

MINUTES OF THE RULES COMMITTEE
Monday, June 2, 2014
6:00 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center
Council Chambers

Present: Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl, Ald. Judy Fiske, Jane Grover, Delores Holmes, Ann Rainey, Mark Tendam, Donald Wilson and Melissa Wynne

Presiding: Ald. Ann Rainey

Absent: Ald. Braithwaite and Burrus

Staff Present: Marty Lyons, Assistant City Manager/Director, Administrative Services/CFO and Grant Farrar, Corporation Counsel, Ylda Capriccioso, Assistant to the City Manager

Guest: Sue Calder, League of Women Voters; Bob Seidenberg, Evanston Review; and Bill Smith, Evanston Now

CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Ald. Wynne declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENT:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 5, 2014:

Ald. Rainey moved for approval of the May 5, 2014. Ald. Grover seconded. Minutes approved.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON EMPLOYEES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Ald. Rainey asked if information about the historical practice in Evanston has ever been received. In all her years she doesn't remember the Clerk's office having people not hired by the Human Resources Department. Grant Farrar said there is nothing in the files of the law department that speaks to what the hiring practices, processes or procedures in the Clerk's office have been over the past decades. In terms of trying to find out what the past practices were, staff was not able to find anything from any other sources. In response to some of the questions articulated on past practices he and the City Manager were sort of coming into this issue from 2008 onwards. There is nothing in writing that expressly lays out any of the practices or procedures, other than what is in the one code section which has been furnished to the Committee.

Ald. Rainey noted there are former City Clerks' around town and suggested that staff reaches out to them. She feels uncomfortable with the current practice and just because it doesn't say in the law department journal that Human Resources hires the Deputy Clerk's in the City Clerk's office doesn't mean that that's not what happened. Mr. Farrar said staff is ready to take whatever direction the Committee furnishes and follow-up accordingly. Ald. Rainey said Human Resources should have information about postings and who was hired before 2008. Mr. Farrar said they do and staff will look into that as part of the follow-up.

Ald. Wynne shared that she knows of two prior City Clerk's, Kris Davis and Mary Morris, and they still live in Evanston.

Ald. Holmes asked since there is no longer the Township, would that have any effect on the Clerk's office? Mr. Farrar stated there is no specific effect per say with respect to the dissolution documents that were approved by the now defunct board and current Council. There was a hand and glove seamless transition of all duties. The only issue that has been discussed in prior memorandums, furnished to the committee, was that under the Township, the Township code specifically laid out appointments of deputy clerks and proposed a town clerk. The memorandums' analysis of this issue might have informed what has been going on recently in the Clerk's office. It is not dispositive but it is something that may have just been in germination that sort of pollinated the rest of the discussion and process. So that addresses the wind up and the dissolution of the Township.

Ald. Wynne said if staff can get additional information from as many possible prior Clerk's that would be helpful. This matter will be kept on the agenda for the next Rules Committee meeting.

CITY COUNCIL'S PARTICIPATION IN THE 4TH OF JULY PARADE:

Ylda Capriccioso reported that the memo provided briefly discusses the two potential options for commuting throughout the 4th or July parade. Council should have or will be receiving a letter in the mail from the 4th of July Parade Association regarding this information. The City Manager's office will be coordinating the communication with the Association to make sure Council is placed in a particular spot in the parade and has available transportation.

Ald. Rainey stated she has not received a letter and has always walked in the parade. Her primary issue that would keep her from participating this year would be if they have to stand waiting for 1½ to 2 hours before stepping off in the parade. For example the 8th ward Alderman is assigned number 32, and the designated staged location is somewhere along Central Street. That can mean a 2 hour wait before stepping off. She also feels that the Aldermen should be altogether. What they have done in the past is gotten together whether they were on the list to be together or not.

Ald. Tendam noted that they have been in various positions but they were at the tail end last year. He thinks that is because the parade people feel they should be with the other elected officials or candidates and there is no need for that. Those other elected officials are at the end because they want to be and it allows them to do other parades and arrive late or as late as they can to participate. Being at the end means this Council never gets to see the parade. He would like to see the people in this community in the parade, see what they are doing, who they are and enjoy it. He thinks it is pretty important that they be near the front of the parade, because it is a good place to be and allows them to be able to walk back and see the parade.

Ms. Capriccioso asked if there is a preference leaning to either using the snow plow options and/or more sustainable electric vehicles and/or bicycles? Mayor Tisdahl said she'd like to walk, Ald. Wilson and Grover said they would ride their bikes. Ald. Wynne commented that it appears that the sustainability method is the most favorite minus the snow plow.

Ald. Rainey added that she did like the quad cycle which is the feature vehicle in the Bike the Ridge event. If it is possible to get a two seated quad cycle she would be willing to drive it and if Ald. Holmes is interested she could ride with her.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ald. Holmes reminded everyone that the City Manager evaluation forms are due Tuesday, June 3rd.

Ald. Grover added that the evaluation can be submitted them by typing in the document itself and then emailing them to Dar or by handwriting into a printed version.

ADJOURMENT:

Meeting adjourned 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Francellno

A video of this meeting is available at www.cityofevanston.org/government/agendas-minutes/agendas-minutes--rules-committee.