

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
LORRAINE H. MORTON CIVIC CENTER
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
DECEMBER 07, 2009
8:10 P.M.**

Roll Call:

Alderman Wilson	Alderman Burrus
Alderman Holmes	Alderman Fiske
Alderman Tendam	Alderman Jean-Baptiste
Alderman Grover	Alderman Wynne
Alderman Rainey	

Presiding Officer: Mayor Elizabeth M. Tisdahl asked City Manager Bobkiewicz if he had any announcements. City Manager responded by introducing the two new employees with the City: Mr. Grant Farrar, City Attorney Corporate Counsel, and Mr. Lehman Walker, Director of Community Development.

City Clerk: No communications, Madam Mayor.

Public Comment:

Mike Vasilko 2728 Reese spoke on the budget as well as passing out a drawing and a written statement to the Council. He also stated with all of Evanston's charm it is not a destination that distant visitors choose. He also read a list of items he believed to be important for Evanston to attract distant visitors, as well as Northwestern's input into possible inclusions to the City.

Alderman Wynne stated at the November 12th meeting the Lakefront Plan was discussed and the Council had decided to follow the proposed Lakefront Plan.

Alderman Rainey asked if the drawing that Mr. Vasilko passed out included a landfill, and how much would be included. The answer was yes from Mr. Vasilko and he stated it was about 500,000 square feet.

Alderman Jean-Baptiste in response to Alderman Wynne's statement stated at that Council meeting it was decided not to close the discussion if there were viable options, and he felt this was a viable option.

Jeff Smith 2724 Harrison spoke on two items; he wanted to know how many of the jobs that were to be eliminated lived in Evanston, because that would account for foreclosures and bankruptcy and loss of revenue for Evanston. The yard waste was also a concern of his, as well as the Lakefront issue and a possible landfill because putting any type of material in the lake to create land. He stated any pier promontory jetties would interrupt the littoral rift and would cause further erosion if we try to build anything later. He also suggested in tough economic times we should not get rid of services.

Dona Gerson, 200 Lee Street spoke on the issue of the South Branch Library closings. She urged those who had not visited the library they should. She stated the importance of the South Library to the children, parents, and the elderly in that neighborhood. The South Branch has been in its location for ninety years. She stated the branch libraries embodied values that are important to all who live in Evanston.

Manager Bobkiewicz then asked Ms. Lynne Montei the Budget Facilitator for the budget sessions to come forward and present summary of the Budget Committee that ends tonight. She thanked the staff for their cooperation in the successfulness of the process. She stated the Committee started out with a context that all cities are required by law to create and adopt a balanced budget. She then gave a break down of the number of participants and on lookers for each of the meetings. There were 8,771 visits to the home webpage, and for the electronic polling there were 1,045 on the top five priorities but in actuality only 1,003 were counted since some were deemed invalid entries.

Mr. Bobkiewicz stated the way the eliminated repeat voters was by their IP address, and if there were more than one entry the extra ones were not

counted. He gave credit to Erika Storlie for creating a program to catch those who tried to stuff the poll.

Ms. Montei continued explaining how the process was followed. She explained in order to be a participant the person had to attend the first two workshops otherwise you could only be an onlooker with no input. The participants in the first session generated 38 questions to set up a focus for the second session. In the second session it dealt with setting context and frame of reference. The participants went into dialogue about what is important to the City, why is this City meaningful to me, what we want to honor our past and what do I want to generate the priorities in 2010-2011 we want to remember when we are generating ideas. In the third session was idea generations and the fourth was the discernment process and selection. She proceeded to show some charts on the screen that represented the participation in all sessions. She also stated she believed it was a very healthful and informative process where all had the opportunity to participate and not be reactive but proactive. She thanked the staff and Council for allowing her to be a part of the process that included the community at large as well as City staff and government.

Alderman Grover thanked Ms. Montei for facilitating and the City Manager for holding the workshops. He question was did Ms. Montei ask for feedback after every workshop or was it at the end of the whole process? The answer was there were feedback forms for workshops 2 and 4. There was a poster on the back wall for workshop 3, and because she was not at the first workshop she could not remember. She advised that it would be advisable to have feedback after each one. Alderman Grover stated she would be interested in receiving some of the input from the workshops.

Mayor Tisdahl asked if Ms. Montei had any information concerning the safety of the community if we closed a Fire Station. Ms. Montei stated she did not have any documentation about the Fire Station closure that relates to safety and maybe someone else could answer.

City Manager stated they had provided feedback for questions and there was a question regarding reduction in Fire Department service and that information was provided in the packet as a summary of the document, and it is available on the City's website.

City Manager Bobkiewicz proceeded to walk the Council through the proposed calendar for the review of the budget for 2010-11. He also stated under the City Code he is required to submit a City budget to the City Council no later than December 31. On Friday, December 18th he will be providing an outline of what will be included in the proposed budget due to the layoffs.

After much discussion the dates were set for the next set of meetings with the first on January 9, 2010 at 8:30am with additional potential dates of January 23rd and January 30th if needed.

Mayor Tisdahl asked for a motion to adjourn, it was moved and seconded with a roll call resulting in a 9 – 0 vote. The meeting ended at 9:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rodney Greene, City Clerk

A CD RECORDING IS AVAILABLE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE ROOM 1200.