ADMINISTRATION & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Monday, September 14, 2009

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


Members Absent:

Staff Present: Chief Berkowitz, Wally Bobkiewicz, David Cook, Dolores Cortez, Paul D’Agostino, Rajeev Dahal, Robert Dorneker, Chief Eddington, Suzette Eggleston, Doug Gaynor, Robert Gustafson, Jewell Jackson, Shanee Jackson, Mary Johns, Lonnie Jeschke, Pat Keegan, Martin Lyons, Dennis Marino, Joseph McRae, Jeff Murphy, Sat Nagar, Eric Palmer, Elke Tober-Purze, Paul Schneider, Bruce Slown, Dave Stoneback, Evonda Thomas, Rickey Voss

Others Present: Pat Vance – Executive Director of CEDA/Neighbors at Work
Speaking to the traffic light at Sheridan/Church:
Laura Tucker, Arlene Hause, Frank Cicero, Shirley Conley, Tom Connelly, Frank Koppelman and David Reynolds

Presiding: Ald. Rainey

I. DECLARATION OF QUORUM
With a quorum present, Alderman Rainey called the meeting to order at 5:48 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING of August 10, 2009
Minutes were unanimously approved, 5-0

III. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

(A1)* City of Evanston Payroll through 08/16/09 $2,533,459.51
08/30/09 $2,332,314.95

Item A1 was unanimously approved, 5-0

(A2)* City of Evanston Bills through 09/15/09 $5,802,214.79

Item A2 was unanimously approved, 5-0

(A3.1)*Approval to Renew the Agreement with Call One for Telecommunications Services
Recommend approval to authorize the City Manager to execute a telecommunications contract renewal for a three-year term with Call One (123 North Wacker, Chicago, IL). The payment to Call One will be approximately $114,900 annually. The payment is an estimate and based on a one-month billing snapshot. Actual charges will vary depending on usage and changes to services. Funding provided by various operating accounts.

Item A3.1 was approved unanimously, 5-0
(A3.2)*Approval of Single Source Purchase of Library Automation Services
Recommend approval of the single source purchase of library automation services from Cooperative Computer Services (3355J N. Arlington Heights Rd., Arlington Heights, IL) in the amount of $94,458.42. This is a 3.8% increase over last year, plus a one-time implementation charge of $2,243.47 for automated telephone hold notifications and $3,716.52 for the library’s share of migration to the Oracle platform. Funding in the amount of $69,400.00 provided by the Technical Services Computer Licenses and Support and $25,058.42 provided by Adult Services Computer Licenses and Support Library accounts.
Item A3.2 was approved unanimously, 5-0

(A3.3)*Approval of Lowest Responsible and Responsive Bid (10-47) for the Crown Center and Chandler-Newberger Center Parking Lot Lighting Replacement Project
Recommend approval of lowest responsible and responsive bid (10-47) for the Crown Center and Chandler-Newberger Center Parking Lot Lighting Replacement Project from Adlite Electric Co. Inc. (1355 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines, IL) in the amount of $100,366. Funding provided by the Capital Improvement Plan budget.
Ald. Fiske asked if this appropriation, since the Robert Crown Center is due for renovations in a year or two, should be approved. Douglas Gaynor (Director Parks, Forestry & Recreation) said that the poles and lamps would be salvaged and used at the new facility.
Item A3.3 was approved unanimously, 5-0

(A3.4)*Approval of Lowest Responsible and Responsive Bid (10-23) for the Maple Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project
Recommend approval of lowest responsible and responsive bid (10-23) for the Maple Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project to Landmark Contractors Inc. (11916 W. Main Street, Huntley, IL), in the amount of $780,153.77. Funding provided by Downtown II TIF & Economic Development Funds.
Ald. Rainey asked why Economic Development funds were being used for part of this project when there are TIF dollars available. Martin Lyons (Assistant City Manager) noted that all sources of funding were considered. The final use of the remaining TIF funds, projected to be 1.3M needs to be either reinvested or used. Ald. Rainey reiterated, why are Economic Development funds being used since TIF has funds available. M. Lyons said that their use for this project is allowable. Dennis Marino (Interim Community Development Director) mentioned that Economic Development funds have been used in this manner before. The plaza in front of “Borders” needs a lot of work. Ald. Rainey agreed, saying that she wants all the improvements done but with TIF monies. She noted that she preferred Economic Development funds to stay available for projects throughout the City. D. Marino said that “Borders” would be 130K and funded by Economic Development funds. Ald. Burrus stated that she agrees with Ald. Rainey. The Economic Development funds are needed in so many areas. She stated that she cannot vote for this project with funds from sources other than TIF. Ald. Jean-Baptiste motioned for an amendment to the item to read that all funds will be from TIF. Ald. Burrus seconded the motion. Ald. Holmes asked what the balance in the Economic Development funds was and M. Lyons said that the estimate at the end of last year was just over 1.9M with planned expenses this year drawing it down. Ald. Rainey asked for the vote of this item as amended.
Item A3.4 was approved unanimously as amended, 5-0
(A3.5)*Approval of a Contract for a Solar Energy Pilot Installation at the Evanston Water Utility (RFP 10-61)
Recommend approval of a contract (RFP 10-61) for a Solar Energy Pilot Installation at the Evanston Water Utility with SoCore Energy LLC (1802 W. Bertreau Street, Chicago, IL) in the amount of $183,754.00 contingent upon receiving appropriate grant funding. Funding to be provided by grants from the Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant ($35,000) and the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation ($91,800) and from the Water Fund ($56,954).
Ald. Rainey asked what this installation will power. David Stoneback (Superintendent Water & Sewer Division) said it will help power the filtration part of the water plant. It is a very small part of the City’s needs. It is also a pilot program. Ald. Rainey asked if he thought it was worth investigation and D. Stoneback said he did think so. There is a lot of land there to develop for solar improvements.
Item A3.5 was approved unanimously, 5-0

(A3.6)*Approval of Lowest Responsible and Responsive Bid (10-59) for the 2009 Root Treatment of Sewer Mains
Recommend award of the lowest responsible and responsive bid (10-59) for the 2009 Root Treatment of Sewer Mains to National Power Rodding Corp. (2500 West Arthington St., Chicago, IL) in the amount of $21,488.80. Funding for this project provided by the Sewer Fund.
Item A3.6 was approved unanimously, 5-0

(A3.7)*Approval of Lowest Responsible and Responsive Bid (10-31) for the Evanston Water Utility Tuck Pointing and Masonry Repairs
Recommend award of the lowest responsible and responsive bid (10-31) for the Evanston Water Utility tuck-pointing and masonry repairs to Continental Construction Co., Inc. (1919 Greenwood Street, Evanston, IL) in the amount of $151,050. Funding provided by the Water Fund.
Item A3.7 was approved unanimously, 5-0

(A3.8)*Approval of the Single Responsible and Responsive Bid (10-41) for the Traffic Signal Modernization and Interconnect Project on Central Street at Girard Avenue and Ridge Avenue
Recommend approval of the single responsible and responsive bid (10-41) for the traffic signal modernization and interconnect project on Central Street at Girard Avenue and Ridge Avenue to John Burns Construction Company (17601 Southwest Highway, Orland Park, IL) in the amount of $486,666.30. Funding provided by the Capital Improvement Fund and a $200,000 contribution from the NorthShore University Health System.
Ald. Rainey asked what the difference in cost was between decorative and regular mast-arm types. Paul Schneider (Director of Transportation and Engineering) admitted that he did not have an answer but noted that the City only bid with decorative mast-arms. Ald. Rainey asked how many lights would there be. P. Schneider said they would be at two locations, Central and Girard and Central and Ridge. They are associated with the hospital emergency needs. Currently there is a problem when the Fire Department activates the lights. The new lights will all be coordinated. Ald. Fiske suggested that the
City not use decorative mast-arms anymore. They do not mimic the Tallmadge lights, they are not appropriate. P. Schneider said that the posts will match the posts on Sheridan Road in Wilmette. Ald. Fiske asked if anyone had seen the proposed lights.

She has not heard of anyone saying so. She is concerned that this action will become the default system. Ald. Jean-Baptiste understood the effort to match with posts up the street but asked how much is this difference. Rajeev Dahal (Senior Traffic Engineer) said his best guess would be 50K per light. He noted that this was discussed years ago and the Council approved decorative over regular mast-arms. IDOT he continued recommends matched mast-arms. He agreed that the regular posts would cost less. Ald. Jean-Baptiste wondered if the City had the options, why they bid for the higher priced of the two options. R. Dahal said that the Preservation Board wants the decorative mast-arms in historic neighborhoods. Ald. Jean-Baptiste was not sure this was mentioned in the attached documents and P. Schneider noted that it is in the memo. Ald. Jean-Baptiste admitted that he did not remember ever discussing this and M. Lyons said that it happened in 2003 and 2004. Ald. Rainey remembered that the citizens were opposed to mast-arms so they would not get decorative ones. M. Lyons suggested an alternate bid be sought. Ald. Burrus asked if this would change our eligibility for the 200K, R. Dahal replied no. Ald. Rainey suggested that the changes could cost as much as this original proposal. R. Dahal agreed saying that a new design would also have to be approved by IDOT. Ald. Rainey asked R. Dahal to get the price of regular mast-arms to the committee before this item comes up in Council this evening. He said he would and Ald. Jean-Baptiste said he needs to know what the difference is. Ald. Rainey suggested moving the item to Council and if the information received is not satisfactory it can then be referred back to committee.

Item A3.8 was approved unanimously, 5-0

(A3.9)* Approval of Lowest Responsible and Responsive Bid (10-53) for the 2009 CIPP Spot Line Sewer Rehabilitation Contract B
Recommend award of the lowest responsible and responsive bid (10-53) for the 2009 CIPP Spot Line Sewer Rehabilitation Contract B to Infrastructure Technologies, Inc. (21040 Commerce Blvd, Rogers, MN) in the amount of $44,050.28. Funding for this project provided by the Sewer Fund.
Item A3.9 was approved unanimously, 5-0

(A4)* Approval of Change Order #1 for the 2009 50/50 Sidewalk & Curb Replacement Program
Recommend approval of Change Order #1 for the 2009 50/50 Sidewalk and Curb Replacement Program with Suburban Concrete Inc. (21222 Commercial Drive, Mundelein, IL). This change order will increase the contract amount by $47,000 from $85,680 to $132,680. Funding provided by the Capital Improvement Plan 50/50 Sidewalk and Curb Replacement Program and Home Owner Participation.
Item A4 was approved unanimously, 5-0

(A5)* Resolution 68-R-09 Appointing an Alternate Director to the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC)
Consideration of proposed resolution 68-R-09 appointing City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz as Alternate Director to the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County pursuant to the SWANCC agreement.
Item A5 was approved unanimously, 5-0

(A6)* Resolution 72-R-09 Authorizing the Donation of Certain Surplus City-Owned Personal Property
Consideration of proposed resolution 72-R-09 authorizing the donation of a City owned surplus vehicle to CEDA/Neighbors at Work, Inc.
Pat Vance, Executive Director of CDEA/Neighbors at Work told how the current vehicle they use is falling apart. Their major source of funding is HUD and those monies cannot be used to purchase vehicles. Ald. Rainey mentioned how she had gone to see the end product of CEDA work, a beautiful job, and was horrified to see their truck in front of the property. It is a used Cahill Plumbing Company van that has had their logo spray-painted over. The vehicle is in very poor mechanical shape, the body is severely rotted out, and as a result, one door keeps opening while the vehicle is in motion. Fleet came up with a 1996 GMC Yukon vehicle that was going to auction. It was suggested by Ald. Rainey that the City donate this vehicle to this organization so that Evanston residents might continue to benefit from the program. Lonnie Jeschke (Manager Fleet Operations) stated that if the Council approves it tonight, the car and the required papers would be ready for CEDA as soon as they were available to pick it up at the Service Center.
Item A6 was approved unanimously, 5-0

(A7)* Ordinance 78-O-09 Decrease in the Number of Class C Liquor Licenses, Jacky’s Bistro
Consideration of proposed ordinance 78-O-09 amending Section 3-5-6(C) of the City Code to decrease the number of Class C liquor licenses from 24 to 23 due to the closing of Bistro Enterprises, Inc. (2545 Prairie Avenue, 60201).
Item A7 was approved unanimously, 5-0

(A8)* Ordinance 79-O-09 Increase in the Number of Class C Liquor Licenses, Jacky’s On Prairie
Consideration of proposed ordinance 79-O-09 amending Section 3-5-6(C) of the City Code to increase the number of Class C liquor licenses from 23 to 24 due to the opening of Jacky’s On Prairie (2545 Prairie Avenue, 60201).
Item A8 was approved unanimously, 5-0

(A14)* Ordinance 77-O-09 Enacting a New Subsection 9-5-8-9 of the Evanston City Code, “Video Gaming Prohibited”
Consideration of proposed ordinance 77-O-09 enacting a new subsection 9-5-8-9 of the Evanston City Code, “Video Gaming Prohibited.” This ordinance was discussed and approved for Council consideration by the City Council Rules Committee at its meeting on September 8, 2009.
Item A14 was approved unanimously, 5-0

(A9)* Ordinance 84-O-09 Amending the City Code to Establish a Traffic Signal at Sheridan Road and Church Street
Consideration of proposed ordinance 84-O-09 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 Church Street.

Ald. Rainey proposed that the residents in the audience be allowed to make their presentations before any discussion by the committee.

Laura Tucker spoke in favor of the traffic signal. She said she has talked with many neighbors and all agree that a traffic light would provide a measure of safety for crossing Sheridan Road which they feel outweighs the aesthetic of the neighborhood being changed by its installation. She went on to say that she needs to walk her children across Sheridan where as they are old enough to cross other streets that have traffic lights. She added that it will also be a help for the elderly that wish to go to the park and lake front.

Arlene Hause was also in favor of the traffic light being installed. When taking her dog to the dog beach, she noted that cars rarely stopped even though there are traffic markings on the street. She mentioned that there is no safe place to cross and that Clark Street is even crazier with the new street going in. She felt that the light would not change the look of the neighborhood.

Frank Cicero noted that with his driveway opening onto Hinman Avenue, he has seen a lot of traffic over the years and a lot of fast traffic. There is an overall need to control speed especially on Forrest which is a narrow street. A light will irritate drivers who will feel the need to make it through a yellow light or to make up time on a side residential street.

Shirley Conley noted that she understood the concerns of parents. She stated that Church Street is only one of several areas that experience the same problem. She suggested that the money needs to be spread out to the many sites. There are alternatives to traffic lights.

Tom Conley opened his comments by agreeing with everyone. There is a need to improve access to the lakefront and to improve safety. He felt that what is at issue is what is best to improve safety. The solution seems to be one stoplight at Church Street. Reports on similar places show problems when putting a traffic light at a “T” intersection. A conflict develops for left turning vehicles, it can force cars off of the street onto residential streets and drivers will change routes to avoid a light. This is already a problem in several areas. One suggestion was to have a pedestrian activated light system. He continued by saying that if a traffic light is not installed, then a traffic island in the center of Sheridan Road should be put in which will make the crossing two more reasonable stretches to be crossed. It is also obvious that a traffic light at Church Street will only help those at Church Street. The speed limit needs to be lowered to 25 miles an hour like the rest of the City. Currently Sheridan Road is 30 miles an hour. Signs should be in place that will have drivers acknowledging that cars must stop and cede the right of way to pedestrians. These types of signs have been working at other locations. This should improve safety and looks. A traffic island will seem like moving curbs.

Frank Koppelman accompanied his remarks with a slide show. He opened reflecting on a similar problem in his hometown of Springfield. A study of the drivers concluded that they are selfish. The first picture shown was the current configuration of Church Street and Sheridan Road. Signs are needed to say “crossroad ahead.” The
second picture showed islands (refuge islands) for pedestrians when crossing. The extensions from them are barrier islands and run all along Sheridan Road between intersections. The next image showed stop signs in the middle of Sheridan Road. They would be highly visible and run the length of Sheridan.

David Reynolds gave the concluding remarks to the slide show. He noted that the traffic signal is being promoted as a pedestrian improvement. It has been shown that pedestrians have a low tolerance for activated light systems. It has also been shown that drivers will adjust their driving pattern to avoid traffic lights. A study of cars going west on Church Street showed the number to be eighty cars a day. A traffic light would be an impediment to drivers all year long but only assist pedestrians in the summer months.

P. Schneider thanked all who presented their views. He asked Frank how wide a median would be and was told four feet. P. Schneider thought a median would have to be wider. If a pedestrian was stuck in the middle (or several residents) four feet would not be wide enough for them. There should be a minimum of twelve feet. He also noted concerns about hanging residents up in the middle of the road even on a raised median. This past month a study was done in the field. While there would be a number of opportunities to cross one lane of traffic to the median, there would be fewer chances to cross the road entirely. Pedestrians could be stranded in the median over half the time they try to cross. The Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices asks the question, how many times do residents interrupt the flow of traffic? The study conducted showed a good level of traffic flow on Sheridan Road (LOS A). P. Schneider continued that he felt an activated signal would manage the vehicle and pedestrian traffic better than a sign. The signal will control the residents into groups, signs would only give them random crossings. He also noted that the traffic counts during the summer ethnic arts festival showed Church Street as the dominant spot for crossings. Suzette Eggleston (Interim Director of Public Works) stated that a median would severely hamper the removal of snow. It would end up on the median and eventually block the line of vision for the drivers. She also felt that the yield sign on Central Street has not caused the majority of cars to stop. Ald. Jean-Baptiste said that he felt the committee needed more time for this item. He suggested that if Lake Shore Drive can have a median, why can’t Sheridan Road? S. Eggleston said that personnel is one item to consider. Currently Streets and Sanitation has only one truck scheduled to keep Sheridan clear, the City of Chicago has ten. Ald. Rainey noted that there are also more lanes in Chicago. She said that she believed that this ordinance should be introduced in Council this evening. It can then be held in Committee if necessary. Ald. Burrus asked how many meetings have been held on this question. P. Schndier said for the Phase I design, multiple meetings. Recently, several neighborhood group meetings were held as well as a Ward meeting. Ald. Jean-Baptiste said that with the amount of information, further discussion is required. Ald. Rainey said she can support that suggestion but she is for the light being installed. Ald. Holmes asked what the cost of the islands would be, wondering if it would not be significant. P. Schneider said it would be but the cost of the light is also significant. He again stated that he felt the light is the best way to solve the problem. He also mentioned that the pre-final plans have to be presented to IDOT by mid-October. Ald. Holmes reiterated, it is thirty miles per hour only where posted. Ald. Rainey recommended that this ordinance continue to the full Council floor. Ald. Fiske agreed saying she wants to make sure all of this information is given to all the Aldermen. Frank Cicero agreed about moving it forward and agreed with the Aldermen to discuss it further. Ald. Rainey reminded them that it is only for introduction tonight.
Item A9 was approved unanimously, 5-0

IV. DISCUSSION

V. COMMUNICATIONS

VI. ADJOURNMENT: 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Phillip Baugher
Administrative Assistant, Finance Department