

MINUTES OF THE RULES COMMITTEE
MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2013
6:00 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center
Council Chambers

Present: Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl, Ald. Peter Braithwaite, Coleen Burrus, Judy Fiske, Delores Holmes, Ann Rainey, and Mark Tendam,

Absent: Ald. Jane Grover, Donald Wilson and Melissa Wynne

Presiding: Ald. Peter Braithwaite

Staff Present: Wally Bobkiewicz, City Manager, Grant Farrar, Corporation Counsel, Martin Lyons, Assistant City Manager/Treasurer and Jonathan Williams-Kinsel, ICMA Management Fellow

Guest: Jessica Feldman, League of Women Voters, Shawn Jones, Evanston Roundtable, Jim Mizell, Bob Seidenberg, Evanston Review and Bill Smith, Evanston Now

CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

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

CITIZEN COMMENT:

Jim Mizell, 1000 Grove commented regarding the process of reallocating equipment funds for the umbrella of channels of which the city is a privileged member. He would suggest that the committee keep the current proposal for expanding the amount of money that might go to additional cameras for a committee meeting room in this committee pending receiving more information to review the evolution of ECTV over the past couple of years.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 3, 2013:

Ald. Holmes moved approval of the June 3, 2013 minutes. Mayor Tisdahl seconded. Minutes approved.

APPROVAL OF 2013-2017 MAYOR PRO TEM SCHEDULE:

Ald. Rainey moved approval of the 2013-17 Mayor Pro Tem scheduled. Ald. Tendam seconded.

Ald. Rainey noted when she served as Mayor Pro Tem a few weeks ago a comment was made that she didn't need to vote on an issue that came up. Want to make it clear that the Mayor Pro Tem, being an Alderman, has all the privileges and rights of an Alderman.

Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP/CHAIRMANSHIP SCHEDULE – 2013-2017:

Ald. Rainey moved approval of the City Council Membership/Chairmanship schedule for 2013-17. Ald. Tendam seconded. Motion passed.

REVISIONS TO CITY COUNCIL RULES:

Ald. Rainey moved approval. Ald. Tendam seconded.

City Manager Bobkiewicz stated that over the last 12 to 18 months he and Grant Farrar have been collecting various revisions that have been raised. Mr. Farrar will give a walk through those Rules.

Mr. Farrar reported that the two really new revisions proposed are the Mayor's appointments to the Compensation Committee and the Wards Communications Policy. The Compensation Committee is an appropriate possible inclusion such that when this issues comes back up before the next 2017 election there will be adequate time for the Mayor to make appointments and to have that process have the appropriate lead time such that compensation for the various elected officials can be done in accordance with the Illinois compiled statute in the City Code. The Ward Communication Policy was previously addressed by the Rules Committee last September. The distillation of proposed language hopefully encompasses items that were discussed at that time. Other revisions throughout the Rules make some revisions into the quorum requirement based upon changes in composition of the relative committees. There is also a proposed change with respect to the citizen participation section. Section 6 reflects and memorializes the positive Cook County State Attorney opinion, which this Council and the Mayor received recently, relative to lawfully promulgated regulations on time, place and manner relative to Council meetings. He thought it would be appropriate if the case they cited to both the States Attorney and the Attorney General and was also quoted favorably by the States Attorney upholding the reasonable time, place and manner restrictions, would be incorporated into the Rules. Other recommendations that have been raised in the past about committees making a recommendation and he thought it might be appropriate to have it recited in 9.9.2 that "A committee may transmit a proposed ordinance or resolution to the Council with no recommendation". There is always something that is of concern at Council relative to scheduling of committee meetings and times of committee meetings. Staff tried to do some clean up language to clarify some of that. Staff did not propose language relative to the Planning and Development time but knows that is something that has been discussed in the past.

Ald. Rainey asked where they might find duties, responsibilities and obligations for the Compensation Committee. Mr. Farrar replied that it is not set forth in the city code. The city code in Title I does indicate that a compensation committee must be appointed. He thinks in past practice there might have been some rules and procedures promulgated on an informal basis. Ald. Rainey said she personally does not feel welcome at those meetings and feel that not all the members really hear from the Alderman about what they do and the kind of time they spend, etc. She would like to refer this to the Rules Committee and have them work on some obligations, duties, and responsibilities of that committee. City Manager Bobkiewicz said one of the reasons this is being proposed to include is so that it is not forgotten. One of the challenges a year ago was there was a concern that we were not on top of it, all collectively together. Perhaps staff could come back in a month or two with some proposed Rules that would be an appendix to the Rules. Ald. Rainey said that would be perfect.

Ald. Fiske asked under Section 9.2, Standing Committees, "contingent upon enough matters being scheduled on the agenda. What is "enough matters"? Mr. Farrar said that is a determination of the chair, city manager and members of that committee. What happened was the language was previously specified as a "shall meet". So what he tried to do is make it clear so that there would be some leeway and there would not be any question of a purported mandatory requirement in the Council Rules that the chair or members of the committee had to be concerned about meeting. Again it is at the call of the chair in consultation with the manager as customary with all committees for purposes of agenda management. Ald. Fiske also under "Standing Committees it states ".. may establish subcommittees as needed to assist them in more efficiently conducting their business". There was some concerns, in the past year or two about who appointments the members of the subcommittee. She is assuming that this reads that the committees themselves will appoint? Mr. Farrar said yes there is no change.

This item will come back to the Rules Committee in a month or two.

REPORT ON NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL MEDIA SITES:

City Manager Bobkiewicz asked that this item be held until the next meeting. This is a referral made by Ald. Grover regarding other things the Council may which to do as far as engaging of the community. Staff has proposed an existing commercial site called "Next Door" which many communities use. Ald. Grover is out of town and is anxious to be part of the discussion. Ald. Rainey said there are many wards that have lots of communication already going on. There are 4 or 5 news groups in her ward that she doubts they are going to start over. This would be great for people who don't have something or want to change but she gets the feeling Ald. Grover is not familiar with some of the methods already taking place. City Manager Bobkiewicz commented that there are 5 or 6 of these Next Door groups in Evanston already in existence. The question is, is there anything more we can do as a city to be helpful for those parts of the community that don't have this. The Next Door product is being used by communities all over America which may make sense for Evanston or may not. Ald. Rainey noted that after they talk with Ald. Grover, her preference would be to let community groups know this is available and they can go for it. She does not see that the city needs to be implementing or facilitating every move that a neighborhood group makes.

UPDATE ON COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND COMMITTEE ROOM VIDEO ISSUES:

City Manager Bobkiewicz stated that staff brought this to the Council back in May for the improvements of the camera and audio facilities in Council Chambers and had stated at that time that they would be high definition cameras. The cable system is not capable of broadcasting in high definition. What does make sense is to move forward with equipment that is current and state of the art now. Staff is already seeing people viewing the Council meetings on YouTube, the desire for streaming video and all that can be done in high definition. As part of this project Council asked staff to look at options to extend into an additional room and Matt Swentkofske has outline what will be required to do that and the cost. Funds are available from last year when the city swapped some money with ECMC as they were running out of money. ECMC had some Peg facility equipment money that the city took to help them make their payroll.

Mr. Swentkofske said the memo provides a couple of options moving forward. Initially when the project went out to bid it was designed in a way to cover Council Chamber. Replacing the cameras in Council Chambers and additional equipment in the control room, when Council expressed a wish to add a committee room they move to a two track. That way you could control Council Chamber with one switcher mixer within the control room and the separate committee room with a separate control unit, all within the same room with separate controls. The option is to add room 2404 or one of the other meeting rooms with two independent cameras to see both the speakers and Council members, and a couple of microphones. Another option in order to add audio visual to that committee room, is to add two flat screen TVs to allow the resident to see the presentation and Council members can see it over the heads of the Council members. This will also help to use that room as an overflow room.

Mr. Swentkofske add that the technology in Council Chamber is obsolete and making the recommendation for Option 2 will allow the greatest capacity and allow the Council to do what it wants to do from a broadcast perspective for the next 10 to 15 years.

After much discussion Ald. Rainey moved approval of Option 2, \$96,983.00. Ald. Holmes seconded. Motion passed.

**DISCUSSION ON THE SEPTEMBER 4TH RULES/HUMAN SERVICES MEETING DATE
CONFLICTING WITH ROSH HASHANAH:**

Ald. Rainey moved to cancel the September Rules committee meeting. Ald. Burrus seconded. Motion passed.

Members of the Human Services committee agreed to reschedule to September 16th.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURMENT:

Meeting adjourned 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Francellno

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