



Finance and Budget Committee
Tuesday, October 10, 2023 @ 5:00 PM
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center

COMMITTEE MEMBER PRESENT:

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

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Jessica Tapia, Finance Analyst, Hitesh Desai, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer, and Clayton Black, Budget Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Meeting was called to order by Chair Livingston at 5:01 PM

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Vasilko commented on agenda items FB1. Review of the FY 2022 Single Audit

Mary Rosinski commented on agenda items FB1. Review of the FY 2022 Single Audit

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of the September 12, 2023 Finance & Budget Committee meeting minutes

Minutes approved

Moved by Councilmember Reid

Seconded by Councilmember Nieuwsma

Ayes: Livingston, Wynne, Kelly, Nieuwsma, Reid, Burns, Reiches, and McMillan

Motion Passed 8-0 on a recorded vote

4. CONSIDERATION

FB1. Review of the FY 2022 Single Audit

Hitesh Desai, CFO, led the discussion on this item and highlighted various findings from the

report. The committee agreed to refer this item to City Council and discussed having this be a future point of discussion in Q1 2024.

Staff recommends that the Finance and Budget Committee review the Single Audit Report for 2022 and refer it to the City Council for them to approve and place on file.

Moved by Councilmember Reid
Seconded by Councilmember Nieuwsma

Ayes: Livingston, Wynne, Kelly, Nieuwsma, Reid, Burns, Reiches, and McMillan
Motion Passed 8-0 on a recorded vote

Item was referred to City Council to be accepted and placed on file

5. DISCUSSION

Chair Livingston reordered the discussion of the items during the meeting

D1. Discussion on Solid Waste Fund Status

Public Services Bureau Chief, Noel Rodriguez led discussion on this item. Staff is proposing to increase charges for residential refuse carts, condominium refuse collection, multifamily apartment recycling, and yard waste collection effective January 1, 2024, in order to maintain a positive balance in the Solid Waste Fund. Unexpected wage increases associated with the 2023 AFSCME Union Collective Bargaining Agreement and needed repairs to the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) roof have added increased expenditures that will require additional rate increases in order for the fund to stay sustainable and not run at a deficit. After extensive discussion amongst the committee, they voted to recommend Scenario #4 to City Council.

Staff is seeking direction on how to increase revenue in the Solid Waste Fund needed for operational costs and maintaining a positive fund balance.

Moved by Councilmember Reid
Seconded by Committee Member Livingston

Ayes: Livingston, Wynne, Kelly, Nieuwsma, Reid, Burns, Reiches, and McMillan
Motion Passed 8-0 on a recorded vote

Scenario #4 was recommended by the committee to City Council for consideration

D2. Evanston Affordable Housing Discussion Affordable Housing Fund

Councilmember Burns opened discussion on this item and spoke on the memo drafted by staff. Community Development Director, Sarah Flax, provided information regarding affordable housing and various ideas to fund it. The committee agreed to continue this discussion for a future date.

This memo is in response to a referral from the Finance & Budget Committee requesting data relating to Evanston's affordable housing needs, the availability of affordable housing, and the capacity of the Affordable Housing Fund to address the unmet needs to inform the Finance & Budget Committee's discussion.

D3. FY 2024 Proposed Budget

Finance staff presented various highlights of the FY 2024 proposed budget that were discussed at length by the committee. The committee agreed that the budget discussion would be ongoing and would be discussed again at the Finance & Budget meeting in November.

For Discussion

6. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned by Chair David Livingston at 7:02 PM