ADMINISTRATION & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Monday, October 10, 2005
7:00p.m. – 8:14p.m.

Evanston Civic Center
Room 2404


Members Absent:

Staff Present: Judy Aiello, Chief Berkowsky, Kathy Brenniman, Bobbie Tolston-Brown, Julia A. Carroll, Pat Casey, David Cook, Dolores Y. Cortez, Rajeev Dahal, Paul D’Augustino, Bob Dornecker, Zeltee Edwards, Ron Gannon, David Jennings, Vincent Jones, Mary Morris, Elke Purze, Max Rubin, William Stafford, Dave Stoneback, Judy Witt


Presiding: Alderman Rainey, Chair

I. DECLARATION OF QUORUM.

With quorum present, Alderman Rainey called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING of September 26, 2005

Ald. Rainey moved approval, Ald. Jean-Baptiste seconded motion. Minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Citizen Comment

V. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION ON COUNCIL AGENDA

(A1) * City of Evanston Payroll through 10/06/05 $2,126,332.12

(A2) * City of Evanston Bills through 10/11/05 $7,140,102.28

Ald. Holmes asked about a silk screen tee shirt line item, why were there so many entries for the same thing. Julia explained it could be different order dates. Item A1 and A2 was considered, unanimously approved.

(A3.1) * Approval of purchase of three-hundred twenty-five (325) trees from the Suburban Tree Consortium and Beeson’s McHenry County Nursery located at 8501 White Oaks Road, Harvard, IL 60033 in the amount of $73,030.00. Funded by the General Fund. Ald. Holmes asked if we had a tree survival tracking technique such as a contract or warranty? Paul D’Augustino explained the City receives a one-year guarantee with all trees. So we track life/death for one year. Item A3.1 was considered, unanimously approved.
(A3.2)  * Approval of the lowest responsive and responsible bid from Continental Construction located at 1919 Greenwood Street, Evanston, Il 60201 in the amount of $33,000 for the Fleetwood-Jourdain Gym Window Wall Renovation. Funded by 2005-06 CDBG funds. Item A3.2 was considered, moved for approval by Ald. Hansen, seconded by Ald. Jean-Baptiste, unanimously approved.

(A3.3) * Approval of sole source purchase for parking meter equipment from Duncan Technologies located at 340 West Industrial Park Road, Harrison, Arkansas 72601 in the amount of $257,650 to accommodate the rate increase in all non-downtown 2-hour zones. Funded by the Parking Fund. Ald. Holmes needed clarity on the number of new units and updates. Jennings explained in detail the updating mechanisms in accordance to the parking rate change. Ald. Rainey tried to clarify Ald. Holmes’ question by paraphrasing: are 930 meters complete or do we need part of the 670 to go into them. The 930 meters are complete meters. The 670 housings have the coin interface to convert over to the new rates. Ald. Hansen referred to the memo focusing on the age of the vendor and our selection. She asked Jennings what year was that? Jennings responded 23 years ago. Ald. Hansen asked if it was because our meters were so old and have to stay with them? Jennings explained that as we get into electronic meters, compatibility becomes an issue with rate changes, and makes for one stock of parts instead of two for the technicians. We used to have POM meters. Ald. Hansen asked if the City staff has ever considered parking kiosks as opposed to meter replacement? Jennings said that will be an agenda item at the next Parking Committee meeting and will recommend a trial run. Item A3.3 was considered, unanimously approved.

(A4)  * Resolution 60-R-05 – Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation Grant Application Consideration of proposed Resolution 60-R-05 authorizing the City Manager to sign the FY 2005-06 Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation Grant Application to obtain grant funds for renovation of the baseball/softball field at Mason Park. Item A4 was considered, unanimously approved.

(A5)  * Resolution 61-R-05 – Debt Abatement Consideration of proposed Resolution 61-R-05 abating debt service property tax on bonds issued by the City in 1997.

(A6)  * Resolution 62-R-05 – Debt Abatement Consideration of proposed Resolution 62-R-05 abating debt service property tax on bonds issued by the City in 1999.

(A7)  * Resolution 63-R-05 – Debt Abatement Consideration of proposed Resolution 63-R-05 abating debt service property tax on bonds issued by the City in 2000.

(A8)  * Resolution 64-R-05 – Debt Abatement Consideration of proposed Resolution 64-R-05 abating debt service property tax on Series A and B bonds issued by the City in 2002.

(A9)  * Resolution 65-R-05 – Debt Abatement Consideration of proposed Resolution 65-R-05 abating debt service property tax on Series C bonds issued by the City in 2002.

(A10)  * Resolution 66-R-05 – Debt Abatement Consideration of proposed Resolution 66-R-05 abating debt service property tax on bonds issued by the City in 2003.

(A11)  * Resolution 67-R-05 – Debt Abatement Consideration of proposed Resolution 67-R-05 abating debt service property tax on bonds issued by the City in 2004.
(A12)  * Resolution 68-R-05 – Debt Abatement
Consideration of proposed Resolution 68-R-05 abating debt service property tax
on bonds issued by the City in 2005. Ald. Rainey solicited comments from Stafford.
Stafford referred to the last committee meeting that these are annual abatement
resolutions that the City has to make and they mainly relate to two factors. One is
several of these bond issues, three of them, are variable rate (float), therefore we have
to change every year what we’re going to abate as the interest changes every year.
There are also several of them that relate to TIF districts and depending on how much
money we get in from the TIF districts, we abate them and pay for the bonds out of
that. We monitor these annually because the money changes annually. That’s the
difference.

Item A5 – A12 was considered as a group, unanimously approved.

(A13) * Resolution 69-R-05 – Retirement Health Savings Plan for Senior
Management Staff
Consideration of proposed Resolution 69-R-05 authorizing the City Manager to
implement a Retirement Health Savings Plan for senior management staff with
ICMA-RC utilizing the Vantagecare Retirement Health Savings Plan.

Item A13 was considered, unanimously approved.

(A14) * Resolution 70-R-05 – Intergovernmental Agreement for the Maintenance of
Municipal Street
Consideration of proposed Resolution 70-R-05 authorizing the City Manager to
sign an agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation for a ten year
intergovernmental agreement for the maintenance of municipal streets. Ald.
Rainey shared the fact that Evanston has thirteen lane miles of unmarked state routes.
Ald. Bernstein asked if this would affect jurisdictional transfers. Both the City Manager
and Chairman of the committee reassured Ald. Bernstein that the jurisdictional
transfers would not be affected.

Item A14 was considered, unanimously approved.

(A15) * Ordinance 108-O-05 – Amending the Composition of the Emergency
Telephone System Board
Consideration of proposed Ordinance 108-O-05 amending Section 2-12-2 of the
Evanston City Code, 1979, Relating to the composition of the Emergency
Telephone System Board. Ald. Rainey asked for a motion, Ald. Jean-Baptiste
moved approval, Ald. Rainey reviewed concept of ordinance.

Item A15 was considered, unanimously approved.

(A16) * Ordinance 88-O-05 – Increase Bid Limit
Consideration of proposed Ordinance 88-O-05 increasing the bid limit from
$15,000 to $25,000. Introduced and Referred back to Committee 9/26/05. Ald.
Rainey checked with Skokie. Her findings was that Skokie’s bid limit remains at 10k.
Ald. Wollin feels that if it’s only 1.3% of everything that comes before the committee,
then what is the harm in increasing the number and believing in the capability of our
staff. Ald. Rainey feels City staff has not always practiced perfect judgment in previous
instances. She believes Council involvement provides understanding of city operations.
She does not want to give up oversight over what the Council has oversight of. Stafford
stated the reason why State increased the bid limit is because 10k is too small. He
believes a bid increase gives the City more flexibility to work on behalf of Council and
the City gets better bidding numbers. Stafford expressed an understanding of Ald.
Rainey’s concern and continued to assure her an increase in the bid limit is beneficial
to Evanston. Ald. Rainey moved to approve an amended bid limit increase to 20k. Ald.
Jean-Baptiste seconded the motion and requested a further amendment of including a
quarterly report regarding the contract details. He wants to ensure minorities are
included. Stafford reported that staff currently provides that data in a CDBG report and
will be glad to provide same info to Council. Ald. Rainey clarified direction of reports
(delivered to Council) and content (bids 20k+). Item A16 was considered with
amendments, moved by Ald. Rainey, seconded by Ald. Jean-Baptiste, unanimously approved.

(A17) * 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 real estate transfer tax-exempt transactions.
Introduced and Referred back to Committee 9/26/05. Ald. Rainey was under the impression Council was going to receive some information and asked Ald. Bernstein to restate his issues with the ordinance. Ald. Bernstein stated he was unaware that we exempt stock or transfers. He would move to remove any exemptions from stock or exchanges. A simultaneous transfer is seldom if ever the case. The fact that you’re going to buy or sell a property in Evanston in the same day is seldom. He explained the current language regarding buying and selling. Ald. Berstein explained circumstances where no taxes are exchanged and turned it over to Kathy Brenniman who explained why the City is applying taxes and legal interpretation and provisions of the ordinance. Ald. Rainey asked how is the dollar amount is determined. Mary Morris, City Clerk, explained the process. Kathy Brenniman explained purpose of amendment which is to gain revenue and tighten up the exemption. Ald. Bernstein is suggesting repeal. Ald. Rainey requested a report for the past year on how many simultaneous exchanges occurred in Evanston. Ald. Rainey asked for recommendation from the Council. Kathy Brenniman offered to bring an amended ordinance accomplishing the wishes of the Council by next meeting. Brenniman asked that Council holds this item and staff will bring back an amended ordinance at the next committee meeting. Chairperson Ald. Rainey agreed.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(APW1) Emergency Vehicle Access on City Streets
Dave Jennings and Chief Berkowsky presented a Powerpoint presentation on item for discussion. Ald. Tisdahl is very pleased with the presentation and supports the street widening concept. Ald. Holmes invited Jennings to come to a ward meeting and show the same presentation. Jennings stated he may not be able to come himself as he would be out of town, but assured the alderman that someone would be available to her. Ald. Rainey and Ald. Jean-Baptiste feel the aldermen should be communicated with including neighbors. Ald. Moran feels this has not been previously discussed. He wants more conversation, door-to-door talking to people before any actions are taken.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

VI. ADJOURNMENT
Motioned to adjourn at 8:14pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores Y. Cortez
City Manager’s Office