

MINUTES



CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION
Monday, January 14, 2013
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center
Aldermanic Library

Present: Alderman Wynne Alderman Rainey
Alderman Wilson Alderman Burrus
Alderman Holmes Alderman Fiske
Alderman Tendam Alderman Braithwaite
Alderman Grover

Others Present: Grant Farrar, City Attorney, Wally Bobkiewicz, City Manager, Joe McRae Deputy City Manager, Steve Griffin, Director Community & Economic Development, Paul Zalmezak, Economic Development Coordinator, Johanna Nyden, Economic Development Coordinator, David Stoneback, Director of Utilities

Presiding: Mayor Elizabeth B. Tisdahl

Mayor Tisdahl called the meeting to order at 10:55 p.m.

Litigation

Mr. Bill McKenna explained the case concerning the JDBY bench trial that was conducted in December 2012. He thanked all who testified (Aldermen Holmes, Rainey, Judge, Lionel Jean-Baptiste and Mayor Tisdahl) spoke extremely well. He believed the case went very well for the City, and the Judge will make her ruling in April 2013. He stated they made a proposal and are waiting for the decision from the City to accept their proposal. They want the City to allow them to use the building as a school and they promise to pay the Evanston share of the tax bill, and then would drop all other charges. He was looking for direction from the Council and the Council instructed him to proceed.

Alderman Rainey stated the purpose of our opposition was it is noted zoned to be a school, and it is a terrible location.

Mr. Bobkiewicz stated that Mr. Farrar had prepared a litigation report, and that the Law department has been doing a great job representing the City and to just pass any questions along later.

Mr. Farrar then gave an update on VEOLIA as they approached the City to mediate the case, but Mr. Farrar felt it wasn't worthwhile. They are not aggressively advancing the case in trying to bury us in documents. VEOLIA stock was bought by Advance Disposal, but VEOLIA is still liable for the operation of the site. To date, he stated we have approximately \$392,490 in fees paid, but he will just keep trudging along until the case is settled. Alderman Braithwaite asked for a statement from Mr. Farrar, that he could inform a neighbor as to the situation surrounding VEOLIA's sale.

Real Estate

Mr. Bobkiewicz reported that ZS Associates, a large international consulting firm headquartered in Evanston. They would like to have further discussions to proceed with the parking lot process for the Library. If ZS is still interested all will be well, but if not there will be others to look at.

Ms. Johanna Nyden reported on the property located on Howard Street that was purchased by the City of Evanston in October 2011. It is still vacant with the exception of one tenant. The property is being looked at as a potential restaurant, and negotiations will continue as a lease is being sought by an interested party.

City Manager Bobkiewicz had Mr. Stoneback give a short presentation concerning the existing reservoir being abandoned and releasing Northwestern University from the current easement agreement. This would only happen after negotiations with Northwestern to obtain a long term lease agreement for the construction, maintenance and use of a reinforced concrete reservoir under Long Field. Once a lease has been accepted and signed by Northwestern, the City Manager would bring that information back to the Council. This would be a 7 million gallon reserve tank replacing the 5 million gallon tank that has well served its time.

Personnel

City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz mentioned the employee benefit audit that was accomplished. The decision was made to take off the unlawful family member (which only included a relatively small number of employees), who said they were told by their peer to just keep the family member on. The rule now is not to rely on any oral directions from an employee in that regard.

City Manager Bobkiewicz mentioned the allegations of discrimination from Mr. Brown toward Mr. Gaynor to the Illinois Department of Human Rights. Mr. Bobkiewicz gave more details of the issue and was hopeful that it would not go any further.

Minutes

Being no further business, motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of November 12th and December 10th with a unanimous voice vote the minutes were approved. Then a motion to adjourn was made and seconded and a unanimous voice vote the session ended at 11:29 p.m.

Submitted by: Hon. Rodney Greene, City Clerk