I. DECLARATION OF QUORUM
With quorum present, Alderman Jean-Baptiste called the meeting to order at 5:39pm and asked for a consent agenda.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING of February 27, 2006
Unanimous approval of the minutes.

III. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION ON COUNCIL AGENDA
Chairman requested a consent agenda

(A1) * City of Evanston Payroll through 03/09/06
    Item A1 approved by consent.
    $2,128,150.05

(A2) * City of Evanston Bills through 03/16/06
    Item A2 approved by consent.
    $4,037,314.86

(A3.1) * Approval of 2006 Special Events Calendar
Rachelle Ford put forth her request regarding upcoming march for Family Day in Fountain Square. Doug Gaynor, Director of Parks/Recs., explained the request was to waive fees, the Human Services Committee denied request but would approve contingent upon the fees being paid. Gaynor said he didn’t know about the march until Tues. am after the committee met. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked for compromise of 50%. Ald. Rainey asked Ms. Ford to become more aware of rules pertaining to marching for a smoother process and does not support price discount for permit. Ms. Ford stated the date she applied for the permit(1 month ago) and explained the shortage of time before. Ald. Holmes, “Isn’t the fee $150?” Gaynor confirmed. Alderman Holmes continued, “If we do it for you, we’ll have to do it for all groups.” Rachelle
reiterated that the reason she came was to ask for the support of the committee and recognize their out-of-pocket expenses thus asking to waive the $150 fee. Ald. Holmes stated that “If you’re going to have future events, you might consider listing your events as a group and then we could consider a price discount. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked “Would this fee have to be paid every time?” Gaynor replied, “Yes, $150.” That’s a policy decision of the City Council. Ald. Delores Holmes moved that multiple events for the same organization would pay one application fee. Judy Aiello let the Committee know that we would have to bring back an amendment. Doug Gaynor reinforced that. Our deadline is Saturday.

Item A3.1 was discussed and approved.

(A3.2) * Approval of contract amendment for Executive Partners (14 Hidden Brook Drive, Barrington, IL) in the amount of $6,825 for the Strategic Planning Project. Funding provided by the City Manager’s FY 2005-06 budget.

Item A3.2 approved by consent.

(A3.3) * Approval of the purchase of a new audio/video system from United Visual (1050 Spring Lake Drive, Itasca, IL) for the Main Public Library in the City of Evanston at a cost of $26,419.20. Funding provided by Evanston Community Foundation, Library Book Sale, and Library operating account.

Item A3.3 approved by consent.

(A3.4) * Approval of purchase of a special service police vehicle, using the Suburban Purchasing Consortium bid, from Currie Motors (9423 West Lincoln Highway, Frankfort, IL) for the Evanston Police Department at a cost of $28,207. Funding provided by Fleet Service Capital Fund.

Item A3.4 approved by consent.

(A3.5) * Approval of purchase of eight police sedan vehicles, using the State of Illinois bid, from Landmark Ford, Inc. (2400 Prairie Crossing Drive, Springfield, IL) for the Evanston Police Department at a cost of $178,692. Funding provided by Fleet Service Capital Fund.

Item A3.5 approved by consent.

(A3.6) * Approval of purchase of a 2006 Ford F250 pickup truck, using the State of Illinois bid, from Dennison Corporation (1508 Morrissey Drive, Bloomington, IL) for Evanston’s Park, Forestry and Recreation Department at a cost of $18,488. Funding provided by Fleet Service Capital Fund.

Item A3.6 approved by consent.

(A3.7) * Approval of purchase of a 2006 Ford F250 cargo van, using the State of Illinois bid, from Dennison Corporation (1508 Morrissey Drive, Bloomington, IL) for Evanston’s Facilities Management Department at a cost of $17,888. Funding provided by Fleet Service Capital Fund.

Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked for clarity regarding the condition of the vehicles. Cathy Radek, Public Works, expounded on request for purchase explaining how the undercarriage of the vehicles wear out. Ald. Holmes couldn’t understand the numbers. Radek explained the application is relevant to mileage. She gave examples such as Park Rangers and their driving habits during work. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked if this truck would go on the auction list and how large is the fleet? Max Rubin, Director of Facilities Management, and Radek responded, fleet
size is 15 trucks. Max Rubin, Director of Facilities Management, explained that trucks are equipped according to their purpose. Radek expounded and gave more examples. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked how much money the city gets for auctioned vehicles. Radek: she sends reports stating quotes. It’s a little hard to tell, depending on condition of vehicle, gave a price range. Rubin added maintenance issues. Ald. Jean-Baptiste recalled a question raised by Ald. Rainey – what do we do with discarded equipment? Is an auction the best way to get a return on our investment? The local public might be interested. Radek replied she would be more than happy to publicize auction.

Item A3.7 is approved.

(A3.8) * Approval of the lowest responsive and responsible bid from Pederson Construction Inc. (935 Holmes Avenue, Deerfield, IL) in the amount of $263,430 for the Eiden Park Renovations Project. Funding provided by Capital Improvement Program.

Item A3.8 approved by consent.

(A3.9) * Approval of the lowest responsive and responsible bid from R & W Clark Construction (1948 97th Avenue, Mokena, IL) in the amount of $196,000 for the Monroe Tot Lot and Sargent Park Renovations Project. Funding provided by Capital Improvement Program.

Item A3.9 approved by consent.

(A3.10) * Approval of the lowest responsive and responsible bid from Bolder Contractors (440 Lake Cook Road Deerfield, IL) in the amount of $3,866,850 b for the 2006 Water Main Improvement Contract A. Funding provided by CIP, Sewer, and Water Funds.

Ald. Holmes is asking for clarity on the M/W E/B/E details of the attached memo. Bobbie Tolston, Purchasing Director, explained the M/W E/B/E clause in detail covering who reviews the contract and ensures compliance. Ald. Holmes is asking will this contractor have some Evanston residents, minorities? Tolston could not give an accurate answer at that time and reiterated Ald. Holmes’ question. Ald. Jean-Baptiste agrees with Ald. Holmes about finding out what gender and ethnicity was hired if any for this contract. Ald. Rainey feels the memo is completely inadequate and would like to hold it until the committee receives more information. Tolston asked Ald. Rainey what is the council requesting? Ald. Rainey referred her to look at previous memos. Item A3.10 was discussed and held.

(A4.1) * Approval of Change Order # 8 for the Sherman Plaza Garage to W.E. O'Neill for $119,808, increasing the contract from $40,534,333 to $40,654,141. Funding provided by the Washington National TIF.

Ald. Holmes initially requested item to be removed from consent agenda because of a high price line item. Max Rubin explained in detail. Ald. Rainey asked about the plumbing line item. Max Rubin explained in detail. Ald. Rainey asked if we take full responsibility for that, was that a design error? Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked if the city would get a refund for design errors at the end of the project. Max Rubin stated we will try. There will be discussion. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked that as the project is coming to a close, Max would provide the committee with a report. Ald. Rainey is asking for schematics. Rubin stated we did not spend the money on that, but he will try to get her something that will help.

Item A4.1 approved.
(A4.2) * Approval of Change Order #1 for the HVAC Systems for the Service Center to Central Lakes Construction Company (749 Pinecrest Drive Prospect Heights, Illinois) for $16,350, increasing the contract from $795,878 to $812,228. Funding provided by CIP funds.

Ald. Jean-Baptiste stated “As the work was being done, we discovered that there was not adequate separation between the water line. How do we not know based on the photographs?” Rubin explained the city didn’t know until we started digging. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked if we had video capability to detect things like this. Rubin insisted that while that assumption is true, distance cannot be determined. Rubin explained there is a code to separate water and sewer pipes. Ald. Holmes was not clear on the location. Rubin explained the location more clearly. Ald. Jean-Baptiste mentioned the reoccurring question that comes up with change-orders, makes one wonder what were the original bids, what were the differentials in bids. Rubin explained it would not have mattered who the contractor was, the error would have been discovered and would’ve been a surprise to whomever the contractor was. Item A4.2 approved.

(A5) * Ordinance 42-O-06 4 Way Stop at Clinton Place and Orrington Avenue
Consideration of proposed Ordinance 42-O-06 amending Section 10-11-5, Schedule V (D) of the City Code, to establish a Four-Way Stop at Clinton Place and Orrington Avenue.

Item A5 approved by consent.

(A6) * Ordinance 41-O-06 – Loading Zone at 1815 Brown Avenue
Consideration of proposed Ordinance 41-O-06 amending Section 10-11-7, Schedule VII (B) of the City Code of a loading zone at 1815 Brown Avenue for the disabled.

Item A6 approved by consent.

(A7) * Ordinance 43-O-06 – Increasing the number of Class C Liquor Licenses
Consideration of proposed Ordinance 43-O-06 amending Section 3-5-6 (C) of the City Code increasing the number of Class C Liquor Licenses from twenty-one to twenty-two due to the addition of Trattoria D.O.C., dba Trattoria D.O.C. (706 Main Street, Evanston, IL).

Ald. Rainey asked the restaurant owner for details of restaurant just to learn more about it. Item A7 was discussed and approved.

(A8) * Ordinance 44-O-06 – Increasing the number of Class B Liquor Licenses
Consideration of proposed Ordinance 44-O-06 amending Section 3-5-6 (B) of the City Code increasing the number of Class B Liquor Licenses from thirteen to fourteen due to the addition of YJK Corp., dba Kansaku Restaurant (1514 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, IL).

Ald. Rainey asked for details of restaurant and mentioned the liquor ordinances, will it be attractive to students, had he received the BASSETT training, and had he ever had a liquor license before. The owner of Kansaku explained. Item A8 was discussed and approved.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
V. COMMUNICATIONS

(APW1) Report on Taxicab Advisory Board

The Chairman called for someone to respond to the report. No one responded to the Alderman’s request. The meeting continued.

(APW2) Update on Hiring Firefighters

Ald. Jean-Baptiste referred to statistics regarding hiring African-Americans and asked how is the Fire Department supporting diversity when in March the Fire Department hired seven Caucasian males? The Chairman sent a request to the City Manager for an explanation. Bill Smith, Chairman of Civil Service Commission says the issue is really how do we get minorities in the door? Mr. Smith mentioned testing results statistics listed in the report. Recruiting was mentioned as a viable method to increasing hiring opportunities.

Ald. Jean-Baptiste stated, “When I was on the Civil Service Commission, it was the same question, how do we reach that demographic?” It was the Alderman’s understanding that a process was put in place to do that. He wonders why it is still not happening. Bill Smith guarantees the Alderman will see results. Bill mentioned that another problem is people come in and pick up applications and never return them. Conversation with union members might encourage follow-up calls on non-returned applications. Ald. Rainey asked what are the age ranges. Chief Berkowski responded 21. In Chicago, 19 to apply, but 21 to perform the job. They allow sign-up at 19 because the list is long in Chicago. Ald. Rainey suggested providing scholarships for education in return for becoming a fireman, like the army. Ald. Jean-Baptiste recalled, “In the 60’s and 70’s when the doors started to open up, we had a good number of African-Americans fire fighters coming through the door. I don’t know what has changed. Since you have identified a greater proactivity will result in bringing more people through the door, I don’t know why we haven’t been doing that. Chief Berkowski explained that the city began an aggressive recruiting campaign, twelve fire fighters participated, job fairs, etc., but we had a small window. It has to be a constant, ongoing recruitment effort. Since 2003, we hired 15 fire fighters, twenty percent or three of them were African-Americans. So it hasn’t been a ten year period and it’s not high as we would like it to be, I agree, but we are making the effort and we will continue to make the effort.

Steve Ready, Local 742 President of the Fire Fighters Association and fire fighter (nineteen years experience, recruitment process for six years) feels the whole process needs to be revamped and looked at. He continued to say after the applicant takes the written and physical ability test, and then the applicant is placed on the list in categories. From this point all the way to the Civil Service Commission is where we should take a look. After the category list, they have what is called the panel review (5 person fire department personnel interviewing process). Steven Ready questions the panel’s interviewing skills. “It’s more less if I like you or I don’t like you. That cuts it down. There’s also the process of the background check, which is legitimate, file review, and the Civil Service interview. Now with the file review, we don’t know what they’re looking for that kicks a person out. I sat in on one Civil Service Interview. The questions seem to be fair, but then we have people judging based on the questions that they’re asking and the answers they are given. A lot of times that doesn’t determine whether or not a guy is going to become a fire fighter or not.” Ald. Jean-Baptiste interrupted to say, “By now the applicant has gone through almost two years of processing.” Steve continued, “That’s exactly right. You also have to remember the 2003 list was thrown out. There were some qualified candidates on that list that were hired by Chicago.” The former chief hired arbitrarily before there were tests. Ald. Rainey asked if valid African-American applicants can be removed from the traditional process and get reassurance to move through process. Ald. Holmes asked about the list being disposed of in 2003. Ald. Holmes and Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked who throws out the list?
Aiello offered explanation as to why the 2003 list was discarded. Ald. Jean-Baptiste explained that he is looking for equity and does not want to label it affirmative action. The statistics suggest discrimination. Aiello said the logic behind disposal of the 2003 and any innuendoes of discrimination need to be clarified. He went on to suggest that Aiello disclose resources to encourage minority hiring. Ald. Rainey clarified her statements. Ald. Hansen asked for clarity because the fire firefighter that Steven talked about was in her ward. Ald. Hansen is also interested in the categories.

VI.  ADJOURNMENT
     Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores Y. Cortez, Executive Assistant
City Manager's Office