Agenda – Council – July 27, 2005

Report – Executive Policy Committee – July 20, 2005

Item No. 1 Final Report of the Mayor's Red Tape Commission
File GG-5

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On July 20, 2005, the Executive Policy Committee submitted the following to Council:

1. That the concept of Recommendation 6 be endorsed for implementation.

2. That the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to develop proposals to use the Manitoba business number system to register, track and identify City of Winnipeg businesses and business accounts, and to negotiate directly with the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada to achieve this goal.

3. That the Chief Administrative Officer identify cases in which standardized contracts may be used in lieu of unique City of Winnipeg contracts or documents and that a report be provided to Executive Policy Committee within 120 days on an implementation plan for this recommendation.

4. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On July 20, 2005, the Executive Policy Committee received as information the Final Report of the Mayor's Red Tape Commission dated June 28, 2005.

Further, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following motions:
(1)
WHEREAS the Final Report of the Red Tape Commission, dated June 28, 2005, made numerous recommendations to cut red tape and provide better customer service to citizens, business, and government; and,

AND WHEREAS Recommendation 6 of the Report recommends that the City of Winnipeg adopt common account numbers, standardized contracts, and utilize other existing tools from other organizations to reduce paperwork; and,

AND WHEREAS the joint GST/PST number – known as the Manitoba BN, or business number, is a common and stable reference that could be used as an account number for all City of Winnipeg businesses in their interactions with the City; and,

AND WHEREAS enhanced City access to registry records produced for the Manitoba BN system will improve the City's access to up-to-date records on business activity while reducing paperwork for business; and,

AND WHEREAS use of the common registry to track business locations is important if other Red Tape Commission recommendations (including Recommendations 3 and 4) are to be considered;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Policy Committee recommends that:

1. Council endorse the concept of Recommendation 6 for implementation; and further,

2. That the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to develop proposals to use the Manitoba business number system to register, track and identify City of Winnipeg businesses and business accounts, and to negotiate directly with the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada to achieve this goal; and further,

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

3. That the Chief Administrative Officer identify cases in which standardized contracts may be used in lieu of unique City of Winnipeg contracts or documents and that a report be provided to Executive Policy Committee within 120 days on an implementation plan for this recommendation.

and submitted the matter to Council.

(2)
THAT the following first phase recommendations of the Red Tape Commission be referred to the Chief Administrative Officer for review and recommendation on a process for implementation, said report(s) to be submitted to the Executive Policy Committee for consideration in September 2005 (Recommendations 5 and 24), and October 2005 (Recommendations 19 and 28), namely:

- Recommendation 5
  Adopt an "easy-pay" policy to offer customers a consistent standard for payment options citywide.

- Recommendation 19
  Create a "regular events permit" to consolidate permit approvals and payments for regular festivals events into a permanent permit. Once filed and approved, each "regular event" should have the option to simply renew or adjust the permit annually.

- Recommendation 24
  Build a better "front door" to City services through a series of small but important changes to improve the welcome for citizens and business customers.

- Recommendation 28
  Consult with stakeholders on techniques to improve impact statements in public service reports to Council wherever possible, helping to prevent red tape before it ever appears.

AND THAT the following first phase recommendations of the Red Tape Commission be referred to the Chief Administrative Officer for review and recommendation on a process for implementation, said report(s) to be submitted to the Executive Policy Committee for consideration within 90 days, namely:

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

- Recommendation 15
  Negotiate as many standardized development and servicing agreements with the Urban Development Institute as possible. Once agreements are set, delegate execution of these agreements to the Winnipeg Public Service [Administration] based on negotiated parameters to govern their application.

- Recommendation 25
  Report to Council on the merits of a full transition to a 311-based customer service model, with the goal of obtaining a final council decision on the City's 311 service objectives as soon as possible.

Councillor Magnifico, Commission Chair, submitted the Final Report of the Mayor's Red Tape Commission dated June 28, 2005.

David Sanders, Senior Manager, Property Tax Services, Deloitte & Touche, submitted a communication dated July 20, 2005, with respect to the Final Report of the Mayor's Red Tape Commission.

RECOMMENDATION 6

Adopt common account numbers, standardized contracts, and other existing tools from other organizations to reduce paperwork.

Recommendation 6 is designed to reduce paperwork for business and government, using existing tools already built elsewhere.

Recommendation 6.1

Negotiate with the federal and provincial governments to develop a single business account and registry model around the common PST/GST number, now used as the single Manitoba business number. This would allow City businesses to register, update basic information and hold accounts with all three governments using a single account number.

Recommendation 6.2

For City construction contracts, use standardized documents approved by the Canadian Construction Documents Committee wherever possible.