

LWV-OBSERVER REPORT
ELGIN CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 13, 2008

MEETING: Elgin City Council
DATE: August 13, 2008
LEAGUE MEMBER OBSERVING: Sigi Psimenos
OFFICIALS ATTENDING: Council Members, City Manager
ABSENT: Mayor Schock (Gilliam-Acting Pro Tem); Councilman Powers resigned earlier in the week due to having voted on an item re: Bandits Softball Team which created a technical conflict of interest
PRESS IN ATTENDANCE: Yes
PRESS COVER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES: Yes and No

SUMMARY OF MEETING: The following were unanimously approved by the 5 Member and were covered in the news:

- 1) Petition 15-08 -Ordinance that will require all major construction projects to undergo an architectural review by City Staff to insure the aesthetics are in character with the surrounding neighborhood,
- 2) Preliminary approval to install traffic cameras at 3 locations; Big Timber/McLean, Dundee at Summit St ; and Kimball at State St.
- 3) Preliminary approval to assist in creating an “art district”.

The following items were not covered in the papers:

- 1) Along the river pathways - From Trout Park to Festival Park (5 miles) -there are no portable lavatories for fisherman, bikers, pedestrians, etc. -so people relieve themselves where ever they can. A petition was signed by 350 asking that something be done. Councilman Kaptain referred this to staff with recommendations for the next meeting.
- 2) Participants asked that the Sound Ordinance needs to have a decibel rating when it comes to festivals to avoid any future conflicts.
- 3) Participants requested and outside internal affairs commission be established to investigate the discriminatory practices of several police officers as it pertains to how ordinances are enforced. Although several hispanic & black members have met with Messrs. Gilliam & Figueroa- they are underwhelmed with their efforts. They feel there should be “one people, one voice, one community”.
- 4) This viewer found it interesting that there was no outcry from the public regarding the recent parking restrictions in light of all the negative press this has received.

NEXT MEETING: August 27, 2008

Respectfully Submitted: Sigi Psimenos

