

CITY COUNCIL

December 16, 2002

ROLL CALL - PRESENT:

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| Alderman Kent | Alderman Feldman |
| Alderman Moran | Alderman Newman |
| Alderman Engelman | Alderman Jean-Baptiste |
| Alderman Rainey | Alderman Wynne |

A Quorum was present.

NOT PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Alderman Bernstein

ABSENT:

None

PRESIDING:

Mayor Morton

The OFFICIAL REGULAR MEETING of the City Council was called to order by Mayor Morton Monday, December 16, 2002 at 9:05 p.m. in the City Council Chamber.

Announcements:

Public Works Director David Jennings reminded citizens that the schedule for refuse and recycling pickup would be Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday for the upcoming two holiday weeks. The yard waste season is over.

Parks/Forestry & Recreation Director Doug Gaynor announced that Christmas tree recycling would begin the week of December 30 through the weeks of January 6, 13, and 20 on normal refuse/recycling days. Trees must be devoid of decorations, not bagged in plastic and placed on the parkway for pickup by Parks/Forestry crews. Residents can drop off their trees in James Park after those dates.

Mr. Gaynor announced that First Night Evanston would be held December 31, with entertainment and activities running from 6 p.m. to midnight when there will be fireworks. First Night buttons are for sale at the Recreation Division.

Communications: None

Public Hearing: 2002 Property Tax Levies

Finance Director Bill Stafford reported a General Fund Levy of \$14,565,000, Police Pension Levy of \$3,084,902 and Fire Pension Levy of \$2,250,236. All levies were passed as part of the current year's budget in February 2002. The second levy is for Special Service Area #4 of \$250,000 and supports Evmark and the downtown business district programs. The third levy is the 2002 Township Levy to support the current budget year that began April 2002. The levy amount is about 10% over what is expected and done to make sure that all new properties are captured by the levy because the Township is subject to tax caps.

Mayor Morton asked for an explanation of Evmark's contribution. Mr. Stafford said Special Service Area #4 was created to promote downtown businesses and help maintain the downtown streetscape. A special tax is placed on these businesses so residents don't pay for it. Evmark supports a large amount of activity downtown. Mayor Morton stated that Evanston is fortunate that merchants agreed to a special tax on themselves that benefits the entire city by making the downtown a pleasant place to shop.

A citizen asked for the impact on property taxes. City Manager Roger Crum explained this hearing was about next year's taxes that pay for this year's budget, which was adopted in March. There is no direct increase on this one. He urged all to pay attention to the next two months when Council will discuss the next tax levy that is done a year out of sequence.

Mayor Morton declared the Public Hearing closed at 9:12 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENT:

Thomas Conley, 1632 Forest Pl., spoke of unintended consequences the Chicago Avenue Streetscape project may have on residential neighborhoods, schools and parks east of Chicago Ave. He thought the streetscape was a beautification project and recently learned it includes a component to remove part of the street to create a wider sidewalk. That was a concern because he thought Chicago Ave. should be the main north/south artery for traffic through the City. He suggested that narrowing Chicago Ave., while at the same time significantly increasing residential density there, seemed to be going the wrong way. He noted that Chicago Ave. is a commercial street and should be widened to accept additional traffic created by the residential developments there and downtown. He feared that additional traffic would go into neighborhoods from South Blvd. to Emerson St. Alderman Wynne assured him that the loss of three feet of street would not cause any loss of traffic lanes and should improve traffic flow. She pointed out the City could lose a \$100,000 contribution from the developer if this was not approved. He suggested the plan is flawed in that this was only one part of the overall traffic needs of the area and cited major traffic problems east of Chicago Ave. with at least one accident a month in his neighborhood. Commuters race down residential streets at 40 mph or more in an effort to avoid traffic. A friend on Forest Ave. (a narrow street) told him that cars regularly travel at 50 mph there, which terrifies him. This summer a car coming south on Forest drove through a fence and onto the playground at Lincoln School. He noted that people find it more difficult to get to lakefront parks and that Georgian and Mather residents have complained to Alderman Newman. He said these problems need to be addressed and that Chicago Ave. would play a part in solving them. He asked that this design be funded only with the caveat that a comprehensive traffic study is done to assure the needs of all east Evanston residents are addressed.

Thomas Edstrom, attorney with AFSCME Council 31, stated that Council 31 is involved in organizing one or two bargaining units of City employees not now represented by a union. Their plan is to file a Representation Petition with the Illinois Labor Relations Board (ILRB) soon. He suggested that at a January meeting, City Council pass a resolution for voluntary recognition of AFSCME, a procedure governed by the Illinois Labor Relations Act. This would allow for posting of the voluntary recognition petition, with a period of time where other labor organizations could file to intervene in the proceedings and turn it from a voluntary proceeding into an election. Cards signed by employees would be reviewed by the ILRB, an independent body, and it would determine that AFSCME represented a majority of employees in the proposed bargaining unit. Ted Loda passed out a proposed resolution, the Illinois labor Relations Act, regulations for voluntary recognition and forms used by the ILRB for the voluntary recognition process. They wanted City Council to have time to review the documents. They have found with other employers that voluntary recognition shortens the campaign activity time and protects productivity as opposed to activities that take place during an election.

In response to Mayor Morton, Mr. Edstrom said the intent was to file a Representation Petition. However, for a Voluntary Representation Petition, it would be necessary for the employer (City of Evanston) to participate. First the labor council would file the Representation Petition then approach the City in January and ask if the City would consider withdrawing the Representation Petition and replacing it with the Voluntary Representation Petition. If both signed, it would be filed with the Illinois Labor Relations Board and the union would submit cards signed by employees. The board would determine if they have more than a 50% majority status. Mayor Morton asked if their intention was to file with the hope that Council will file a Voluntary Representation Petition? He said that was correct.

Alderman Feldman asked him to explained why Council 31 did not follow the normal process and go through a vote? Mr. Edstrom said taking a vote is more common than the voluntary recognition process. They have found with larger bargaining units often there is a lot of activity and supervisors can get frustrated with people talking about the election and being less productive. The voluntary recognition process eliminates campaigning but the employer has to agree. Alderman Feldman asked the City Manager if the campaign process would be detrimental to productivity?

Mr. Crum said there are two sides to the question and so far, the Labor Council has by-passed management and gone directly to elected officials for something they have not yet defined. He recommended the Labor Council present to management (their normal contact for all labor relations matters) their information and certification recognition so analysis can be done and a recommendation made to City Council.

CONSENT AGENDA (Any item marked with an Asterisk*)

Alderman Feldman moved Council approval of the Consent Agenda with the following exceptions: Authorization for Design Work for a section of Chicago Avenue Streetscape Concept Design; Funding Request from Connections for the Homeless; Approval of HOME Funds for New Construction; Ordinance 114-O-02 – Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment: Convenience Stores & Open Sales Lots and Proposed 2003 City Council/Budget Meeting Schedule. Seconded by Alderman Rainey. Roll call. Voting aye – Bernstein, Kent, Moran, Engelman, Rainey, Feldman, Newman, Jean-Baptiste, Wynne. Voting nay – none. Motion carried (9-0).

*** ITEMS APPROVED ON CONSENT AGENDA**

MINUTES:

* Approval of Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of November 25, 2002 and the Special City Council Meetings of November 18 and December 9, 2002. * APPROVED - CONSENT AGENDA MOTION AND ROLL CALL (9-0)

ADMINISTRATION & PUBLIC WORKS:

* Approval, as recommended, of the City of Evanston payroll for the period ending December 5, 2002 and the City of Evanston bills for the period ending December 17, 2002 and that they be authorized and charged to the proper accounts, summarized as follows:

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| City of Evanston payroll (through 12/05/02) | \$1,813,526.90 |
| City of Evanston bills (through 12/17/02) | \$4,322,309.91 |

* APPROVED – CONSENT AGENDA MOTION AND ROLL CALL (9-0)

* Approval of Change Order #1 for Construction Management Services to Cath Associates Inc. for the Fire Station #3 project at a cost of \$15,000, increasing total contract from \$150,500 to \$165,500. * APPROVED – CONSENT AGENDA MOTION AND ROLL CALL (9-0)



* Traffic Calming Plan: Alley Speed Bumps – Consideration of a recommendation to place speed bumps in the 1800 block of Asbury (west alley). * APPROVED – CONSENT AGENDA MOTION AND ROLL CALL (9-0)

* Resolution 97-R-02 – Agreement between City of Evanston & Evanston Environmental Assn. – Consideration of proposed Resolution 97-R-02, which authorizes a \$120,000 loan from the City of Evanston to the Evanston Environmental Association. * APPROVED – CONSENT AGENDA MOTION AND ROLL CALL (9-0)

* Resolution 100-R-02 – Lease for Congresswoman Schakowsky – Consideration of proposed Resolution 100-R-02, which authorizes the City Manager to enter into a month-to-month lease agreement for Room 2203 of the Civic Center with Congresswoman Schakowsky. * APPROVED – CONSENT AGENDA MOTION AND ROLL CALL (9-0)

* Resolution 103-R-02 – Lease Agreement with Brinker Intl. (Chili's) – Consideration of proposed Resolution 103-R-02, which authorizes the City Manager to enter into a lease agreement for temporary office space for Brinker Intl. (Chili's) at the Maple Ave. Garage. * APPROVED – CONSENT AGENDA MOTION AND ROLL CALL (9-0)

* Ordinance 103-O-02 – Fiber Optic Cable Aerial Easement – Consideration of proposed Ordinance 103-O-02, which authorizes the City Manager to execute a Fiber Optics Cable Easement Agreement with COS III Limited Partnership for installation of aerial easement on the public right-of-way. * MARKED INTRODUCED – CONSENT AGENDA

* Ordinance 129-O-02 – Bicycle Helmet Ordinance – Consideration of proposed Ordinance 129-O-02, which amends Section 10-9-5 of the City Code to provide for mandatory use of helmets for those under 18 years of age while riding on or being carried by bicycles on the public right-of-way. * MARKED INTRODUCED – CONSENT AGENDA

* Ordinance 130-O-02 – Increasing Tobacco License and Vending Machine License Fees – Consideration of proposed Ordinance 130-O-02, which amends sections 3-16-4 and 8-8-7 of the City Code to increase fees for tobacco and vending machine licenses in Evanston. * MARKED INTRODUCED – CONSENT AGENDA

Alderman Feldman moved to Suspend the Rules to adopt an ordinance at the same meeting in which it was introduced. Seconded by Alderman Rainey. Motion carried. No nays.

Alderman Feldman moved approval of Ordinance 130-O-02. Seconded by Alderman Engelman.

Roll call. Voting aye – Bernstein, Kent, Moran, Engelman, Rainey, Feldman, Newman, Jean-Baptiste, Wynne. Voting nay – none. Motion carried (9-0).

* Ordinance 121-O-02 – City of Evanston 2002 Property Tax Levy Ordinance – Consideration of proposed Ordinance 121-O-02, introduced November 25, 2002, which legally imposes the City property tax levy. * ADOPTED CONSENT AGENDA & ROLL CALL (9-0)

* Ordinance 122-O-02 – 2002 Property Tax Levy Ordinance/Special Service Area #4 – Consideration of proposed Ordinance 122-O-02, introduced November 25, 2002, which legally imposes the property tax levy for Special Service Area #4. * ADOPTED CONSENT AGENDA & ROLL CALL (9-0)

* Ordinance 123-O-02 – Evanston Township 2002 Property Tax Levy Ordinance – Consideration of proposed Ordinance 123-O-02, introduced November 25, 2002, which legally imposes the Evanston Township property tax levy. * ADOPTED CONSENT AGENDA & ROLL CALL (9-0)

* Ordinance 124-O-02 – Increase in Class C Liquor Licenses – Consideration of proposed Ordinance 124-O-02, introduced November 25, 2002, which increases Class C liquor licenses, not to exceed 20, with the addition of Los Alcores, Inc. dba Restaurant Gio, 1629 Chicago Ave. * ADOPTED CONSENT AGENDA & ROLL CALL (9-0)

* Ordinance 125-O-02 Increase in Class D Liquor Licenses - Consideration of proposed Ordinance 125-O-02, introduced November 25, 2002, which increases Class D liquor from 23 to 24 with the addition of 3-D Enterprises, Inc., dba Vive LaCrepe, 1565 Sherman Ave. * ADOPTED CONSENT AGENDA & ROLL CALL (9-0)

* Ordinance 126-O-02 – Increase in Class D Liquor Licenses – Consideration of proposed Ordinance 126-O-02, introduced November 25, 2002, which increases Class D liquor licenses from 24 to 25 with the addition of Dozika, Inc., dba Dozika Pan-Asian Cooking & Sushi Bar, 601 Dempster St. * ADOPTED CONSENT AGENDA & ROLL CALL (9-0)

* Ordinance 127-O-02 – Increase in Class B Liquor Licenses – Consideration of proposed Ordinance 127-O-02, introduced November 25, 2002, which increases Class B liquor licenses, not to exceed nine, with the addition of Brinker Restaurant Corp., dba Chili's Grill & Bar, 1765 Maple Ave. * ADOPTED CONSENT AGENDA & ROLL CALL (9-0)

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT:

* Ordinance 128-O-02 – Special Use for 901 Church St. – Consideration of proposed Ordinance 128-O-02, which approves a recommendation of the SP&ARC and Zoning Board of Appeals to grant a special use permit for a Type 2 restaurant, Baja Fresh, at 901 Church St. * MARKED INTRODUCED – CONSENT AGENDA

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

* Special Event – 2003 Evanston Garden Fair – Consideration of a request from the Evanston Garden Council to hold the Annual Garden Fair in Independence Park on May 17-18, 2003. * APPROVED – CONSENT AGENDA MOTION AND ROLL CALL (9-0)

* Approval of Township Bills – Consideration of a recommendation to approve the Township bills, payroll and medical payment for the month of November 2002 in the amount of \$94,299.91. * APPROVED – CONSENT AGENDA MOTION AND ROLL CALL (9-0)

* Resolution 98-R-02 – Amended Lease Agreement – Consideration of a recommendation to approve an amendment to the previously approved lease for Noyes Center Studio #109 for artist Graham Harles to allow donation of artwork in place of editing and/or rewriting work for Arts Week. * APPROVED – CONSENT AGENDA MOTION AND ROLL CALL (9-0)

* Resolution 99-R-02 – Amended Lease Agreement – Consideration of a recommendation to approve a payment plan for Next Theatre Company and a revised lease for Studio 108 with the Next Theatre Company and Actors Gymnasium Inc. * APPROVED – CONSENT AGENDA MOTION AND ROLL CALL (9-0)

* Resolution 95-R-02 – Acceptance of Donation from American Legion Post 42 – Consideration of proposed Resolution 95-R-02, which authorizes acceptance of a donation to the Evanston Human Relations Commission's Holiday Fund from the American Legion Post 42. * APPROVED – CONSENT AGENDA MOTION AND ROLL CALL (9-0)

* Resolution 96-R-02 – Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant Agreement – Consideration of proposed Resolution 96-R-02, which authorizes the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Cook County for receiving funding to administer a lead-based paint control and prevention program. * APPROVED – CONSENT AGENDA MOTION AND ROLL CALL (9-0)

OTHER COMMITTEES

* Resolution 101-R-02 – Assignment and Assumption Agreement for Redevelopment Agreement and Note – Consideration of proposed Resolution 101-R-02, which authorizes the City Manager to sign an Assignment and Assumption Agreement of Redevelopment Agreement and Note for 909 Davis St. * APPROVED – CONSENT AGENDA MOTION AND ROLL CALL (9-0)

* Resolution 102-R-02 – Assignment and Assumption Agreement of Parking Lease – Consideration of proposed Resolution 102-R-02, which authorizes the City Manager to sign an Assignment and Assumption Agreement of Parking Lease for 909 Davis St. * APPROVED – CONSENT AGENDA MOTION AND ROLL CALL (9-0)

* Resolution 104-R-02 – Letter of Agreement Clarifying Terms and Conditions – Consideration of proposed Resolution 104-R-02, which authorizes the City Manager to sign a Letter of Agreement clarifying terms and conditions of a note executed by the City pursuant to the Redevelopment Agreement for 909 Davis St. * APPROVED – CONSENT AGENDA MOTION & ROLL CALL (9-0)

APPOINTMENTS:

Mayor Morton asked for confirmation of the following appointments:

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| Ruth Lipschutz 223 Grey Ave. For term ending January 15, 2006 | Board of Ethics |
| Joel S. Freeman 2151 Hartrey Ave. For term ending January 15, 2007 | Energy Commission |
| Philip G. Levis 1245 Elmwood Ave. For term ending January 15, 2006 | Housing Commission |
| Maria Shorten 2237 Dodge Ave. For term ending January 15, 2006 | Housing Commission |
| Kristian Harris 2216 Greenwood St. For term ending January 15, 2008 | Playground & Recreation Board |

Mayor Morton asked for confirmation of the following reappointments:

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| Horace Payne 835 Florence Ave. For term ending January 15, 2006 | Housing & Community Development Act Committee |
| Mavis Hagemann 2009 Harrison St. For term ending January 15, 2006 | Human Relations Commission |
| George W. Woolridge, Jr. 250 Ridge Ave. For term ending January 15, 2006 | Parking Committee |
| Cheryl Wollin 2025 Sherman Ave. For term ending January 15, 2006 | Public Art Committee |

*APPROVED - CONSENT AGENDA

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION & PUBLIC WORKS:

Authorization for Design Work – Consideration of a recommendation to authorize negotiation of a price for design work for a section of the Chicago Avenue Streetscape.

Alderman Feldman moved approval. Seconded by Alderman Wynne.

Alderman Moran opposed this recommendation noting it is ostensibly the beginning of an extensive public works project to improve the streetscape from South Blvd. to Dempster/Greenwood comprised of some 6-7,000 linear feet at an

estimated cost of \$7 million with no funding plan. He recalled a proposal for the City Manager to negotiate with a consulting firm to develop specific engineering specifications for the streetscape, which were not approved after concerns were expressed. There was discussion that the Dubin project, which is underway extending north of South Blvd., is faced with developing the streetscape in relation to its construction. Staff has proposed various alternatives to deal with the streetscape relating to this project. He reiterated that there is no funding to do this job and no money allocated to pay for any portion of it. The Dubin project is approximately 700 feet or 10% of the project. The staff memo says there are various options for different parts of the work from different sources although the various options and resources for funds are not identified. Staff recommends funding the project through a special service district, but point out that this option requires a vote by those who will pay for it. He noted there has been no detailed discussion of the extent of a special service district or participation of adjacent landowners and no discussion with landowners about having a special service district so a potential option of source of funds has not been conceptualized, discussed or approved. He noted staff has recommended approval of the streetscape project for the 700 feet adjacent to the Dubin project, financed by taking money for design work and using it for construction. This proposal calls for authorizing the City Manager to negotiate a contract to design this work and use funds previously designated for design work for construction and suggested that was a warning sign. He said this project will be done by taking engineering funds and committing them to construction. He did not know the ratio of engineering to construction in the overall project but his concern was if they continue the "Pac-Man" approach they will run out of funds quickly.

Alderman Moran noted that other problems with this project needed to be addressed before it begins. Mr. Conley raised interesting problems because it requires shrinking Chicago Ave. by about four-feet on the east side. He recalled frequent discussions about Chicago Ave. as a major arterial thoroughfare and that even now, the addition of condominium projects along it, which are just getting started, have led to some obvious congestion at various points. He asked if four feet of the street are removed, what would it do to traffic flow? He could not believe taking four feet of the street would promote traffic flow. He thought Mr. Conley's scenario was not far-fetched and traffic could go into adjacent areas, but that was not the only problem. He said the question is if the City builds the streetscape, will the ultimate redevelopment of Chicago Ave. take place and be driven by the streetscape or will development dictate what the streetscape will be? He noted Chicago Ave. has several segments in this area that are currently commercial and he assumes there will be a significant commercial component in the future. He asked will adjacent landowners want a particular streetscape or will they be looking for something else? There was no answer to that question that evening and he did not think they would get it. Over time he thought various answers would come forward as to the kind of redevelopment there. He thought there would be significant questions if there is commercial development, such as how to get customers, employees and owners in/out of this area and questions as to density of the population as proposed condominium projects go forward. He did not see work done that had adequately assessed the questions he posed and thought it a mistake to go forward until these questions are answered. He saw lack of plans for funding as a weakness in the overall planning.

Another aspect is the Dubin project developer has offered to pay \$125,000 although the developer has some financial obligations to pay for certain reconstruction that would take place because of the redevelopment. Alderman Moran urged Council to be cautious. If approved, he said this will become a test block. He suggested they might be going out on a limb in developing this 700-foot stretch and calling it a "test block." Over time, people might find it not to conform to the remaining redevelopment of Chicago Ave. and, thus, be out of place. Conversely, he said it might be found the development is a positive one. In any event, he thought they could face a citizenry, if uniform in its view, that will want the remaining 90% of this project built quickly and there is no funding mechanism in place. He suggested they not scrap the plan but instead find out where they are financially, then proceed. He did not see the need for double work, as mentioned in the memo, and that Dubin could be allowed to proceed with their project, do minimum work on the west side of Chicago Ave. until the City understands what it can do with this project overall and make adjustments. Mayor Morton reported that she did not get this information in her packet.

Alderman Wynne supported the recommendation, citing it as critical to the community and noted the streetscape is a product of years of work. There was recognition of enormous changes that came to Chicago Avenue in spring 1997 when the Plan Commission determined to start analyzing it. Council has addressed several of the issues, such as reducing the permitted building height significantly and increasing parking requirements, so they do not make an already chronic problem more acute. The streetscape plan was developed by merchants, staff and residents and was discussed thoroughly. Knowledgeable people, who initially had different points of view about what Chicago Ave. could be, came together and

developed the streetscape. It was designed recognizing that Chicago Ave. is a major commercial artery that has become more residential and serves destination and convenience retail.

She stated the streetscape was designed using a 1998 traffic study by KOLA as part of the Chicago Avenue Corridor Study. There never was an expectation that Chicago Ave. would carry fewer cars but that they could reduce the traffic problems they have. She reported the intersection of Main/Chicago is an E+ on a scale of A-F. They are trying to find ways to improve the pedestrian/traffic flows and make it greener by planting trees. She explained that Chicago has one lane northbound and one lane southbound. In some instances the lanes are extra wide and more aggressive drivers try to pass. By narrowing the lane, they make drivers conform better to Chicago Avenue and eliminate some bottlenecks where people try to make it more lanes than it is. The streetscape includes a turning function so if several cars wish to turn left, they don't have lot of cars behind them.

She acknowledged there is no funding mechanism for the \$7-8 million. This request authorizes the City to design the streetscape without the exact cost until the engineering/design work is done. She said it was critical to move forward and do the design because Chicago Ave. is where there is change and development. Of the 1,000 condominium units built here recently, 400 units are on Chicago Ave. She recalled when this started in 1997, the Dominick's store was owned by the Dominick's family and was not contemplated for redevelopment. Now that site has 745 feet of frontage that is being redeveloped into residential property. She stated they needed to have the streetscape designed/engineered so that when a developer comes along, they can show the streetscape and tell them what the City wants them to do. She recalled they weren't ahead with Dubin but have worked with him; complimented Mr. Dubin and his company for their cooperative efforts. She explained if they allowed Mr. Dubin to go ahead with the sidewalk now, later they would have to go back and tear out the trees and sidewalk and disturb some 90 residents who will live there.

She stated that evening was an opportunity to authorize the design and engineering of the streetscape, which they should do anyway because they need to find the cost so that when the next developer comes along (other discussions are underway) the City is ready. This is a unique opportunity to leverage some dollars to pay for the streetscape, which allows them to get 745 feet done. She acknowledged it is a test project and will allow them to see how it looks. If they do nothing else for the next five years, she said they would have nice trees and sidewalk for 90 residential properties at a point in Evanston where many people come here. While this corner is not a gateway, it is currently bleak and dreary. This project lets people know there is positive change going on Chicago Ave. She stated this was not an authorization to spend \$8 million for the entire project and that was noted by nearby residents. She recognized the need to develop a funding mechanism, that there are many competing needs for \$8 million and it would be a long process. A special service district has always been discussed as an aspect of potential funding. She noted they could apply for grants and all recognize this would be a tough problem. A discussion about funding sources will be held in the future. She stated this was not a request to move forward on a large public works project but to free monies already allocated to get something done immediately.

Alderman Newman assumed if they fully fund the \$8 million that they would do additional traffic work; did not think the traffic study was included in the packet. He thought they would maintain the traffic flow and not cut back as Alderman Wynne stated. He said funding this would be challenging and they could not get away from basic concepts they have used when paying for street and sidewalk improvements. Generally, people pay 50% of the cost for a new sidewalk and those principles have to be part of this in the future. Many questions were not answered and they were not saying this \$8 million project would leapfrog over many other priorities but were going forward with a plan that promotes Chicago Ave. in a way that is consistent with funding principles.

Alderman Engelman confirmed that \$285,000 was set aside for engineering drawings for the entire plan. What has been proposed is to use that money to do some of the engineering and some construction so they already know they will have to come up with more money just to do the engineering for the rest of the project. They will spend money allocated for engineering to narrow Chicago Ave. on the east side at the south end and, if that does not work and a bottleneck is created, it is there. He was concerned about jumping forward and spending for construction. He loved the idea of the streetscape and doing engineering drawings so they have a plan available. What concerned him is making significant investment and changing the infrastructure in that area, especially without a funding mechanism. He knew whether or not they had a special service district, from South Blvd. to Main St. on the west side, it would all be City money because there is nobody else. He noted the east side from the old Dominick's site to Main St. is well established, especially the

block with the new high rise and asked what happens if there is a bottleneck at that end of the street?

Alderman Wynne responded that that area has room to move the sidewalk out four feet. Public Works Director David Jennings stated the capacity of the street is controlled by the intersections. The intersection designed for South Blvd. would continue to be a three-lane crossing, one lane northbound two lanes southbound with the left southbound lane designated a left-turn lane and the right lane either straight through or a right turn. He noted while lane widths may change, the lane assignment at the intersections would remain the same. Alderman Wynne stated this would not constrict traffic. What holds up people at intersections is one person making a turn who holds up all behind them. She said that does not occur in this section of Chicago Ave.

Alderman Jean-Baptiste reported extensive discussion in committee and with Alderman Wynne. He thought that since a contribution would be made by the developer, that they need to move forward to create a vision for Chicago Ave. and at some point come together and design that plan. He noted the developer has to make an investment at this location near South Blvd. and, unless the City participates, they may have to redo it. He supported this proposal but not the entire project. One suggestion made by Alderman Moran was that the City tap any developer who intends to build on Chicago Ave. to contribute to the project and, if there is building further north, the City needs to try to get a contribution for the streetscape at whatever level they can. He thought on this limited proposal, they benefit from the developer's contribution and get some design work. He hoped they could pursue funding through grants and other forms to complete the design work. He asked how much design work would be done and how much money would be left? Mr. Jennings clarified that \$280,000 will cover about half of the design work. In the next year, staff will come back in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and ask for more than \$600,000 for design work (which is not unreasonable for a \$7-8 million project). The \$280,000 would roughly cover to Main St. or a bit north. They anticipate doing the survey, which is part of the design, out of that money. The \$90,000 of City cost and the remainder would be used to design as much as they could. In response to Mayor Morton, Mr. Jennings said the \$280,000 comes from the approved CIP budget and has already been allocated. Mayor Morton asked when Mr. Jennings anticipated asking for more money for this project? Mr. Jennings stated in the next CIP budget year.

Alderman Bernstein supported the recommendation; stated some 150 vehicles park in that area daily and traffic has not been impeded. He hoped the Dubin project would resemble the renderings; improvement is needed at the south end of Chicago Ave. and after the townhomes are built, it will be needed even more. He participated in a group of merchants, residents, architects and designers that walked a portion of Chicago Ave. and gave suggestions. The designers were intuitive and demonstrated an expedience for traffic by making pedestrian traffic easier and solving problem areas.

Alderman Newman was not clear about a reference to the west side of Chicago Ave. and that the CTA would get an exemption. It seemed to him that the CTA would vote in a special service district because it is a property owner. Alderman Engelman confirmed that the CTA does not pay property taxes.

Roll call. Voting aye – Bernstein, Kent, Engelman, Rainey, Feldman, Newman, Jean-Baptiste, Wynne. Voting nay – Moran. Motion carried (8-1).

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT:

Funding Request from Connections for the Homeless – Consideration of a recommendation of the Housing Commission to fund a request from Connections for the Homeless through the “Families in Transition” program for up to two years of rental assistance funded through the Mayor’s Special Housing Fund.

Alderman Bernstein moved approval. Seconded by Alderman Wynne .

Alderman Rainey asked what this was about; questioned the number in the family and whether this was rental for a one or two-bedroom apartment. Other families are in transitional housing and this program is fraught with serious problems. She noted this was approved by the Housing Commission and recommended by staff but they had no copy of the

application. Alderman Bernstein stated this program has been ongoing since 1976, sponsored by Connections for the Homeless, which co-sign a lease with the individual. Funds come from the Mayor's Special Housing Fund in an amount not to exceed \$14,500 over two years. This Evanston family will receive counseling from Connections for the Homeless to make their transition successful.

Community Development Director James Wolinski introduced Amber Luhtala, Connections for the Homeless, to answer questions. She explained this is a single mother with a child who has a severe epileptic disorder. They asked for two years to find adequate day care for the child and hope to place this family in a two-bedroom apartment. Alderman Rainey asked what has been done to find day care? Ms. Luhtala said no day care providers are available for special needs children here except through the Recreation Division, where the site changes daily and this child cannot do that.

Roll call. Voting aye – Bernstein, Kent, Moran, Engelman, Feldman, Newman, Jean-Baptiste, Wynne. Voting nay – Rainey. Motion carried (8-1).

Approval of HOME Funds for New Construction – Consideration of a recommendation of the Housing Commission to approve a request for Home Investment Partnerships (HOME Program) funds to subsidize construction and sale of two single-family attached homes at 1813 Lyons St.

Alderman Bernstein reported that this item was held in committee.

Ordinance 114-O-02 – Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment: Convenience Stores & Open Sales Lots – Consideration of proposed Ordinance 114-O-02, which approves the recommendation of the Plan Commission concerning convenience stores and open sales lots.

Alderman Bernstein reported that this item was held in committee.

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: No report.

OTHER COMMITTEES

Approval of Proposed 2003 City Council and Budget Meeting Schedule – Consideration of a request to approve the proposed 2003 City Council and Budget Meeting dates.

Alderman Newman moved approval with one change, that the first City Council meeting in May be moved from Monday, May 5 to Wednesday, May 7, 2003. Seconded by Alderman Moran .

Voice vote. Motion carried. No nays.

CALL OF THE WARDS:

4th Ward. Alderman Bernstein made a reference to the Parking Committee to consider changing No Parking at the lakefront from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. from South Blvd. north.

Alderman Bernstein reported the Environment Board asked that a representative of that board be appointed to SPARC in order to deal with conservation and environmental issues in new construction projects and asked this be referred to the proper committee.

He reported the Civic Center Committee met with Martin Stern from U.S. Equities. The Council will receive a contract in the near future between the City and Mr. Stern, who would act as consultant on this project. That will include an analysis of the physical plant at 2100 Ridge, a determination of needs and an analysis of what could be done with the property plus an analysis of where City offices could be located and how to pay for it.

He valued this time of the year because people feel good about themselves; hoped to carry this feeling throughout the coming year; wished all a healthy and happy new year.

5th Ward. Alderman Kent wished all happy holidays.

6th Ward. Alderman Moran -- no report

7th Ward. Alderman Engelman – no report

8th Ward. Alderman Rainey wished all happy holidays. She reminded all that the Housing and Community Development Act Committee would hold a public hearing the next evening on the 2004 plan. She will make a reference to the Rules Committee that the City Council consider a resolution to protest the war in Iraq. A model resolution has been circulated that was approved by the City of Chicago.

She recommended that the Families in Transition program be reviewed and analyzed for effectiveness over time. She stated building affordable housing is an important use of the City's housing dollars and was not sure this program is a good one; noted no organization receives more federal, state and local funds than does Connections for the Homeless. While their work is exemplary, she suggested the program needs to be examined. She made a reference to the Planning & Development Committee to review the existence of the Families in Transition program. She was sure a landlord here would welcome this tenant yet they cannot get landlords to accept Section 8 tenants who, to some extent, have the same kind of subsidy. She said Emergency Assistance helps in emergencies but did not think an ongoing institutionalized housing subsidy is a function of local government.

9th Ward. Alderman Feldman reported on the Joint Review Board meeting with taxing bodies involved in the TIF districts; stated school districts and other taxing bodies were delighted with the success of all the TIFs and are waiting for fulfillment of the TIFs when they mature. Districts 65 and 202 appreciated the \$600,000 generated by the Southwest TIF. He wished all a joyous holiday and a wish for health and peace in the coming year.

Mayor Morton asked for minutes of the Joint Review Board meeting.

1st Ward. Alderman Newman understood that special service districts are done primarily through the real estate tax. He noted there are alleys and streets that were improved where non-property taxpayers have paid assessments. On Chicago Avenue he thought the City would have extensive dialogue with the CTA about their contribution and work on various options.

He has discussed revisiting the final 10% increase in sewer rates with senior staff and looked forward to ideas to balance the budget with some relief to taxpayers.

He reported that Representative Julie Hamos, Senator Jeff Schoenberg and Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin were at the Rules Committee that evening with a discussion of liability and budget issues confronting Evanston and thought the City could look forward to some help from them. He asked the City Manager's office to keep Council posted on liability issues, the parking tax and on real estate assessments on multi-family housing with the county.

He stated that the Parking Committee would look at the request to change parking at the lakefront to 5:00 a.m.

Alderman Newman noted Evanston's downtown is in a continuing renaissance and thanked staff for their work. He said it was a great accomplishment for the entire City. As the downtown expands, job opportunities are increased and the tax base is expanded. He thought that people would look at 1997 forward as a positive turning point for downtown. He said everybody is talking about Evanston's downtown. He thought that James Klutznick's suggestion that "Evanston is the North Shore's downtown" was coming to fruition. He said that the City is doing something right and hoped this success would spill over to other parts of the community. He wished all a happy new year.

He announced a Rules Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 7 at 6:00 p.m. A resolution against war in Iraq would be considered and a follow up on the City Manager's evaluation. The Human Services Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. He announced a discussion of the Central Street Parking Study at the January Parking Committee meeting.

2nd Ward. Alderman Jean-Baptiste joined Alderman Rainey in calling for adoption of a resolution against war in Iraq and asked that the floor be opened to expert testimony and those interested to share with the community.

He asked colleagues for creative ideas to mobilize job training and placement resources to maximize their effectiveness. He noted despite many resources there is no central oversight or evaluation mechanism to determine how effective they have been or need to be in training Evanston residents to find jobs and participate in the community. He asked all developers and business owners to include Evanston residents in their work force and to make their workforce diverse.

He wished all a merry Christmas, happy Kwanza, Chanukah and new year.

3rd Ward. Alderman Wynne thanked all who supported the Chicago Avenue Streetscape. She thought it was a positive move; thanked staff for their work and David Dubin for stepping forward with an additional contribution.

She said one of the things she likes about living here is that on her block they just celebrated the 53rd Hinman Avenue progressive dinner party where all 22 homes on the block participated. She knows other neighborhoods celebrate and it makes Evanston a place where people want to live. She wished all a merry Christmas and happy new year and looked forward to another productive year with staff and colleagues.

Mayor Morton congratulated the following Evanston Township High School students who received the Sheriff's Youth Service Medal of Honor award for volunteering 100 or more hours: Candace Austin, Jeffrey Darragh, David Pike, Sarah Raleigh, Elizabeth Sage, Chrissy Scheller and Brandi Williams.

Mayor Morton wished all a happy holiday season.

There being no further business to come before Council, Mayor Morton asked for a motion to adjourn. The Council so moved at 10:48 p.m.

Mary P. Morris,
City Clerk

A videotape recording of this meeting has been made part of the permanent record and is available in the City Clerk's office.