I. ROLL CALL

Mayor Schmidt called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

On roll call vote the following Aldermen indicated their presence at the meeting Sweeney, DiPietro, Smith, Raspanti, Knight, Bernick and Maloney. There was a quorum.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman Sweeney motioned approval of the July 11, 2011 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes. Alderman DiPietro seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

III. CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD ON A NON-AGENDA ITEM

None

Mayor Schmidt discussed his concerns with a report prepared by Finance Director Stutts outlining purchases for City Departments including the purchase of $960 plaques displaying the Police Department Mission Statement. Chief Kaminiski stated that the Police Department is working on changing their culture and need to make sure that the Mission Statement is publicized around the building as it serves as a constant reminder to officers. Mayor Schmidt continued with concerns related to $4,000 spent on Police Department trading cards, $1,000 for Parent Patrol jackets, a paid membership for Deputy City Manager Maller for the Rotary Club, $2,800 for the library to purchase video games, and $10,700 for the library to purchase dvd’s/cd’s. Several Aldermen expressed their concern since they were not given copies of the report and suggested waiting until a future meeting to discuss when they would have had time to review the report. Mayor Schmidt stated that this was not intended to be a discussion and that the wasteful spending must stop. He felt that this spending is outrageous and that taxpayers should be livid.

IV. FINANCE AND BUDGET
A. ACTION ITEMS

None

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Salary Range Adjustment

City Manager Hock explained that non-union employees have not received pay increases for three years. In the performance pay plan are wage ranges for various classifications that provide and minimum and maximum wages for all positions. When the 3% increase was granted for all non-union employees this year, those who were at the top of their range could only receive a cash payment equal to the percentage amount that was approved by City Council. Staff is recommending that the top end of all non-union wage ranges be increased by 3%. The City of Park Ridge, specifically the Human Resources Department, will be conducting a compensation study this fall.

Alderman DiPietro felt that when the City Council approved the increase, they were approving a 3% increase to all non-union employees. He does not feel that any further action is necessary by Council.

Director Stutts stated that if Council wanted to provide those individuals with the 3% increases added to their salary, they would have to amend the City Employee Policy Manual since it states that the increase should be granted in a lump sum.

City Attorney Hill stated that since this is a Committee meeting, the City Council can make a motion to approve this item, but he would caution the City Council from making this habit for future.

Alderman DiPietro made the following motion, Alderman Raspanti seconded.

**MOVE THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE A 3% INCREASE TO THE TOP OF ALL NON-UNION WAGE RANGES ESTABLISHED IN THE CITY COMPENSATION POLICY.**

Alderman Knight stated that he does not support the pay increases.

Alderman Sweeney stated that he is in favor of Alderman DiPietro’s motion and believes that pay grades should be reviewed and adjusted.

John Sigioltzakis, 2811 Mayfield asked if this itemed needed to be an agenda item in order for the Council to vote. Alderman Knight reminded him of Buzz’s clarification of the Council’s ability to vote.

Willian May, 1756 Elliot stated that most people in the private section are receiving 20% pay cuts and felt that it would be crazy for the City to grant a 3% increase.

Mayor Schmidt felt that there is little support and back-up for this proposal and felt that the City Council was jumping the gun and should wait until this issue is an action item on a future agenda. City Council needs to know the overall economic impact it will have on the budget.
Alderman Sweeney made the following motion to override the Chairman, Alderman Raspanti seconded.

**MOVE THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE A 3% INCREASE TO THE TOP OF ALL NON-UNION WAGE RANGES ESTABLISHED IN THE CITY COMPENSATION POLICY.**

The motion passed (4-3) with Aldermen Smith, Maloney and Knight voting no.

This item will be placed on the next City Council agenda as an action item.

2. Overtime Costs vs. Budget

Director Stutts explained her report showing overtime expenditures through Friday, July 22, 2011. This data does not include overtime incurred during the July 23, 2011 storm event. The City has spent 37% of the total overtime budget so far versus 20% spent at this period last year. Storm overtime accounted for $23,000 this fiscal year compared to 3% for the same period last year. City Manager Hock reminded City Council that the grant reimbursement fund is at zero, which means the City still has not received grant reimbursements. City Manager Hock and Fire Chief Zywanski explained the overtime costs being accrued in the Fire Department due to three vacancies, one fireman serving in Afghanistan and two firemen on long term FMLA. So each shift requires overtime to be paid out until the vacancies will be filled in October or November.

Alderman Sweeney pointed out that the Department is receiving more calls with less support and that most of the overtime is due to the storms. He inquired about the application process to FEMA and whether the City would receive funding. Director Zingsheim stated that if awarded, the City should receive 75% of what they spent.

Mayor Schmidt expressed his concern related to the Fire Department overtime budget. Director Stutts stated that she would provide the quarterly numbers that would include forecasting. City Manager Hock stated that it is the intention of Staff to stay within the budget.

Alderman Raspanti agreed with the Mayor’s concerns and felt that it is a good idea to address any budgeting concerns as they happen rather than after the fact.

Director Stutts stated that she should be able to provide her report for the August 22, 2011 meeting.

3. Capital Project Financing

Director Stutts felt that this is a premature discussion. Alderman Sweeney requested that City Council discuss financing of the sewer construction projects. Recently, the City requested that our financial advisor provide the City with options on refinancing the early retirement incentive debt owed to IMRF and TIF debt. City Council should wait until the projects are prioritized before any decisions can be made. Director Stutts asked that Council give direction as to what Staff should give top priority.

Director Zingsheim stated that the Task Force will meet on September 7th. City Engineer Mitchell stated that Council will receive a memo this month prior to the Task Force Meeting.
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outlining Staff recommendations. City Manager Hock suggested that Council wait until the Task Force meeting and for Staff recommendations.

Mayor Schmidt asked that the subject of sewer rate increases be placed as an action item on the next Finance and Budget meeting agenda.

Alderman Sweeney felt that there should be a sewer rate increase added to the tax bill.

Sean O’Leary, 2060 Manor Lane stated that he reviewed the sewer fund and that the balance sheet is poor. The City should use a sewer fee increase to support debt. The City of Park Ridge is highly rated and would be well received in the market. He urged Council to make this a priority since this is an opportune moment in the market.

Alderman Knight reminded Council that they need to be taking a close look at these warrants.

Alderman DiPietro asked if Mayor Schmidt is required to sign off on every warrant. Director Stutts stated that he signs an affidavit.

Alderman Bernick discussed his concerns related to the warrants. He has discussed several of these issues with City Staff.

C.   DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT

None

V.   PUBLIC WORKS

A.   ACTION ITEMS

None

B.   DISCUSSION ITEMS

1.   Use of Parking Fund for Parking Lot at 229 Courtland

Alderman Maloney explained the poor condition of the property at 229 Courtland. There is currently over $1 million in the parking fund. The house has been sitting vacant for many years. The Fire Department occasionally uses the house for training exercises.

Alderman DiPietro asked if the City pays rent to the church for the parking lot across the street. City Manager Hock explained that the City owns the side that is currently used for City parking, mainly employees. If the property at 229 Courtland is made into a parking lot, the spots currently used by the City across the street could be leased. The City originally bought this property to use for expansion. He suggested waiting until spring to decide and further evaluate the amount of repairs needed along Summit Avenue. He felt that the money in the parking fund should be used to pay for those repairs first.

Alderman Bernick does not want to incur costs of building until the City decides what to do with the land at 229 Courtland.
Alderman Sweeney stated that the plan for the property at 229 Courtland is to make it into a parking lot. It is an eyesore and an insurance risk.

Michael Cavallo, 910 Glenlake stated that the house should be torn down. He expressed his concerns related to the building staying vacant for an extended period of time.

Carla Cobert, 2801 Mayfield asked if the money in the parking fund could be used for curbs in Mayfield Estates. City Manager Hock stated that the money in the parking fund can only be used for parking lots.

Alderman Maloney asked if the house could be torn down but further construction be put off until a future date. City Manager Hock stated that the house could be torn down, and would cost approximately $20,000 but the City would be making the commitment to make the property into a parking lot.

Alderman DiPietro asked that this item be placed on the next Public Works COW meeting agenda as an action item.

C. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

1. ComEd Update

Director Zingsheim stated that he would be meeting with ComEd in the next 4-6 weeks. He is giving them some time to catch up and recover from the recent storms. He will discuss the chronic issues that affect Park Ridge. He felt that ComEd does experience issues during major outages, but when there are minor outages, the system works very well.

Alderman Bernick would like to attend the meetings with ComEd and Wayne to serve as further support for Park Ridge.

Mayor Schmidt asked what kind of system is in place internally in the Public Works Department to monitor ComEd. Director Zingsheim stated that the Department takes calls and asks people to describe whether or not their issue is weather related or not. The Department is looking for chronic non-weather related outage information. He suggests that if a resident experiences one outage, call ComEd. If they experience a series of outages, call Public Works.

Mayor Schmidt would like to see Staff track resident issues and be able to report the progress ComEd is making on the reported issues on an on-going basis.

Director Zingsheim stated that he would be meeting with ComEd quarterly.

Alderman Raspanti would like residents to know that no matter how short the outage is, they need to report the outage to ComEd in order for them to accurately collect data.

Alderman Maloney suggested that residents call both ComEd and Staff. Alderman Raspanti stated that it is ComEd’s job to track outages and therefore they would be providing Director Zingsheim with the statistics.

John Sigioltzakis, 2811 Mayfield suggested that resident email their outage information. He also expressed his disappointment in the lack of tree trimming in his neighborhood.
2. Flood Control Report

Director Zingsheim reported that money in the tree trimming and stump grinding budget will be gone by the middle of September due to storm clean up.

Mayor Schmidt asked what the risk to the public would be if tree trimming and removal stopped.

Director Zingsheim stated that the less you trim, the more likely damage will occur during a windstorm. There will be dead trees that will likely not be able to be removed as soon as they should be, but the Department will get to them as soon as possible. If there is a safety emergency related to a hazardous tree, Director Zingsheim stated that he would have the tree removed and worry about funding later.

Alderman Smith asked if the hallowing trees that he has noticed could be removed earlier rather than waiting for them to completely decompose. Director Zingsheim stated that there is only one forester for all of the trees in Park Ridge.

Mayor Schmidt stated his concern over the lack of funding for tree maintenance. He does not feel it is the job of Staff to decide how and when to use funds, it is the job of the City Council. He stated that adjustments will need to be made to the budget and he asked Staff to figure out ways to solve this budget issue in the next three to four weeks.

Dennis Sladky, 1725 Elliot, represented a number of residents from Mayfield Estates to express their concerns before City Council. They are looking for answers and relief from the flooding. He expressed many concerns and questions related to the flooding that continues to affect Mayfield Estates. Director Zingsheim explained many of the ways the City sewer and water system works. The residents would like to be educated in flood control so they can better protect and prevent future flooding. They asked for a meeting with Aldermen, Staff and Burke to be set up within the next two weeks. Mayor Schmidt and several Aldermen explained the rules that are laid out in the Open Meetings Act and suggested the residents contact Alderman DiPietro to coordinate a “Ward meeting.” Mayor Schmidt also suggested that the residents come to the upcoming Flood Control Task Force meeting where their issues can be discussed as well as findings in the Burke Report. The residents would like the City to put further pressure on state officials for flood relief.

John Kenny, 1313 Western sent photos to Staff and Officials depicting problems with his sewer line ten minutes after a recent downpour. He would like the City to address his issues and not just keep meeting about them.

Paul Swanson, 1700 Good thanked the City for fixing an issue he was having with his sewer. He still does not experience a steady flow and experiences several feet of water when it rains.

Carla Cobert, 2801 Mayfield experiences issues with an abandoned property across the street at 2800 Mayfield and asked that the City address problems with standing water and swampy water. Alderman DiPietro stated that he will ask Health Inspector Laura Dee to check the property again.

VI. PUBLIC SAFETY

A. ACTION ITEMS

None
B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Ordinance Change – Disorderly Conduct and Drinking in the Public Way

Chief Kaminski discussed background related to this proposed ordinance change. After reviewing some of the ordinances and learning that some revisions need to be made to Article 14, Chapters 2 and 5 regarding disorderly conduct, a draft ordinance was created to be consistent with current law.

Alderman DiPietro asked that this item be placed on the next Public Safety COW agenda as an action item.

2. Des Plaines Casino

Chief Kaminski has not received any complaints related to the Casino.

Alderman Raspanti stated that traffic appears to have gone back to normal since the opening of the casino.

3. Red Speed Monthly Report

Alderman Raspanti discussed the Red Speed July Report.

Alderman Sweeney noted that the numbers have declined in the past months and wondered if the number of violations reaches a certain point whether or not the red light camera can be removed. Chief Kaminski said that he would find out.

C. POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT


Alderman Raspanti discussed a number of events that the Police Department participated in this past month. He discussed the invaluable participation of the Citizens Patrol and CERT team. The Police Department will go to Peoria later this month to receive a Traffic Safety Award.

Alderman Sweeney noted that the calls for service are up for July and for the past few months, which causes stress on the Department. Traffic tickets are down though. Chief Kaminski stated that this is most likely due to the recent weather events and increased number of Police events that take place during the summer.

2. Complimentary Letters

Alderman Raspanti pointed out a letter sent by resident, Mr. Vallejo, discussing a recently burglary he experienced. He noted his neighbor’s bravery in turning off the intruders ignition in the car and taking the keys. Alderman Raspanti asked that the neighbors be recognized.

3. Chief’s Advisory Task Force

There was not a meeting in July due to electric outage issues.
4. Trading Card Program

Chief Kaminski stated that this is a great opportunity to connect with young people in the community. It is a positive way to engage youth. There are no tax dollars being used, rather money is taken from the forfeiture funds. The trading cards promote being drug free.

Alderman Maloney stated that his children are very interested in the trading card program.

Alderman Sweeney agreed that this is a fantastic program.

5. $40,000 Grant from State of Illinois

Chief Kaminski stated that this money will be used to purchase an Evidence Technician vehicle, as well as a Major Crash Investigation vehicle.

Alderman Raspani added that there will be a Community Policing Training session Wednesday, September 21, 2011 from 8:00a - 4:00p at the Public Works Service Center. The main purpose of this training session is for the Police Department and City Government to collaborate with local businesses and residents to better resolve neighborhood and community issues. If any Alderman are interested in participating, please let Chief Kaminski know as soon as possible.

D. ACTION ITEMS – FIRE

1. Fire Department Uniform Bid Results

   Alderman Raspani made the following motion, Alderman Sweeney seconded. The motion passed unanimously (7/0).

   MOVE THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF $19,432.75 FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT DRESS AND UNIFORM BID TABULATION TO VCG UNIFORM, 5050 WEST IRVING PARK ROAD, CHICAGO, IL 60641.

E. DISCUSSION ITEMS – FIRE

1. World Trade Center Artifact

   Alderman Raspani stated that the Fire Department has received the artifact and welcomes the opportunity to work with the Public Arts Committee. The artifact will be displayed at Hopefest on September 11, 2011 at Maine East High School.

F. FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

Chief Zywanski discussed the July Report.

OTHER CITY BUSINESS

Mayor Schmidt asked that the City Council discuss the upcoming Strategic Planning Session. He does not see the need to hire an outside consultant to run the meeting. City Manager Hock and Deputy City Manager Maller should have enough expertise to conduct the meeting.
City Manager Hock stated that a number of Aldermen are not available on August 16th to meet. He stated that he will bring this issue up under the City Manager’s Report at next Monday’s meeting.

Alderman Smith asked what he could expect out of a Strategic Planning Session. City Manager Hock stated that there will be a plan for the next 2-4 years outlining goals for the community, objectives to achieve these goals and a timetable in which to achieve them.

Discussion ensued related to the need for an outside consultant. City Clerk Henneman suggested the possibility of finding someone who might be willing to donate his or her time in order to not have to spend money. Mayor Schmidt supported this possibility.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

Alderman Bernick discussed a recent issue he encountered with a resident who was trying to install a generator on his property but had issues with the distance from the home. Alderman Sweeney suggested that the resident apply for a variance. Mayor Schmidt stated that Alderman Bernick would need to hold a public hearing if he is interested in changing the Zoning Ordinance. He suggested discussing this issue with the Planning and Zoning Commission.

**IX. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT**

1. Special Events

City Manager Hock discussed funds that are placed in escrow accounts that are not being budgeted for. Instead of budgeting for overtime or other fees related to special events, this escrow account will be used.

Mayor Schmidt asked that City Manager Hock follow up with the Taste of Park Ridge Committee and make sure that they are able to attend the next City Council meeting.

The Indian Scouts should be recognized for all their work in raising funds for the fireworks this year.

2. Adjourn to closed session to discuss collective negotiating matters (Police & Fire) pursuant to 5-ILCS-120/2 c2

Ald. Di Pietro moved to adjourn to Closed Session at 10:17 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Sweeney. Voice Vote / Motion carried.

Mayor Schmidt announced a three-minutes recess before meeting in Closed Session.

Aldermen returned to Open Session at 11:00 p.m. and adjourned the regular meeting at the same time.