Members Present: Alvin Telser, Chair  
Sue Calder  
Todd Kihm  
Robin Simmons  

Staff Present: Erika Storlie, Deputy City Manager  

DECLARATION OF QUORUM  

Chairman Telser called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM. All Committee members were present.  

Minutes of the April 5, 2016, meeting were distributed and approved.  

Deputy City Manager Storlie distributed memos she had prepared in response to the Committee’s earlier request for data on several topics:  

- The annual budget and Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) for the City Clerk’s office from 2001 through 2015.  
- Total health insurance expenditures for the City Clerk and City Council members in 2016. This memo also provided the individual and City contributions, on a monthly basis, for each of the four health plans offered to City employees.  
- Three tables showing the total annual cost of a) keeping City Council stipends as they are; b) increasing stipends to $20,000; and, c) increasing stipends to $25,000.  

In summary –  

- The City Clerk’s Office’s annual budget has averaged about $213,000 over the past 15 years. There has been an upward trend over the past five years. Currently the City Clerk’s Office has two FTEs in addition to the Clerk.  
- Of the eleven elected officials, eight avail themselves of one of the City’s health insurance plans. The average City contribution for coverage of each is about $13,000, a total of approximately $125,000 annually.  
- The additional cost to the City of increasing aldermanic stipends to the above-mentioned levels would be about $195,000 or $244,000, respectively.  

The City Clerk provided to the Committee a detailed list of activities and responsibilities to be carried out by his office.  

With all of this information in hand, the Committee’s discussion turned to the whether we should recommend for the aldermen a cost-of-living (COLA) increase for the coming year, as has been the case over much of the recent past, or an increase in their stipends to about $20,000. Committee members offered well-considered arguments for each of these two approaches. An increase much larger than a COLA increase would seem to be out of line with standard practices within the City of Evanston, in municipal governments in general, and in the private and not-for-profit sectors. On the other hand, larger increases would provide two advantages:  

1) A large increase would better recognize the substantial contributions of our aldermen in
making Evanston a desirable place to live, thus adding to its economic growth and development; and, 2) A large stipend increase could make serving as alderman seem less of an economic burden to anyone considering running for a seat on the City Council.

A suggestion was made that one possible way to increase City Council member stipends would be to offer the health insurance benefit in the form of a “cafeteria of benefits.” Some employers offer such benefits packages. City staff will look into this approach as a possible means of increasing stipends.

The next meeting of the Committee will be on Tuesday, May 3, 2016, at 10:30 AM. These minutes and the agenda will be posted on the City Website at least 48 hours prior to that meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting, which was adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alvin Telser, Chair