REPORT OF THE

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

DATED MARCH 8, 2000

On motion of His Worship Mayor Murray, the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 8, 2000, was considered.

2000-2002 Current Tax Supported Estimates and Utilities Portion
File FE(2000-2002) (Vol. 1)

405 - 1. The 2000 - 2002 Preliminary Current Estimates Overview was tabled at the Executive Policy Committee Meeting on February 2, 2000.

From February 14 to February 25, 2000, the Preliminary Current Estimates were considered by Community Committees and Standing Policy Committees.

On February 28, 2000, Executive Policy Committee heard representations from fifteen delegations relative to the 2000 - 2002 Current Estimates.

On March 8, 2000, the Executive Policy Committee considered the recommendations of Community Committees and Standing Policy Committees and tabled its recommendations for Council's consideration pertaining to the 2000 - 2002 Current Estimates, including Utilities.

The Executive Policy Committee recommends:

I. That the 2000 Current Estimates as outlined in Schedule "A" be approved.

II. That the 2001 and 2002 Current Estimates, as outlined in Schedule "A", be approved in principle and referred back to the Executive Policy Committee for submission of appropriate mill rate by-laws and compliance with any other statutory requirements and to be forwarded to Council for its consideration not later than March 31, 2001 for the 2001 current estimates and March 31, 2002 for the 2002 current estimates, and that the Organization By-law No. 7100/97 be amended accordingly.

III. That the City's 2000 mill rate be reduced to 32.809, and that By-law No. 7583/2000 to establish the 2000 mill rate be given three readings.

IV. That the City's 2000 business tax rate remain frozen at 1996 levels - 9.75%.

V. That Council enact By-law No. 7584/2000 amending the Boulevard Maintenance By-law No. 5895/92.

VI. That the transfers to/from utility operations and reserves, as well as the fees and charges outlined in the tax-supported budget submission be approved.

VII. That the Chief Administrative Officer be delegated the authority to make allocations in the 2000 to 2002 budget to reflect Council's decisions relating to the pension surplus/contribution holiday.

VIII. That the City establish two new reserves in accordance with Section 338(1) of The City of Winnipeg Act as follows:

A. That the "Pension Surplus Reserve" be funded by the retroactive refund of pension contributions for 1998 and 1999;

1. That the purpose of the Pension Surplus Reserve and further details including the use of these funds be subsequently determined by Council;

B. The "Pension Stabilization Reserve" be funded by ongoing savings from the partial pension contribution holiday that are not used for operations;

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1. That the purpose of the Pension Stabilization Reserve be to support general operating expenditures thereby reducing the amount of revenue to be raised through property taxation, in order to share the benefits of the pension surplus with the citizens of Winnipeg;

2. That any use of these funds be contingent upon approval by Council; and

C. That the Director of Corporate Finance be appointed as the manager of both reserves.

IX. That transit fares be increased by five cents effective April 1, 2000 for both the regular and reduced fare categories (including Handi-Transit).

X. A. That the City establish the "Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve," the "Economic Development Investment Reserve," and the "Heritage Investment Reserve" in accordance with Section 338(1) of The City of Winnipeg Act; and

B. That the purpose of the above reserves, and further details including the source of funds and appointment of fund managers, be subsequently determined by Council.

XI. That the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the new corporate budget initiatives included in these estimates.

XII. That the City negotiate with the Province for equitable cost sharing of services and/or the authority to introduce alternative sources of revenue in order to reduce reliance on property tax revenue.

XIII. That $200,000.00 be set aside in the budgeted contingency fund to fund the efficiencies which come out of the internal operational review of The Winnipeg Police Service as well as the external review; and that this funding be administered by the Executive Policy Committee.

XIV. That the City Solicitor be instructed to prepare the necessary by-laws to implement the above recommendations.

XV. That the Proper Officers of the City of Winnipeg be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the above recommendations.

Moved by His Worship Mayor Murray,
Adoption of the clause.

In amendment,

Moved by Councillor Gerbasi,
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Thomas,

WHEREAS the rate of transit fare increases since the 1980's has been much greater than that for the consumer price index in Winnipeg, and much greater than the rate of increase in automobile operating costs;

AND WHEREAS transit ridership has been decreasing for a number of years;

AND WHEREAS the report recently tabled by the Working Group on Public Transportation Policy recommends that the City and the Province develop a funding approach for public transit that reduces pressures to increase fares and decrease service levels;

AND WHEREAS the draft 2000 Current Estimates include a 5 cent increase in transit fares to be implemented on April 1, 2000;

AND WHEREAS discussions between the City and the Province about a long term funding approach for public transit will not be concluded prior to March 15, the date that Council is scheduled to consider the 2000 Current Estimates;

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

I. Council postpone the implementation of the 5 cent transit fare increase pending the completion of discussions between the City and the Province regarding a long term funding approach for public transit;

II. Should the City and the Province not be successful in negotiating a long term funding approach for public transit by May 1, 2000, the 5 cent transit fare increase be implemented on May 1, 2000;

III. Passenger revenues included in the draft 2000 Current Estimates for the Transit Department be reduced by $125,000 as a result of the postponement of the 5 cent transit fare increase until May 1, 2000;

IV. The City and Province establish an Intergovernmental Committee to negotiate transit cost sharing, the membership of the Committee to include the Minister of Highways and Government Services or a representative, the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs or a representative, the Director of Transit or a representative, and a member of City Council to be appointed by the Mayor.

In amendment,

Moved by Councillor Gerbasi,
Seconded by Councillor Smith,

WHEREAS frontage boulevard mowing has been maintained as a necessary service in the "exempt area" of the inner city;

AND WHEREAS there exists a very high percentage of rental properties in much of this area;

AND WHEREAS eliminating this service will result in a cumbersome enforcement process that will take up a large pool of City resources in the area of inspection and administration;

AND WHEREAS these resources are much needed in other areas related to anti-arson and neighbourhood revitalization strategies;

AND WHEREAS there will be a minimum 3 week delay before a given frontage will be mowed;

AND WHEREAS this cumbersome process will result in very poor and uneven results and will add to the decline of neighbourhoods that communities and government are working very hard to revitalize at this time;

AND WHEREAS this exempt area was created to address an obvious need and the service is still required inasmuch as the circumstances that existed then, still exist today;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that funding in the amount of $102,000 be reinstated in the 2000 Current Estimates to continue the service of frontage mowing in the exempt area.

In amendment,

Moved by Councillor Gerbasi,
Seconded by Councillor Smith,

WHEREAS an effective program of graffiti removal is a major part of the City’s arson prevention efforts and neighbourhood improvement program;

AND WHEREAS the proposed reduction of $75,000 from the Graffiti Control Program will result in one less available crew;

AND WHEREAS in 1999 extra money was required for graffiti removal as funding ran out early in the season;

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AND WHEREAS it is risky to our revitalization efforts and anti-arson efforts to back off in our priority of attracting businesses and residents to areas that have shown evidence of decline;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that funding in the amount of $75,000 be reinstated in the 2000 Current Estimates for the Graffiti Control Program.

In amendment,

Moved by Councillor Prystanski,
Seconded by Councillor Steek,

WHEREAS the Winnipeg Police Service is a core service essential for public safety;

AND WHEREAS the 2000 Current Estimates for the Winnipeg Police Service calls for a reduction in the number of police officers by 22;

AND WHEREAS during budget deliberations at the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services, the City of Winnipeg Chief of Police informed the Committee that this budget will "negatively impact the effectiveness" of the service to the Citizens of Winnipeg;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that funding in the amount of $248,541.00 be reinstated in the 2000 Current Estimates to ensure an adequately funded Winnipeg Police Service;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding in the amounts of $531,685.00 and $1,005,261.00 be reinstated in the 2001 and 2002 Current Estimates respectively for a three year total of $1,785,487.00

In amendment,

Moved by Councillor Steek,
Seconded by Councillor Smith,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg Ambulance Service is understaffed by at least four ambulance units;

AND WHEREAS there have been numerous occasions where the City has run out of Ambulance Service since January 1, 2000;

AND WHEREAS there have been a number of occasions requiring the transport of patients via contingency plans since January 1, 2000 including two on the evening of February 26, 2000 because no ambulances were available;

AND WHEREAS each ambulance requires 11 persons for full staffing;

AND WHEREAS a paramedic requires 5 months of training and time is of the essence;

AND WHEREAS The City of Winnipeg and The Province of Manitoba are currently in negotiations, but there is no guarantee the province will fund additional ambulances;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Winnipeg commence the hiring and training of 44 additional paramedics at an annual cost of $2,640,000 ($660,000 for 11 persons x 4);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this amount be charged against the transfer of $2,600,000 from the Land Operating Reserve being earmarked for the reserves noted in Recommendation X, Paragraph A.

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In amendment,

Moved by Councillor Steek,
Seconded by Councillor Prystanski,

WHEREAS the Lyric Theatre provides free access to numerous cultural events for all citizens of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the Disney Corporation has verbally agreed to bring the Winnie The Pooh concert to Winnipeg on July 30, 2000 and potentially on an annual basis thereafter;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT $153,000 for washroom facilities and landscape upgrades be charged against either the Downtown Festivals account or the newly created Economic Development Reserve.

In amendment,

Moved by Councillor Smith,
Seconded by Councillor Gerbasi,

WHEREAS the library is a very essential service to the community;

AND WHEREAS the 2000 Current Estimates propose a reduction in temporary salaries in the budget amount of the Library Services Branch in the amount of $231,516.00 which will negatively impact on the delivery of service;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that funding in the amount of $231,516.00 be reinstated in the 2000 Current Estimates of the Library Services Branch.

The Speaker called the Deputy Speaker, Councillor Lazarenko, to the Chair in order to participate in the debate.

Moved by Councillor Prystanski,
That Council go into Committee of the Whole.

The motion that Council go into Committee of the Whole was put.

Councillor Clement called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:-

Yea: Councillors Golden, Prystanski, Smith, Steek and Timm-Rudolph. 5

Nay: Councillors O'Shaughnessy, Clement, De Smedt, Gerbasi, Lubosch, Deputy Mayor Thomas, Vandal, Eadie, His Worship Mayor Murray and Councillor Lazarenko. 10

and the motion that Council go into Committee of the Whole was declared lost.

Council recessed at 11:58 a.m., and reconvened at 1:41 p.m., same members present, the Speaker in the Chair.

Councillors Angus and Lubosch entered the meeting after Council had reconvened.

The Speaker called Councillor Eadie to the Chair in order to participate in the debate.

The Speaker here resumed the Chair.

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The motion proposed by Councillors Smith and Gerbasi, regarding the reinstatement of library funds was put.

Councillor Eadie called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:-

Yea: Councillors Lazarenko, Gerbasi, Golden, Smith and Timm-Rudolph. 5

Nay: Councillors Angus, Clement, De Smedt, Lubosch, Prystanski, Steek, Deputy Mayor Thomas, Vandal, Eadie, His Worship Mayor Murray and Councillor O'Shaughnessy. 11

and the motion to reinstate library funds was declared lost.

The motion proposed by Councillors Steek and Prystanski, regarding funding for the Lyric Theatre was put.

Councillor Eadie called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:-

Yea: Councillors Golden, Prystanski, Smith, Steek and Timm-Rudolph. 5

Nay: Councillors Lazarenko, Angus, Clement, De Smedt, Gerbasi, Lubosch, Deputy Mayor Thomas, Vandal, Eadie, His Worship Mayor Murray and Councillor O'Shaughnessy. 11

and the motion regarding funding for the Lyric Theatre was declared lost.

The motion proposed by Councillors Steek and Smith, regarding additional funding for the Ambulance Service was put.

Councillor Eadie called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:-

Yea: Councillors Golden, Prystanski, Smith, Steek and Timm-Rudolph. 5

Nay: Councillors Lazarenko, Angus, Clement, De Smedt, Gerbasi, Lubosch, Deputy Mayor Thomas, Vandal, Eadie, His Worship Mayor Murray and Councillor O'Shaughnessy. 11

and the motion regarding additional funding for the Ambulance Service was declared lost.

The motion proposed by Councillors Prystanski and Steek, regarding additional funding for the Winnipeg Police Service was put.

Councillor Eadie called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:-

Yea: Councillors Golden, Prystanski, Steek and Timm-Rudolph. 4

Nay: Councillors Lazarenko, Angus, Clement, De Smedt, Gerbasi, Lubosch, Smith, Deputy Mayor Thomas, Vandal, Eadie, His Worship Mayor Murray and Councillor O'Shaughnessy. 12

and the motion regarding additional funding for the Winnipeg Police Service was declared lost.

The motion proposed by Councillors Gerbasi and Smith, regarding the reinstatement of funds for the Graffiti Control Program was put.

Councillor Eadie called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:-

Yea: Councillors Gerbasi, Golden, Prystanski, Smith and Steek. 5

Nay: Councillors Lazarenko, Angus, Clement, De Smedt, Lubosch, Deputy Mayor Thomas, Timm-Rudolph, Vandal, Eadie, His Worship Mayor Murray and Councillor O'Shaughnessy. 11

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and the motion to reinstate funds for the Graffiti Control Program was declared lost.

The motion proposed by Councillors Gerbasi and Smith, regarding the reinstatement of funds for frontage boulevard mowing was put.

Councillor Eadie called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:-

Yea: Councillors Gerbasi, Prystanski, Smith and Steek. 4

Nay: Councillors Lazarenko, Angus, Clement, De Smedt, Golden, Lubosch, Deputy Mayor Thomas, Timm-Rudolph, Vandal, Eadie, His Worship Mayor Murray and Councillor O'Shaughnessy. 12

and the motion to reinstate funds for frontage boulevard mowing was declared lost.

The motion proposed by Councillors Gerbasi and Deputy Mayor Thomas, regarding Winnipeg Transit was put.

Councillor Eadie called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:-

Yea: Councillors Gerbasi, Golden, Lubosch, Prystanski and Smith. 5

Nay: Councillors Lazarenko, Angus, Clement, De Smedt, Steek, Deputy Mayor Thomas, Timm-Rudolph, Vandal, Eadie, His Worship Mayor Murray and Councillor O'Shaughnessy. 11

and the motion regarding Winnipeg Transit was declared lost.

The motion for the adoption of the clause was put.

Councillor Eadie called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:-

Yea: Councillors Lazarenko, Angus, Clement, De Smedt, Gerbasi, Lubosch, Smith, Steek, Deputy Mayor Thomas, Vandal, Eadie, His Worship Mayor Murray and Councillor O'Shaughnessy. 13

Nay: Councillors Golden, Prystanski and Timm-Rudolph. 3

and the motion for the adoption of the clause was declared carried.

(See Minute No. 407 for attachment)

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

406 - On motion of His Worship Mayor Murray, the following by-laws were read a first, second and third time, the rule being suspended for the third reading of each by-law, and were passed and ordered to be signed and sealed, namely:

By-law No. 7583/2000, a by-law of The City of Winnipeg to levy a rate upon the assessed value of all the real property liable to taxation in the City to raise certain sums required for the 2000 annual estimates. File FE(2000-2002) (Vol. 1)

By-law No. 7584/2000, a by-law of The City of Winnipeg to amend By-law No. 5895/92, being the Uniform Boulevard Maintenance By-law.
Files FE (2000-2002) (Vol. 1) & PB-1 (Vol.11)

Executive Policy Committee - Consideration of By-laws (continued)

By-law No. 7585/2000, a by-law of The City of Winnipeg to amend By-law No. 3219/82, being The City of Winnipeg Parks and Recreation By-law.
Files FE (2000-2002) (Vol. 1) & PR-20 (Vol. 11)

By-law No. 7586/2000, a by-law of The City of Winnipeg to amend By-law No. 6546/95, being a by-law of the said City to regulate the construction, maintenance and removal of private approaches and private walks. Files FE (2000-2002) (Vol. 1) & SC-1.1 (Vol. 7)

By-law No. 7587/2000, a by-law of The City of Winnipeg to amend By-law No. 1481/77, being The City of Winnipeg Streets By-law.
Files FE (2000-2002) (Vol. 1) & ST-5.3 (Vol. 8)

By-law No. 7588/2000, a by-law of The City of Winnipeg to amend By-law No. 1573/77, being The City of Winnipeg Traffic By-law.
Files FE (2000-2002) (Vol. 1) & ST-5.2 (Vol. 26)

Councillor Timm-Rudolph asked to be recorded as having voted against all three readings of By-law No. 7583/2000, in accordance with Rule 50.7 of the Procedure By-law.