ADMINISTRATION & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Monday, January 28, 2008
CIVIC CENTER, 2100 RIDGE AVENUE, ROOM 2404


Members Absent: 

Staff Present: Judy Aiello, Carolyn Collopy, David Cook, Steven Drazner, Chief Eddington, Suzette Eggleston, Doug Gaynor, Beth Howlett, David Jennings, Kevin Lookis, Mike Madden, Gavin Morgan, Elke Purze, Rolanda Russell, Evonda Thomas

Others Present: Ald. Bernstein, Ald. Tisdahl
Kathy Miehls, Evanston Township High School
Steven Schwartz, Wild Geese Restaurant

Presiding: Ald. Jean-Baptiste

I. DECLARATION OF QUORUM
With a quorum present, Alderman Jean-Baptiste called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING of January 14, 2008
Minutes were unanimously approved, 5-0.

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

(A1)* City of Evanston Payroll through 01/24/08 $2,433,198.45
Item A1 was unanimously approved, 5 - 0

(A2)* City of Evanston Bills through 01/29/08 $3,159,810.94

Ald. Rainey stated that she was not questioning the Fancy Can program but the fact that there were two charges, one to the program and one to the Howard Hartrey TIF. The Howard Hartrey TIF District, where she has seen cans, should be buying their own. Ald. Rainey also asked what the total expense of this program is. Gavin Morgan (Assistant to City Manager) will look in to these questions. Ald. Rainey questioned the payment for several months in the FIT program. If money is needed, it should be paid monthly. Ald. Jean-Baptiste wondered if they are billing the City monthly or quarterly. G. Morgan will look into this. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked for more specifics concerning the progress at Fountain Square. David Cook (Superintendent of Facilities) mentioned that he was out there earlier this day to review the progress. The design step is finished and the engineering plans are completed. Specs are now being developed. If all goes as planned, the fountain will reopen on Memorial Day. Ald. Wollin noted the request for contingency funds for more salt for the roads and wondered if the City was ready for the predicted two major snow falls this coming week. Suzette Eggleston (Superintendent Streets and Sanitation) said that there was no worry because the City’s order has already been placed. However, in the future there may be a slight price increase and an allotment system might be put in place.
Item A2 was unanimously approved, 5 – 0

(A3.1)* Recommend approval that Evanston Township High School District 202 be selected as the subject artwork for the 2009 vehicle sticker as part of the District’s 125th year celebration
Ald. Rainey asked for a show of hands for Aldermen that graduated from Evanston Township High School. Three hands were held up.
Item A3.1 was unanimously approved, 5 – 0

(A4)* Resolution 8-R-08 Authorizing the Mayor to Sign the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Greenest Region Compact of Metropolitan Chicago
Consideration of resolution 8-R-08 authorizing the Mayor to sign the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Greenest Region Compact of Metropolitan Chicago.
Carolyn Collopy (Sustainability Coordinator) says that the City has been encouraged to sign this initiative. There is no penalty if the City cannot totally meet the desired outcome. If signed by February 15th the City will have access to a portion of 500,000 light bulbs. If all the cities invited sign on, each City will get 10,000 light bulbs. This is approximately one bulb for every seven residents. Ald. Rainey asked how the residents will get the light bulbs. C. Collopy said that the initial thought on distribution is first come – first served. 50% to 60% will be distributed at the Civic Center and Ecology Center, 25% at various Outreach Centers and Community partners and the remainder at special events and given to the Aldermen to distribute as they see fit. Ald. Jean-Baptiste noted that most Aldermen do not have offices. C. Collopy said that an Alderman could decline. Ald. Rainey cautioned that the cost to handle distribution must be kept down.
Item A4 was unanimously approved, 5 – 0

(A5)* Ordinance 11-O-08 Increase the Number of Class C Liquor Licenses.
Consideration of ordinance 11-O-08 amending Section 3-5-6C of the City Code to increase the number of Class C Liquor Licenses from 24 to 25 due to the opening of P-Country, Inc. doing business as Wild Geese (1245 Chicago Avenue, Il.)
Ald. Rainey thought that very little information was provided in the attachments for this ordinance. Steve Schwartz (Owner/Manager of Wild Geese) reviewed the menu and said that it will be a full service restaurant. Ald. Wollin asked if geese were involved and was told they were not. She then asked about the BASSET Training. S. Schwartz said it will be completed by February 7th. G. Morgan noted that the license will be held until completion of the training. Ald. Rainey asked if they were ready to open and S. Schwarz said they were.
Item A5 was unanimously approved, 5 – 0

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

V. COMMUNICATIONS

(APW1) Liquor Questions from A & P W January 14th meeting.
Ald. Rainey stated that she does not understand the constant changing of “who” is in charge of issuing liquor licenses. Judy Aiello (Assistant City Manager) said that the person to contact is Gavin Morgan of the CMO. G. Morgan stated that going forward, the process should stay current. Ald. Hansen wondered about the transition from when Pat Casey oversaw the process. G. Morgan stated that when Mr. Casey left, the task was assigned to Jay Terry in Health and Human Services. With the departure of Mr. Terry, it has been assigned to him. Ald. Wollin mentioned that a restaurant owner in her Ward believes that a liquor license is matched to the hours of operation of an establishment. If they wish to increase their hours, can the dollars paid for the current
license be pro-rated and applied to the new, more expensive, license. G. Morgan stated that he would get together with the Legal Department. Ald. Rainey motioned that the amendment concerning liquor licenses be referred for clarification.

(APW2) Sherman Plaza Parking Garage Repairs

Ald. Rainey asked if the mixture of the concrete was the cause of the problems at the Sherman Plaza and Maple Street Garages. D. Cook said there were two separate problems. At the Sherman Plaza it was water in the conduits that froze, expanded and shattered the concrete. The Maple Avenue garage has a dry sprinkler system. Water got into it, froze and split the pipes open. Ald. Rainey asked if they both didn’t have concrete problems and D. Cook stated that no, Maple Avenue was pipes only. D. Cook stated that the contractor did all the repair work and on a recent review, only one pipe was frozen which the contractor has yet to repair due to cold weather. Ald. Rainey asked why the need for more consultants. D. Cook said that the contractors are fixing all areas of concern the consultants noted. Ald. Rainey asked about areas that are closed for any length of time. D. Cook said that areas are only closed as long as it takes to ascertain what work is needed. A whole floor might have to close until the source of the problem is found and then only a few spaces are closed. There was the case on a floor at Sherman Plaza that was closed for two weeks in December but now only the area requiring work (four spaces) is closed. Revenue loss is passed on the contractor. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked if the consultant fees were being passed on to the contractor. D. Cook said that he was working on it. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked for updates as there repairs progress and Ald. Rainey asked for a report in a month report in a month.

(APW3) Notice of termination of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Evanston and Ridgeville Park District providing for the City to operate its Summer Food Program at Elks Park.

Ald. Rainey explained that after the trailer was first put in the park, it was later moved for hook-up capability and that put it close to a residential building. The tenants have been monitoring the program. The City stated an average of forty lunches were served per day. The tenants said it was much less. Ald. Rainey did a count and came up with no more than twenty including adults in attendance. In addition, some people at times sleep behind the trailer and it is not the prettiest sight in a park. Ald. Wollin asked how best to serve these children. Ald. Rainey said that few ever come on a regular basis. She does not believe the program will be missed. Ald. Wollin felt that this additional report said nothing that had not been stated before. Ald. Rainey said that this trailer is always an issue at her Ward meetings. Ald. Holmes asked if the trailer could go back to Brummel Park. It was observed that when the trailer was there, there were only five area children taking advantage of the program. Ald Jean-Baptiste asked if this was an agreement by resolution. Doug Gaynor (Director Parks/Forestry & Recreation) said it was an intergovernmental agreement approved by City Council and that either party could terminate the agreement at any time. Ald. Jean-Baptiste thought the information supplied was limited as concerns the agreement and asked what alternatives there were for the children. Ald. Jean-Baptiste also asked how many lunches were served. Ald. Holmes asked who oversees this program. D. Gaynor will get specific information on the location of the trailer to the residence and the number of children served by the next meeting. Ald. Rainey mentioned that there are other sites with a lunch program. Ald. Holmes agreed but she noted, it will add travel time into the equation.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: 6:40

Respectfully submitted:
Phillip Baugher
Administrative Assistant, Finance Department