HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
Minutes of November 2, 2009  
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center  
Council Chambers 7:00 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICIAL:   Alderman Lionel Jean-Baptiste

ALDERMAN PRESENT:   Delores Holmes, Jane Grover, Mark Tendam, Judy Fiske

A Quorum was present.

ALDERMAN ABSENT:  

STAFF PRESENT:   Nicola Whyte, Evonda Thomas, Elke Purze, Sol Anderson, Chief Eddington

OTHERS PRESENT:  

CALL TO ORDER  
Alderman Jean-Baptiste called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Approval of the minutes of the October 5, 2009 meeting  
*Alderman Holmes moved approval, Alderman Fiske seconded; Approved 4-0.

Township of Evanston Monthly Bills  
*Alderman Fiske moved approval, Alderman Tendam seconded; Approved 4-0.

Alderman Holmes received an email from the Assessor-elect that inquired about the current Assessor's recent training; will there be money left in the budget when she takes office? Alderman Holmes asked how she should handle those questions in the future.

Alderman Jean-Baptiste replied the current Assessor has the legal authority to conduct business until her term is up, which includes taking classes that is required of her office. As trustees they have the authority to balance the budget but have no authority on the types of trips and/or classes.

Alderman Jean-Baptiste requested clarification from Elke Purze, Interim Corporate Counsel, on the recent invoiced received from Johnston/Green/LLC for $4,725.00; specifically the charge for 5.5 hours to continued drafting reply
brief to motion to dismiss: retrieved and reviewed case law presented by opposing party.

Elke Purze, Interim First Assistant Corporate Council replied it is a response to the plaintive second complaint; the court allowed the plaintive to amend their first complaint. Further written clarification will be given at the next City Council meeting.

Township Audit
*Accepted 4-0
Auditors from Baker Tilly gave a summary of the audit, Communications from Auditor to Management, the Township Trustee report, the Financial Report and answered questions.

  Q. Does Baker Tilly conduct the audit as well as prepare the financial report.
  A. The Township completed the financial statement and after review, the auditors made amendments to include items that were missing.

Alderman Holmes mentioned the weaknesses are identical to last year’s report.

  Q. Is there another way to report weaknesses?
  A. No there isn’t; there are benchmarks where internal controls should exist. The Township is small and staff has dual roles in some tasks which require individual staff; thus weaknesses will exist.

  Q. Is there a way to phrase the reports that acknowledges that there are obstacles in the way of meeting the benchmarks; that these obstacles are already known going into the audit.
  A. Yes, that can be looked at for next year’s report.

Alderman Jean-Baptiste requested a copy of Rule 112 from the representatives of Baker Tilly.

Update on Citizen Review of Police Complaints
*Accepted 4-0

Alderman Jean-Baptiste requested an update from Police Chief Richard Eddington on the officer that was involved in CR#09-01 at a later date.

Alderman Jean-Baptiste after reviewing DI#09-28 asked the Chief to clarify the policy on property damage. How do residents get compensated for damages resulting from a police search?

  A. The Chief replied that there is a procedure for reimbursement in place and the complainant in DI#09-28 can still complete the forms and go through the procedures.
Communications
Sol Anderson, Youth Engagement Coordinator gave a summary of the proposed Ordinance 55-0-09 Amending the City Code by adding to Title 9, “Public Safety,” Chapter 6, “Minors,” a New Section 5, “Community Accountability Truancy Program.”
The ordinance will be revisited during the January Human Services meeting for consideration.

All recommendations by various community partners were considered and school board members were approached for input in constructing the ordinance.

Betty Sue Ester 2030 Church St. (Community Comment) feels this ordinance is not appropriate for Evanston children. Parents were not informed as to the construction of this ordinance so they are out of the loop. She also asked why the schools are not handling this issue.

Alderman Jean-Baptiste asked that the City Manger's Office inform the public of this ordinance.

Ms. Ester also commented on the current Assessor continual training when Evanston will not reap the benefits of those classes.

Evonda Thomas, Director of Health and Human Services gave a summary on keeping chickens on residential property in Evanston and stated the Health Department stands by its previous ruling.

Greg Garfield of 332 Florence Ave. does not support keeping chickens on residential property in Evanston.

Alderman Tendam supports keeping chickens on residential property in Evanston.

Adjournment
The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicola Whyte
Department of Health and Human Services