MEETING MINUTES
Administration & Public Works
Monday, August 8, 2011
5:45 P. M.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Evanston
Council Chambers


Members Absent: Ald. Grover

Staff Present: Wally Bobkiewicz, Godwin Chen, Don Cornelius, Robert Dorneker, Grant Farrar, Doug Gaynor, Stephen Griffin, Curtis Hanawalt, Jewell Jackson, Lonnie Jeschke, Stefanie Levine, Marty Lyons, Joe McRae, Sat Nagar, Suzette Robinson, Dave Stoneback, Evonda Thomas

Others Present: Residents - Junad Rizki, Jackie Davis, John Moore, Allison Tirres, Ike Dickson, Chris Tirres, Ben Guines, Cindy Levitt, Muffy McAuley, Ron Fleckman, Dorothy Head, Linda Beck

Presiding Member: Delores Holmes

I. DECLARATION OF QUORUM
With a quorum present, Chairman Holmes called the meeting to order at 5:50 P. M.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING of July 25, 2011
It was moved by Ald. Burrus and seconded by Ald. Braithwaite that the minutes of the July 25, 2011 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

III. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

(A1) City of Evanston Payroll through 07/31/11 $2,750,112.68
It was moved by Ald. Burrus and seconded by Ald. Braithwaite that the payroll of 07/31/11 be approved. A voice vote was taken and the payroll was approved.

(A2) City of Evanston Bills FY2011 through 08/09/11 $3,466,890.45
Credit Card Activity for Period Ending June 30, 2011 $ 98,049.94
Ald. Holmes commended the staff on the roller skating activity at Fleetwood Jourdain. She understood that the place was crowded. It was a wonderful event. She was asked where the skating took place and she responded that it was in the gym. The floor is protected she added. Ald. Rainey asked how all this was done. Doug Gaynor (Director, Parks, Recreation & Community Services
Department) stated that the Mayor’s Summer Youth Program was responsible. 680 pairs of skates were rented at low cost that was covered by the rental charge. Two sites, Fleetwood Jourdain and Chandler offered the program. It goes through August. It is a pilot program that may continue next summer. It was moved by Ald. Burrus and seconded by Ald. Braithwaite that the bills list of 08/09/11 and the credit card activity ending 06/30/11 be approved. A voice vote was taken and the bills list and credit card activity were approved.

(A3.1) Approval of Contract award to Schroeder & Schroeder Inc. for Clark Street Brick Replacement and Emerson-Green Bay Intersection Improvement Project (Bid 12-40)
Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute a contract in response to Bid 12-40 to award the Clark Street Brick Sidewalk Replacement and Emerson-Green Bay Intersection Improvement Project to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Schroeder & Schroeder Inc., (7307 Central Park Avenue, Skokie, IL) in the amount of $352,244. Funding will be provided by The Washington National TIF Fund Project/Account # 416006.65515 (Downtown/Clark) at $255,000 and the Capital Improvements Fund Project/Account # 415920.65515 (Emerson/Green Bay) at $100,000.
Ald. Burrus moved and Ald. Rainey seconded that A3.1 be approved. A voice vote was taken and it was approved.

(A3.2) Approval of Contract Award for Malcolm Pirnie to Update the 2009 Water Cost of Service Rate and Fee Study
Staff recommends that City Council authorize the City Manager to execute a sole source contract with Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. (1515 East Woodfield Road Suite 360 Schaumburg, IL) to update the 2009 Water Cost of Service Rate and Fee Study in the not-to-exceed amount of $22,300. Funding for this work will be from the Water Fund, Account 7125.62180. This account has a budget allocation of $81,000 in FY 2011 of which $30,000 was designated for the cost of service study.

Junad Rizki, resident, felt that this item was a total waste of taxpayer’s money. It is a study on a study. The last study suggested a ten percent increase but the study was not discussed in Council. Staff could update that study. A study on the feasibility of the Water Department would be more useful, he concluded.

Ald. Rainey said she might vote for this item but felt the Council would probably not vote for a rate increase. This is a questionable study. Ald. Braithwaite asked Dave Stoneback (Director of Utilities) to address this issue and he was especially interested in the results he expected. D. Stoneback related that the 2008 study recommended three different rate changes. The City adopted a ten percent rate increase and staff proposed a 5% and 3% rate increase in the next two years. The purpose of this study is to determine what capital projects could be funded with these proposed rate increases and alternatively, what rate increases would be needed to fund the proposed capital projects. Mr. Stoneback indicated that staff prepared the last spreadsheet projection, but recommended that an outside consultant be hired to perform the study every few years.
Ald. Rainey moved and Ald. Burrus seconded that A3.2 be approved. A voice vote was taken and it was approved 3 to 1. Ald. Rainey voted no.

(A3.3) Approval of Contract Award Recommendation to Restore Masonry L.L.C. for the Tuck-Pointing and Masonry Restoration Project at the Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center (LHMCC) (Bid 12-36)

Staff recommends that City Council authorize the City Manager to execute a contract for the base bid plus alternate 1 for the Tuck-pointing and Masonry Restoration Project at the LHMCC to Restore Masonry L.L.C. (5721 N. Tripp Ave., Chicago, IL) in the total amount of $62,600. Funding for this work will be from the FY2011 Capital Improvement Program Account #415175 with a total budget of $450,000.

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

(A4) Ordinance 64-O-11, Amending City Code Subsection 3-5-6-(V), Class V Liquor Licenses, to Permit Sale of Alcohol Other than Beer and Wine

Local Liquor Commissioner recommends City Council adoption of Ordinance 64-O-11. On July 13, 2011, the Liquor Control Review Board convened a hearing to consider amending the Class V liquor license to permit licensees to sell liquors other than beer and wine. Consideration arose from a request by the only Class V licensee, D&D Finer Foods.

Ald. Rainey asked Ald. Holmes if this was in her ward and Ald. Holmes replied that it was. Ald. Rainey remembered when D & D was in her ward, they were the best to work with she commented.

Ald. Rainey moved and Ald. Burrus seconded that A4 be approved. A voice vote was taken and it was approved.

(A5) Ordinance 68-O-11, Solid Waste Transfer Station Fee

The Corporation Counsel recommends introduction and adoption of Ordinance 68-O-11, upon suspension of the Rules. This Ordinance repeals Ordinance 82-O-10, but still imposes the Solid Waste Transfer Station Fee applicable to the Veolia Transfer Station. This ordinance shall be retroactive to December 17, 2010, which was the effective date of now repealed Ordinance 82-O-10. Staff requests suspension of the Rules for Introduction and Action on August 8, 2011.

Ald. Holmes allowed several residents to speak at this time.

*Jackie Davis – 2423 Church Street. The trucks go by my house everyday. Everything shakes. There are cracks in the walls, I am sure the house itself is being damaged. In addition, there is always a strong stench.

*John Moore – 582 Sheridan Square. I am commenting as a citizen of Evanston. This is the wrong business in the wrong location. It seems they are concerned about the business end only. It started years ago as a small business but it has grown. The $2 fee is too low. The City should impose a higher fee. Don’t limit the City’s ability to change/control through an ordinance.

*Allison Tirres – 1679 Church Street/Church Street Development, in the middle of a residential area. Our high school kids walk by everyday. We put up with the noise, traffic and odor. They cover it with a strong cherry scent. What is that? I suppose charging a fee for the City to recoup cost is okay. But, a fee
should not be imposed as easy revenue. I encourage the City to help Veolia to find a new home.

*Ike Dickson – 2327 Church Street. I agree with the previous speakers. Shaking, noise and odor. Veolia does not cover the smell when trucks go down the street. I am one of those who would like to see them go. If they are permitted to expand, it will make it even harder for children to see to cross the street.

*Chris Tirres – 1679 Church Street/Church Street Development. I agree with the others. I stress the fact that the law today requires new sites to be on twenty-five acres. Veolia is on two. I encourage the City to fight this national organization. It does not belong in a great city.

*Ben Guines – 1645 Fowler Avenue. The stench is an ongoing complaint of mine. I am sure this would not be tolerated in another part of Evanston. I have had to have my foundation worked on. The house shakes when the trucks go by. There will be no loss of jobs, wherever they move the employees will follow. They also do not adhere to the speed limit. They speed at five to ten miles an hour over the posted limit. Please help us get Veolia out of the City.

*Cindy Levitt – 1645 Church Street/Church Street Village. I can see the entire operation from my home. My first night here, I thought there was an earthquake. I cannot garden due to the stench. In an EPA 2000 document looking at locations of waste sites shows that they seem to have been placed in a racist manner. As to the west side plan, their removal needs to be a major component of the plan. Particulates in the air are a question. Are they lead-based? And, the cherry smell only adds to the original smell. It does not mask it. Grant Farrar (Corporation Counsel/City Attorney) stated that he is looking into permit information for a two page FOIA. There is a June 22, 2011 request for modification.

*Muffy McAuley - Developer of the Evanston Lofts. I appreciate that this is a business in Evanston. My main point is that Church and Dodge development is dead in the water. Recently a firm liked the space I showed them but when walking out of doors they remarked that the smell is a problem. This is supposed to be a residential and business area. It is hard to sell.

*Ron Fleckman - 1657 Church Street First question, what is tarping? G. Farrar said that Veolia wants to build a second area to unload the garbage to another vehicle and cover it with a tarp before leaving Evanston. Second question, is there a document on file from Veolia explaining the particulates that may exist? G. Farrar said that is handled by the IEPA. Third question. At $2 a ton, is that a low end or high end? G. Farrar replied that it is what Veolia says is too high. It is comparable to what Veolia pays Batavia. It is in our ordinance. The fourth question is, is the rewriting because Veolia is fighting paying anything. G. Farrar said that they have plans to sue the City. This rewrite is to fully explain the bases for the fee. Lastly, with this ordinance, can the City impose on Veolia to inform them about health standards and environmental impact. G. Farrar noted that the Health Department is addressing it and it is part of IEPA.

*Dorothy Head - 1823 Laurel Avenue. Allow me to read from an October 2011 letter from Janet Alexander Davis written to Aldermen, City Clerk R. Greene and City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz. For my long time in Evanston, I am not happy with Veolia’s location. A transfer dock by a neighborhood park and our high school is not good. I can smell it every time I drive pass. I can produce a list of...
those who are not happy with Veolia. Ms. Head continued stating that she has been in Evanston 35 years. The transfer station has lowered property values. We cannot get the same dollars for our homes as in other parts of Evanston. Thank you.

*Linda Beck - 1240 Forest Avenue I attended Leadership Evanston. What I learned is this is the wrong place for Veolia to be placed. An EPA study in the late 1990s showed sites were placed in lower income areas. A waste transfer site (500 to 750 tons of waste a day) must be on 25 acres. It is so in Glenview, away from homes, schools, and businesses. I urge the City Council to do all it can to change this situation. If the City got an 18M grant for affordable housing, there could be a great improvement to the west side if the area was clean.

Ald. Rainey noted that the testimony was very interesting. There seems to be a belief she said that the City supports Veolia and their location. She said that she has never heard such support in the current Council. Hopefully we call do something to remove them. I look here with hope more than at the Northwestern Charter made in perpetuity. The $2 fee is not a budget enhancement. We spend more policing them. Ald. Holmes said Veolia has been here since the 50s. It was a small family business. As to the fee, it originally was to help cover the cost in Public Works to repair the streets. Ald. Rainey noted that issues have come up that the City could help with. If there is speeding, put a cop out there. I am also appalled that some of the contracts we have made for collection, drop there stuff at Veolia. Why don’t they go elsewhere? Ald. Holmes relayed that was new information that they only heard about two weeks ago. Ald. Braithwaite thanked Ald. Rainey for her input. He noted that this had been a big topic in all wards. There has been some progress dealing with so many topics. An electronic speed sign has been put on the street several times. The City has met with their corporate representative about these concerns. In our efforts to make it better, we are not giving them a green light. Ald. Holmes stated that she wants Veolia gone but that while they are here they must be the best neighbors ever. Remember, she said, they are licensed by the State, call your representatives. Ald. Rainey said that several residents have complained about the choice of air freshener. Ald. Holmes said they are going to replace the cherry with citrus. The City has a full-time staff member to work on this problem. And now, 311 tracks resident complaints. I’d tell Veolia, show us what you have done. Ald. Rainey asked who Ashley was. What does she do besides track calls. Ald. Braithwaite agreed that it smells worse in the summer. He said that Ashley monitors smell, rodent activity and responds to 311 calls. She is also reviewing what other municipalities are doing.

Ald. Rainey moved and Ald. Burrus seconded that A5 be approved. A voice vote was taken and it was approved.

(A6) **Authorization for Mayor to Submit Comments to the Illinois EPA Regarding Veolia Permit Submission**

Staff recommends City Council authorization for the Mayor to submit comments and objections to the Illinois EPA regarding Viola’s recent permit request relative to the Veolia Transfer Station. Veolia seeks to modify and expand the transfer station in ways that violate certain of
Evanston’s zoning regulations. Staff recommends Council approve and authorize the Mayor to submit comments and objections to Veolias request that the Illinois EPA alter the Evanston transfer station permit. Ald. Burrus moved and Ald. Braithwaite seconded that A6 be approved. A voice vote was taken and it was approved.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

V. COMMUNICATIONS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Ald. Burrus motioned and Ald. Rainey seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 6:55 p.m., August 8, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,
Phillip Baugher
Administrative Assistant, Administrative Services