1. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

3. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION
   A. Downtown Evanston Levy/Funding Request

   Executive Director Annie Coakley presented year in review, summarizing events and services.

   Downtown Evanston will be requesting a levy of $592,660 based on levy rate of 0.1770%.

   Downtown Evanston seeking an additional $50,000 from Economic Development Partnership account 100.21.5300.62659 to fund additional / supplemental maintenance and landscaping

   Alderman Wilson expressed appreciation for advertising

   Alderman Wynne expressed appreciation for programming at fountain square

   Ms. Sierant asked about questions/input from public regarding the reconstitution process. Ms. Coakley responded with detail about the process

   Moved approval - Wilson
   Seconded - Braithwaite

   Committee approved 7-0

   B. Main-Dempster Mile Levy Request

   Executive Director Katherine Gotsick presented year in review, financials, and board of director updates.

   Lisa Dziekan asked about origination of rates. Ms. Gotsick responded with detail/history.
Ms. Sierant asked for clarification on budget, specifically admin costs. – Ms. Gotsick responded with detail including, rent, admin, salary, etc.

Ald. Rainey asked what is MDM reserve policy? Ms. Gotsick responded that MDM requires six months reserve and promised to follow up with additional information.

Moved approval - Wilson
Seconded - Rainey

Committee approved 7-0

C. Evanston Fire Department Apprenticeship Program

Zalmezak introduced funding for apprenticeship program and economic development fund as source of funds considering the workforce sub account within the economic development account

Chief Scott summarized the proposed program.

Lisa Dziekan asked for clarification on number of individuals to be served through program.

Chief Scott responded that one apprentice to be served. The total three year cost for the apprenticeship is $63,000

Alderman Braithwaite expressed support and discussed origination of idea in MWEBE committee to pay for testing

Alderman Wilson expressed appreciation about the work required to get state legislation

Alderman Rainey agreed with above comments, but thinks this funding should come from Human Resource Department. Why not HR / General Fund or CDBG versus ED? Alderman Rainey asked Chief if HR was consulted for General Fund.

Zalmezak indicated staff will do additional research on funding source to determine if another source

Alderman Rue Simmons asked if other partners can pay, including Oakton Community College. Seeking additional information about the laws governing the program. Would like to see the funding to go to someone of need /someone who wouldn’t otherwise have ability to participate otherwise.

Scott indicated that additional review required by local union for selection process
Wilson thinks workforce matters should be considered by Economic Development Committee and is supportive.

Braithwaite agreed with Wilson

Rainey said we shouldn’t use the economic development funding should be used to hire a public employee. We should use the funds to support private industry expand their workforce. Doesn’t think the funds should be used to fund a public employee.

Ms. Serant, is there a risk of losing the employee / if they left the program.

Scott, would require the trainee reimburse. Not unusual to have contract with trainees.

Ms. Dziekan, supports the model. Are there other partner opportunities? Can Oakton help pay for the program? Uncomfortable with $63,000 for one individual

Alderman Wynne views positively. Appreciates the effort to go to Springfield to change the law. “Workforce development is workforce development” An Evanstonian receiving training to serve Evanston. This helps the Evanston workforce. Seek additional assistance for Oakton support and others

Rue Simmons expressed her strong support of the model. Directing staff to work with oakton and others to support the program financially. Supports moving to City Council, but wants additional partners

Braithwaite – important to look at how we are training someone to contribute to the City’s tax base. Change this to a pilot program and further develop it.

Wilson – this is an investment in a person to develop a career opportunity.

Moved approval – Rue Simmons
Seconded - Braithwaite

Committee approved 6-1 (Rainey no)

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
   A. Legacy Business Retention Fund

Zalmezak summarized the draft / proposed legacy business retention fund. Similar to storefront modernization, but limited to independent Evanston-based businesses who have been in operation for five years or longer who require capital investment to remain viable in business districts.

Alderman Wilson- hears remarks from public about helping local businesses when we make decision to fund businesses, but his philosophy is to use funding to help level the playing field (structural economic issues). This program, as proposed, does not do that.
Not comfortable with financial incentive

Alderman Braithwaite – program might be helpful for shopping centers and West Evanston industrial businesses. Said h would like to keep the conversation going. Need measure for job creation and participation from businesses “Skin in game” Business must contribute some level of financial commitment to receive the funding.

Ms. Dziekean expressed concern about the years in operation threshold - 10 year in business is too high. Five years is probably better. Don’t call it legacy business. Vitality and placemaking is what we are investing in. Budget should reflect your values. We heard residents in Evanston say we value our independent businesses.

Rainey – concerned about identifying the types of businesses. Veterinarian space for example on Howard would be an ideal recipient.

Braithwaite encouraged staff to determine Return on Investment measures.

Dziekan - Compare the program to other communities.

Wynne - maybe not a five year threshold, but an older business.

Public Comment
LEND re-introduced themselves

5. COMMUNICATIONS
   A. Monthly Economic Development Communication
   B. Announcements/Updates from EDC Members

6. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn 9:04pm