

opportunity to introduce themselves.

**d. National Water Week Resolution**

**Consent Agenda item / Approved by the Omnibus Vote designation**

**e. Recognition of National Historic Preservation Month Poster Contest**

Mayor Schmidt explained, since May 1971, preservationists around the country have celebrated National Historic Preservation Month to raise awareness of preservation and the power that historic preservation has to enhance and protect the City's homes and neighborhoods. Mayor Schmidt shared details of the City's Historic Preservation Commission's Poster Contest open to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade children. Chairman Barclay explained how submissions would be judged. The commission intends to display poster submissions at City Hall.

**f. Proclamation – Park Ridge VFW Buddy Poppy Day**

**Consent Agenda item / Approved by the Omnibus Vote designation**

**g. Mayor's Budget Message to the New Council**

Mayor Schmidt welcomed the members of the new City Council. He spoke of the Special Meeting scheduled for May 25, 2011 at which time he said that the Aldermen would be asked to make a final vote on amendments to the budget, specifically the line items vetos he had made on April 6, 2011 totaling approximately \$650K. He did not support the Library's request for a property tax increase. He did, however, support a property tax levy needed to fund the City's increased Fire and Police Pension obligations. He would like to see the restoration of City services that were eliminated by the prior Council in the current budget. He supports restoration of the City's Spokesman newsletter to its previous mode of bi-monthly distribution stating it is an important tool for communicating to the residents. .

Lastly, Mayor Schmidt spoke of the importance of having a transparent government. Relative to contract negotiations, he believes taxpayers have the right to know how their money is being spent. He found it disturbing that an agreement had been entered into containing Ground Rules that prevents any public discussion of negotiations pertaining to the Firemen's contract. Attorney Hill commented on the penalty of discussing negotiations prior to settlement of a contract. Additionally, Attorney Hill opined, if a breach occurred, the City could be imposed a fine and challenged for unfair labor practice. The origination of the Ground Rules agreement remained questionable. Mayor Schmidt found it disconcerting that the Elected Officials are being gagged and that taxpayers are not allowed to know the status or details regarding contract negotiations which involves spending of their money.

Ald. Sweeney questioned the ability of the Council to rescind the agreement. Attorney Hill indicated he was not certain if the Agreement had been executed. He requested an opportunity to research the matter before commenting. Attorney Hill indicated he would provide a report on the matter in the [Council] packet.

Mayor Schmidt requested an explanation of how the public benefits when contract negotiations are kept confidential. City Manager Hock explained, if the Union knows the amount for which the City would settle in terms of a wage increase, the settlement would not be less than that amount.

**CITY COUNCIL**

No report.

**ATTORNEY**

Attorney Henn reported on the status of ligation pertaining to the Trixie's sign that was hung in the window of a vacant business located at Northwest Highway and Western Avenue.

**CITY CLERK**

No report.

**CITY MANAGER**