



**Finance and Budget Committee**  
**Tuesday, July 12, 2022 @ 6:00 PM**  
Virtual

**COMMITTEE MEMBER PRESENT:**

Shari Reiches, Resident, David Livingston, Resident, Leslie McMillan, Resident, Bobby Burns, Councilmember, Devon Reid, Councilmember, Clare Kelly, Councilmember, and Jonathan Nieuwsma, Councilmember

**COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:**

Melissa Wynne, Councilmember

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Jessica Tapia, Finance Analyst, Hitesh Desai, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer, Lara Biggs, Capital Planning & Engineering Bureau Chief, and David Stoneback, Deputy City Manager

**1. CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by Chair Livingston.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Carl Klein commented on the PILOT program that was up for discussion and expressed support.

Chuck Wasserberg expressed support for the PILOT program and wants the City of Evanston to pursue it.

John Moore commented on the PILOT program and supports the program.

Mary Rosinski commented on the PILOT program and how revenues can contribute to infrastructure in the City of Evanston.

Mike Vasilko supports the PILOT program and asked about the budget process in addition to the 2021 audit.

Sebastian Nalls commented on how Northwestern can contribute to the community with the PILOT program.

Trishia Connolly commented on the PILOT program and supports the task force to get the program started.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Approval of the June 14, 2022 Budget & Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes Approved.

Moved by Councilmember Kelly  
Seconded by Councilmember Nieuwsma

**Ayes:** Committee Member Reiches, Committee Member Livingston, Committee Member McMillan, Councilmember Burns, Councilmember Reid, Councilmember Kelly, and Councilmember Nieuwsma

**Carried 7-0 on a recorded vote**

**4. DISCUSSION**

A. GO BOND 2022 Amounts To Be Issued

Chair David Livingston introduced this topic and expressed his concerns on issuing bonds in this difficult and uncertain environment. Some of the questions that were raised were if there were any alternative options to bonds and how much would be issued. CFO Desai introduced Speer Financial advisor, Raphaliata McKenzie to answer questions regarding the interest rate environment. Committee member McMillan would like to see the City explore a line of credit or other short-term financing options in lieu of long-term debt due to volatile markets. CFO Desai stated there have been times where the City of Evanston has had lines of credits for TIF projects.

B. Subgroup Topics and Progress

Chair David Livingston introduced this topic for discussion and spoke about what each group could start working on in order to move forward. There was discussion on City staff working with each group to attain goals. CFO Desai commented on the shortness of staff but stated he would follow up on possible Staff that could work with the subgroups within the committee.

C. PILOT (Payment in lieu of Taxes) Revenue Program

Councilmember Kelly brought this topic up for discussion and stated there should be a PILOT task force implemented to work with the City's largest tax-exempt institutions. The Task Force will assess the impact and the reduction of local revenue from the numerous large tax exempt establishments and the impact on the cost of living for residents. The goal of the task force is to develop a proposal to help offset some of the financial burden to

residents. Many municipalities with large universities have PILOT tasks forces, including Boston. Councilmember Reid expressed his support for the implementation of the task force but stated monies received under PILOT would go to numerous tax bodies, based on the Boston model. Councilmember Reid would like to see the school districts involved with this task force.

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned by Chair David Livingston at 7:35 PM.