EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 424

Councillor Gerbasi made reference to the Humane Society and the service they provide in caring for animals. She noted that while the Society receives an annual operating grant of $120,000 from the City, the Society was building a new facility with no assistance from the City of Winnipeg. Councillor Gerbasi questioned if the Mayor was intending to provide additional financial support to the Humane Society this year.

His Worship Mayor Katz noted that they were exploring possibly providing more funding to the Human Society and hoped to have some information back from the administration in the very near future.

Councillor Gerbasi noted the departure of one of the Mayor's political staff members and questioned if the Mayor would reach out to a wider and more diverse pool of applicants in the hiring process.

His Worship replied that if the question was specifically referring to the position formerly held by Hugh McFadyen, then the City was not looking to fill that void. He stated that in the future, when positions did become available, he would have no problem with making sure that all parties were aware that an opportunity existed.

Councillor De Smedt questioned the status of the City's negotiations for securing monies from a share of the gas tax.

His Worship advised that there has been dialogue between the City, the Province and the Federal Government, with the City wanting to ensure that the monies received from the gas tax go towards fixing the city's road and bridges.

Councillor Benham questioned if the Mayor supported the recommendations for dedicated bus corridors outlined in the Rapid Transit Task Force Interim Report.

His Worship replied that when the Rapid Transit Task Force comes forward with a report to Council for approval, then it would be up to Council to decide whether to go forward with the project.

Councillor Benham questioned what the Mayor was doing in the interim to obtain funding from the Federal and Provincial Governments to fund major changes to public transit?

Executive Policy Committee – Question Period (continued)

His Worship advised that as soon as the Rapid Transit Task Force comes forward with their final report and the numbers are available, he has every intention of approaching both the Federal and Provincial Governments for funding.

Councillor Benham questioned when the Chairperson of the Rapid Transit Task Force anticipated the building of dedicated bus corridors in Winnipeg.

Councillor Wyatt noted that the Rapid Transit Task Force was presently working on the recommendations of its final report for Council and did not want to prejudice the work of the Task Force with a response.

Councillor Swandel questioned if there was going to be a process by which the City would review municipal rural infrastructure fund requests before endorsement, to ensure they are in keeping with the City's new policy framework.

His Worship noted that while the City is not a funding partner for municipal rural infrastructure requests, there is a condition that Council has to give their endorsement of the projects.