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**Evanston City Council
Closed Session Minutes
Aldermanic Library
Wednesday, May 7, 2008**

PRESENT: Aldermen Rainey, Hansen, Wollin, Jean- Baptiste, Wynne, Bernstein, Holmes, Moran and Tisdahl

ABSENT: Mayor Morton

STAFF: Julia Carroll

PRESIDING: Mayor Pro Tem Wollin

START: 10:10 p.m.

Personnel

Mayor Pro Tem Wollin understood their task was to formalize discussion made at the last executive session. A letter was sent to City Manager Julia Carroll by the Mayor concerning this matter. It was decided it probably would be easier for Ms. Carroll and staff if the Mayor accepted Ms. Carroll's resignation and gave administrative leave to June 27 to make the transition easier. Ms. Carroll had spoken with the Mayor Tuesday morning and was willing to do whatever is best for the organization. She appreciated the financial consideration and was willing to work through June 27. She has talked with Rolanda Russell and agreed to help her in any way. Ms. Carroll said there are many things she has been doing that neither assistant manager had worked on. She was putting together a list of those things; appreciated the understanding shown her by Council and thanked them.

Alderman Holmes thought Mayor Morton had jumped the gun by sending a letter saying the effective date of her resignation is May 9 but was concerned about overlap. Alderman Jean-Baptiste said no effective day was decided. Ms. Carroll was concerned because Ms. Russell might want to take some time off. Ms. Russell was going to be out of town this weekend for Mother's Day. Ms. Carroll would do whatever necessary to make the transition smooth.

Mayor Morton had planned a reception on May 9 for Ms. Carroll; she will be available on May 16. It was agreed administrative leave for Ms. Carroll would begin Monday, May 12 and that she would make herself available to Ms. Russell on an as needed basis.

Alderman Bernstein moved effective Monday, May 12 that City Manager Carroll go on administrative leave, with full pay, until June 27. He moved to appoint Rolanda Russell as Interim City Manager effective May 12. The motions were seconded and carried unanimously.

At 10:20 p.m. Alderman Jean-Baptiste moved to reconvene into open session. Seconded by Alderman Holmes.

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Roll call. Voting aye – Rainey, Hansen, Wollin, Jean-Baptiste, Wynne, Bernstein, Holmes. Moran, Tisdahl. Voting nay – none. Motion carried. (9-0)

Alderman Bernstein moved that the City Manager's administrative leave begin on Monday, May 12 with the city manager's agreement to make herself available to Rolanda Russell on an as-needed basis. The motion was seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Bernstein moved that Rolanda Russell assume the duties of Interim City Manager effective Monday, May 12. The motion was seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

At 10:21 p.m. Alderman Hansen moved that Council reconvene into executive session. The motion was seconded.

Roll call. Voting aye – Rainey, Hansen, Wollin, Jean-Baptiste, Wynne, Bernstein, Holmes. Moran, Tisdahl. Voting nay – none. Motion carried. (9-0)

Alderman Wollin stated there still is the open question of filling the City Clerk's position. Phillip Baugher has declined to serve. Alderman Rainey found a man, whose job at Aon Insurance departed for India or the Bahamas. Dave Johnson has been involved in the Democratic Party and done a lot of voter registration. He lives in the house he grew up in and is in his fifties. She sent him the duties of the office. Alderman Wynne had spoken with Debbie Nelson, who has a law degree (also unemployed) but was not certain she would take it due to the salary.

Alderman Holmes suggested if these two people don't pan out and she has no idea of the issues with Emily Guthrie. Mary Morris will leave next Thursday the 15th. Alderman Bernstein said they cannot believe Emily. Alderman Wynne asked if there was an objection to having secretaries come there. Yes, because they would be unable to assume statutory duties. Alderman Hansen said the Mayor will want a resume, have Dave Johnson interviewed by herself and the clerk before the next closed session on May 12. Alderman Tisdahl had suggested Jane Grover, who decided it was too time consuming.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Mary P. Morris,
City Clerk

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