



Finance and Budget Committee
Tuesday, February 13, 2024 @ 5:00 PM
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center

COMMITTEE MEMBER PRESENT:

David Livingston, Resident, Clare Kelly, Councilmember, Jonathan Nieuwsma, Councilmember, Bobby Burns, Councilmember, Devon Reid, Councilmember, Leslie McMillan, Committee Member, Shari Reiches, Committee Member, and Lara Biggs, City Engineer

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

Melissa Wynne, Councilmember

STAFF PRESENT:

Hitesh Desai, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer, Michael Van Dorpe, Financial Analyst, and Clayton Black, Budget Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Chair Livingston called the meeting to order at 5:02 P.M.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jack Mortel commented on the Fire Pension and the property tax levy.

Tim Schoolmaster commented on the Police Pension.

Brian Becharas commented on the lease agreement at 909 Davis and the acquisition of 430 Asbury.

Trisha Connolly commented on the lease agreement at 909 Davis.

Meg Welch commented on the lease agreement at 909 Davis.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M1. Approval of the January 9, 2024 Finance & Budget Committee meeting minutes.

Minutes Approved

Moved by Councilmember Reid
Seconded by Councilmember Kelly

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

Motion Passed 7-0 on a recorded vote

Item passed.

4. CONSIDERATION

FB1. Review and Approval of the Staff Recommended "Peer Communities"

Michael Van Dorpe, Financial Analyst, presented and facilitated discussion on this item.

Staff recommends that the Finance and Budget Committee review and approve the proposed list of communities to be used as "Peer Communities" in future analyses.

Moved by Councilmember Reid

Seconded by Councilmember Kelly

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

Motion Passed 7-0 on a recorded vote

Item passed.

FB2. Resolution 15-R-24, Expressing Official Intent Regarding Expenditures from the Funds of the City of Evanston, Cook County, Illinois, to be reimbursed from Proceeds of Obligations to be Issued by the City of Evanston, Cook County, Illinois

Hitesh Desai, CFO, presented and facilitated discussion on this item.

Staff recommends the adoption of Resolution 15-R-24, Expressing Official Intent Regarding Expenditures from the Funds of the City of Evanston, Cook County, Illinois, to be reimbursed from Proceeds of Obligations to be Issued by the City of Evanston, Cook County, Illinois.

Moved by Councilmember Nieuwsma

Seconded by Councilmember Reid

Ayes: Livingston, Nieuwsma, Burns, and Reiches

Nays: Kelly, Reid, and McMillan

Motion Passed 4-3 on a recorded vote

Item passed.

5. DISCUSSION

D1. Discussion Regarding Property Tax Loss Factor

Clayton Black, Budget Manager, presented and facilitated discussion on this item. Staff shared data that showed actual property tax revenues compared to the Gross Property Tax Levy. Staff noted that they are comfortable with keeping the loss factor at the same level in

FY2025, but are open to reducing it at the direction of the Committee or Council.

The Committee requested this item return for Discussion at the March 9 Finance & Budget Committee meeting showing similar data and adding the Net Levy figures.

D2. Discussion Regarding Credit Card Fees

The Committee agreed to table this discussion until the March 9 Finance & Budget Committee Meeting.

D3. Discussion Regarding Preliminary 2023 Financials

Chair Livingston gave an overview of this item. He noted that the key takeaway is that the projections staff provided in Fall 2023 were fairly accurate and close to the preliminary actual FY 2023 figures. All final FY 2023 numbers are preliminary until the completion of the Annual Audit later in 2024.

D4. Discussion Regarding Civic Center and Police/Fire Headquarters

Lara Biggs presented on the process and findings of the AECOM reports about the potential relocation of the Civic Center and Police/Fire Headquarters.

At the January 22, 2023 City Council Meeting, staff shared a similar presentation and discussion about the AECOM report, and the City Council voted to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract for a lease at 909 Davis Street to house City Hall functions.

Many Committee Members expressed their concerns that these items, as well as the purchase of property at 430 Asbury, did not come to the F&B Committee prior to being added to a City Council Agenda.

The Committee recommended that an item be added to the March 9 Finance & Budget Committee meeting to discuss a policy on unbudgeted items or overrun capital expenses of a certain threshold going through the Finance & Budget Committee prior to going to City Council.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Livingston adjourned the meeting at 7:04 P.M.