ADMINISTRATION & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Monday, June 27, 2005
5:36p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

Evanston Civic Center
Room 2404


Members Absent: none

Staff Present: Judy Aiello, Max Rubin, Bobbie Tolston-Brown, Zeltee Edwards, David Cook, David Jennings, Vincent Jones, Sat Nagar, Chief Alan Berkowsky, John Burke, Gavin Morgan, Barbara Zdanowicz, Dolores Y. Cortez

Others Present: Junad Rizki, Union Member
Leigh Mc Isaac, T.R.E.E.

Presiding: Alderman Rainey, Chair

I. DECLARATION OF QUORUM.
With quorum present, Alderman Rainey, called the meeting to order at 5:36p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING of June 27, 2005
Unanimous vote of approval by Alderman Rainey.

III. Citizen Comment

IV. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION ON COUNCIL AGENDA

(A1) * City of Evanston Payroll through 06/16/05 $2,125,879.70

(A2) * City of Evanston Bills through 06/28/05 $2,962,627.73
Ald. Jean-Baptiste needed to be refreshed regarding the formula for cigarette tax collection transfer. Barbara Zdanowicz promises to provide requested information. Ald. Jean-Baptiste also had a question about the bulk purchase of natural gas. Max Rubin explained bulk purchases and our multiple uses for natural gas. Ald. Rainey wanted to know how often we bid gasoline? Jennings will research and report to Committee. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked about purchasing prices for bulk gasoline. Julia responded, daily index, plus a markup of so many cents per gallon, plus delivery. Committee is expecting a report. We are buying wholesale. Ald. Holmes wanted to know if the cost of gasoline goes down in the summer. David Cook responded to Ald. Holmes question making references to keeping unused quantities in storage.

(A3.1) Approval of the lowest responsive and responsible bid for 2005 Combined Curb & Sidewalk Replacement Program and 2005 Accessible Curb Ramp Program
from Schroeder & Schroeder, Inc. in the amount of $182,488.80. Funded by GO Bonds and CDBG funds. Ald. Jean-Baptiste confirmed and compared bidders with Bobbie Tolston-Brown. She explained that they submitted bids before, but each time Schroeder & Schroeder were the highest bidders, this time they were the lowest. We have not worked with them before. Bobbie explained that new paperwork is submitted with every new project. Ald. Jean-Baptiste is looking for an understanding about the process and that there’s some follow-up included in our process. Bobbie explained the criteria that the submittal has to meet. Ald. Rainey expressed concern about the estimate $180,000 being $100,000 over. Ald. Jean-Baptiste doesn’t recall a discussion about curb replacement specifically, so he’s not current on the status and is interested in the process. Dave Jennings explained that report went out May 3rd this year. Julia clarified interest in the communication piece. Jennings responded the report went out to the mayor and staff and included sidewalk and curb program. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked to see the actual documentation. Jennings presented requested document to the Committee. Ald. Jean-Baptiste needs specific discussion to provide specific input about big dollar projects.

(A3.2) Approval of the lowest responsive and responsible bid for 2005 Special Assessment Alley Paving Program from Kings Point General Cement, Inc. in the amount of $876,788. Funded by GO Bonds, CDBG, and Special Assessment Funds. Ald. Rainey explained to the new Council Members the contractual differences between the alley paving ordinances and the bid for paving contracts, such as this item. Ald. Hansen wanted to know if there were any complaints lodged against Kings Point re: damage to property from prior work. Jennings replied no. They have a meeting scheduled for Wednesday. Ald. Hansen is glad to know we are going with a contractor with a good reputation.

(A3.3) Approval of the lowest responsive and responsible bid for a two year contract for Water Meters and Reading Equipment from Badger Meter, Inc. in the amount of $86,535.00 Funded by the Water Operating Fund. Ald. Rainey suggested a memo about how the meters are read for the new alderman. Dave Stoneback explained the meter reading process. Ald. Jean-Baptiste wanted to know why the meters were being read twice a day. Stoneback reassured the Committee there is no increase in cost for reading the meters twice a day. Ald. Holmes wanted to know if there was a leak would that be detected in the reading. Stoneback replied yes and gave example.

(A4) Ordinance 81-O-05 Restricted Parking on Lemar Avenue
Consideration of Ordinance 81-O-05 amending Section 10-11-8, Schedule VIII (A) of the City code to restrict parking on the east side of Lemar Avenue, north of Church Street.

(A5) Ordinance 82-O-05 Declaring City Property as Surplus
Consideration of Ordinance 82-O-05, which declares as surplus property various items, including hydraulic pumps, rollers, a trailer, and a compressor to be sold at a public auction at the Huntley Municipal Auction.

(A6) Ordinance 78-O-05 Special Assessment 1469
Consideration of proposed Ordinance 78-O-05, by which City Council would authorize the paving of the alley north of Payne Street, east of Pioneer Avenue.

(A7) Ordinance 79-O-05 Special Assessment 1470
Consideration of proposed Ordinance 79-O-05, by which City Council would authorize the paving of the alley north of Lyons Street, east of Dodge Avenue. Ald. Holmes had a question posed to her by a citizen who desires to redirect traffic around the private easement. David Jennings responded that he’s not sure whether it can be closed off or not. There may be some legal requirements to leave it open. Has nothing to do with the City’s portion. Ald. Holmes clarified that the citizen doesn’t want it closed
off, they just want it paved and what is the process for that? David Jennings reiterated that because it is not public land. The special assessment process is for public alleys. A private contractor could come and pave it for them, but it’s not the City’s responsibility nor would the City be involved in that. Julia Carroll clarified funding would be provided by the property owner. Ald. Holmes suggested her and David meet and go out to the property owner’s site. David agreed.

(A8) *Ordinance 76-O-05 – Increase in Class D Liquor Licenses
Consideration of proposed Ordinance 76-O-05 amending Section 3-5-6 (D) of the City Code, to increase the number of Class D liquor Licenses from 22 to 23 for Siam Pasta Thai Cuisine, 809 Dempster Street. This item was Held in Committee on 6/13/05.

Items A1, A2, A3.1, A3.2, A3.3, A4, A5, A6, A7, and A8 were considered on a consent agenda. Aforementioned items were moved for and approved and seconded, and passed unanimously.

IV. Items for Future Consideration
Laundromat Licensing and Attendant on Duty (10/03) Ald. Rainey discussed the fact that people that are at the Laundromat are not always doing their laundry, and some locations have video games that are being unsupervised. Ald. Rainey feels that requiring 24-hour attendance will deter 24 hour Laundromat operation. Julia Carroll clarified with Ald. Rainey what that the issues are more toward enforcement rather than closing it. Ald. Hansen reinforced her stand from last week’s meeting about a fine for an unattended Laundromat where crime takes place. Julia promised to talk with Legal and Police to see what the issues are and get back with the Committee.

Retain

Liquor related items: Creating North & Shore core Areas for Liquor Licenses (06/02) Ald. Rainey stated she does not want to remove these. She is not prepared to talk about it right now.

Retain


Remove with report

Review sidewalk café policy

Remove

Review speed hump policy

Remove with report

V. COMMUNICATIONS
Ald. Jean-Baptiste discussed the issue of employment (MWBE Program). He wants to first understand the policy and then how can we maximize it in order to increase
citizen employment opportunities for our major projects. He feels we need a policy position, even an expression of the spirit of what our intentions are. Recalling the Sherman Plaza, there was a job fair reporting 5 – 7 people were hired, 36 were eligible. The Ald. wants to see a noticeable substantive effort to employ Evanstonians as the opportunities arise. A progress report was to be shared with the A & PW Committee including future and additional hires. The City Manager asked Ald. Baptiste how often would he like a report? The Ald. responded to the number of people hired and the number of people qualified. How often? Certainly not at the end of the project where the increase in hires is marginal. The City Manager stated that her understanding was a quarterly report is produced and it hasn’t been a full quarter since the last report. Do you want something more? Ald. Jean-Baptiste doesn’t have the same recollection and asked Julia how long do we expect to be involved with the Sherman Plaza project. Julia, checked with Bobbie Tolston-Brown about the job fair date, based on a quarterly basis would provide substantive data. Julia will confer with Legal about contractors hiring Evanstonians and report back to the Committee, and again how often would the Committee like a report on major projects. Tolston-Brown stated we report monthly. Ald. Jean-Baptiste says monthly is fine. Ald. Jean-Baptiste’s point is are we in fact communicating that we want contractors to hire Evanstonians. Bobbie Tolston-Brown explained the language that is used in the Ordinance and that the Ordinance language needs to be strengthened. Its not that they don’t want to, there’s no specific guideline requirement. There is a different agreement structure for redevelopment projects vs. major development. Judy Aiello tried to clarify for the Ald. that they don’t come with a clean slate with a new work force, only if they’re going to hire. Ald. Jean-Baptiste is very adamant about including up front language that clearly requests the employment of Evanstonians for any project that takes place in Evanston. Ald. Holmes inquired about location restrictions for hired Evanstonians. Julia stated that if we have qualified Evanstonians and there is a place for them then great, but she doesn’t believe that we can ask a business owner to displace an employee who is already there. Ald. Jean-Baptiste stressed that it should be in our contracts that Evanstonians are considered first for job opportunities. The more it is communicated, the more the contractors will expect that. The City Manager stated that the Ald. is communicating clearly, but her concern comes in with Sherman Plaza. She believes hiring qualified Evanstonians should be a clear expectation not a mandate except through a redevelopment situation. Julia reassured Ald. Jean-Baptiste that we will from this point forward clearly communicate our expectations re: Evanstonian employment. Ald. Rainey asked about the criterion for City hiring and whether there is preferential treatment for the hiring of Evanstonians. Julia will confer with Legal and Ald. Jean-Baptiste would like to be informed of her findings.

Citizen Comment Junad Rizki has a concern about the price increase re: the Dutch Elm tree injection. The contract amount says $8.89 per inch, the green flyer says $10.65 per inch. The price seems to have gone up. Ald. Rainey addressed his concern and explained to him the price lists the council reviewed. Doug Gaynor explained the bidding process and how and why the price changed. Junad went on to express that after conferring with a professional (George Ware) at the Morton Arboretum, the trees should be watered prior to injection and we’re not doing that. Ald. Rainey asked what provisions we have made in light of the drought to care for the trees. Doug Gaynor will follow up on Mr. Rizki’s allegations. Morton Arboretum Representatives will be at the Council meeting tonight and will hopefully have something to offer. Ald. Wollin feels just for the benefit of the trees because of the drought we should be watering them. The floor was turned over to Leigh MacIsaac. Ms. MacIsaac discussed her disappointment in the decision change by Council. The number of trees being saved and the costs is confusing. She suggests a new ordinance for a three year trial between eleven and twenty-nine inches in diameter (1,912 trees). Costs to inject leftover vulnerable trees $393,000.38, which would turn out to be about $8.34 a year. There will be a lot of people here at the council meeting willing to do that. Let the citizens speak out to that issue, it’s never been on the floor at the City Council. $305,000 for removal of 100 trees, by the end of the year, that number could change.

VI. ADJOURNMENT
Motioned to adjourn at 6:45pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Dolores Y. Cortez
City Manager’s Office