ADMINISTRATION & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Monday, November 8, 2010

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Council Chambers


Members Absent:

Staff Present: Tom Anger, Wally Bobkiewicz, Paul D’Agostino, Dolores Cortez, Rajeev Dahal, Bob Dorneker, Joellen Earl, Chief Eddington, Grant Farrar, Doug Gaynor, Curtis Hanawalt, Jewell Jackson, Chief Klaiber, Mary Johns, Lonnie Jeschke, Marty Lyons, Sabina Mora, Joseph McRae, Jeff Murphy, Sat Nagar, Eric Palmer, Suzette Robinson, Paul Schneider, Patrick Sheeran, Dave Stoneback, Rickey Voss, Devon Woodard

Others Present: Rosemary O’Neil - resident

Presiding: Ald. Jean-Baptiste

I. DECLARATION OF QUORUM
With a quorum present, Chairman Jean-Baptiste called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING of October 25, 2010
Minutes were approved unanimously 5 - 0.

III. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION
(A1) City of Evanston Payroll through 10/24/10 $2,261,674.63
A1 was approved unanimously 5 – 0

(A2) City of Evanston Bills through 11/09/10 $2,945,173.32
A2 was approved unanimously 5 – 0

• In response to the invoices from Landscape Concepts management, Ald. Rainey asked where the extra watering was done. She noted that she had wanted to see the contract and earlier, Paul D’Agostino shared it with her. She noted that this contractor watered the area no more than two or three times. She then found out the Employee who was to maintain Howard Street had been fired. She said that these invoices are for extra work in September but that the area is only now being caught up on for maintenance. Ald. Rainey stated that she hoped that the City would not employ this company again. She offered, for this amount of money, to drag buckets of water to the area and do the work herself. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked Paul D’Agostino (Parks/Forestry & Facilities Management Supervisor) if he had anything to add. Ald. Rainey asked him if one of the four dates in September was not the day they visited the site. P. D’Agostino said he did not know about the date. The contract he stated is for once a week watering and more frequently during a dry spell. Many more extra hours goes for $85 an hour. He said his department is trying to stay on top of the contractor. He agreed that they may have taken advantage
earlier in the season but are not now. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked if the contract was over and P. D’Agostino said it expired at the end of this calendar year. Ald. Jean-Baptiste instructed him to make notes for when the new bid goes out. Ald. Burrus asked whose water they used. P. D’Agostino said he believed it was brought in in their tankers. A2 was approved unanimously 5 - 0

(A3.1) Approval of Sole Source Purchase of DataPark System Upgrades to Separate the Upper Deck of the City Owned Parking Garage at 1800 Maple Avenue

Staff and the Transportation/Parking Committee recommend approval of the sole source purchase of DataPark Systems Upgrades through RevCon Technology Group (11715 Cortland Court, Addison, IL) in the amount of $47,360 and $2,000 for closed circuit television (CCTV). This purchase is necessary to provide a separate upper deck parking area for the garage at 1800 Maple Avenue to provide reduced parking costs to downtown employees. Funding provided by the Parking Fund.

Ald. Jean-Baptiste suggested that a short explanation be given since not everyone here tonight or watching on TV was at the Parking Committee meeting. Ricky Voss (Manager Parking Systems) stated that the pilot program for this proposal of reduced parking rates for downtown employees was carried out at the Sherman Plaza Garage with great success. At the Maple Avenue garage, the roof area is not a separate area that can provide a natural delineation for control. This means some work will have to be done. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked if it is correct to say this area will only be for those who qualify. He also noted that the Parking Committee asked if the costs can be recouped. R. Voss said the cost will be recouped in one or two years. A $156,000 in revenue over the current $112,200 will provide an increase of $43,800 to be used towards the construction costs. Ald. Rainey asked who would be eligible to participate in this plan. R. Voss replied that the people who work downtown are targeted. A major benefit is they would not have to feed meters. They complete an application and their employer has to sign verifying their employment. A3.1 was approved unanimously 5 - 0

(A3.2) Approval of Contracts for Snow Towing Operations

Staff recommends approval of award of contract(s) for the Snow Towing Services to various companies in an amount not to exceed $75,000. (See attached list.) Funding for snow towing contractors is provided by the Snow and Ice Control General Fund. The estimated total for the 2010-2011 snow season is an amount not to exceed $75,000 (Account #2680-62451).

Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked Suzette Robinson (Director Public Works) to further expand on this request. Joellen Earl (Administrative Services Director), in Ms. Robinson’s absence, related how Public Works advertises for firms with snow removal equipment every year. The first 25 who respond by the deadline are put on a retainer. Those who follow the first 25 or do not meet the deadline are put on a list. Ald. Jean-Baptiste noted that only a few in the first 25 category are Evanston businesses, which is not as many as he would like to see. Ald. Rainey noted that the City has been doing this call for equipment for many years. I do not know why, she continued, that our City contractors do not get their names in on time. The City needs to talk with these businesses. J. Earl said that three local companies did apply. Bid requests were sent to all Evanston companies as well as others. Some did not apply in a timely manner but did make the deadline just not the first 25. Next year Public Works will give a preference to an Evanston company if their bid is
in by the deadline be it in the first 25 or not. Ald. Jean-Baptiste reiterated, companies must get their bid in early next year.

A3.2 was approved unanimously 5 - 0

(A4) Resolution 55-R-10 Authorizing the City Manager to sign an Extension of the City’s Electricity Supply Agreement with MidAmerican Energy Company

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution 55-R-10 authorizing the City Manager to sign an extension to the City’s electricity supply agreement with MidAmerican Energy Company. Due to the volatile pricing of electricity, suppliers won’t hold purchase prices for more than 24 hours without a considerable risk factor markup. As such, the City will be obtaining the actual bundled purchase price for this six-month extension period (December 1, 2010 through May 31, 2011) on November 8, 2010, the morning of the A&PW/Council meeting. The cost for electricity is billed to the various accounts that support the buildings/facilities that are purchasing electricity through this agreement.

Ald. Rainey asked if the committee will get a report from staff. Ald. Jean-Baptiste said it would be available in Council and Ald. Rainey said she would prefer it now. Dave Stoneback (Director of Utilities) noted that electricity is volatile. Pricing received this a.m. was at five and a half cents per KWH. It is higher than indicative pricing this past October but it is in line with today’s market. It is within an acceptable range so it is being recommended tonight for approval. Currently we pay 6.8 cents pr KWH. This new rate will save $21,500 per month. Ald. Rainey asked if the City had gone to another energy supplier could we have bargained for a better price. D. Stoneback said he did not believe so. There is an administrative markup that causes the differences between companies.

A4 was approved unanimously 5 - 0

(A5) Resolution 58-R-10 Authorizing the City Manager to Sign the Resolution of Authorization for the Illinois Park and Recreational Facility Construction (PARC) Grant Application for the Ecology Center Greenhouse Project

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution 58-R-10, which authorizes the City Manager to sign the Resolution of Authorization for the Illinois Park and Recreational Facility Construction (PARC) grant application through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The Evanston Ecology Center contains an existing greenhouse structure, which is in a severely dilapidated condition and is in danger of permanent closure due to structural concerns. Funding of $125,000 will be provided by FY 2011 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The grant application is due on November 29, 2010.

Ald. Rainey asked how old the greenhouse is and if it is an original building. Doug Gaynor (Director Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department) said he believes the structure was put up in 1978 and this greenhouse is part of the original building. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked what the reimbursement would be to which D. Gaynor replied that the City would be reimbursed at 75%.

A5 was approved unanimously 5 – 0
(A6) Approval of Agreement with Northwestern University Regarding the Sheridan Road Traffic Signal at Northwestern University Entrance, South of Garrett Place

Staff recommends City Council authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Northwestern University for the design, construction and funding of the proposed Sheridan Road traffic signal at the Northwestern University entrance south of Garrett Place. All costs associated with the design and construction of the proposed traffic signal will be reimbursed by Northwestern University.

Rosemary O’Neil, a resident at 2044 Sheridan Road asked to speak. On November 4, my neighbors and I met with Paul Schneider and staff. The Mayor also attended. Over the past two years, we have submitted other options to this traffic light being installed. At another school in Waukegan, they had flashing lights and two patrol officers on duty during the heaviest traffic hours. I contacted the City of Waukegan and then the manufacturer in Antioch. The lights cost $1,000 each. The athletic director at Northwestern purchased six of these lights. I suggest that the City try this system for six months. I believe they are called “poem lights.” There is a safety report available that shows that over the last three years between Garrett Place and Library Place, there have been 22 accidents, none fatal. 14 were at Garrett Place, 6 at Library Place and 2 were at parking lot D. Since these past meetings, it seems a rigid attitude has developed. There is no spirit of compromise. I believe we need to go further in exploring our options. From what I have learned from urban planners, the peak hours are in the afternoon. I urge the City to try these poem lights. Thank you.

Ald. Jean-Baptiste said that this item will be on the Council agenda in two weeks. It is incorrectly listed “for action” on the agenda. Ald. Fiske asked if the City owns a portable light. S. Robinson said they do not. Ald. Fiske said that Northwestern should be asked to let the City use a light for a test. She continued by asking Mr. Bobkiewicz, to please ask for their cooperation for a two-day study. Wally Bobkiewicz (City Manager) said he would talk with Northwestern but he is not sure that this will address the larger situation. Portable lights are only used at specific times. Ald. Fiske said the lights are warranted at peak times such as in the afternoon. W. Bobkiewicz stated that he will go through this with Counsel. Ald. Rainey mentioned to Chair Ald. Jean-Baptiste that A6 is listed as “for action” and it should be held since the ordinance, item A7, has not been voted on. Ald. Jean-Baptiste thought they should advance together. Ald. Rainey motioned to hold A6 in committee. Ald. Holmes seconded. The vote was unanimous, 5 - 0

A6 was held in committee

(A7) Ordinance 36-O-10 to Establish a Sheridan Road Traffic Signal at Northwestern University Entrance South of Garrett Place

Staff recommends adoption of proposed ordinance 36-O-10 by which the City Council would amend Section 10-11-5, Schedule V (G) of the City Code to establish a traffic signal at Sheridan Road and the Northwestern University entrance south of Garrett Place. Funding for the project will be provided by Northwestern University per the interagency agreement, also included on the City Council's November 8, 2010 agenda.

Ald. Jean-Baptiste noted that they will have to come back to both. Ald. Fiske asked that the City Manager reach out to Northwestern. W. Bobkiewicz said that he would ask for a loan of the lights. Ald. Fiske said that she would like to get some feedback from individual students, not groups. Tell me the dates she said and I will be there to help. W. Bobkiewicz said that if Northwestern is amenable, it will take place in the next few weeks. Ald. Rainey asked what light is being talked about. W. Bobkiewicz said it is a
poem light, a portable traffic signal, used for a short periods of time. We would survey the students and report back at the November 22 meeting. It is moveable equipment. This is still contingent on Northwestern’s approval. Ald. Rainey said the problem is the location of a big traffic signal. I too would be upset if it was outside my house. I say try the poem light but it will probably not address the major issues. Ald. Jean-Baptiste stated that in deference to Ms. O’Neil and Ald. Fiske we will try to conduct this test.
A7 was approved unanimously 5 – 0

(A8) Ordinance 80-O-10 Amending 3-2-17-2 “Tax Imposed (Motor Fuel Tax)”
Staff recommends adoption of proposed Ordinance 80-O-10, which increases the tax imposed on the purchase of motor fuel from three cents ($.03) to four ($.04) cents per gallon.
A8 was approved unanimously 5 – 0

(A9) Ordinance 81-O-10 Amending 3-2-9-9-2 “Municipal Utility Tax”
Staff recommends adoption of proposed Ordinance 81-O-10, which increases the tax imposed on electricity consumption to mirror the rates promulgated by the Illinois Municipal Code (specifically 65 ILCS 8-11-2). The proposed average increase in electricity utility rates for most residential and business customers is approximately 6.66%.
Ald. Burrus asked why there are ten different rates. J. Earl said that the State Statute divides usage causing multiple rates. Ald. Rainey asked if examples of users in the various categories could be given. W. Bobkiewicz noted that the utility companies are meeting on Friday and he would get a sampling of users for her then. They authorize multiple rates for multiple types of businesses he said. He said he will provide the information off agenda.
A9 was approved unanimously 5 – 0

(A10) Ordinance 87-O-10 Amending Title 7, “Public Ways”, Chapter 2, Section 5 of the City Code to Increase the Right-Of-Way Permit Fees
Staff recommends adoption of proposed Ordinance 87-O-10 by which the City Council would amend Section 7-2-5-3 of the City Code to increase the fees for the obstruction of the public Right-of-Way (ROW). The ROW obstruction permit fee was last increased in February, 2007.
Ald. Rainey asked Paul Schneider if this would make more money for the City. P. Schneider said the original reason for this change was an attempt to streamline the system. Time on location was $25 for a 25 linear foot segment for a week or less. This proposal will change that to $1.50 for one linear foot per-week based on actual feet of obstruction. There used to be four billing measures, now there will be just one. Based on last years usage, the City should realize $60,000 this coming year. Ald. Rainey asked how long a construction vehicle should be in place and P. Schneider replied that the current system was based on a day, week or month arrangement. Now, the proposal has no limit so hopefully, the construction crew will get their work done more quickly. Larger developments will pay more. Ald. Fiske asked if this only would affect construction work wondering about other items such as dumpsters. P. Schneider replied that the ordinance goes beyond construction. For dumpsters, footage is charged. Ald. Fiske noted that there is a dumpster fee. She asked if sidewalk cafes and moving in pods will be charged. P. Schneider said pod, yes, cafes, no.
A2 was approved unanimously 5 - 0
IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

V. COMMUNICATIONS

Ald Rainey asked if the Board could find out who the new Superintendent of Streets and Sanitation was. W. Bobkiewicz said he would be introduced at Council. Patrick Sheeran came to the podium and introduced himself. He noted that he started November 1st and was happy to be in Evanston.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Phillip Baugher
Administrative Secretary, Administrative Services