

## Observer Report

### Rules Committee

October 1, 2007

**Observer:** Sue Calder

**Aldermen Present/Absent:** Present: Tisdahl, chair; Hansen, Holmes, Bernstein, Jean-Baptiste, Moran and Wollin.

**Staff Present:** Carroll, Hill, Aiello, Francello, Morgan

**Media Present:** Review and Roundtable

**Meeting Began.** 6:10 pm

**Meeting Ended:** 6:50 pm

**No. of Citizens in Attendance:** One

**Significant Discussions, Action Taken:** The only issue that might have action was "Website usage by elected officials" and was postponed because Ald. Rainey was ill.

City Manager Carroll did brief the aldermen on several issues at the state level which may have an impact on municipalities. These are being tracked/lobbied on by the Northwest Municipal Conference. 1) Transportation funding. 2) Define "catastrophic" injury for firefighters. Currently any injury (fall in the station kitchen) is considered catastrophic for which the firefighter and his family get lifetime health insurance. Insurance for a family is \$14,000. New definition would mean the firefighter would not be able to work. 3) Oppose a change to the retirement plan that would allow a "retiree" who collects a pension to continue to work for 5 years. 4) Right away limits. Staff will introduce a new bill for fast track adoption at the next meeting on the use of right-of-ways because of the passage at the state level for AT&T to get into the cable business. Currently a utility can install boxes just about any where but the bill to be introduced, based on other municipalities ordinances, would give some control to Evanston.

#### **Comments**

State legislators are being invited to the next meeting. The City Manager was instructed to send them a letter ahead of time on the issues of concern so that they can come prepared.