ADMINISTRATION & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

MINUTES
Monday, September 26, 2005
5:08 p.m. – 6:52 p.m.

Evanston Civic Center
Room 2404


Members Absent:


Others Present:

Presiding: Alderman Rainey, Chair

I. DECLARATION OF QUORUM.
With quorum present, Alderman Rainey called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

II. SPECIAL PRESENTATION – FY 2005-06 BUDGET, PREVIEW OF FY BUDGET 2006-07 by Pat Casey, Director of Management & Budget

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING of September 26, 2005
Moved by Ald. Jean-Baptiste, unanimously approved.

IV. Citizen Comment
• Paul White, Prairie Moon Restaurant

V. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION ON COUNCIL AGENDA

(A1) * City of Evanston Payroll through 09/22/05 $2,175,189.70
(A2) * City of Evanston Bills through 09/27/05 $5,195,301.67
Item A1 and A2 was considered, moved by Ald. Jean-Baptiste, unanimously approved.

(A3.1) Approval of lowest responsive & responsible bid for the Lagoon Building Exterior Rehabilitation Project from Workmaster, located 220 Graceland Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois, in the amount of $78,089. Funded by Capital Improvement Program funds. Ald. Wollin asked about scheduling a Preservation Review. Dave Cook, “It’s already been approved.”
Item A3.1 was considered, Ald. Rainey moved for approval, unanimously approved.
(A3.2) Approval of the lowest responsive and responsible bid from G.E. Riddiford Company, located 2333 Hamilton Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois, in the total amount of $110,329 for roof repairs at the Fleetwood Jordain. Funded by the Capital Improvement Program.
Item A3.2 was considered, Ald. Jean-Baptiste moved for approval, unanimously approved.

(A3.3) Approval of professional services contract for Waters Consulting Group, located 2508 Dysart Road, Cleveland, Ohio, for Superintendent of Water & Sewer and Superintendent of Streets and Sanitation in the amount of $44,000. Funded by the Water fund and the General Fund.
Item A3.3 was considered, Ald. Wollin moved for approval, unanimously approved.

(A3.4) Approval of professional services contract for architectural consulting services for Fire Station #5 (RFP) by the Muller & Muller Architect Firm, located 700 North Sangamon, Chicago, Illinois, in the amount of $290,269. Funded by the Capital Improvement Program fund. Mayor Morton clarified the firm is doing the designing, consulting, and observation.
Item A3.4 was considered, unanimously approved.

(A3.5) Approval of pre-qualifications of painting contractors for various city projects. Funding allocated in the FY 2005-07 budgets. Julia Carroll clarified the time frames and funding. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked why does the City need qualified painters for two years. It closes the emerging groups that might compete a year from now. Rubin explained he was trying to cut back on the length of time it takes to get contract. Rubin explained the jobs are small scale, protocol still has to be followed, and there were no restrictions to keep them from applying. Ald. Rainey asked if we could open bidding to add to the pre-qualified list as a resolution. Tolston-Brown explained that the City bidded for this twice. The jobs are small and the interest is minimal. Guaranteed work cannot be promised. David Cook added to Tolston-Brown’s statement. Ald. Jean-Baptiste confirmed purpose of pre-qualification. If we put out a 15k job, would the responses be the same? Tolston-Brown explained the dollar amounts were between 3k – 5k. She further explained the process and criteria that determines target audience and logic. David Cook gave Council an example of an awarded contract paint job. Rubin added that the list provided is comprised of interested, qualified parties. Ald. Rainey asked if the MBE/WE/EBE communicated with minority contractors? She asked if staff has participated in getting the list. Tolston-Brown discussed joined departmental efforts to contact minority businesses. Alderman agreed the process is credible. Ald. Rainey wants to add to the list.
Item A3.5 was considered, unanimously approved.

(A3.6) Approval of pre-qualified consulting engineering firms for Water Main, Sewer & Street improvements. Funded by the Water Fund. Item A3.6 was considered, unanimously approved.

(A3.7) Approval of proposal for engineering services from Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc. in an amount not-to-exceed $240,257.76 for Water Main, Sewer & Street Improvement projects. Funded by the Water Fund. Ald. Rainey referred to the map and asked about the water main installation. Dave Stoneback reviewed all included work. Ald. Jean-Baptiste wanted to know how the City determines the next task regarding repair. Stoneback discussed coordination, priority techniques, and logic used in determinations and gave examples. Ald. Rainey also asked about Regina Webster and Associates’ function in this project. Stoneback explained she would provide field inspection of the resident manager. The Mayor inquired which budget would this be coming out of. Dave replied it is in this year’s budget with dollar amounts. The Mayor just wanted to ensure our language is correct regarding budget approval. Item A3.7 was considered, Ald. Wollin moved for approval, unanimously approved.

(A4) Resolution 54-R-05 – Top of the Tracks Lease
Consideration of proposed Resolution 54-R-05 to approve lease renewal for Top of the Tracks for 5 years at the Central Street Metra Station; currently $481 monthly increasing annually to the fifth year of $583.
Item A4 was considered, Ald. Wollin moved for approval, unanimously approved.

(A5) Resolution 55-R-05 - Assuming Responsibility for the Temporary Closing of Sheridan Road for the NU Homecoming Parade
Consideration of proposed Resolution 55-R-05 by which the City Council would accept liability for the temporary closure of Sheridan Road for the Annual Northwestern University Homecoming Parade on Friday October, 28th.
Item A5 was considered, unanimously approved.

(A6) Resolution 56-R-05 – Debt Abatement
Consideration of proposed Resolution 56-R-05 abating debt service property tax on bonds issued by the City in 1992.
Ald. Rainey asked for a small presentation from Finance Director, Bill Stafford, on behalf of the new alderman what these Resolutions are. Stafford explained the City’s debt management program stating the following: “Using our triple A rating we can issue bonds at the lowest interest rate. We try to use general obligation bonds for everything from TIF to Water & Sewer. We issue GO bonds and reimburse the debt service bond by another project fund. We do abatements. When you issue bonds you have to issue with the County that those bonds will be paid for by the property taxes. In some situations like the sewer bonds we
don’t have to use the property taxes because we have the sewer funds so we have to abate them. We have to go down to the County and say instead of a million dollars in property taxes for this specific issue, we want to use only a half million because we using a half million from our sewer funds to pay it off. So the City has a series of abatements, this is the first of two sets. Last year there were ten. We do these annually. The County is allowing us to do these for four different bond issues. This is the last time you’ll see these. After this it will be done administratively. Abatement is the mechanism that allows us to pay back bonds using multiple sources. Ald. Rainey wanted to know if there were any advantages to the taxpayer using this method. Stafford responded yes and explained the interest rate and savings on the GO bonds. He explained percentages and TIF funds that are GO bonds to get a lower interest rate. The City has been using this method for the past ten years. Ald. Holmes wanted to know the difference in these four years than what’s coming up. Stafford explained that instead of bringing these back every year, the way this is structured, the abatement for these is for the remainder of the bond term, for the next ten years so staff doesn’t have to bother council with this again. The other five staff/Cook County can’t do that because it’s a function of how much money we get, special assessments and different revenue streams. The other five staff will be coming back with those every year. Ald. Rainey asked for approval on all bond issues: 56-R, 57-R, 58-R, 59-R.

Item A6 – A9 was considered, Ald. Hansen moved for approval, unanimously approved.

(A7) Resolution 57-R-05 – Debt Abatement
Consideration of proposed Resolution 57-R-05 abating debt service property tax on bonds issued by the City in 1994.

Item A6 – A9 was considered, Ald. Hansen moved for approval, unanimously approved.

(A8) Resolution 58-R-05 – Debt Abatement
Consideration of proposed Resolution 58-R-05 abating debt service property tax on bonds issued by the City in 1995.

Item A6 – A9 was considered, Ald. Hansen moved for approval, unanimously approved.

(A9) Resolution 59-R-05 – Debt Abatement
Consideration of proposed Resolution 59-R-05 abating debt service property tax on bonds issued by the City in 1996.

Item A6 – A9 was considered, Ald. Hansen moved for approval, unanimously approved.

(A10) Ordinance 88-O-05 – Increase Bid Limit
Consideration of proposed Ordinance 88-O-05 increasing the bid limit from $15,000 to $25,000. Ald. Wollin motioned for approval, Ald. Holmes seconded it. Staff noted few purchases that fall between 15k – 20k. Ald. Rainey is asking Council to vote against this because it takes away power from the Council and we are very concerned about small local purchases. Ald. Jean-Baptiste commented that the local businesses are being left out or not getting as much access. Not saying that staff isn’t
doing a good job. The extent that we raise the bid limit is the extent that we lose some of that vigilance that we assist you with in ensuring that the local people get a piece of the pie. I will vote against it. Ald. Rainey says staff wouldn’t be any less vigilant but it gives us an opportunity to know more by keeping the maximum at 15k. The more Council knows the better understanding Council has about how this city is run. Ald. Wollin feels that this committee in particular has been very clear about the direction we want staff to take in seeking out bids and minority contractors. She has every faith that staff understands the intention of the Council. Ald. Wollin has no problem enforcing the state’s bid minimum. Ald. Rainey compared us to Skokie and Springfield (15k) and Naperville (25k). Julia Carroll clarified with the governor changing state law, Springfield and Skokie will be at 20k. Carroll asked Stafford for confirmation before and after the change what the bid limits were. Stafford clarified there was no change. Ald. Rainey motioned to approve Item A10. The committee voted four nays, one yea.

Item A10 was considered, Ald. Rainey moved for approval. 4 NO, 1 YEA. Item A10 was not approved.

(A11) Ordinance 109-O-05 – Amendment to Real Estate Transfer Tax
Consideration of proposed Ordinance 109-O-05 amending section 3-29-6(K) of the city code pertaining to transfer tax exempt transactions. Ald. Rainey motioned, Ald. Hansen moved for approval. Ald. Bernstein opposed to changing both simultaneously. Ald. Bernstein brought up a question of capital gains. Ald. Rainey moved that Council will hold this item allowing staff to do more research. Ald. Jean-Baptiste suggested the Council introduces it and return it to Committee by the City Council.

Item A10 was introduced and held by Council.

(A12) Ordinance 110-O-05- Amending Various Sections of Title 3, Section 5 of the Evanston City Code pertaining to Alcoholic Liquor
Consideration of proposed ordinance 110-O-05 increasing the fine amount for underage drinking, the use of false identification, parental responsibility, and all other violation of the City of Evanston liquor code to a minimum of $500.00 and a maximum of $1,000.00. Ald. Rainey quoted numbers from the Agenda Item Summary documentation regarding fine collections and number of tickets issued, and supports the increase of fines, especially at the liability of the establishment. Ald. Bernstein talked about court appearances, lack of evidence, and number of tickets issued to underage drinkers. Casey pointed out that this ordinance specifies what kind of identification is acceptable. Ald. Wollin asked if we were going in the wrong direction looking at just establishments that have separate bars referring to the Las Palmas case. Ald. Wollin also supports the ordinance. Ald. Rainey referred to a Northwestern University Associated Student Government website that critiques restaurants, food and drink, and where you can go with fake ids for under aged drinking. Paul White from Prairie Moon wants to dispel the appearance of lack of consciousness toward admitting under
aged drinkers into their establishment. He mentioned prevention programs. He described a typical week which included when under aged patrons are admitted. Ald. Berstein clarified his initial point and explained why he was at the hearing. Ald. Rainey cited a case of repeated under aged admission. Pat Casey, Director of Management & Budget, said that at 18, they are legal adults and are responsible for themselves. The City can do some more things with Collections to increase fine collection success. The Mayor asked if once having retrieved the names of perpetrators, could that list be sent to establishments to prevent admission. Pat says no, that would be infringement upon rights. Motioned by Ald. Wollin to approve Item A12, A13, and A14, Ald. Jean-Baptiste seconded the motion. Pat went on to explain that the following ordinances give the City more strength in curbing under age drinking and holds the business owners and staff responsible. Ald. Rainey declared to any business owners present that this issue will only be discussed tonight otherwise there will be a two-week wait.

Item A12, A13, A14 was considered, unanimously approved.

(A13) Ordinance 111-O-05- Amending Section 9-5-1(D) of the Evanston City Code pertaining to fines for alcoholic consumption and possession on public property
Consideration of proposed ordinance 111-O-05 increasing the fine from for consumption or possession of alcoholic liquor on public property to a minimum of $500.00 and a maximum of $1,000.00. Item A12 – A14 was considered, unanimously approved.

(A14) Ordinance 112-O-05- Amending Title3, Chapter 5 of the Evanston City Code pertaining to Liquor License Responsibility
Consideration of proposed ordinance 112-O-05 establishing the licensee responsibility for any act of the licensee, officer, manager or employee for violations of the City of Evanston Liquor Code. Item A12 – A14 was considered, unanimously approved.

(A15) Ordinance 113-O-05 - Increase in Class D liquor License
Consideration of proposed ordinance 113-O-05 increasing the number from 23 to 24 for Cosi, Incorporated; dba Cosi located at 1740 Sherman Avenue. Ald. Jean-Baptiste moved approval. Ald. Wollin shared an experience at Cosi’s. Ald. Rainey asked if patrons had to walk up individually and order drinks. Pat Casey explained “ordering for the table” is not allowed.
Item A15 was considered, Ald. Jean-Baptiste moved for approval, unanimously approved.

(A16) Ordinance 114-O-05 – Decrease in the Number of Class D Liquor Licenses
Consideration of proposed ordinance 114-O-05 amending Section 3-5-6 of the City Code to decrease the number of Class D liquor Licenses from 24 to 23 due to the closing of New Japan Oriental Cafe Inc. dba New Japan Oriental Cafe located at 1322 Chicago Avenue.  
Item A16 was considered, Ald. Wollin moved for approval, unanimously approved.

(A17) Ordinance 116-O-05 - Decrease in the Number of Class D Liquor Licenses  Consideration of proposed ordinance 116-O-05 decreasing the number of Class D Liquor Licenses due to the closing of Aladdin's Eatery of Illinois, LLC. Doing business as Aladdin's Eatery at 622 Davis Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201.  
Item A17 was considered, Ald. Jean-Baptist moved for approval, unanimously approved.

V. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(APW1) Citywide hands-free requirements for cell phone usage.  
Ald. Jean-Baptiste requested that Council holds APW1 until the next meeting.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motioned to adjourn at 6:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores Y. Cortez  
City Manager’s Office