

MINUTES OF THE RULES COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2011
6:00 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center
Aldermanic Library

Present: Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl, Ald. Peter Braithwaite, Coleen Burrus, Judy Fiske, Jane Grover, Delores Holmes, Ann Rainey, Mark Tendam, Donald Wilson and Melissa Wynne

Presiding: Ald. Delores Holmes

Staff Present: Wally Bobkiewicz, City Manager; Grant Farrar, City Attorney, Corporation Counsel; Douglas Gaynor, Director, Parks, Recreation & Community Services and Martin Lyons; Assistant City Manager

Guest: Jonathan Bullington, Chicago Tribune; Sue Calder, League of Women Voters; Rodney Greene, City Clerk; Bob Seidenberg, Evanston Review; and Bill Smith, Evanston Now

CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Ald. Holmes declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 2, 2011:

Mayor Tisdahl moved approval of the May 2, 2011 minutes. Ald. Wilson seconded. Minutes approved.

DISCUSSION OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND CITY COUNCIL MEETING START TIMES:

Mayor Tisdahl suggested it would be good to start the Planning and Development (P&D) committee meeting a certain number of minutes after Administration & Public Works (A&PW) rather than having a set time. She has been receiving complaints that people are a little frustrated seeing them sitting around doing nothing while waiting for the Council meeting to start. Ald. Rainey added people get more annoyed not knowing when the meeting is going to start. Ald. Holmes commented if they say P&D will start 10 minutes after A&PW finishes sometimes that is real early and at other times they go all the way up to that time if they have a large agenda.

Ald. Burrus stated if they make the change they need to make sure the public access shows that change. She has noticed that the Evanston Community Media Center has started doing that now and just will need to do a better job of publicizing it. Ald. Holmes noted that was discussed at their last meeting and has been fixed.

Ald. Wilson stated when they previously discussed this and came up with 7:15 p.m. it seemed to be the best guess. But it appears that A&PW is getting through more efficiently. If they say Council will start 10 or 15 minutes after P&D but in no event earlier than X, because if A&PW takes 10 minutes and people miss their item they are going to be upset if they show up at 6:00 p.m. thinking A&PW is going to take 45 minutes. He thinks they should have that no earlier than slot and maybe move A&PW up to 6:45 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. and P&D will start 15 minutes after but no earlier than X and publish that.

Ald. Fiske would prefer having a set time for all the committee meetings. If A&PW is going to start at 5:45, start it at 5:45, if P&D is going to start at 7:15, start it at 7:15 and let City Council float the way it has been. She has been observing the responses from people to it and it seems they are kind of use

to it now and she would hate to throw that out. Ald. Holmes agreed in terms of starting on time and thinks they all have to make a commitment to get in there and be ready to start at 5:45 or 7:15 so they can begin on time.

Ald. Rainey stated it should remain as it is because people can count on it and it has been working. People have no idea what some people have done all day and maybe they need that little 15 minute recess and people know what time A&PW and P&D starts. She doesn't know if people are more upset watching them do nothing or watching them be late. They really complained about them being late. One thing she does not want to have happen is to have A&PW feel pressured to get their work done. Because right now she believes A&PW does not do justice to some of the issues before them and should do more examining of various issues.

Ald. Wynne also suggested they leave it as it is because there is a time. If people are coming for P&D they know to get here 7:15 p.m. and they won't miss their issue. If people are concerned that they have some down town just understand it is just temporary. A&PW's agenda will fill up again and they should just explain that their agendas fluctuate and this is to make sure they don't run late on things. It is much better for people then trying to estimate getting here at 6:15 p.m. and hoping they arrive in time for their issue at P&D or waiting possibly to 8:00 p.m.

Ald. Tendam would not mind moving P&D up to 7:00 p.m. at the earliest for the sack of simplicity and 8:00 p.m. for the regular Council. They have a lot of oddly scheduled meetings now with Human Services starting at 7:30, sometimes the 3rd Monday evening Council meeting is 7:00 rather than 8:00 and some of the budget meetings will be even stranger. This would make it clear in his head that they do have some structure there. Ald. Holmes added where the 3rd Monday meeting is concerned that was their choice in terms of how they wanted to do that. If the pleasure is to move that 3rd meeting, to make it more compatible with the 2nd and 4th Mondays, they can also do that. City Manager Bobkiewicz commented that staff has tried to be consistent with a 7:00 p.m. start time for special meetings.

Ald. Rainey moved to leave the start times as is. Ald. Braithwaite seconded. Motion passed 8-3 (Ald. Grover, Burrus & Tendam voted nay) Ald. Holmes suggested that the Evanston Community Media Center should be reminded to keep posting to keep the public informed and maybe that will help.

DISCUSSION OF CODIFYING THE TERM "COUNCIL MEMBER" VERSUS "ALDERMAN" IN EVANSTON MUNICIPAL CODE:

Ald. Grover stated various portions of the city code are coming before them for revisions, wholesale revisions to bring them up-to-date, eliminate redundancies, irrelevancies and make it gender neutral. All the hises have been made his/her and all the he's made he/she. The word Aldermen sticks out as causing confusing in not being gender neutral. She proposed they codify their title from Aldermen to Council Member because it is gender neutral and is a widely used term in a lot of other municipalities. In searching the city code she found it does not talk very much about Aldermen but Alderman finds its way into the city code only 11 times, Aldermen only 21 times, one reference to Council member and 3 references to members of the City Council. There were too many references to list the mention of the Mayor. The grand total of word substitution would be about 33. Ald. Wilson moved approval. Ald. Tendam seconded.

Ald. Rainey noted she was completely opposed to the change. Gender neutral is not he/she. Alderman and Alderwoman would be okay but she would not care because people are going to call them Aldermen anyway. As for the term Council member, Council member of what? Council member does not distinguish them as elected officials and while it might be mentioned in the city code she does not appreciate the change. She is extremely proud of her feminism politics and does not find that this is serious.

Ald. Fiske asked for an explanation of what the City Council is and does it include the City Clerk. Grant Farrar explained that under the city code the City Council comprises of 9 Aldermen and the Mayor. That is the City Council. Under title 1 of the city code the City Clerk has a separate set of duties prescribed by city ordinance. Ald. Fiske then asked if they referred to Council Member how would they say that term, in the city code, that does not include the Mayor. Mr. Farrar stated he has not had the ability to really study that issue and determine what would be the easiest way of making interchangeable terms. Nor has he had the chance to look at the municipal code, which is the Illinois Statutes Governing the various forms of government found in Illinois. Under the Illinois Municipal Code Aldermen is a term of art. There are many separate subdivisions in the municipal code that speak to the various duties of Aldermen. However, those duties are portioned out amongst the differing forms of government found in Illinois. Evanston is Council/Manager. There is also the term Council members found in Champagne, but Champagne is a different form of government that encompasses at-large representation. If the direction of the Council is to proceed with this change he would respectfully request the opportunity to vet this from a legal standpoint. He would like to make sure they aren't at fault in filling any municipal code provision. Under the Election Code of Illinois the term Aldermen is a term of art as well. He would recommend that further study be given to this to make sure it is properly vetted.

Ald. Fiske inquired as to the cost to make this change in terms of business cards and everything else with their various names out there. City Manager Bobkiewicz noted that again they haven't done anything specific on this. His guess is the cost would be a few thousand dollars if you figure business cards and name plates. The code change and the process of doing that would be the largest expense. He believes the cost associated with that and going back and doing the work with Mr. Farrar, even if it is possible, they would likely have to be bridged language. If they wanted to do that if the Illinois Municipal Code says Aldermen they might have to put in the code when it says Aldermen in Evanston they mean Council Member. He is more concerned about those issues.

Ald. Fiske said in her mind if the current language of Aldermen was preventing young women from striving to become an Alderman she would feel a lot more strongly about this. She also is proud to be an Alderman and uses that word. She does not see it as a gender distinctive and there is some historical precedent here. Also the fact that they are a 6 member women Council means they've really overcome the negligent impact of the word. The League of Women Voters has many male members and is curious as to whether the League of Women Voters ever thought of changing its name. Suzanne Calder, League of Women Voter member said at almost every national convention there is a motion to change the name to the League of Voters. It is a branding issue and it is done because they have a brand that has certain reasoning behind it and they feel very neutral and are proud of it. And once you change the name someone is going to grab it and then you've lost it.

Ald. Grover commented there are a lot of ways to tinker with traditional in history to make improvements. In some ways this is a housekeeping issue and in other ways a larger issue. This is just another way to bring the city code up to date while in the process of revisions. In English speaking countries that use to use Alderman and Aldermen, where the term was derived, have already changed it to modernized local government. They've changed it to Councilors in Ireland, England and Australia. The entire State of Wisconsin has changed Alderman and Aldermen to Alderpersons. She has only done this job for 2 years and is not really feeling invested in the title Alderman. She encounters a lot of people who are confused by it and have received emails from people who would be glad for some resolution because they find it both awkward and difficult sometimes. She never thought she would serve on a City Council much less a City Council with the majority being women and a woman mayor. As to the city code, Alderman appears but there is no definition. There is no connect between Evanston's code and the State Statues as to the word Alderman. There are many municipalities that have City Council's members who are called Council members and not Aldermen, Alderwomen or Alderpersons. She would like the committee to just think

about it. She would be happy to do the research if the worry is the cost involved. She also would be interested to see what state statues require.

Ald. Burrus noted that Alderman and Alderwoman are fine. She actually likes Alderperson and thinks it is more neutral. But people do ask if she is Alderwoman or Alderperson and for her it doesn't matter either way. Ald. Rainey noted that she didn't know if it has been corrected yet but until the previous meeting the rules weren't even in the city code. The city code addresses the elected office and who is on the Council and the Mayor is included in the Council. And by the way you could go a long way with this if you look at per(son) and wo(man). Ald. Wynne added she has had people suggest Alderthing to her. She would agree that she would support Alderman/woman. But would not support City Council member, it is too generic. The effort is appreciated.

Ald. Wilson withdrew his motion because he felt he did not have enough information to appropriately make the motion.

Ald. Rainey moved to keep their identity the same as it is currently, Alderman. Ald. Fiske seconded. Motion passed 9-1 (Ald. Grover voting nay).

RULES COMMITTEE MOVE TO COUNCIL CHAMBERS/TELEVISION BEGINNING JULY 2011:

Ald. Holmes noted this is a reminder that beginning July 6, 2011 their meetings will be televised and held in Council Chamber.

Ald. Fiske asked if there is something they could do in the Council Chambers to make it a little bit more user friendly/citizen friendly than sitting at the dais for the Rules Committee?

City Manager Bobkiewicz said the reason he asked Ald. Holmes to put this on the agenda was to reconfirm this change pursuant to previous discussions. The Rules Committee will have boards and commissions now coming pretty much one or two every month for the foreseeable future. The idea was there will be a larger group of people and they are already pretty tight in the Aldermanic Library with one member of the public and the press present today. Boards and Commission that have 5 to 9 members will fill the Aldermanic Library. The other issue was transparency to being on television. If the committee would like meeting with the boards and commissions in the Aldermanic Library for awhile they can do that. Otherwise setting up a long table in the Council Chamber is complicated and the cameras are fixed. He and Douglas Gaynor have gone back and forth on a couple of different occasions about setting up a table and there is not really microphones setup. Also the camera would hit the back of people's heads. So unless there is other direction from the committee staff will be prepared to go in the Council Chamber in July. The Housing Commission will present their report plus there will be other issues as appropriate. Ald. Holmes added they will just have to smile and be more friendlier.

OTHER:

Ald. Rainey stated that given all the discussion in the community about the federally qualified health center, she was wondering if they were part of the application made by Erie and is the application available for the public. City Manager Bobkiewicz replied absolutely the City was part of the application. He did not believe the application was currently on the website but would get it put up. Ald. Rainey said that would be helpful because the questions being asked are kind of detailed and she does not feel she has the qualifications to answer them. She asked if the application lays out their responsibilities and obligation in that partnership. City Manager Bobkiewicz reported that it really focuses mostly on Erie. The application, strictly speaking, is to allow Erie to create a new location for their already approved federally qualified health center. It is a site location not a funding location. All Erie has to show is that Evanston is the community they would serve, including a lot of information about the needs of the community and data about the community. The business model is not part of the application. It is more the need and the ability of Erie to perform in other communities. He would

agree the one day roundtrip he and the Mayor made to Washington has caused some dialogue in the community. Some of the stuff that has appeared in the press since then has helped clarified some things. He believes a lot of the questions kind of went away after Bill Smith, Evanston Now wrote his article.

Ald. Rainey said people are believing things that she is not sure are factual and wondered if there is any document that lays out the responsibility of the City and Erie in delivering this service once the location is found? City Manager Bobkiewicz stated there is a Memorandum of Understanding that was drafted and outlines that. He will make that available as well. Again the focus of the evaluators of the grant is the need. And he believes the Memorandum of Understanding does a very good job of documenting that as well as documenting Erie's abilities and past successes in serving these kinds of communities. Staff can put both documents up and will make sure that the Council and press are made aware. Ald. Rainey added she did look up Erie and there is no question they have a fabulous track record. The question is what role the City will play, especially financially. Mayor Tisdahl said very, very little.

City Manager Bobkiewicz explained that the city has agreed to be partners with them and that has been made very clear from the start. The city does not have general fund money to put toward this at all. The city has said that there is space available from the previous clinic space in the Civic Center building on the lower level that will be available to them on an initial bases. Erie very much wants to create a facility outside of the Civic Center. They have begun a fundraising effort apart from the city as well as working with the city to do that. There is federal funding available which Erie plans to apply for or be prepared to apply for if the grant is successful. There is no contemplation of ongoing financing from the city. And Erie has made it very clear that if the business model does not support the federal grant, medicare, medicaid reimbursement and private fundraising that this will not continue in Evanston. Evanston Hospital is very involved in the discussions and has made a commitment to be a financial partner. Those details are still being worked out. But certainly from their trip to Washington with Erie's executive director, Dr. Lee Francis, just 2 weeks ago, he really reiterated on that entire trip that they very much want to come to Evanston but if the financial model does not support it they will not be able to provide services here. Ald. Rainey noted that posting those documents on the website would be very helpful.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Francellno