

**Observer:** Sue Calder

**Aldermen Present:** Rainey, chr ; Braithwaite, Simmons, and Suffredin.

**Staff Present:** King (Budget Director) was the staff, Bobkiewitz, Stoile, Farrer, Stonebach, Leonard, Flax and about 8 others.

**Media Present:** EvanstonNow, NU Daily.

**Meeting Began.** 6:08pm

**Meeting Ended:** 7:40pm

**No. Of Citizens in Attendance:** two.

Approved for Action:

- \* Payrolls: two from 11/27-12/10 (\$2,729,121.27) and from 12/11-12/24 (\$2,737,951.63); bills (\$6,621,592.84); and credit card activity (without Amazon) of \$157,991.71; and Amazon for \$11,314.94.
- \* \$40,000 for Sunshine Gospel Ministries transaction. (Simmons abstained)
- \* Extended date for completion for Gibbs Morrison site improvement. Simmons queried if the construction firm was in compliance with the women/minority rule since a minority employee was terminated. City manager stated staff was discussing the firm on this issue, particularly for future contracts.
- \* Funds, not to exceed \$750,000, to extend the 2018 refuse disposal fees with SWANCC.
- \* Contract for two years (amended down from usual three) for E-Town Tennis to run a tennis program at Chandler-Newberger. Aldermen had heard concerns on how the program and schedules were handled. Recreation Director stated that his staff would be handling administration, registration, etc. and E-Tennis would just teach the classes.
- \* Extend the lines of credit for two TIF districts: \$2.2 million for West Evanston (allow for development at Church and Dodge) and \$3.5 million for Howard-Ridge (help with theater development). Suffredin voted against (did not participate in discussion, so why?).
- \* Adopt a new sexual harassment policy. Stoilie stated that Evanston currently has a strong policy but this would bring the City into compliance with state statute. Trainings are scheduled and there are no cases on file.
- \* The Mayor will be appointed a member of the Board of Directors of the Solid Waste Agency for Northern Cook County, with the Manager as alternate.

For Introduction and Action:

- \* Sign a 50-year lease with MWRD of Greater Chicago for property at 2525 Church @ \$10 a year and authorize up to \$400,000 to extend green space, recreational facilities, and a rain garden installation (\$80,000-\$100,000) over time. Needs 2/3 Council approval. Simmons moved "Action" to the original of the Introduction.

For Introduction:

- \* Amend current code to extend bike route designations to a number of streets.
- \* Amend current code to require fire protection systems be tested annually.

For Discussion:

- \* Staff wanted Council to set a reimbursement policy for overpayment charges for water bills, i.e. if homeowner is charged for two carts. What should the time frame be? Currently staff is just going back one year, but should it be longer? Last three years the costs have been between \$4,000 and \$5,000.

Affordable Housing Issues:

- 1) Rainey had referred to committee an idea to supplement residents rents so they could rent market rate apartments but not pay more than 30% of their income in rent. She is very opposed

to lower rate units in high rise buildings (Inclusionary Housing Ordinance) for families, but could understand smaller units for elderly. Would like this to be a 3-year trial program and not have all the red tape that Cook County vouchers make people go through. Questions were asked on the costs and Flax said that for the TBRA program of Connections costs are \$500,000 for 22 families for two years (my editorial here is that was not a full answer since these are homeless families and in two years take over all the rent costs). Simmons pushed for a program to support landlords so they could renovate their units.

- 2) First time buyers mortgage assistance for moderate and middle income households as well as low income households. Discussion on whether this should be started in CDBG designated areas or city-wide; there was support for both. Flax asked if this approach should be a grant (money need not be repaid) or a loan and if a grant how would the fund be replenished. Staff wanted to know the income levels aldermen would consider. Also should there be zoning changes to allow smaller units on smaller lots. Manager stated that programs should be sustainable and some answers may come out of the meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup>.