**REPORT OF THE**

**EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE**

**DATED MARCH 4, 1998**

On motion of Her Worship Mayor Thompson, the Report of the Executive Policy Committee, dated March 4, 1998, was considered clause by clause.

**Amendments to the 1998 Current Tax Supported Estimates and Utilities Portion**
**File FE(1997-1998)**

**380 -** 1. On March 20, 1997, Council adopted Clause 1 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 17, 1997, approving the 1997 and 1998 Current Estimates.

The Executive Policy Committee has considered a communication from the Chairperson, Standing Committee in Fiscal Issues outlining amendments and adjustments.

The Committee has been advised that the proposed budget freezes property tax revenue at the 1997 level and the business tax rate at the 1996 level. Budgeted expenditures for tax-supported programs are lower than last year, and in fact have been on a downward trend for the past three years.

More funding has been provided for public safety services, for community police service centres and the 911 call centre, to address the records backlog, and to make technological improvements. The City is allocating an extra $1 million to the Police budget which will provide for an additional 27 police officers. The budget anticipates 60 vacant fire fighter positions to be filled. Funding will be in place for an enhanced graffiti control program. This budget also avoids the closure of two outdoor pools which was contemplated last year and maintains public swim hours. In order to control Dutch Elm Disease in the City, more funding has been allocated to this program. The tree roots claims program has also been reinstated.

Savings in several areas enabled these service enhancements. Savings are as a result of strong political leadership in the areas of expenditure management and vacancy management, reduced requirements for snow removal and overtime in the Fire Department, lower interest costs on outstanding debt, as well as non-recurring costs related to the 1998 reassessment and the prior year's deficit. The City remains committed to reshaping our civic government through cost reduction, restructuring, innovation and alternative methods of service delivery in order to deliver affordable government to the citizens of Winnipeg.

On March 4, 1998, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following resolution, namely:

WHEREAS on March 20, 1997, Council approved the 1998 Current Estimates in principle to be referred back to the Executive Policy Committee for submission of an appropriate mill rate by-law and compliance with any other statutory requirements and to be forwarded to Council for its consideration not later than March 31, 1998;

AND WHEREAS the Executive Policy Committee is proposing some revisions to the 1998 budget adopted in principle which will eliminate the previously proposed 2% property tax revenue increase, reduce budgeted business tax revenue, enhance public safety, and reinstate funding for pools, Dutch Elm Disease control, and the City's tree roots claims program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Policy Committee recommends:

I. That the 1998 Current Estimates, as outlined in Schedule "A", be approved.

II. That the City establish a Commitment Reserve Fund, as adopted by Council at its meeting on January 28, 1998, which will allow committed appropriations to be carried forward to the succeeding fiscal year:

(a) That this reserve be funded from the department's current year budget;

(b) That contributions to this reserve be approved by the Chief Financial Officer and reported to the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues on a quarterly basis; and

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(c) That the Director of Corporate Finance be appointed as Fund Manager of the reserve.

III. That the Chief Administrative Officer be delegated the authority, as appropriate, to make the following administrative changes to the 1998 budget, or not, with the proviso that there will be a neutral effect on the budget:

(a) allocate to individual departments the global savings related to Vacancy Management, Expenditure Management and Fleet Management Initiatives, and the tax-supported debt and finance charges included in the corporate section of the 1998 tax-supported budget;

(b) restate the budget to reflect the new organizational structure;

IV. That the Chief Administrative Officer be delegated the authority to transfer the following funds to the Property Tax General Revenue Fund:

(a) any savings achieved in 1997 by the Utility Operations as a result of Vacancy Management, Expenditure Management and Fleet Management Initiatives that have not been transferred in 1997 up to the total amount of $3.5 million; and

(b) all or part of savings achieved in 1998 by the Utility Operations as a result of Vacancy Management, Expenditure Management and Fleet Management Initiatives.

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

Moved by Councillor Angus,
Adoption of the clause.

In amendment,

Moved by Councillor O'Shaughnessy,
Seconded by Councillor Lazarenko,

WHEREAS on March 2, 1998, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development recommended reinstatement of funds into the 1998 Current Estimates for two programs in the Property and Development Services Department as follows:

1. $67,500 for the Survey Monument Restoration Program; and

2. $57,000 for a Technologist I/III Position in the Waterways Section of the Department;

AND WHEREAS on March 4, 1998, the Executive Policy Committee approved the recommendation in principle and referred the matter to the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues for report back;

AND WHEREAS the importance of these two programs is recognized -- the Survey Monument Restoration Program being a statutory program, cost-shared with the Province of Manitoba, for the restoration of lost outline survey monuments and the Technologist Position in the Waterways Section providing technical assistance to the Waterways Engineer particularly in the regulatory and enforcement areas pursuant to the Waterways By-law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that funds in the amount of $124,500 be provided for these two programs in the 1998 expenditure budget of the Property and Development Services Department, by redirecting funds, if necessary, in the 1998 Current Estimates from the Contribution to the Land Operating Reserve.

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In amendment,

Moved by Councillor Steek,
Seconded by Councillor Vandal,

WHEREAS the citizens of Winnipeg are entitled to drive on safe streets;

AND WHEREAS the current state of Winnipeg streets results in lost time, inconvenience and vehicular damage to Winnipeg citizens;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that an additional 1 million dollars be added to the current budget for this bituminous overlay to insure proper street maintenance; and that the additional funds be offset from the global savings related to vacancy management, expenditure management, and fleet management initiatives.

In amendment,

Moved by Councillor Murray,
Seconded by Councillor Vandal,

WHEREAS the City should start to restore adequate food and clothing allowances for children on social assistance;

AND WHEREAS the deficit in children's lives created by inadequate nutrition and poverty is often irreversible;

AND WHEREAS the City is planning to increase spending in its current budget in certain lower priority areas;

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg 125 is an undefined budget item that likely could be financed if necessary by other means;

AND WHEREAS there is a large communications budget in the City which has grown significantly in recent years that could accommodate an increase in the budget of an infrastructure information campaign;

AND WHEREAS the unspecified improvements to Main Street could if necessary be accommodated in W.D.A. budgets or the Capital budget;

BE IT RESOLVED that the $50,000 for Winnipeg 125, the $50,000 increase in the budget for the Infrastructure Reinvestment Campaign and the $600,000 for the Main Street Improvements be deleted from the 1998 current estimates;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that $700,000 be allocated to reestablish the food and clothing allowances to children and infants.

The Speaker advised that on the direction of Council, Clause 1 would be tabled to allow consideration of Clause 2.

(See Minute No. 382 for disposition)

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**Reduced Transit Cash Fare**
**File TT-2 (Vol. 10)**

**381 -** 2. On March 4, 1998, the Executive Policy Committee reconsidered Clause 2 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works with respect to the subject matter as outlined on Appendix "A" and passed the following resolution in connection therewith, namely:

WHEREAS on March 20, 1997, Council adopted Clause 1 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 17, 1997 with respect to the 1997 and 1998 Current Tax Supported Estimates and Utilities Portion which included a transit fare increase for 1998;

AND WHEREAS concern has been expressed regarding the elimination of the reduced transit cash fare and the ability of some transit users to afford to purchase reduced fare tickets in sheets of ten (10) at a cost of $8.50;

AND WHEREAS on February 10, 1998 in Clause 2 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works, it was recommended that the reduced cash fare be reintroduced effective March 1, 1998 in the amount of $0.85;

AND WHEREAS on February 18, 1998 the Executive Policy Committee referred Clause 2 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works dated February 10, 1998 to the Current Budget deliberations, and requested that the Director of Transit provide information regarding financial impact, whether smaller blocks of tickets can be sold, and arrangements with agencies regarding availability of tickets;

AND WHEREAS the Acting Director of Transit has submitted a report for information dated February 20, 1998;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg already allows retail vendors to sell tickets on an individual basis if they choose to do so;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Transit Department administration be directed to arrange for the sale of reduced fare tickets in sheets of five (5) at a cost of $4.25 effective April 1, 1998, and to explore with social agencies and schools, options to distribute transit tickets in a manner that meets the special needs of their clients.

Copy of attachment referred to in the above clause is on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

Moved by Councillor Silva,
Adoption of the clause.

In amendment,

Moved by Councillor Silva,
Seconded by Councillor O'Shaughnessy,

THAT the clause be amended by changing the resolve to read as follows:

> "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Transit Department administration be directed to arrange for the sale of reduced fare tickets in sheets of five (5) at a cost of $4.25; and/or on a single ticket basis effective April 1, 1998, and to explore with social agencies, senior groups and schools, options to distribute transit tickets in a manner that meets the special needs of their clients;
>
> AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Transit Department be directed to encourage single ticket sales."

In amendment,

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Moved by Councillor Thomas,
Seconded by Councillor Vandal,

WHEREAS the City has adopted a strategic plan for transit which has resulted in 2.25 million dollars in revenues in 1997 and is generating greater income than expected through new fare structures and services;

AND WHEREAS the proposed hike in transit cash fares is contradictory to the Council approved transit plan to increase revenue by rebuilding rider ship;

AND WHEREAS the cash fare increase is a hardship to seniors and families on fixed incomes with limited money on hand at any time;

AND WHEREAS the inconvenience of having to make repeated trips to a ticket vendor will likely discourage transit use;

BE IT RESOLVED that the cash fares for seniors and students be set at 90 cents as originally proposed in the transit budget plan;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City accounts and funds set aside for consultants be reviewed for reductions if there is any revenue loss as a result of restoring the original transit budget plan.

The Speaker called the Deputy Speaker, Councillor Prystanski, to the Chair in order to participate in the debate, and after speaking, resumed the Chair.

With the concurrence of the seconder, Councillor Vandal, and with the permission of Council, Councillor Thomas amended her motion by replacing the reference to 90 cents with 85 cents.

Council recessed at 11:54 a.m., and reconvened at 1:35 p.m., same members present.

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

The amendment proposed by Councillors Thomas and Vandal was put.

At the request of Councillor Angus, Council considered the resolutions separately.

The first resolve, regarding cash fares for seniors and students at 85 cents, was put.

The Speaker called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:-

Yea: Councillors Prystanski, Golden, Lazarenko, Lubosch, Murray, Steek, Thomas and Vandal. 8

Nay: Councillors Angus, O'Shaughnessy, Phillips, Silva, Timm-Rudolph, Deputy Mayor Eadie, Her Worship Mayor Thompson and Councillor Clement. 8

and the first resolve, regarding cash fares for seniors and students at 85 cents, was declared lost in accordance with Rule 58 of the Procedure By-law.

The Speaker ruled the second resolve out of order.

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The amendment proposed by Councillors Silva and O'Shaughnessy was put.

The Speaker called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:-

Yea: Councillors Prystanski, Angus, Lazarenko, O'Shaughnessy, Phillips, Silva, Timm-Rudolph, Deputy Mayor Eadie and Her Worship Mayor Thompson. 9

Nay: Councillors Golden, Lubosch, Murray, Steek, Thomas, Vandal and Clement. 7

and the amendment was declared carried.

The motion for the adoption of the clause, as amended, was put.

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

Yea: Councillors Prystanski, Angus, O'Shaughnessy, Phillips, Silva, Timm-Rudolph, Deputy Mayor Eadie and Her Worship Mayor Thompson. 8

Nay: Councillors Golden, Lazarenko, Lubosch, Murray, Steek, Thomas, Vandal and Clement.8

and the motion for the adoption of the clause, as amended, was declared lost in accordance with Rule 58 of the Procedure By-law.

Council here proceeded to continue to consider the order of business - "Clause 1 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 4, 1998".

The Speaker called the Deputy Speaker, Councillor Prystanski, to the Chair in order to participate in the debate, and after speaking, resumed the Chair.

**382 -** The amendment proposed by Councillors Murray and Vandal regarding the transfer of $700,000 to food and clothing allowances, was put.

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

vote 4

Yea: Councillors Golden, Lazarenko, Lubosch, Murray, Thomas and Vandal. 6

Nay: Councillors Prystanski, Angus, O'Shaughnessy, Phillips, Silva, Steek, Timm-Rudolph, Deputy Mayor Eadie, Her Worship Mayor Thompson and Councillor Clement. 10

and the amendment regarding the transfer of $700,000 to food and clothing allowances, was declared lost.

The amendment proposed by Councillors Steek and Vandal regarding an additional $1 million for thin bituminous overlay, was put.

The Speaker called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:-

Yea: Councillors Golden, Lazarenko, Lubosch, Murray, Steek, Thomas and Vandal. 7

Nay: Councillors Prystanski, Angus, O'Shaughnessy, Phillips, Silva, Timm-Rudolph, Deputy Mayor Eadie, Her Worship Mayor Thompson and Councillor Clement. 9

and the amendment regarding an additional $1 million for thin bituminous overlay, was declared lost.

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The amendment proposed by Councillors O'Shaughnessy and Lazarenko regarding the Survey Monument Restoration Program and the Technologist I/III Position in Waterways, was put and declared carried.

The motion for the adoption of the clause, as amended, was put.

The Speaker called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:-

Yea: Councillors Prystanski, Angus, Lazarenko, O'Shaughnessy, Phillips, Silva, Steek, Timm-Rudolph, Deputy Mayor Eadie, Her Worship Mayor Thompson and Councillor Clement. 11

Nay: Councillors Golden, Lubosch, Murray, Thomas and Vandal. 5

and the motion for the adoption of the clause, as amended, was declared carried.

(See Minute No. 383 for attachment)