MEETING MINUTES
Administration & Public Works
Tuesday, April 25, 2011
5:45 P. M.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Evanston
Council Chambers


Members Absent: Ald. Holmes

Staff Present: Efrain Berrocal, Wally Bobkiewicz, Lara Biggs, Donald Cornelius, Dolores Cortez, Paul D’Agostino, Joellen Earl, Chief Eddington, Grant Farrar, Doug Gaynor, Rodney Greene, Stephen Griffin, Catherine Hurley, Jewell Jackson, Lonnie Jeschke, Chief Klaiber, Marty Lyons, Jeffery Murphy, Suzette Robinson, Paul Schneider, David Stoneback, Rickey Voss,

Others Present: Residents Carl Bova, Nancy Bruski, Mike Drennan, Ald. Judith Fiske

Presiding Member: Alderman Rainey

DECLARATION OF QUORUM
With a quorum present, Chairman Rainey called the meeting to order at 5:57 P. M.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES APRIL 12, 2011.
It was moved by Ald. Burrus and seconded by Ald. Grover that the minutes of the April 12, 2011 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Ald. Rainey invited the residents who signed up to speak to do so at this time. All four addressed item A6, Ordinance 67-O-11, “Enacting a Tax on Disposable Carryout Bags.” Carl Bova, 1322 Rosalie Street, stated that he found no demonstrated need for such a minor increase in revenue. If the premise is to eliminate littering, he has found none in his neighborhood. Moreover, the City already has littering laws. This is no more than a nickel-dime penalty on the citizens. He thought that the vast majority of residents recycle bags. If this ordinance goes through there will still be littering. In his case, he said he would do his shopping with our neighbor on the north. He ended by saying “Don't pass this ordinance, it will not save the environment.”

Mike Drennan, 820 Oakton Street, thanked Mr. Bova for his input. He helped make the point that residents should bring their own bags when shopping. He stated that the country uses 100 billion plastic bags a year. However, the alternative, Kraft paper bags, takes four times the energy to produce. Residents have been addressing this issue for years. In Evanston, 25 million bags per year could be used. For your information he said, they are not all around here because they are taken to a landfill in Lake County.
That landfill will soon be full and no longer available. This problem must be addressed; the residents must be educated.

Ald. Judith Fiske, 2319 Sherman Avenue, agreed that this is an important issue but this is not the time to ask residents to pay more. Her own customers frequently do not ask for a bag though she uses biodegradable bags and even sells them to her customers. She stated, “Give the citizens a break.” This ordinance will hurt small businesses. And, she noted, the small businesses she has spoken with do not know about this ordinance. She suggested that this item be kept in committee allowing for a fuller discussion with small businesses.

Nancy Bruski, 1624 Ashland Avenue, mentioned that she recently saw a film entitled “Bag It” which addressed the impact plastic bags had on the environment. Toxins are released in the landfills, drain to the waters, and kill sea life. She salutes citizens who use their own bags but noted that more education of others is needed. Some countries such as Ireland ban single use plastic bags. A five-cent charge in Washington D.C. cut bag usage by 50% in the first year. Use reusable bags and eventually no money comes in. That is good. San Francisco has a total ban on plastic bags and some cities ban paper bags as well. The Unitarian Church will be showing this film in June. She urged all to see it. She concluded with Evanston is a progressive green community so let us go for it. Communicate but move forward.

Ald. Rainey thanked each for their time and comments.

NEW BUSINESS

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

(A1) City of Evanston Payroll through 4/10/11 $2,433,087.78
It was moved by Ald. Burrus and seconded by Ald. Grover that the payroll of 4/10/11 be approved. A voice vote was taken and it was approved.

(A2) City of Evanston Bills FY2011 through 4/26/11 $3,934,940.21
It was moved by Ald. Burrus and seconded by Ald. Grover that the bills list of 4/26/11 be approved. A voice vote was taken and it was approved.

(A3.1) Approval of Contract Extension with Badger Meters, Inc. for Water Meters (Bid 10-19)
Staff recommends City Council approval of a one-year extension to the contract for Water Meter and Meter Reading Equipment (Bid 10-19) with Badger Meters, Inc. (4545 W. Brown Deer Rd., Milwaukee, WI) in the amount of $26,845.50. Funding is provided by the Water Fund (Account No. 7120.65070). This account has a budget allocation of $45,482 for FY 2011 for this and other materials needed to maintain water meter operations. It was moved by Ald. Burrus and seconded by Ald. Grover that A3.1 be approved. A voice vote was taken and it was approved.

(A3.2) Approval of Contract for Distribution System Valves and Fire Hydrants to East Jordan Iron Works and HD Supply-Waterworks (Bid 12-15)
Staff recommends City Council approval of a contract in response to Bid 12-15 for Distribution System Valves and Fire Hydrants to East Jordan Iron
Works (301 Spring Street, PO Box 439, East Jordan, MI) in the amount of $20,063.83 for purchase of distribution system valves, and to HD Supply-Waterworks (29950 Skokie Highway, Lake Bluff, IL 60044) in the amount of $58,033 for purchase of fire hydrants. Funding for this work will be from the Water Fund, Account 7115.65055. This account has a budget of $150,000 allocated for the purchase of materials to maintain the water distribution system.

Ald. Grover asked if these 31 fire hydrants are all replacements. David Stoneback (Director of Utilities) said some will be replacements. In addition, when streets are redone, we usually need to add a hydrant to meet new standards of distance between hydrants. Ald. Grover asked why the charges varied and D. Stoneback said it has to do with the depth of the water pipes.

It was moved by Ald. Burrus and seconded by Ald. Grover that A3.2 be approved. A voice vote was taken and it was approved.

(A3.3) Approval of Sole Source Street Light Power Center Purchase

Staff recommends the purchase of 26 street light power centers in the amount of $99,354 from Excel Ltd. Inc. (888 E. Belvidere Road, Unit 405, Grayslake, IL). Excel is the sole distributor/fabricator of the standard City of Evanston street light power centers. Funding for this work will come from the Special Assessment Fund “Streetlight Upgrade Program – Power Center Replacement” (415868.65515) in the amount of $99,354. The budgeted amount is $100,000.

Ald. Rainey asked Paul Schneider of Public Works to give a brief overview of this work. Paul Schneider (City Engineer) said that as the City’s lighting system ages, it becomes more unreliable. Blackouts are typical results which are related to the power centers. In 2007, a dozen were replaced. The rest get fixed in overtime. Replacing more will help cut done on overtime and help avoid blackouts.

It was moved by Ald. Grover and seconded by Ald. Burrus that A3.3 be approved. A voice vote was taken and it was approved.

(A3.4) Approval of Recommendation of Pre-Qualified General Contractors for 2011 Comprehensive Parking Garage Repair Project (RFQ 12-02)

Recommend approval of a list of nine (9) general contractors to be prequalified to bid on the 2011 Comprehensive Parking Garage Repair Project. Funding will be provided by FY2011 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) with a budget of $2,100,000 (CIP Project Account #416138 in the Parking Fund 2011 Budget).

Ald. Rainey reminded all that this is not a request for work to be done.

It was moved by Ald. Burrus and seconded by Ald. Grover that A3.4 be approved. A voice vote was taken and it was approved.

(A3.5) Approval of Membership Fee to Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy (NIPSTA)

Staff recommends approval of payment of the 2011 Fire and Public Works membership fees in the amount of $25,042. Funding for this membership is budgeted under the Fire Department line-item account 2305.62360 for both the Fire and Public Works Departments.
It was moved by Ald. Grover and seconded by Ald. Burrus that A3.5 be approved. A voice vote was taken and it was approved.

(A4) **Resolution 19-R-11: Relating to Prevailing Wage for Public Works Projects**
Staff requests that the City Council review and approve Resolution 19-R-11 in order to comply with the provisions of the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act, 820 ILCS 130/0.01, et seq. (the “Act”).
It was moved by Ald. Grover and seconded by Ald. Burrus that A4 be approved. A voice vote was taken and it was approved.

(A5) **Ordinance 27-O-11: Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Fleet Vehicles**
Staff recommends City Council authorization that various vehicles and equipment owned by the city listed below can be publicly offered for sale through public auction based on Ordinance 27-O-11. The vehicles and equipment are presently out of service, having been assigned previously to various divisions/departments within the City of Evanston. The auctions are through Obenauf Auctioneers Service, 118 North Orchard, Round Lake, Illinois.
Ald. Rainey wondered why some of these vehicles were not salvageable since their mileage was so very low. Suzette Robinson (Director of Public Works) mentioned that Evanston does not have a lot of miles to cover but it does have heavy-duty work to perform. Lonnie Jeschke (Manager Fleet Operations) stated that the cost of repairs on these vehicles has now exceeded their purchase price. It is impossible to get parts for some of them. The bottoms are rotted out, the break linings are worn for which replacements are not available and the defrosters cannot be replaced. They are at the end of a useful life. Ald. Rainey wondered if the staff needs to be retrained since the mileage is low but the wear and tear is so high. Citizens are driving older cars and they are going strong. S. Robinson said that some of these cars operate 24 hours a day. Ald. Rainey referred to the 1997 Chevy with 22,700 miles. She said that was not operated 24 hours a day. You cannot argue that they are driven too much she said. L. Jeschke noted that some of these vehicles are not going to be replaced. Ald. Grover asked where they are stored. L. Jeschke replied in the City Hall parking lot and in the lot on top of the service center. Ald. Grover asked if that did not compound the damage and L. Jeschke said only a bit.
It was moved by Ald. Burrus and seconded by Ald. Grover that A5 be approved. A voice vote was taken and it was approved.

(A6) **Ordinance 67-O-10: Enacting a Tax on Disposable Carryout Bags**
It is recommended that the City Council consider Ordinance 67-O-10 enacting a $0.05 tax on disposable shopping bags in Evanston. On September 13, 2010 the Administration and Public Works Committee was scheduled to consider Ordinance 67-O-10 enacting a tax on disposable plastic shopping bags. The ordinance was not presented at the September 13 meeting. Alderman Burrus has again requested that this issue come before the City Council. Ordinance 67-O-10.
Ald. Burrus stated that she asked for this ordinance as an opening salvo, to get people aware about the ecology around us. The five cents is a figure being suggested to get residents to stop using disposable plastic bags. Jewel no longer asks if you want paper or plastic. They are predicting a big savings to the company. When this ordinance was first brought forward in August of 2010, it was taken off the agenda for more discussion. There is much littering on Howard Street and sewers get backed up. I am surprise by Ald. Fiske saying small businesses did not know about this ordinance. I was assured by staff that they had talked with many groups in Evanston, both small and large. Target gives back 5% to customers who bring their own bags. Ald. Grover thanked Ald. Burrus for bringing this issue back to committee. We need to get rid of single use bags she said asking where do they go. Ald. Burrus said many are shipped overseas and burned as fuel, which releases carcinogens into the air. Nancy Bruski agreed that bags placed in bins are not all recycled. American companies find it cheaper to ship them to other countries. Ald. Grover asked if staff would find out from the major stores in Evanston where the bags go. And, she suggested, that stores that use single use bags be talked with, asked if their customers bring in their own bags. Ald. Rainey stated that she was prepared to vote tonight but she opposes the charge, which only permits the customer to have the bag. Sam's makes you bring your own. This charge is recessive, it will hurt many residents. Ald. Grover thought that if Sam’s customers can adjust to life without bags so could the rest of the residents when shopping in Evanston. Perhaps phase in a tax over the next few years. Ald. Rainey said that a tax would be unfair to Sam’s. Ald. Grover stated that there is something to a total ban. Ald. Burrus said she would take the change to the ordinance. I think we could find corporate sponsors that will provide recyclable bags. Ald. Grover thought the City should invite the business community to talk about this issue. Ald. Rainey thought this conversation tonight should be followed up with a letter to all stores. It is a major transition to ask of all residents. Ald. Grover noted that we think we are progressive in this city but this ordinance would prove it. Ald. Rainey asked what it would take to purchase the film “Bag It” and show the movie on City TV, to which Nancy Burski said it would not cost much. Wally Bobkiewicz (City Manager) noted that this has been an issue since the fall of 2010. Many discussions have been held. The business community was included. We were asked to bring this ordinance in a draft form to get further direction. A revised ordinance to ban all bags is possible. Legal Counsel has been researching this point. Mr. Farrar will talk with other municipalities that have instituted this ban. Ald. Rainey thought the large companies should be talked with first. W. Bobkiewicz said presenting a draft ordinance of a total ban on bags might be a problem. He felt that the committee should first sign off on the language. Residents and companies should have a document to work with. Ald. Burrus agreed that the committee is looking for more ideas. W. Bobkiewicz said the city will reach out to grocers and others, distribute information and come back at the end of May (meeting of the 23rd) to present a third draft. We shall meet with others beforehand. Ald. Rainey thought the Economic Development Department should reach out to the business district to get input from them. W. Bobkiewicz stated that a meeting will involve all of them. He asked if this should be presented in late May or early June. Ald. Rainey said it should be presented when all the information is gathered and a revised ordinance is written banning
all bags. W. Bobkiewicz noted that reports of this meeting will quickly start the spread of the proposed ordinance.
It was moved by Ald. Grover and seconded by Ald. Burrus that A6 be held in committee. A voice vote was taken and it was approved.

(A7) Resolution 27-R-11: Establishing That All ILCC Review or Appeal of All Orders or Actions Taken by the Local Liquor Control Commissioner of the City of Evanston Shall Be Made on the Official Record Made Before the Commissioner
The Local Liquor Commissioner recommends passage of Resolution 27-R-11. This Resolution conforms to the state statute and provides for all appeals to the ILCC be limited to a review of the record of the proceedings conducted by the Local Liquor Commissioner.
Ald. Rainey asked if this means that only the records of proceedings can be used at an appeal and Grant Farrar (Corporation Counsel/City Attorney) said that is right.
It was moved by Ald. Burrus and seconded by Ald. Grover that A7 be approved. A voice vote was taken and it was approved.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

V. COMMUNICATIONS

VI. ADJOURNMENT
Ald. Grover motioned and Ald. Burrus seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 7:05 p.m., April 25, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,
Phillip Baugher
Administrative Assistant, Administrative Services-