EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 790

Councillor Smith stated that there were over $9 million in unpaid parking tickets and questioned what the administration was doing to get the tickets paid and the money to the City to which His Worship Mayor Katz replied that he would take the question under advisement.

Councillor Smith questioned how much, or what percentage, would be recovered from the parking fines to which His Worship answered that it all depended on what tools the administration was given to use to collect the fines.

Councillor Wyatt made reference to the Provincial Government announcement that the City of Winnipeg would receive $50 million over two years for infrastructure and questioned if the money would be spent on fixing existing infrastructure or would the money be split between new and existing infrastructure needs.

His Worship Mayor Katz replied that he would leave it up to the Director of Public Works to decide where the priorities were.

Councillor Wyatt noted that there was still a shortfall of $45 - 65 million with regards to existing infrastructure and questioned what initiatives were being developed to face this challenge.

His Worship replied that gas tax monies collected at the gas pumps would go towards fixing the streets in Winnipeg. He also noted that the Provincial Government would be coming on board with a plan.

Councillor Wyatt questioned, in the Mayor's negotiations with the Premier, had the Premier offered any funds regarding Provincial funding for rapid transit or dedicated bus corridors.

His Worship replied that he believed the Premier was looking towards an increase in transit funding, and envisioned a larger contribution forthcoming.

Councillor Benham questioned if the $50 million from the Province for infrastructure would be divided up among the wards the way the current residential street budget was divided.

His Worship advised that when the City received gas tax monies, the department was made aware of the monies and they listed their priorities. His Worship stated he assumed the same would take place with the infrastructure monies.

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Councillor Benham noted that roadways in industrial parks do not fall under the residential street or collector street program and have fallen into great disrepair. He questioned if some of the monies could be designated for roadwork in industrial parks to which His Worship replied that he would make sure it was mentioned.

Councillor Steeves referred to previous OlyWest debates and questioned if there had been any update on development in the St. Boniface Industrial Park.

His Worship advised that an announcement had just been made that Fed Ex, a Fortune 500 company, would be building a $5 million plant on 6.53 acres in St. Boniface Industrial Park, creating approximately 100 jobs.

Councillor Gerbasi referred to the press release regarding infrastructure funding from the Province and requested clarification if the funding was for streets and for transit to which His Worship replied that it basically talked about streets and bicycle paths.

Councillor Gerbasi then questioned if that meant there wasn't an option to use the monies for transit to which His Worship replied that the Premier had specifically said that the infrastructure money was for roads and bridges.

Councillor Gerbasi asked if the Mayor would ask the Province to contribute money to transit infrastructure the way the Federal Government had contributed money to transit infrastructure to which His Worship replied that he would be happy to lobby the Premier.