Members Absent:  Ald. Rainey, Ald. Wollin
Staff Present:  Judy Aiello, Phillip Baugher, John Burke, Pat Casey, David Cook, Dolores Y. Cortez, Bob Dornecker, Matthew Grady III, David Jennings, Vincent Jones, Sat Nagar, Ann Pool, Elke Purze,
Others Present:  Ald. Bernstein, Ald. Tisdahl
Presiding:  Alderman Holmes

I. DECLARATION OF QUORUM
With quorum present, Alderman Holmes called the meeting to order at 5:40pm

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING of February 26, 2007
Minutes were unanimously approved. 3-0

III. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION ON COUNCIL AGENDA
Items were individually considered.

(A1)  * City of Evanston Payroll through 03/09/07 $2,212,770.47
      Item A1 unanimously approved. 3-0

(A2)  * City of Evanston Bills through FY06/07 03/12/07 $3,118,495.87
      FY07/08 03/13/07 $32,737.90
      Item A2 unanimously approved. 3-0

(A3.1)  * Approval of contract to Scott Balice Strategies (20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 2200, Chicago, Illinois 60606) as financial advisors for the City of Evanston for a three year period. The fee is $1.00 per bond. Other fees are outlined in Section 3, Compensation, of the professional service agreement which is attached. Funding provided by bond proceeds.
      Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked staff if the Balice Representative (Phoebe Selden) was present and if so would they stand and introduce themselves to the committee. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked about this being a new consultant and what her functions would be. Matthew Grady III (Director of Finance) explained the separate functions and consulting responsibilities.
      Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked if separating the functions meant a bigger expense. Matthew reassured council that they would be pleased with the savings and staff will keep council abreast of expenditures.
      Item A3.1 unanimously approved. 3-0
(A3.2)* Approval of contract to purchase four police cars for a total cost of $105,397. This includes two (2) police package 2007 Crown Victoria Police Interceptor sedan vehicles from Landmark Ford (2401 Prairie Crossing Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62711) in the amount of $51,298, one (1) Dodge Charger Police Pursuit Sedan from Bob Ridings (931 Springfield Road, Taylorville, Illinois 62568) in the amount of $28,499 and one (1) Dodge Charger Administrative Model in the amount of $25,600. The pricing is reflective of the State of Illinois Bid Specifications. Funding provided by the FY 2007/08 Budget from Fleet Services.

Item A3.2 unanimously approved. 3-0

(A4) * Resolution 09-R-07 Resolution of Intent to Reimburse CIP 2007-08 Expenditures From Proceeds of an Obligation

Consideration of proposed resolution 09-R-07 resolving that the City of Evanston expects to reimburse or pay the CIP 2007-08 expenditures with proceeds of an obligation, the maximum principal amount of which will be $12,000,000.

Ald. Jean-Baptiste observed the list of bonds and asked if that was the budget. Pat Casey (Director of Management, Business, and Information Systems) explained the reason for the resolution based on the approved budget. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked for explanation of the over 1million dollar expenditure on information technology. Casey explained the current infrastructure account and new technology initiatives. He referred to the Strategic Plan. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked when council approved the initial investment a couple years ago for a couple million dollars to institute new technology, was there a built in yearly purchase of services and upgrades. Pat Casey explained the purchase was the JDE accounting system. Casey went on to explain maintenance costs. He expounded on the five year strategic plan. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked for a report on how the city is spending money on strategic applications. Casey explained none of the money has been spent and went further to remind council that expenditures would have to be submitted to council for approval first. Casey will put together a short presentation to update council. Ald. Holmes asked about the other pod cameras. Casey explained where the process was and gave a completion date of spring. Pat explained there were some problems with electricity which caused a delay.

Item A4 unanimously approved. 3-0

(A5) * Ordinance 01-O-07 Special Assessment Alley 1487 North of Kedzie Street

Consideration of proposed ordinance 01-O-07 authorizing the paving of Special Assessment Alley 1487 North of Kedzie Street, East of Michigan Avenue.

Item A5 unanimously approved. 3-0

(A6) * Ordinance 02-O-07 Special Assessment Alley 1488 North of Clark Street

Consideration of proposed ordinance 02-O-07 authorizing the paving of Special Assessment Alley 1488 North of Clark Street, East of Chicago Avenue.

Citizen comment: Andrew McGonagle on behalf of Northwestern University, thanked the City for their partnership.

Item A6 unanimously approved. 3-0
Ordinance 03-O-07  Special Assessment Alley 1489 North of Noyes Street
Consideration of proposed ordinance 03-O-07 authorizing the paving of Special Assessment Alley 1489 North of Noyes Street, East of CTA Tracks (Noyes Court).

Citizen Comment: Pat Moral, lives on affected block. She explained letter previously submitted (January 10, 2007) to the Board of Local Improvements. Questions about the discrepancy on the city zone map have not been satisfactorily answered. The Board decided her property abuts the alley and is being assessed. Some of the signatures were duplicated and not current. Pat explained the hazard of the width of the alley and it being a two-way the hazards of a gravel alley that is no longer maintained. She fears when it becomes a paved alley, it too will not be maintained. She went on to explain the city wants to kill a tree that is on her property. She explained the eminent domain process and what the city would have to do get the tree, due process, and justified compensation. Pat alleges that the City incorrectly measured the distance between the alley and the tree. She measured herself and found no way the City could have arrived at the number they did. She has been paying taxes on the property for over 20 years. She feels her and the rights of other citizens were infringed upon. The Board of Local Improvement is not responding to her inquiries as they promised to do in January. There seems to be a clearly defined manner in which property lines are determined and no independent way to determine the same. She has attended their meetings to learn an ordinance has been drafted and presented to council without proper representation. Our questions and concerns have gone unanswered.

Citizen Comment: Ms. Jay proceeded to geographically explain the area. Ms. Jay says no one got a notice west of Noyes Court, although the city is saying we are in fact paving the alley. The interest of the single family owners is different, they don’t want the traffic. The inadequacies in measurement were mentioned at the meeting but the engineers never volunteered to go re-measure. It may be inevitable that it gets paved. Ms. Jay feels the things she mentioned need to be resolved by Council or answered by the Board before the ordinance moves forward.

David Jennings (Director of Public Works) introduced himself and his position (President of the Board of Local Improvements) and his two staff (John Burke, Traffic Engineering Supervisor and Sat Nager, Traffic Engineer). He explained each leg of the alley paving. There is no other north/south street defining this block. The alley does in fact touch the city property. The tree in that short stub is 70% on the property owner’s property and 30% on the City’s property. Sat showed pictures to council. The standard process was used to get signatures. The standard 51% was reached to move forward. The city used the standard unit measurement method assessment that is standard for alley pavings. This method lowers the cost than if they used other methods. The board deemed the units method being the most appropriate. The Board has the right to use six or eight other methods. Everybody has to pay the same. John Burke added that he reviewed the tree with Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the recommendation came from Parks, Forestry and Recreation. Ald. Holmes asked about the property line on one of the pictures. Sat Nagar clarified the Alderman’s question. Jennings continued that the city is not taking any property from anyone. He explained the benchmark process. The city is confident that there is no infringement. Jennings stated that the citizens did attend meetings and staff spoke personally with citizens. Everything but the location of the tree was discussed. John Burke explained what happened at the last meeting and the signatures questioned but compared with the County for integrity. Ald. Holmes is not clear on the names on the petition. Ald. Holmes asked for confirmation from staff that the names listed on the petition were verified with the County. Sat and John explained the number for and against.

Ald. Jean-Baptiste reviewed the number of names at the start of the petition and reviewed the allegations of the citizens. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked what the temperment is of the neighborhood. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked the citizen if she knew for sure or not that the necessary 51% was gained to moved forward. David Jennings confirmed for Council they have approximately 57% of the needed signatures. The Pat Moral insists that just because
the needed percentage was reached does not mean the signatures were legally obtained. Elke Purze (Legal Department) added clarity about the 51% being an internal policy and not a requirement. The City could go forward with what they have. Ald. Holmes asked if it would be possible to redo the petition. She related a similar instance in her neighborhood. Ald. Jean-Baptiste recognizes that the citizens should get a specific response to their concerns such as the tree. Judy Aiello asked Council what it is exactly that they want staff to respond to. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked about process. Ald. Hansen feels that not everyone is not going to be home to sign the petition, how would we get those who are not aware of the paving? Ald. Hansen feels redoing the process would be redundant. Ald. Jean-Baptiste would like staff to take a closer look at the letter and address the citizen’s complaint. Ald. Holmes would like to remove the city factor and believes it is more of a neighbor complaint. Jennings feels the board addressed documented concerns at the last public meeting. Staff agreed with complainant to go out to the area and explain measurements. Council asked that staff advise Alderman Wollin of the issue.

Item A7 unanimously Held. 3-0

(A8 ) * Ordinance 20-O-07 Establishing Class Z Liquor Licenses
Consideration of proposed ordinance 20-O-07 amending Section 3-5-6 of the City Code to add a new liquor Class Z, which will allow for wine/beer tasting on the premises of a cooking school, education wine school, or educational wine class.
Item A8 unanimously approved. 3-0

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

V. COMMUNICATIONS

VI. ADJOURNMENT: 6:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores Y. Cortez, Executive Assistant