EVANSTON

2019-2020 City Council Goals

Stabilize Long-Term City Finances

Wally Bobkiewicz, City Manager

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STABILIZE LONG-TERM CITY FINANCES

What can this mean?

• Track and analyze historic property tax trends
• Diversify and expand revenue to meet needs into the future
• Make responsible long-term financing decisions for infrastructure and facilities
• Long-range city-wide financial planning
• Prepare for state government budgetary choices under new Governor
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Track and Analyze Property Tax Trend

- Levy powers as a Home Rule Community
- City share as a % of total Tax Bill
- Tax to EAV ratio
- Debt to EAV ratio
- TIF EAV- not part of General EAV
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Diversify and Expand Revenue

• Expand revenue base through economic development - more retail / commercial/industrial development
• Smart use of TIF incentives to encourage appropriate development
• Annual review of fees/taxes to reflect economic environment and competitiveness
• Realignment of some of the fees and taxes with a focus on minimum direct impact on residents
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Responsible Financing Decisions

• Invest in infrastructure and facilities
• Continuous review of overall debt and debt ratios.
• Efficient use of alternative debt financing tools and refinancing options
• Funding Police and Fire Pensions to ensure timely disbursements to pensioners
• Maintain fund balances for General Fund and other major Enterprise funds to a level consistent with adopted policies.
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Long-Range Financial Planning

• 5-year financial plan for General and other major Enterprise funds
• To be updated annually before budget process
• Should include analysis of financial environment, revenue and expenditure forecasts, debt position, and strategies for achieving and maintaining fund balances
• Also include plan monitoring mechanisms, such as key indicators of financial health
• Provides framework for creation of annual budget
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Long-Range Financial Planning

• Examples of long-range plans:
  • City of San Clemente, CA
  • City of Pleasant Hill, CA
  • City of Redmond, WA
  • Township of Springwater, CA
  • City of Stockton, CA
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Prepare for State Government Actions

• Conservative budgeting of income and sales tax revenue in anticipation of possible changes
• Expand revenue base to reduce reliance on income tax and sales tax revenue
• Explore various grant opportunities from the State of Illinois
CARP Goals

• Develop a facility energy management and purchasing strategy & zero emissions vehicle purchasing strategy

• Evaluate the options available for the City to develop a municipal alternative retail electric supplier (ARES)

• Develop a stormwater utility to provide funds to incentivize improved stormwater management for property owners
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Possible measures to track

- Equalized Assessed Value
- Bond Rating
- Ratio of Outstanding GO Debt to EAV
- General Fund Balance
- Overall City cash balance
- Investment income
- Amazon and credit card spending
- Revenue recovered through secondary debt collection agency
- % of on-time home rule tax payments
- Pension funding ratio
- Water sales revenue to outside communities
- Expenditures per capita: All General Fund Services
- Expenditures per capita: Fire & EMS
- Sworn police overtime as a percentage of total sworn police compensation
- Workers comp claims per 100 FTEs
- PILOT contributions from Northwestern and other major nonprofits
QUESTIONS?