

**Evanston City Council
Closed Session Minutes
Aldermanic Library
Monday, June 11, 2007**

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

ABSENT: Aldermen Moran and Wynne

STAFF: Alan Berkowsky, Julia Carroll, Bob Gustafson, Herb Hill,
Rolanda Russell and Debbie Sleet

GUESTS: Ronald Kramer, Seyfarth and Shaw

PRESIDING: Mayor Lorraine H. Morton

START: 11:37p.m.

Minutes

Closed session minutes of May 29, 2007 were approved as submitted.

Collective Bargaining - IAFF Contract

Mr. Kramer reported the Firefighters have ratified an agreement with the City. They negotiated on parallel tracks with the police. The contract is for two years with a 4% increase each year. They increased the differential for firefighters and captains; agreed to 1-1/2 pay for three holidays. Health insurance was changed. While the firefighter's contributions continue to be a percentage of their salary, due to a provision in the contract, there is flexibility to make changes in the contract regarding health insurance. The idea is to reduce the cost to tax payers. Alderman Rainey asked about changing the plan to pay for a couple plus one or two instead of families paying the same as couples do now. City Manager Carroll said they would look into that. Mr. Kramer said that wouldn't change the overall cost of the plan.

A Retirement Incentive Program was agreed to with retirement limited to 10 firefighters each year. Chief Berkowsky explained they have a mentoring program. Ms. Carroll noted they have a new test. Alderman Rainey moved approval of the contract. Seconded by Alderman Bernstein.

Ronald Kramer, Debbie Sleet, Bob Gustafson and Chief Berkowsky left the meeting at this time.

Retirement Health Savings – City Manager Contract

First Assistant Corporation Counsel Herb Hill explained the Retirement Health Savings plan that City Manager Carroll elected to join. All money used is tax deferred through the IRS. It was created by the ICMA, and was a good plan, however, the elective portion did

not meet standards of the IRS so the plan was withdrawn January 1, 2007. \$9,500 was put in 2007 and \$5,000 in a 401A, deferred compensation account. After 2007, funds will be put into a deferred plan. The 401A is a Retirement Health Savings Plan. The manager's original request was made in 2004.

A draft of the employment agreement prepared by Jack Siegel pursuant to the City Council's deliberations was included. Ms. Carroll provided an employment agreement dated June 8, 2007.

Litigation

Poll vs. COE

Mr. Hill reported this case involving a slip and fall on Central Street was settled for \$110,000, the amount authorized.

Township Billing – Mr. Hoover

Mr. Hill reported that Mr. Hoover had reduced his \$33,200 bill to \$30,000; and had given him drafts of the paralegal's work which he described as well done. Alderman Rainey asked if the \$30,000 would be paid from the prior year budget. There was agreement that the maximum compensation for any further work by Mr. Hoover is \$3,000.

Alderman Rainey suggested that trustees reduce the township levy.

Special Assessment 1489 – Padma Rao

This Special Assessment is for alley paving at 2246 Sherman. Ms. Rao's share for that is \$625. Ms. Rao filed a pro se brief and Attorney Doug Cannon filed a brief on her behalf. This will be heard on June 26. It was noted this will cost more than \$625. Mr. Hill stated that they will file a brief. 11 condominium residents support the special assessment. No one other than Ms. Rao objects to the alley paving.

Gregory vs. COE

Mr. Hill updated Council and reported the demand is for \$65,000 to settle. He does not believe that Evanston police officers did anything wrong. This will go to trial with Ian Johnson, Holland & Knight, representing the City.

There being no further business to come before Council, Mayor Morton declared the meeting adjourned at 12:10 a.m.

Mary P. Morris,
City Clerk