, Finance & Administration Director Gaston, Assistant Director of Finance & Administration Trosien, Public Works Director Hughes, Interim Deputy Police Chief Kveton

PUBLIC HEARING – RESIDENTIAL AGGREGATION FOR ELECTRIC RATES

2. Mayor DiCianni opened the public hearing at 6:37 p.m.

Present: Paula Pezza, Diane Gutenkauf, Norman Leader, Bob Dunn, Michael J. Bram, Dannee Polomsky, Kevin L. York, Stephen Hipskind, Chris Healy, Scott Levin, Jim Kennedy, Steve Morley, Mark A. Mulliner

Absent: Patrick Wagner

Mayor DiCianni stated the purpose of this Public Hearing is to hear and receive public comments on the City of Elmhurst's draft Plan of Operation and Governance for its municipal electric aggregation program. He asked the Deputy City Clerk to read any written comments.

Deputy Clerk Van De Walle stated there were no written comments received.

City Manager Grabowski stated on March 20th, the voters of Elmhurst gave the City Council the authorization to undertake a Municipal Aggregation program. The purpose of the program is to lower the residents' power costs on their individual ComEd bills. The City will administer the program under the terms of the Plan of Operation and Governance, which is available for viewing at City Hall. The purpose of this hearing is for the public to make any comments or recommendations to the Plan. He summarized electric aggregation, comparing the process to negotiating rates for residential garbage collection, he explained ComEd's role, and discussed the user choice to opt out of the program.

Mayor DiCianni asked for anyone interested in speaking regarding Residential Aggregation for Electric Rates to please address the Council. The following persons spoke:

Lisa Gerhold
139 Elm Ave.
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Thanked the Council, on behalf of the Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition, for pursuing electric aggregation. She stated electric aggregation is a potential win/win, with the likelihood that residents will save money and the opportunity for the City to choose to buy more than 7% renewable energy as part of the program. She gave an example of electric aggregation at work in the Village of Oak Park and asked the City Council to consider choosing 100% renewable energy.

Tamara McHugh
611 S. Linden Ave.
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Stated as a member of the Cool Cities Coalition she would like to present Council with a petition with thousands of signatures to convince the Council to choose 100% renewable energy but is unable to do so at this time. She stated instead, she is asking Council to think and act progressively for the future. She urged them to choose 100% renewable energy.

Melva Walker
647 S. Hillside Ave.
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Stated she fully supports the concept of electric aggregation and the City Council.

Jim Belden
719 Berkley Ave.
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Discussed the misnomer that choosing 100% renewable energy means residents will personally receive power at home from alternative energy sources, such as wind turbines. He talked about renewable energy certificates stating the purchase of said certificates will not stop our reliance on coal. He asked the City Council to find the lowest rate possible for residents. He suggested structuring the program to allow those who would like to choose 100% renewable energy to have that option, but asked Council not to make the choice for 100% renewable for all residents.

Tamara Brenner
137 N. Caroline Ave.
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Stated she had several things to say about electric aggregation and what has been discussed so far this evening. 1) She stated she disagrees with City Manager Grabowski's example of electric aggregation being similar to negotiating rates for residential garbage collection. She used the example of phone service providers, stating it is not okay for someone to come into your home and tell you what phone company you have to use. 2) She stated she is in favor of saving money and being "green" but that is not the same as being in favor of electric aggregation. She stated reasons why the program should be "opt in" as opposed to the current design of "opt out." 3) Stated the chosen provider should be required to provide a written, dated receipt to users who choose to "opt out." 4) Stated she hopes the sample letter on the back of the draft Plan of Operation and Governance will be worked on as right now she feels it is very prejudicial towards accepting electric aggregation ie: do nothing and save money. She stated the options need to be more clearly defined and the tone of the letter more neutral. 5) She stated renewable energy certificates are a difficult subject, 100% renewable energy may be a good thing but should be an option for individuals not an absolute.

Susan Rose
408 Berteau Ave.
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Stated she is present tonight representing the League of Women Voters (LWV) and the grass root efforts of the Cool Cities Coalition and others to bring electric aggregation and renewable energy to Elmhurst. She stated the LWV supports the Cool Cities Coalition's request for the Council to choose 100% renewable energy. She discussed renewable energy certificates and the benefits of supporting renewable energy now and in the future.

Claude Pagacz
566 W. Gladys Ave.
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Discussed the promises that nuclear power once brought with it to free us from coal dependence, and compared that to the new promises and problems that come along with wind turbines. He stated we do not like to use coal but we do like to use power. He stated electric aggregation promises savings to residents but the City will need to make up the lost utility tax dollars somewhere. Eventually electric aggregation will lead to more taxes. He stated residents have been bombarded by other electric companies and are choosing not to switch from ComEd. He stated he does not see the need for electric aggregation and questioned the rush for Elmhurst to participate in this process.

Alderman York moved to adjourn the public hearing. Alderman Dunn seconded. Voice vote. Motion carried. The public hearing adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

3. None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

4. None.

ADJOURNMENT

5. Alderman Morley moved to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Kennedy seconded. Voice vote. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 7:09 p.m.

Peter P. DiCianni III, Mayor

Erin K. Van De Walle, Deputy City Clerk