ADMINISTRATION & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Monday, February 11, 2008
CIVIC CENTER, 2100 RIDGE AVENUE, ROOM 2404


Members Absent:

Staff Present: Judy Aiello, John Burke, Carla Bush, David Cook, Paul D’Agostino, Robert Dorneker, Steven Drazner, Chief Eddington, Suzette Eggleston, Nancy Flowers, Doug Gaynor, Beth Howlett, Jewel Jackson, David Jennings, Kevin Lookis, Gavin Morgan, Sat Nagar, Elke Purze, Rolanda Russell, David Stoneback, Evonda Thomas

Others Present: Ald. Bernstein, Ald. Tisdahl
Jonathan Perman, Evanston Chamber of Commerce

Presiding: Ald. Jean-Baptiste

I. DECLARATION OF QUORUM
With a quorum present, Alderman Jean-Baptiste called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING of January 28, 2008
Minutes were unanimously approved, 5-0

III. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION ON COUNCIL AGENDA
Committee Chair Ald. Jean-Baptiste proposed a consent agenda be used.

(A1)* City of Evanston Payroll through 02/07/08 $2,352,972.63
Item A1 was unanimously approved, 5 - 0

(A2)* City of Evanston Bills through 02/12/08 $3,812,243.18
Ald. Rainey stated that she thought the item concerning EVNORSKO had been discussed and settled six months ago. David Jennings (Director Public Works) was asked if IGO cars use this service. D. Jennings said no. Ald. Rainey moved to dismantle and sell the equipment from the EVNORSKO facility. Ald. Wollin seconded, the vote was unanimous, 5 – 0. D. Jennings will investigate dissolving the partnership and disposing of the equipment. Ald. Wollin asked what Department uses the psychological tests. Gavin Morgan (Assistant to City Manager) said it was the Police Department. Ald. Jean-Baptiste stated that every application to the Civil Service Commission includes a psychological as well as a physical test. Ald. Rainey was pleased that the Fancy Can questions were resolved.
Item A2 was unanimously approved, 5 - 0

(A3.1)* Approval of Lowest Responsive and Responsible Bids for 2008/09 Water Treatment Chemicals.
Recommend approval of lowest responsive and responsible bids (Bid # 08-76) for 2008/09 Water Treatment Chemicals from Polydyne (Sealy, TX) in the amount of $24,480, Rowell Chemical (Lisle, IL) in the amount of $46,920, Alexander Chemical Corp (Downers Grove, IL) in the amount of $152,100, Carus (Belmont, NC) in the amount of $77,056 and Usalco in the amount of $112,337.50. Funding
provided by Water Filtration account and Water Fund.
Ald. Rainey mentioned that she had asked for figures from last year so as to make a comparison between the two years. David Stoneback (Water Superintendent) passed out a document with a three year comparison of costs. The Department recommendation was for the lowest bidder but noted that prices are up due to the current market.
Item A3.1 approved, consent agenda motion and roll call (5 – 0)

(A4.1)* Change Order No 5 to the contract with Jay Dee Contractors, Inc. for the Basin S82B Contract 1 Relief Sewer Project
Recommend approval of Change Order No 5 to the contract with Jay Dee Contractors, Inc. (3881 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI) for the Basin S82B Contract 1 Relief Sewer project. The change order will decrease the contract price by $288,537.45. The total amount will go from $10,394,839.00 to $10,106,301.55.
Ald. Rainey noted that every year several sewer projects come in under budget. She asked that since we do not award projects until we have the IEPA loan amount, what happens to the unused balances. D. Stoneback said that there is no unused balance since the money is not borrowed in advance but after the invoices are received and paid. The IEPA only reimburses the City for actual expenses.
Item A4.1 approved, consent agenda motion and roll call (5 – 0)

(A5)* Resolution 09-R-08 Authorization for a Certification Statement Required for the Recreational Trails Program Grant Application
Consideration of resolution 09-R-08 authorizing the City Manager to sign a Certification Statement for the Recreational Trails Program grant applications through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.
Item A5 approved, consent agenda motion and roll call (5 – 0)

(A6)* Resolution 10-R-08 Authorization for a Certification Statement Required for the Illinois Bicycle Grant Application
Consideration of resolution 10-R-08 authorizing the City Manager to sign a Certification Statement for the Illinois Bicycle grant application through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.
Item A6 approved, consent agenda motion and roll call (5 – 0)

(A7)* Ordinance 34-O-08 Prepared Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverage Tax
Consideration of proposed ordinance 34-O-08 by which the City Council would approve a new tax entitled “Prepared Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverage Tax” which shall become effective April 1, 2008.
Ald. Wollin questioned item A of prepared food. S. Drazner (Acting Finance Director) said that the words “both alcoholic and” will be removed. Ald. Wollin questioned the statement about manufacturer’s containers. S. Drazner confirmed that those items will not be taxed. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked why the distinction between prepared and packaged. S. Drazner said that the City had always used those designations. Ald. Rainey asked if eggs and coke would have the same tax. S. Drazner said he would check in to it. Ald. Rainey referred to 3-2-19-4 and the comment concerning non-alcoholic liquor. S. Drazner said that description would be changed to “beverages”. Ald. Rainey pointed out that of all the e-mails she gets concerning the budget, and some are very strongly worded, this item was not opposed. Ald. Rainey asked what a full years taxes are estimated to be. S. Drazner said 850K. Jonathan Perman of the Evanston Chamber of Commerce, addressed the issue of why the Restaurant and Hospitality interests in Evanston do not think this is the best way to go. He offered another way to consider the impact of this ordinance. He handed out a document with three scenarios for a 15K dinner for 125 guests. The comparisons where between Winnetka, the current rates in Evanston and the proposed rate increase. He stated that every time a hotel or restaurant looses business, the City of Evanston loses revenue. In one example, the chart shows how the proposed increase in taxes would only increase revenue by 100 dollars. If that same 15K dinner was held elsewhere, the loss to revenue would be far above the gain from the proposed tax increase. He stated that the issue is not individuals but the loss of large parties. Ald.
Wollin assured J. Perman that all the individual diners in Evanston are not all residents of Evanston. Ald Wollin asked if he could differentiate between the banquet dinner and the dinner for two. J. Perman said at this time he could not but he was not suggesting having two taxes. Ald. Rainey stated that the City is always told that playing with the liquor tax is bad. But, she said, she is more concerned about raising property taxes. J. Perman said that businesses in the City of Evanston have to compete with businesses in all the neighboring suburbs. Ald. Rainey said that she realized that but finds our restaurants are nonethe-less heavily patronized by those from neighboring suburbs. Item A7 was unanimously approved, 5 – 0

(A8)* Ordinance 12-O-08 Proposed Paving of the Alley North of Grant Street/East of Cowper Avenue – Special Assessment 1490
Consideration of proposed ordinance 12-O-08 by which the City Council would authorize paving of the alley north of Grant Street/east of Cowper Avenue through the Special Assessment process.
Ald. Rainey asked if any residents had objected to this work. D. Jennings said no.
Item A8 approved, consent agenda motion and roll call (5 – 0)

(A9)* Ordinance 13-O-08 Proposed Paving of the Alley North of Davis Street/East of Judson Avenue – Special Assessment 1491
Consideration of proposed ordinance 13-O-08 by which the City Council would authorize paving of the alley north of Davis Street/east of Judson Avenue through the Special Assessment process.
Item A9 approved, consent agenda motion and roll call (5 – 0)

(A10)* Ordinance 14-O-08 Proposed Paving of the Alley North of Nathaniel Place/East of Fowler Avenue – Special Assessment 1492
Consideration of proposed ordinance 14-O-08 by which the City Council would authorize paving of the alley north of Nathaniel Street/east of Fowler Avenue through the Special Assessment process.
Ald. Jean-Baptiste noted that it is Nathaniel Place, not street.
Item A10 approved, consent agenda motion and roll call (5 – 0)

(A11)* Ordinance 15-O-08 Proposed Paving of the Alley North of Lake Street/East of CTA RR – Special Assessment 1493
Consideration of proposed ordinance 15-O-08 by which the City Council would authorize paving of the alley north of Lake Street/east of CTA RR through the Special Assessment process.
Item A11 approved, consent agenda motion and roll call (5 – 0)

(A12)* Ordinance 20-O-08 Proposed Retail Tobacco Vendor License Fee Amendment
Consideration of proposed ordinance 20-O-08 to increase the annual license fee charged to sell retail tobacco products in the City of Evanston from $250 to $500 by amending Section 3-16-4 of the City Code.
Item A12 approved, consent agenda motion and roll call (5 – 0)

(A13)* Ordinance 21-O-08 Proposed Health Code License & Fee Amendments
Consideration of proposed ordinance 21-O-08 to address food establishment license fees and food delivery vehicle licenses. Food delivery vehicle licenses will increase from $36 to $50 by amending Sections of Title 8 of the City Code.
Ald. Rainey asked for a clarification of “food delivery vehicles”. Carla Bush (Health Supervisor) said these are vehicles from wholesalers like Dominick’s and Jewel. Dominos and Peapod are not included. Ald. Wollin asked if it was based on temperature control vehicles. C. Bush said that is part of it and they are also checked as to cleanliness. Ald. Rainey asked how the Health Department knew what trucks to check. C. Bush stated that they are at the sites when trucks arrive. Ald. Holmes asked if this would cover little stores. C. Bush said yes, the ordinance is aimed at the truck, not the store. Ald. Rainey asked about station wagons making delivers behind stores. C. Bush
said that she would look into that.
Item A13 approved, consent agenda motion and roll call (5 – 0)

(A14)* Ordinance 22-O-08 Wheel Tax/Vehicle Sticker for FY 2008/09 Budget
Consideration of proposed ordinance 22-O-08 amending various sections of Title 10, Section 8 of the City Code entitled “Wheel Tax” which include changes in fees for the city of Evanston vehicle sticker.
Ald. Rainey stated that she hates to see an increase in the Wheel Tax. It only hurts the citizen who needs their car to get to work. In addition, she thinks it is regressive. Ald. Wollin pointed out that it is competitive with Chicago.
Item A14 was unanimously approved, 5 – 0

(A15)* Ordinance 23-O-08 General Business License for FY 2008/09 Budget
Consideration of proposed ordinance 23-O-08 amending Section 3-31-6 of the City Code entitles “License Fees” which include General Business License Fee increases and the addition of an initial application fee, inspection fee and a fee for Home Base Business registration.
Ald. Rainey would like the Home Base businesses removed from this proposal. She asked what the City is going to do if they do not register. Ald. Holmes said she believed that Kevin Lookis (Revenue Manager) had lists of these businesses. Ald. Rainey asked who needs these licenses. Ald. Holmes said that all businesses should have one. She would not exempt Home Base businesses. Ald. Hansen asked what a Home Based business might be and how do we find them. K. Lookis stated that those registered with the State are in a file the City receives. Several hundred residents come into his office to find out that currently a license in not required. He would get a registry going from those inquiries. Ald. Hansen suggested that when all the information is gathered, a packet should be produced that addresses this procedure. What is required, etc., it must be published. Ald. Jean-Baptiste recognized that not every business with a tax number is licensed by the City of Evanston but asked how many businesses do not have a tax number. K. Lookis said that Home Based businesses should have a tax number. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked what the cost would be to implement the research on this matter. K. Lookis will look into it. Ald. Wollin noted that the attached memorandum was missing. K. Lookis said that he too had noticed that in his packet and would see that the memo was forwarded to the committee. Ald. Jean-Baptiste said that this ordinance will be introduced tonight at Council but the vote will be held until further information is received.
Item A15 was unanimously approved, 5 – 0

(A16)* Ordinance 24-O-08 Taxi Industry for FY 2008/09 Budget
Consideration of proposed ordinance 24-O-08 amending various section of Title 3, Section 19 of the City Code entitled “Taxicabs; Vehicle for Hire” which include license renewal fee increases and rates charged to consumers for taxicab utilization.
Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked K. Lookis to talk about the issue of rate changes and how it will impact the customers. In addition what is the impact of other cab companies coming into Evanston. Ald. Holmes seconded that question concerning outside cabs working in Evanston. K. Lookis stated that it is difficult to control the cabs that come into town. There has been more attention given to noting cabs on the streets that do not belong here and approaching them. The City can recommend that rates be raised but historically, the raise is implemented over several years by the Association to the maximum amount allowed due to competition. But currently, increases in fuel are a major concern. The last raise in 2001 was not fully implemented until 2005. Evanston employs a free market approach to such fares as the cost of going from here to O’Hare. These fees have not changed in ten years. The City does perform inspections. If the cab does not pass inspection, it is taken off the streets. The question of out-sourcing the inspections was looked into and it would cost more than what the City now spends. Ald. Rainey asked about the increase in Senior Citizens fares; specifically how many participants are in the program and what rate they currently pay and the rate after the increase that is being recommended. K. Lookis said that it is part of the recommendations in the proposed
ordinance. Nancy Flowers (Health & Human Services Ombudsman) stated that fewer than 1000 participants are currently in the program. Ald. Rainey asked what the average distance of a senior’s trip was. N. Flowers said it was five miles. Ald. Rainey stated that an increase in senior rates has always been a problem. N. Flowers felt that unused funds from the current budget could be used to offset the set increase. Ald. Jean-Baptiste noted that the Taxi Board is driven by resolution so not everything requires a vote. K. Lookis said that the Taxi Board has not met lately since there is only one member on it. He has been asking everyone to participate or suggest candidates but with no luck. Ald. Rainey said that if the Aldermen had known they would have found Board members. Mr. Lookis stated that he felt the assistance of the Aldermen had been requested and that Ald. Jean-Baptiste had made several attempts to find participants to no avail. Ald. Hansen asked for a copy of the June 2007 minutes. K. Lookis said he would get them to her. Ald. Rainey suggested that N. Flowers and K. Lookis get together to rework this proposal.

Item A16 was unanimously held in committee with a vote of 5 – 0

(A17)* Ordinance 25-O-08 Sanitation Service Charge Increases
Consideration of proposed ordinance 25-O-08 establishing a $2.50 monthly fee for servicing each additional garbage cart beyond the single cart covered by the Sanitation Service Charge.
Item A17 approved, consent agenda motion and roll call (5 – 0)

(A18)* Ordinance 26-O-08 Residential Parking Permit Fee Increase
Consideration of proposed ordinance 26-O-08 by which the City Council would amend Section 10-4-5-2 (B) 11 of the City Code increasing the annual fee for on-street Residential Parking Permits to $90.00
Item A18 was unanimously approved, 5 – 0

(A19)* Ordinance 27-O-08 Parking Meter Rate and Parking Fine Increases
Consideration of ordinance 27-O-08 by which the City Council would amend Sections 10-11-12 (A) and (B) and sections 10-11-17 (A) and (C) to increase the parking rate downtown and increase the snow emergency parking fine.
Ald. Hansen asked if the Parking Committee had discussed Part II of the ordinance concerning fines during snow emergencies. D. Jennings said no, it had not. Ald. Hansen asked why not and D. Jennings said that he was not aware of a reason. Ald. Hansen commented on the number of tickets that are given that involves the residents of her Ward. The citizen goes to Adjudication Administration and it is dismissed for example, because AA did not have the correct log book. Sometimes cars are not ticketed. What is the City doing? Ald. Hansen stated that the Parking Committee should have discussed this matter. Suzette Eggleston (Superintendent Street and Sanitation) said that there are two zone tickets that can be issued in a non-tow area. They are identified and non-identified. In some areas tickets have been given, and when an Officer returns, if the vehicle is still there, a tow ticket is issued. Ald. Holmes noted that in residential areas, vehicles are towed, the street cleaned and the vehicle returned. D. Jennings said this new ordinance is to address those citizens who do not cooperate, and for next winter. Ald. Jean-Baptiste suggested that this item be deferred since it is not for implementation until next winter. Ald. Rainey said that she does not understand the tow/plow policy. When a car does not move and the plows go around it, cars coming home at the end of the day assume it is alright to park and then they get a ticket. She feels that the 9 to 9 time span for no parking is too severe. D. Jennings said that snow emergency times are being looked at, one thought is a span from 8 am to 6. Ald. Rainey said that the criteria for snow days need to be reviewed and discussed in detail for the residents. Ald. Jean-Baptiste suggested referring this item to the Parking Committee. D. Jennings asked that Part I of the ordinance, concerning parking meter rates be approved.
Item A19, Part I was unanimously approved, 5 – 0.
Item A19, Part II was not approved, 5 – 0.