I. DECLARATION OF QUORUM.
Ald. Feldman called the meeting to order at 7:27 p.m., a quorum being present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 13, 2004 AND JANUARY 10, 2005 –

III. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION ON COUNCIL AGENDA

FOLLOWING ITEMS APPROVED ON CONSENT AGENDA

(A1) City of Evanston Payroll through 1/13/05 - $2,005,685.52

(A3.2) Approval of contract with MWH America for engineering services during Phase X, Contrast B of the relief sewer project in an amount not-to-exceed $912,318.00. Funded by IEPA loans.

(A3.3) Approval of contract with MWH America for engineering design of the Colfaz/Bryant Storm Sewer Project in an amount not-to-exceed $68,000.00 Funded by the Sewer Reserve Fund.

(A4.1) Approval of change order #1 of the contract with Alvord, Burdick, & Howson for capital improvements to the Water Treatment Facility Department at a cost of $10,715.33, increasing the contract amount from $267,517.00 to $278,232.33. Funded by the Depreciation, Improvement and Extension account in the Water Fund. – (A1) (A3.2), (A3.3), and (A4.1) were considered on a consent agenda. Ald. Moran moved approval of the consent agenda, seconded by Ald. John Baptiste. Motion passed unanimously.

(A2) City of Evanston Bills through 1/25/05 - $3,746,609.62 – Ald. Rainey was concerned that on page 18 of the Bills List, under Civic Center Interim Repairs are items listed as pay to Dean Evans & Associates Inc., in the amount of $8,369. In this amount is an item called Virtual EMS-web Calendar for $2,500. She asked why this software package didn’t come to Council as a purchase; Council needs to know what is being bought. Max Rubin said that his office has been investigating buying such a package for two years. In answer to a question of clarification from City Manager Carroll, Ald. Rainey said that this kind of thing should be shown on the A&PW Agenda and not as a general bill. Wm. Stafford said that the ground rules in place as of now are that anything under $15,000 does not have to be preapproved. Ald. Feldman suggested
continuing things as it is now with staff answering questions regarding purchases with a memorandum.

(A3.1) Approval of lowest responsive and responsible bid for the award of Phase X, Contract B, of the Relief Sewer Project to Benchmark Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of $7,148,765.60. Funded by the IEPA loans and the Sewer Reserve Fund. – Ald. Rainey asked for an explanation of what constitutes a minority contractor. She said that she received certificates from Chicago, etc., and asked for more clarification. Mr. Stafford replied that in this case, 51% of Benchmark Construction Company, Inc was owned by an African American male. He added that $60,000 was slated to be used for workers from Evanston. Ald. Feldman said he has received letters from unemployed Evanston residents indicating that there is a great deal of construction and economic activity in Evanston and they are concerned that most of the workers employed on these jobs are from out of town. Wm. Stafford said that Evanston has a voluntary 15% on development projects. It is not legal to require the contractors to hire Evanston residents. Because of the circumstances connected with the Sherman Avenue Development the City is able to require the contractors to hire a percentage of Evanston residents. Ald. Jean Baptiste expressed his desire that more Evanston residents be employed by these firms. He proposed that the responsibility of the hiring of Evanston residents be shifted to the Department of Human Relations. That they become a persuasive enforcement to get more Evanston residents hired and eventually to accomplish certain objectives. Ald. Jean Baptiste said that 1% of $6 million is totally inadequate. The Committee members all expressed their desire that there be a way to get more Evanston residents hired.

Ald. Rainey said that she had asked staff what kind of trees would be removed in this project and also where they were now. Dave Stoneback replied that it was not twelve trees that would be removed, it was twelve inches of trees. He said that there are no trees specifically identified for tree removal, this was a contingency plan. If a tree gets damaged and needs to be cut there is a mechanism in place for the contractor to do that.

Ald. Rainey moved to place (A2) and (A3.1) on the consent agenda. Motion seconded by Ald. Jean Baptiste. Motion passed unanimously.

(APW1) Ridge Avenue street light update – David Jennings said that until the process is completed, he will not be able to determine how many of the street lights will have to be replaced. Ald. Rainey asked Mr. Jennings if he had any idea how many would have to be replaced beyond the ones that have fallen. He explained that it was impossible to tell until they have all been tested.

OTHER BUSINESS
Ald. Rainey mentioned that last week after the issue of an establishment on Clark Street having their liquor license decreased was discussed, a check of that establishment resulted in citations issued.

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business before the Committee, it adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Baaske/Planning