EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

MOTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

The motion proposed by Councillors Vandal and Thomas was put and declared carried.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

MOTIONS

Moved by Councillor Steek,
Seconded by councillor Eadie,

699 - WHEREAS on October 20, 1993, Council passed a Motion concurring in a recommendation that the Province of Manitoba be requested to conduct a review of The Municipal Council Conflict of Interest Act, and to adopt a separate Act, in consultation with City Council which would be applicable to the City of Winnipeg, or, to adopt legislation which would permit Winnipeg City Council to pass its own Conflict of Interest By-law;

AND WHEREAS on September 21, 1994, Council adopted a Code of Conduct for its members and adopted a recommendation of the Secretariat Committee of Council that the Provincial Government be requested to amend The City of Winnipeg Act giving the City legislative authority to establish, by by-law, more stringent and additional standards of conduct with respect to the duties of a councillor than those set forth in The Municipal Conflict of Interest Act and to impose penalties for the breach of such standards;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Government has not taken the requested actions;

AND WHEREAS it is in the interests of The City of Winnipeg to be able to regulate the conduct of its members and to impose penalties for the breach of such standards;

AND WHEREAS Sub-section 17 of The City of Winnipeg Act provides that Council may, by by-law, approve categories of matters which may be considered “in camera” by a Standing Committee or Executive Policy Committee and Council has enacted By-law No. 5288/89 establishing such categories;

AND WHEREAS it is in the interests of The City of Winnipeg to be able to prohibit the disclosure of matters considered at a meeting of one of its committees lawfully held “in camera”;

Executive Policy Committee - Motions (continued)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Government be requested, at its earliest opportunity, to amend The City of Winnipeg Act to give Council authority to pass a by-law governing the conduct of its members, including the power to establish such committees and procedures as it deems expedient to investigate and impose sanctions upon the disclosure of information lawfully considered "in camera" by a Standing Committee or Executive Policy Committee, which sanctions may include forfeiture of a member's salary for a specified period of time, exclusion of the member from future "in camera" meetings and/or withholding from the member of correspondence, materials or information proposed to be dealt with at an "in camera" meeting.

The Speaker ruled automatic referral to the Executive Policy Committee in accordance with Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law.

Moved by Councillor Steek,
That the rule be suspended to allow consideration of the motion at this time.

The motion to suspend the rule was put.

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

Yea: Councillors Prystanski, Lazarenko, Lubosch, Phillips, Steek, Timm-Rudolph, Deputy Mayor Eadie and Her Worship Mayor Thompson 8

Nay: Councillors Clement, Golden, Murray, Thomas, Vandal and Angus. 6

and the motion to suspend the rule was declared lost, not having received the required two-thirds vote of the members present in accordance with Rule 3 of the Procedure By-law.

Moved by Councillor Angus,
Seconded by Councillor Lazarenko,

700 - WHEREAS Council approved the New Directions strategy at its meeting of April 27, 1994;

AND WHEREAS Council passed its current organizational by-law, By-law No. 6550/95, which provided for a "transitional model to meet the requirements of implementing the New Directions strategy";

AND WHEREAS, the transitional structure of four Standing Committees is not aligned to the senior administration created by New Directions;

AND WHEREAS the current decision-making structure and dual committee responsibility of Councillors can be onerous and can give rise to duplication of effort;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a three Committee Structure be implemented as identified on Appendix "A" and include the following premises:

I. Each Councillor would sit on one Standing Committee
II. Each Standing Committee shall have Community Committee representation

and that the necessary by-law to amend By-law No. 6550/95 be forwarded to Council not later than September 25, 1996 to allow for implementation November 1, 1996.

Automatic Referral to Executive Policy Committee in accordance with Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law

Executive Policy Committee - Motions (continued)

Moved by Councillor Angus,
Seconded by Councillor Prystanski,

701 - WHEREAS a three Committee Structures is deemed appropriate and would allow the senior administration to be aligned with the decision-making structure;

AND WHEREAS the Committee Structure would be enhanced with the addition of a Vice-Chairperson who would act in the absence of the Chairperson and share the responsibility for policy development;

AND WHEREAS it would be more expedient to have the Standing Committees report directly to Council;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Province of Manitoba be requested to amend The City of Winnipeg Act to provide for the following:

I. Empower the Mayor to appoint Vice-Chairpersons for each Standing Committee
II. Provide for remuneration for Vice-Chairpersons at a rate of 1/3 of the level set for the Chairperson
III. Allow the Vice-Chairpersons to sit and vote on Executive Policy Committee in the absence of the Chairperson.

Automatic Referral to Executive Policy Committee in accordance with Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law

Moved by Councillor Angus,
Seconded by Councillor Eadie,

702 - WHEREAS Subsection 66(2) of The City of Winnipeg Act provides for Council to pass a by-law in regard to the Ombudsman, which may include guidelines for the Ombudsman to follow in performing the duties of the position;

AND WHEREAS Council at its meeting of March 4, 1992, adopted By-law No. 5901/92 which provided for the appointment and position of Ombudsman, but did not specifically identify guidelines for the Ombudsman to follow in performing the duties of the position;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Executive Policy Committee be requested to develop guidelines for the Ombudsman to follow in performing the duties of the position, and that By-law 5901/92 be amended accordingly.

Automatic Referral to Executive Policy Committee in accordance with Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law

Moved by Councillor Lazarenko,
Seconded by Councillor Thomas,

703 - WHEREAS the Mayor has adopted the custom of presenting a State of the City address once a year at a Chamber of Commerce dinner;

AND WHEREAS the Chamber of Commerce does not represent the citizens of Winnipeg nor does a Chamber dinner provide a public forum where the Mayor may answer questions from the media;

AND WHEREAS a State of the City address once a year is too infrequent to portray adequately the affairs of the City and the vision of its elected leadership;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council request the Mayor to present State of the City addresses on a quarterly basis as soon as practically possible;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these quarterly addresses take place in public, before the media and all interested parties, in a forum where the Mayor may answer questions.

Automatic Referral to Executive Policy Committee in accordance with Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

704 - On motion of Her Worship Mayor Thompson, By-law No. 6833/96, a By-law of the City of Winnipeg to amend By-law No. 6655/95, being The Development Fees By-law for development applications, permits and related matters, was read a first, second and third time, the rule being suspended for the third reading, and was passed and ordered to be signed and sealed. File F-1 (Vol. 14).

Councillor Golden asked to be recorded as having voted against all three readings of By-law No. 6833/96, in accordance with Rule 50.7 of the Procedure By-law.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

QUESTION PERIOD

705 - Councillor Golden noted the meetings recently held between the Assessment Department and representatives from the BC Assessment Commission, regarding the assessment issue, which meetings included members of the Executive Policy Committee, and questioned why all Members of Council were not invited to attend the meetings.

Her Worship Mayor Thompson responded that the meetings were an initiative of the Assessment Department to look at various resources and persons to help work through the assessment issue. Her Worship further advised that at a certain point of the two day visit, members of the Executive Policy Committee were invited to have a brief conversation with representatives from the BC Assessment Commission and did so. Her Worship Mayor Thompson also noted that the meeting resulted from the fact that the BC Assessment Commission experienced problems with their assessment 18 years ago, similar to those Winnipeg was currently experiencing.

Councillor Golden noted the fact that he had for many years tried to draw Council's attention to the system in British Columbia as being the model to be followed to achieve an accurate assessment system and questioned why all Members of Council, or at least the Members of the Committee on Finance and Administration were not involved in the meetings.

Her Worship stated that there would be a seminar on assessment issues which, if possible, would include representation from the BC Assessment Commission.

Councillor Golden questioned when the seminar would be held and asked what documentation or information the Mayor had received from the BC Assessment Commission and requested that this documentation or information be shared with Council.

Her Worship Mayor Thompson advised that only conversation took place in the meeting and that representatives from the BC Assessment Commission had only provided a copy of a newsletter. She further stated that she would check on the date of the seminar and encouraged all Councillors to identify items that they wished to have placed on the agenda.

Councillor Clement made reference to a clause passed at Council that dealt with a financial issue that would require Provincial Government approval. He noted that when the Minister of Urban Affairs was questioned by the media on this issue, the Minister simply commented that the City has to get its house in order, and questioned whether Her Worship was aware of this.

Her Worship Mayor Thompson responded that she had been advised by a colleague that the comment had been made.

Councillor Clement requested that the Minister of Urban Affairs be requested to provide a list of issues identifying where the City of Winnipeg's operations and financial situation is out of control as referenced in the Minister's comments.

Her Worship Mayor Thompson responded that she would undertake to follow through with the request. Her Worship also noted that there were problems with the process in place for the City to deal with the Provincial Government and she made a commitment to review such.

Councillor Lazarenko requested an update on the status of appointment of members to the Taxation Fairness Committee.

Councillor Steek advised that it was anticipated that a final announcement would be made by the end of the month.

Councillor Timm-Rudolph made reference to the recent meetings held with representatives of the BC Assessment Commission. She made further reference to Councillor Golden's experience in this matter and her own experience as a former member of the Municipal Board, and in noting the significance of the matter itself, requested that Her Worship Mayor Thompson, provide assurance that the representatives would be at the Council Seminar.

Her Worship Mayor Thompson advised she would extend an invitation to the representatives and asked Members of Council to identify any other persons that they would like to have attend the seminar.

Executive Policy Committee - Question Period (continued)

Councillor Timm-Rudolph suggested the possibility of inviting the Provincial Assessor, the Minister, the Deputy Minister and the respective Chairman from the Board of Revision and the Municipal Board. She also requested that the Acting City Assessor provide a synopsis of the discussions that took place with the representatives of BC Assessment Commission to herself, and Councillor Golden, as well as the other members of the Committee on Finance and Administration.

Her Worship Mayor Thompson noted that she would request this of the Acting City Assessor.

Councillor Murray questioned if the Mayor would be inviting Members of Council to participate in a development of a strategy in regard to the City's process for dealing with the Provincial Government.

Her Worship Mayor Thompson noted that the coordination of the strategy should be between the Business Liaison and Intergovernmental Affairs Department and the Executive Policy Committee.

Councillor Murray requested an update on the 1996 Current Budget, specifically identifying shortfalls.

Her Worship Mayor Thompson advised she would take the matter under advisement.

Councillor Murray referred to the Vacancy Management Committee and stated that pool openings were being delayed and programs for disabled children were being cancelled and requested that a list of related programs affected be provided to Council. Councillor Murray also noted that the budgets of the Safe City Committee and the Historic Buildings Committee were frozen and questioned who was directing these decisions and that a list of these directives be provided to Council.

Councillor Eadie advised that the Vacancy Management Committee had dealt with over 2,000 requests to fill vacancies and had authorized the approval of over 1,100 positions in various Departments to date. The Committee had also requested that specific Department Heads provide further information to assess the need and timeliness for filling other vacancies. He noted that the Committee had tried to respond as quickly and as much as possible to emergency situations, and that the Department Heads had recognized what is required regarding vacancy management, understood the process and were doing their very best to achieve the bottom line for this year's budget. He further noted that if any problems arose out of decisions which may or may not have been made through vacancy management, that Department Heads were aware that they could approach the Committee to review their concerns.

Councillor O'Shaughnessy requested assurance that the Executive Policy Committee, which is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the budget to Council, does not turn this responsibility over to the Taxation Fairness Committee.

Her Worship Mayor Thompson advised that the Taxation Fairness Committee would be looking at the issue of fair taxation, and will not be a part of the budget process.

Councillor Thomas questioned where the Vacancy Management Committee came from, how one would obtain access to the Committee and how Councillors could receive information on the meetings.

Deputy Mayor Eadie advised that the Vacancy Management Committee received its authorization from the budget that was passed by Council in January and that the Committee meets in accordance with the Procedure By-law of Council, on an as required basis.

Councillor Angus requested an update on the J.M. Schneider issue.

Her Worship Mayor Thompson advised that the J.M. Schneider issue was the single largest private sector negotiation that the City of Winnipeg had undertaken in ten years comprising a $40 million project, to provide 600 jobs. Her Worship further noted that she believed that final negotiations were being made this morning and that Schneider's would like to make an announcement today if the negotiations were finalized.