EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 248
In reference to the rail line that the city owns to Shoal Lake and the exploration of alternate service delivery options, Councillor Gerbasi inquired who was involved in writing the report.

His Worship Mayor Katz replied that the report was being written by the Administration and that the matter falls under the Water and Waste Department.

Councillor Gerbasi further inquired if there was any political staff involved in the process and if there was any kind of consultation in that regard to which His Worship replied in the negative.

In reference to the appointment of Councillor Pagtakhan as Chair of the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee, Councillor Smith inquired when the other members would be appointed.

His Worship replied that he understood that the members had been appointed and advised that he would get back to Councillor Smith to verify this fact.

Councillor Vandal noted that in previous budget years, there was a benefit to both the taxpayers and the City departments in multi-year budgeting and inquired if the current budget would be unveiled as a single year or a multi-year budget.

His Worship stated that it would be a one year budget but noted that the administration looks at projections for the following two years.

Councillor Vandal further inquired if the projections would be part of the public disclosure in the budget deliberations; to which His Worship replied that he would have no problem in having discourse with any member of Council in regards to the projections.

In reference to the hiring of the Chief of Police, Councillor Vandal asked for an update on the process time lines and inquired if there would be public consultations on the eventual hiring of the new Chief of Police.

His Worship noted that Chief of Police was still employed and that the process would be exactly what would take place under normal circumstances in that it would come under the auspices of the Chief Administrative Officer and that the CAO would certainly have public consultation, which would be taken into consideration, and then they would go out and find the best individual for the job.

Councillor Fielding inqured about the key next steps for the implementation of all of the Red Tape recommendations.

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His Worship replied that the key next steps were to get the job done, noting that 9 of the 30 Red Tape Commission recommendations had been implemented to date. He indicated that Councillor Wyatt was appointed Chair of the Red Tape Commission yesterday and would take on the challenge of having all of the recommendations completed by the January 16, 2008 target date. He added that this initiative had been heralded right across the country and that the City had received an award for what has been done on red tape. He suggested that when all of the recommendations were implemented, the City would be a much better place to do business with and that the citizens would be better able to interact with City Hall.