COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Wednesday October 24, 2007

The Council met at 9:35 a.m.

The Clerk advised the Speaker that a quorum was present.

The Speaker called the meeting to order.

The opening prayer was read by Councillor Vandal.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Mr. Speaker Councillor Lazarenko, His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Clement, Fielding, Gerbasi, Leipsic, Nordman, Pagtakhan, Smith, Steeves, Swandel, Thomas, Vandal, Wyatt.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Pages, we have with us today Simone Jaman of Miles MacDonnell Collegiate who resides in the Elmwood – East Kildonan ward, welcome. (applause).

Mr. Speaker: Welcome of guests and announcements. Mr. Mayor, I believe you have the floor now.

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker and it is indeed a pleasure Mr. Speaker on behalf of myself and all of Council we would very much like to congratulate Councillor Fielding and his wife Michelle for the birth of their second daughter, Brynn Madison. All the best! Enjoy. (applause).

Mr. Speaker: Congratulations Councillor. Go for a third one to get a boy. (laughter)

Councillors I would like to recognize Duncan McMonagle, Journalism Instructor, Red River College and his class of journalism students on both sides of the gallery. Welcome.

MINUTES

Councillor Nordman moves the Minutes of the meeting held on September 26, 2007 be taken as read and confirmed.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Mr. Speaker: Delegations none. The Executive Policy Committee report of October the 3rd, 2007, Mr. Mayor.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED OCTOBER 3, 2007

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce the report and move adoption of Consent Agenda Items 1 to 3.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

The report of October the 10th, 2007, Mr. Mayor.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED OCTOBER 10, 2007

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce the report and move adoption of Consent Agenda Items 1 and 2.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Report of October the 17th of 2007 and I believe Mr. Mayor No. 8 you will not introduce.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED OCTOBER 17, 2007

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I would, thank you very much. I would like to introduce the report and move adoption of Consent Agenda Items 1 to 7.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Number 7. None. Just No. 7. So 1 to 6.

All in favour? Consent Agenda.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Item No. 7.

Item 7 - Red Tape Commission, Recommendation 14 - Simplified Rezoning Process File EZ-DAZ

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I would very much like to hear from Councillor Thomas and I will try to address her question or concern.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Thomas.

Councillor Thomas: Thank you. I have been sick for the past couple of weeks so I apologize for not appearing at Executive Policy Committee on this matter. But I would like to call your attention to Item C) on Part 1 with regard to time limit of layovers. This means that the maximum that Community Committee can deal with an item is 60 days.

And that concerns me because there have been some situations in the past where we have laid over an item and either at the request of a huge number of people, when over 500 people have shown up or at the request of the developer. And so they come and they ask for a layover and if a matter is laid over for 60 days when it comes back that means that we have to deal with it right then. I'm concerned about a number of things with regard to that.

We've had items that have not met the community needs where we've had delegations of 500, 600 people, where we've had to rent Miles MacDonnell Collegiate in order to accommodate all the people who have shown, who have shown up to object to a particular item, and because we've laid over the matter, on occasion, it has been laid over for two years while the developer and the community continue to negotiate.

And it's not as uncommon that it should be, that a developer will actually refuse to make any changes in their development and won't be willing to meet the needs of the community until they realize that we're serious. And in the end, I think that there have been very few, maybe one or two where you've had negative recommendations from the Community Committee if we've laid over an item, sometimes three, four, five times, in order to have it meet the needs of the community.

The problem with this is while the community can hear the delegations on a particular divisive item, there is one particular thing where we had 500 on one side and 500 on the other side and we really need to have a lot of negotiations, when it comes through as a recommendation one way or the other, the Standing Committee does not have the opportunity to hear the information that the Community Committee has heard. They just have their recommendations, delegations are now closed. So the unresolved issues and the reasons why the Community Committee has come up with this opinion, negative or positive, against an item don't get passed on as eloquently as they might be if you have the opportunity for delegations.

So I would like to ask that No. C) be not included, or at least that we get to vote on that separately because I would not like to see that part of the recommendations go forward. And when we did have in-camera meetings on this I believe I made my concerns and reservations known on this particular item when we met downstairs behind closed doors on this.

I think this can be a very serious hampering of due process for Community Committee and the right of citizens to be heard on a matter because they no longer get an opportunity to make representations at the Property and Development Committee. Those are my concerns. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak to this just briefly to talk about the whole recommendation here. I appreciate Councillor Thomas' concerns.

The way that, where we got to this level of comfort of making the recommendation of 60 days is because of the recommendation 1A) which stated that we create a distinction in procedure and law

between the informal tabling of a draft proposal with City officials by a proponent and a proponent's decision to formally proceed with a rezoning or development application thereby creating a clear legal period during which proponents, public servants, Councillors, and interested citizens can informally resolve disputes before a formal application moves forward for public hearing.

You know so this, this, there is another process being created here where much of the concerns of the community can be addressed before the formal application is made. We felt that with that, with that piece in play, that once it got to Community Committee the Community Committee should be able to, through maybe one layover or two layovers be able to address the rest of the concerns.

And at the end of the day, rather than keeping something alive in perpetuity that they would be able to resolve the matter either by making a recommendation or outright rejecting it and then moving it on through the process. So I think that when you look at section A) of the, 1A) of the recommendations, that it really covers off a lot of the concerns.

We had some debate for a length of time that we allow the layover for and we arrived at 60 days and it was really you know, because that sort of got us through the summer break was where we arrived at the time. Because we had the other piece already addressed in a, in another process that allowed the public to be involved, the community to engage, the Councillor to be involved, so that all of the concerns that the community may have could be addressed.

The other piece is that when the Community Committee does make its recommendation, any representations made by members of the community through the delegation process at Community Committee would form part of the report. So, Planning, Property and Development, EPC and eventually Council would also have those concerns as part of the record in the report and we would be able to address any of those concerns and either concur in the Community Committee's recommendation or make amendments as appropriate.

So I can tell you that from the work that we went through and a great deal of time that was spent trying to understand that there is a great deal of need, both on the development side to have something move forward but also on the community side to have their voice heard and their concerns addressed, where we landed here, we believed to be a pretty solid process to address both of those concerns. And, I'm quite comfortable with this the way that it's written and proposed. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor. Oh who else? Councillor Wyatt you wanted to speak? Go ahead.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I just want to stress, thank Councillor Swandel for his comments. I want to also stress that if you actually go back to the original Red Tape Commission, the report and you read the recommendation 14, this has been dramatically altered, to be fair, since the recommendation came forward. If you look at the original recommendation, the original recommendation actually well it would have pretty well neutered Community Committee to a certain extent. It recommended that Community Committee would not be able to make any sort of changes to a report. They could either only vote up or down. Single priority. Okay. It was what it was called and it's still referred to as a single priority but it's a lot different today.

Community Committee actually has the ability to amend still. Community Committee has the ability to layover and keep in mind a layover for 60 days actually does not mean two meetings, it means three meetings. You still have your original meeting. You still have the ability to layover again and you still have then the ability to consider it again at a third meeting. So it's not as if you don't have a chance only in two meetings. You have three meetings and you have the ability to amend. You have the ability to reject. You have the ability to approve. No different

than you had before. So it's quite, quite different.

And it's, and as you can see even under the single priority power, under B) even if the planner lists as an objection to it, it still has to go through the process of then going to the Standing Committee, EPC and Council. It's virtually if there is no objections and no changes from anybody, then it could be a single priority.

So the local Councillors still have the ability to make the changes and as pointed out by Councillor Swandel, that under A) the idea is, is to allow and maybe some of you Councillors have formally asked your planners to let you know of issues coming forward, potential applications coming forward before the applications are advertised. But maybe that's informal. This is formalizing it so that you have input ahead of the time, if you want to. If you so choose. And maybe sort issues out locally on the ground in the community before you have to go through the formal system of the public hearing.

So I think this is an extremely good compromise. I know as the chair of the Standing and the Mayor knows my views. I've had reservations on 14 from the get go right when it came out as a report and I think this is a compromise which works. It still empowers Community Committees and at the same time it tries to ensure that we don't see layovers which are unnecessary. Thanks Mr. Chair.

Mr. Speaker: No further speakers. Now Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker. First of all I very much appreciate Councillor Thomas' concerns and I guess to quote one of my favourite performers, Meat Loaf, both Councillor Swandel and Councillor Wyatt “took the words right out of my mouth”.

This was genuinely a concern. This was debated at our meeting as well and we landed on a period of 60 days which seemed fair and reasonable and also want to get more public input prior to. So the whole idea was to make sure that Community Committee has that input. That Community Committee and residents can work with someone who is trying to do a development.

By the same token, to make sure that something isn't held up or left in limbo for years that's happened in the past. And in the end if there is a genuine concern, you could always vote no. So I do appreciate those concerns because they were raised before and we believe we have dealt with it.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor. On Clause No. 7.

All in favour?

Councillor Thomas: I ask that B) be separated from there and voted on separately.

Mr. Speaker: You're moving that, you move that as a motion?

Councillor Thomas: I ask that it be done. One can do that as a request and I did request it.

Mr. Speaker: Okay fine, fine. Councillors on C) as requested by Councillor Thomas.

All in favour? Contrary?

Councillor Thomas: Nay. Record me in opposition.

Mr. Speaker: On Clause 7.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Thomas: Nay. Record me in opposition.

Mr. Speaker: It shall be done. Mr. Mayor I believe you have…

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker on No. 8 I would like to have Councillor Clement to introduce it and I will recuse myself.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Mayor: Thank you.

Councillor Clement: Thanks Mr. Speaker and I'll simply move Clause 8 from the Executive Policy Committee meeting of October the 17th. This is simply a little bit of housekeeping dealing with the Human Rights Museum and it deals with us making this land surplus to our needs and allowing it to be used as part of our commitment to the original agreement. Thanks.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillors you've heard the mover.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Now we will be getting into report of October the 17th of 2007. Mr. Mayor you can come back in now. I hope you were 500 feet away. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Councillor Swandel: We just did the report of the 17th.

Mr. Speaker: Oh report of October 24th Mr. Mayor.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED OCTOBER 24, 2007

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I would like to move that the rule be suspended and the report of Executive Policy Committee dated October 24th/2007 be considered item by item.

Mr. Speaker: Okay you've heard the mover. On Item No. 1.

All in favour? Who wants to speak? Oh pardon me, yes Madam Clerk.

Item 1 - Manitoba Rural Infrastructure Fund Application - University of Manitoba – Construction of Three Stormwater Pumping Stations File S-7

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Item 2 - Manitoba Rural Infrastructure Fund Application - University of Manitoba - Sanitary and Storm Sewer Separation File S-7

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

EPC Motions, none. By-laws Mr. Mayor.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I move that By-law No. 194/2007…

Councillor Swandel: Point of order Mr. Speaker. Out of the October 24th EPC meeting there is also a Standing Policy Committee report from Protection and Community Services that needs to be …

Mr. Speaker: That goes to Protection Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Steeves: That's fine. I'm okay with that.

Councillor Swandel: This is an EPC item (inaudible)

Mr. Speaker: That is before the Protection Committee.

Councillor Swandel: Okay pardon me. Thank you.

Mr. Mayor: May I continue Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Yes please do.

Mayor Katz: Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: That's first reading only.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I move that By-law No. 194/2007 be read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Mr. Speaker: By-laws.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I move the following By-laws be read a first time. By-law No. 186/2007, 187/2007, 188/2007, and 189/2007.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 186/2007, 187/2007, 188/2007 and 189/2007.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I move that By-laws No. 186/2007 to 189/2007 both inclusive be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 186/2007 to 189/2007 both inclusive.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I move that the rule be suspended and By-laws No. 186/2007 to 189/2007 both inclusive be read a third time and that same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
NOTICE OF MOTION

Motion No. 1
Moved by Councillor Leipsic
Seconded by Councillor Fielding

WHEREAS there is significant public interest in further exploration of term limits for Members of City Council;

AND WHEREAS term limits in other North American jurisdictions have been shown to strengthen democracy by encouraging more candidates to participate;

AND WHEREAS more turnover among members of City Council will ensure new and innovative ideas are constantly generated and that City Council is reflective of the overall population;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The City of Winnipeg request that the Province of Manitoba amend The City of Winnipeg Charter to:

a) Implement term limits for Members of the City of Winnipeg Council;

b) Set the term limits to 3 consecutive terms of office;

c) Make these changes come into effect for the City Council elected during the next general Civic Election of October 27, 2010.

Mr. Speaker: We have a Notice of Motion by Councillor Leipsic and Councillor Fielding it will be automatic referral.

Councillor Wyatt: Point of order. I would like to move that we suspend the rules to deal with this immediately.

Mr. Speaker: It's a Notice of Motion.

Councillor Wyatt: I move that we suspend the rules to deal with this.

Mr. Speaker: It's a Notice of Motion Councillor. It's a Notice of Motion.

Councillor, Councillor Wyatt the Notice of Motion is an automatic referral but if you are wanting to have Council to decide this, two-thirds of Council is needed to...

Still, Councillor.... Councillor Clement, still the Council has the decision on this even though you called a Notice of Motion and you called…

So Councillor Wyatt you moved a motion to suspend the rules to deal with this motion and you need two-thirds of Council for that vote. A recorded vote has been called for. You're dropping it? Thank you. Suspend the rules? Okay. Now do you want Council to go with you to suspend the rules you need two-thirds of Council. You need a recorded vote. Okay. Those in favour of suspension of rules to deal with the motion that's before us, please rise, to suspend the rules.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Browaty, Smith, Vandal, Wyatt.

Nays

His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Clement, Fielding, Gerbasi, Leipsic, Nordman, O'Shaughnessy, Pagtakhan, Steeves, Swandel, Thomas, Mr. Speaker Councillor Lazarenko.

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 4, Nays 12.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. It's automatic referral.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Speaker: Question period. Councillor Gerbasi. Councillor Smith.

Councillor Gerbasi: Okay thank you Mr. Speaker. My question to the Mayor is it has been quite some time now since the City contracted out 100% of the residential solid waste to the private sector. Council Minutes from July 27th, 2005 indicate an expectation of annual savings of approximately $3 million dollars a year.

Will the Mayor provide to all members of Council accurate and clear figures to show whether or not these savings have actually been achieved?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I thank Councillor Gerbasi for that. I think that is a very reasonable request. I would be more than happy to talk to the department and to report the figures that they have. My pleasure.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Your second question.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you very much for that answer. In April of this year, I did ask the Mayor in question period whether or not the detailed design studies for the bus rapid transit portion of the City's rapid transit plan which was approved by Council, the implementation plan that was approved by Council included that, and that money, funding for those studies were included in the capital budget for 2007. And at the time of, the Mayor responded he would he get back to me on a timetable but I have yet to receive a timetable as to when those detailed design studies will be done. It's already the end of October and the year is almost over and we've also got a capital freeze so there is a lot of concern as to if that capital project is going to happen. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I thank the Councillor for that question. I was actually made aware of that at the beginning of the week but I thought I would give the Councillor the opportunity to ask it on the floor of Council so I could answer here as opposed to just responding by email which is normal.

We are now at a point where the design work, the money is there, it's in the budget, and my understanding from the department is that they are planning to move sometime this fall. And my understanding as well as they are also looking at the long range transit plan and what if any impact Plan Winnipeg may have on it. The bottom line is, is that the money is there and they are planning to proceed.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Your final question Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Wow, I'm really getting great answers today. Thank you. Good news.

The last question is regarding Assiniboine Park and there was a press release sent out last week, and it talked about, it appointed a nominating committee and governance committee that was going to confer, the wording of the press release

was that “it would confirm the board within 90 days at which time a process would be developed for hiring a CEO and developing a strategic plan for review and referral to Council”.

And my question is, is it isn't clear whether this committee is going to appoint the board or whether those, their recommendations for who is on the board is going to come to Council for approval, and that is really my question. Are the board appointments going to come to Council for approval or are they just going to be appointed by this other group?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Thank you very much for that question Councillor and it did not get a lot of media coverage otherwise I think we could have clarified it. This committee that was approved was basically a governance and nominating committee. And for clarification, everybody here should know that any board members that end up being nominated must be ratified here on the floor of Council.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Smith.

Councillor Smith: Mr. Mayor when are we having a Council seminar to allow input by Councillors at the initial stage of budget preparation?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Thank you Councillor Smith for that question. The process will take place in the very near future. At the latest I would say January. It could be earlier than that but that would be my opinion the way things are going right now and the process is just beginning.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Smith your second.

Councillor Smith: My second question is what instructions have been given to City departments re budget targets?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: I'm hoping that Councillor Smith can clarify exactly what he means by "instructions and targets". Does he know something that I'm not aware of? I’d love to hear it.

Councillor Smith: Generally what happens is that there is instructions for the department to meet certain goals, certain targets. I would like to know what instructions have been given to the departments re the budget.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I would be happy to do that. Obviously Mr., Councillor Smith could easily communicate with the CAO but I’d be happy to get back with him on that. This process has just begun and departments are just starting to work but it would be my pleasure to communicate with the CAO and get the answer to Councillor Smith.

Mr. Speaker: Your final question.

Councillor Smith: Final question is last year Mr. Mayor you appointed a committee to work on the budget. Have you done so this time and if who are the members?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Last year there was a committee that was appointed Mr. Speaker. The committee consisted of Councillor O'Shaughnessy, Councillor Clement along with Councillor Leipsic and obviously they work with the public service. We are probably looking at something very similar to that.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Pagtakhan your first question.

Councillor Pagtakhan: Yes thanks Mr. Speaker I just have one question for the Mayor. Cycling is a mode of transportation and a way of commuting for many cyclists on any given day here in Winnipeg. And this past summer Pembina Highway was, millions of dollars were spent on Pembina Highway, redoing Pembina Highway, a virtual jugular of roadway systems here in our City and a prime of prime candidates for I think creating shared bike lanes or dedicated cycle lanes.

What is the Mayor going to do, what steps is the Mayor going to take to ensure that in 2008 opportunities like this do not fall by the wayside and that we do create shared bicycle lanes and/or dedicated cycle lanes on some of Winnipeg's major roadway systems?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: I have to answer now. (laughter) Mr. Speaker through to you Councillor Pagtakhan, thank you for the question. And I do believe he has raised a very serious and legitimate issue. But let's all be aware, we have hired an Active Transportation Co-ordinator, Kevin Nixon. That has taken place. We have formed an Active Transportation Advisory Group as well. We have invested significant monies to date in our bike trails.

And I will share with Councillor Pagtakhan and all other Councillors, after the battle that we had with the Federal government on the gas tax and we were able to convince them the City of Winnipeg to use that gas tax to fix our roads and bridges, there was a definite directive given out to the department, at any time we are doing significant repairs or we're building new, we should be looking at the opportunity for bike lanes.

There was at one point in time where we thought we did have some bike lanes on Roblin Boulevard through this process. It turned out to be not accurate. Part of the reason was although there was room allocated it appears there was a disagreement on how wide these bike lanes should be. It appears right now the number they've landed on is 5 feet.

I can assure Councillor Pagtakhan that this is a priority. The department is very much aware of that. There have been many occasions I've driven down streets in our City of Winnipeg and seen work done and complained that there was no bike paths.

Part of the answer is that some have a belief that whenever you have an opportunity, you should construct the bike path. Regardless how long it is and whether it comes to an end because work is only being done on a few kilometres, whatever the case may be. And some people will say continue to do that and then join them all up. Others are saying it's not safe unless you complete the complete path. My opinion is is we should get as much done as we can and then figure out a way to join all our bicycle trails and we will be pursuing that on a regular basis.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a second question Councillor? Thank you. Councillor Vandal your first.

Councillor Vandal: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Question to the Mayor is that our billion dollar infrastructure deficit is well documented and our capital program is now paralyzed by inflation and while this is occurring, the Federal government have recently announced a $13 billion, $13 billion dollar surplus.

My question to you is can you share with us what the plan is to negotiate a better deal from, with the Federal and Provincial governments.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker through to you Councillor Vandal thank you for the question. I don't think it will come as a surprise to anybody that the Big City Mayors, along with FCM, and I'm sure Councillor Steeves would have some comment on this later on, but we have been looking for a larger share. At every Big City Mayors meeting we've discussed plans how we should be getting a better share. Whether it's the GST and I'm sure you've all heard about the one point of the GST, whether it's more from the gas tax and I think Councillor Vandal is very much aware of the fact that every city in Canada is experiencing significant infrastructure deficit where roads and bridges and sewers are basically falling apart. This is not just Winnipeg's problem. This is all cities throughout Canada.

And we will continue to lobby at the Federal level and continue to hopefully in the near future to try and work out a situation where we're actually getting a percentage of a growth revenue as

opposed to what's taking place. I know that Councillor Vandal is aware of the fact that these things unfortunately do not happen over night. They do take time. In the interim at least we are getting a gas tax. We did get a GST rebate. So we are making progress but not at the rate that we would like.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Given that a Federal election is very close to being called do you anticipate anything being announced prior to that election call?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I'm not sure if Councillor Vandal was referring to something being announced by the Federal government, something being announced by the Big City Mayors caucus or something being announced by the FCM. I'm going to assume he is referring to the Federal government.

Number one I'm not even convinced there is going to be an election called very soon. I don't think anybody here knows for sure. But I don't believe that's going to take place. But I do believe regardless that is an issue and that is an issue that we will continue to raise. There is no secret that the Mayors of Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, et cetera, are very concerned about this and will continue to raise that issue every opportunity we have.

Mr. Speaker: Your final question Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: My final question deals with the budget upcoming in 2008. Can you share with this Council what the business tax reduction goal is for the 2008 budget?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Thank you for that. At this particular point in time as Councillor Vandal knows, that was referred to the budget process. It has not started. There have been many issues that have been raised in the last month that will be coming out in the very near future. And as soon as there is some definitive information on that I would be happy to share that with Councillor Vandal and all of Council Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gerbasi your second time.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The issue of lack of police resources has gotten a lot of discussion and we all know we haven't been able to keep up the new recruit level with the funding we have for new officers, the increased funding we received from the Province and so on. Yet we know we're short of beat officers in West Broadway and Osborne Village, downtown, the north end. Everywhere the communities are crying out to have their beat officers returned.

And I guess I'm just wondering, aside from hiring a new Police Chief and making some changes there, is there anything that the Mayor or the chair of the Standing Committee intend to do to expedite the process of getting those police officers trained and on the street so that we can see them returned to the community?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I thank Councillor Gerbasi for that question. I think everybody is aware of the fact that crime and safety, along with our infrastructure roads and bridges were the numbers 1 and 2 priorities that I stated for the last few years.

Although I just want to accurately try and share something and that is, per capita the City of Winnipeg has more police officers than any other city in Canada. I'm not convinced that we have a shortage of police officers. I was quoted not long ago in the media saying we need more feet on the street and I actually believe that may be what Councillor Gerbasi is saying as well. I concur with that.

As Councillor Gerbasi is aware of there is a process going on right now for the hiring of a new Chief of Police. I have no doubt

in my mind that this will be a significant issue. More feet on the street, community policing, et cetera and I think there is consensus that we do want more police officers out there.

As Councillor Gerbasi alluded to we do have two classes a year that we graduate for police, for police recruits and I believe that is the status quo. It would probably be very difficult to increase that significantly, but I want to make sure that everybody realizes when it comes to the number of officers we have per capita, we are right at the top if not the top.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Your second question Councillor.

Councillor Gerbasi: Would the Mayor and the chair of the Standing Committee consider looking at options for increasing, recognizing that there are some difficulties in increasing the existing way we do recruit classes because you have to take officers off the street to do the teaching for the recruit classes, so there is limits to that. But knowing we have funded officers that we haven't been able to hire, is there any willingness to look at different ways of increasing those recruits such as having retired police officers come and do the training or just some creative ways. Is that something the Mayor is willing to consider? Because we have funded police officer positions in the meantime until we sort out those other issues which the Mayor accurately described, is there willingness to look at other solutions on this?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker we already have had conversations with the Winnipeg Police Service of other creative ways or other options that might exist. So I can assure Councillor Gerbasi this has been addressed and will continue to be addressed and hopefully we might come up with something. But I'm just telling her right now as we both sit here on the floor of Council, no definitive answer has come forward on how to do that but they are looking at it.

Mr. Speaker: Your final question Councillor.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you very much I appreciate that answer. And my last question is regarding the Plan Winnipeg review. In the past, I know we're due for one. There hasn't been a public announcement of a committee to review Plan Winnipeg or a public process or how that is going to go or a time line on it and our city plan is something that our citizens, many citizens have been asking about and would like to be involved in and are very concerned about having a city plan that reflects the will of the people.

And I guess what I'm wondering is, is there will be an announcement as to who on Council is going be working on this? Some sort of a time line or a goal for renewing Plan Winnipeg?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I want to thank Councillor Gerbasi for that question. As in one of her previous questions I did refer to the fact that there is in process right now a Plan Winnipeg review and we will be in the very near future making more thorough announcements which I think will address the issues. But Plan Winnipeg review has actually commenced so it is in process but we haven't got into what I think Councillor Gerbasi would refer to as the meat and potatoes. The process has just commenced.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. No further questions? We'll commence now with the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services report of October the 2nd, 2007, Councillor Steeves.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DATED OCTOBER 2, 2007

Councillor Steeves: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. Regarding that meeting of October 2nd, 2007, on behalf of Le P'tit Bonheur I will move that Le P'tit Bonheur.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DATED OCTOBER 12, 2007

Councillor Steeves: Regarding the report of October 12th, 2007, I'll introduce agenda Item 2 and I'll move adoption and consent of that matter.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Now the walk on report that was presented to us earlier, that's Item 1 October the 12th, Councillor Steeves or Madam Clerk.

Item 1 - Award of Contract, Supply, Installation and Operation of a Photo Enforcement Program File GL-9

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Steeves.

Councillor Steeves: I don't require a motion to suspend the rules to hear this?

Mr. Speaker: No. He does? Okay. Councillor Steeves moves suspension of rules to deal with this clause.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Steeves.

Councillor Steeves: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. With regard to this report, I don't know, I don't know if I'm on a time limit in this type of scenario but I think that Council would prefer I just speak as long as I want. (laughter) I think that is probably how folks in this room feel. A little decorum please. A little decorum please.

The recommendation that exists with respect to this report Mr. Speaker is going to be that we go with ACS who is our current service provider who is delivering the service month to month on over-holding basis for a five year, 60 month period. There is some provisions for extensions. If we decide that's what we want to do.

The technology is primarily a wet film technology with some digital components that I'll talk about in a moment. Its alternative 1 at outlined in the body of the report. The cost for the service provider is outlined in this report is over $25 million dollars.

Just in terms of generalities surrounding the report Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that there were three companies who expressed an interest in providing the photo radar service to the City of Winnipeg. One of the companies was disqualified very early, based on criteria that I'll talk about in a moment. One of the other companies survived till later in the process and the final company, of course ACS, which is a company that the report and I am recommending today was the successful company as we bid through. All the details of those are outlined in the body of the report. People may or may not have comments they want to make. I'll be pleased to receive those as we move through the discussion today.

I do want to put this on the record if we could. A lot of debate surrounds the issue of photo radar in our community. We do obviously track these things and the citizen satisfaction with the program that we are running. And even though we do hear a lot of complaints about the system and obviously it's not a very popular system for all of us probably on a time to time basis, what we're listing as the citizen satisfaction rate based on our survey is the number of 79%. So 79% of the citizens in our community are saying they support generally the program that we're attempting to run in this City, which I think is worthwhile mentioning and talking about.

The data as presented and as talked about at Standing Committee primarily does indicate that as per Council's original hope and direction, that this be primarily a safety program and of course that's brought on to the table for discussion often Mr. Speaker. Our professional administration the Winnipeg Police Service is telling us that in their professional estimation this program from a safety perspective is having an impact.

That it is working. That it is making a difference.

And I think that's one of if not the most important things that has to be acknowledged in this chamber is that over five years our professional people who we put in place to give us this information are saying yes, this is making a difference safety wise and I take some comfort in that. And I hope by extension of you Mr. Speaker and the balance of Council and the Mayor will take that same comfort with respect to that very, very important issue.

The, everyone understands the history with respect to the challenges we've had on the photo radar contract. If I could over simplify the difficulties we had last time, essentially while the program itself when it was put in place, there were concerns about the revenue verses the cost of the program at the time. It's no secret that the revenue projections were way over projected in terms of the money that would be coming in based on the photo radar program. As a result in the first couple of years of that original contract we had to ratchet back our expectations and, not inconsequentially alter our budgeting on a year to year basis to meet the demands of the Winnipeg Police Service, based on the fact they weren't exactly made whole because the projections were out.

The balance of that contract, essentially the last half of the contract Mr. Speaker, heads got together, there was some reaffirmation of the numbers and some adjustment, and I can tell you as everyone is aware that essentially on the balance of the contract, the numbers ran out pretty good in terms of our projections and in terms of what we expected to see in terms of cost and revenue. So it appears that in the middle of that contract, the problem was to a large extent solved Mr. Speaker. However people around here don't forget nor should they, those difficulties.

I think that the RFP committee as outlined on page 6, did a wonderful job of going through those numbers and of course they have now that history to rely on. Obviously they brought in people from Corporate Services, not the least of which is our new CFO Mike Ruta, to look through the numbers, adjustments were made and I think I can stand before this Council and the gallery and the citizens of this City by extension to say there is a great deal of confidence in the numbers that we're putting forward to the citizens of this City that we represent based on this report.

If people are interested in the evaluation criteria it's listed on page 7 and we've done that. There's four components generally speaking. The first two components are pass/fail. They're compliance with mandatory requirements. The second one is qualification of the bidder and the subcontractors. Essentially to get into the third or fourth (inaudible) Mr. Speaker you have to get over top of those two hurdles. If you don't, you don't get into the numbers three and four which are the features and functionality of the proposed system and of course the valuated bid price. At the end of the day we wound up with one successful bidder. The only one we thought could deliver the service that we require.

There is some debate on the wet film verses digital. This was something of a surprise to me Mr. Speaker. I was I guess hoping maybe against hope that we might evolve to more of a digital base but what we're hearing from our people, our administration is that right now there is not an acceptable level of confidence in digital technology and that it may or may not be accepted by the courts of the Province of Manitoba. And as such we don't want to put all of our eggs in one basket and implement holus bolus an entire digital program in every camera in every spot in the City of Winnipeg because we are concerned frankly, that if we do that the tickets we issue will be challenged at the first instance and there is a potential that if it doesn't go our way, if I can use that term, the entire system could be thrown out and we could be without a system for a period of time.

The risk is simply too great for to us take that chance so we're recommending a wet film technology with supplemental digital technology supporting the idea being that we will issue some digital offences. They will go through the court process. If they pass muster at the court

level we will evolve into a more full, digital technology platform. That's the idea.

I can tell you right now the City of Calgary states they are going with primarily a digital platform. Outside of Calgary, the following cities - Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa, Regina, St. Alberts, Strathcona, Fort McMurray, Red Deer, Camrose and the entire province of British Columbia, list that they are going with wet film technology for the same reasons that we are.

I will mention something about the Edmonton report that was talked about in the popular media over the course of the last week and of course why we laid the matter over from Executive Policy Committee last week. Edmonton is considering in two years, potentially moving to an in-house model. They may or may not do that. They've given themselves some leeway. They're going on a month to month with ACS as we are right now. And they will be probably doing that over a five year span if they wind up going in 2009. We've set the report aside for a seven day period to compare the in-sourcing model verses what we're proposing here today.

The challenge was trying to get to an apples to apples comparison between our suggested program and what Edmonton is considering doing in 2009. The differences are essentially as follows. We have 30 cameras between 48 sites. Edmonton has 24 cameras between 60 sites. Edmonton has 5 mobile units that have access to the entire city. Winnipeg has 10 mobile units and we only of course access construction sites and playgrounds. We process and clear tickets within 14 days. Edmonton does not have that similar obligation. Edmonton shares the cost of their processing with five other cities and as a result only pays about 40% of that cost.

Edmonton in the report that you saw which was referenced in the popular media, has, does not factor in the cost of commissionaires, the cost of vehicles, gas and maintenance, the public education fund. They haven't worked in CPI as we have and there obviously is an absolute difference in the amount of cameras that we're attempting to run. I'm not going to go through and try and list all of the numbers. I don't think this is (inaudible) as much as you folks would.

At the end of the day, at the end of the day with the assistance of Mike Ruta and the police leadership team, it is our respectful recommendation to Council that on an apples to apples basis if you factor in and out everything, we're doing well with this contract. It's very competitive. The cost is as it should be Mr. Speaker and I am comfortable before this Council and of course the extension of the City by definition, making this recommendation to this Council. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor Steeves. No speakers? Councillor Smith.

Councillor Smith: Yes Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask Councillor Steeves why we, why do we warn people by putting up signs at the intersections that they are photo radar? You know it seems to me that it improves the safety of those intersections but it doesn't really do much to increase the safety throughout the City. If people got nabbed you would have them lowering their speeds wherever they are. Why do we warn them? Why do we say you're going to be on camera and you're going to get a ticket if you speed at this intersection?

Mr. Speaker: Just a minute. (inaudible)

Councillor Smith: Well it pertains to the contract. It pertains to how many tickets are going to be issued.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Smith has a right because he made a speech now Councillor Steeves you've closed, you're closed the debate and you can address that question.

Councillor Steeves: Okay I'll close the debate?

Mr. Speaker: Yes he is closing. Go ahead.

Councillor Steeves: Okay I'll close the debate.

Mr. Speaker: We wanted to make sure that there was no one else wanted to speak but you closed the debate and now you can explain to Councillor Smith's question.

Councillor Steeves: That's fair. I will be brief. With respect to the, with respect to the specific question raised by Councillor Smith and it's a fair question. I believe a determination was made way back when that in fairness to the citizens that we represent that we would disclose where the cameras are. There are also additional signs out there that are not necessarily immediately where the cameras are and they say this is a photo enforcement neighbourhood to sort of let people know. And I guess the idea being is that people don't always know. And of course the other thing Mr. Speaker is we have more sites then we actually do have cameras. So it doesn't necessarily follow that wherever there is a site there that there actually is a camera within the box as it were.

So, there is still some degree of surprise for Councillor Smith even though I'm not sure what exactly he is getting at, whether he wants to really trick people, that might be the goal here. But the issue was to disclose and to ensure the people understood the program was out there. With that, I would like to thank Council for this robust debate on this very, very important issue. And I will close in hopeful support of my good friends on Council.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillors on the report dated October the 12th.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Motions? There are no Motions Mr. Clerk I understand? No Motions. No By-laws. Question Period. Councillor Gerbasi.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question has to do with an issue we've discussed a lot lately which is the beat officers and I wanted to ask the chair of the Standing Committee, there has been a sustained outcry going on from the communities I represent and others in the City, particularly the downtown right now. There's been meetings going on. There's been this issue raised that the police presence on the street isn't there. There was a public meeting in West Broadway last night where there were significant concerns raised by residents that there is major concerns in those kind of areas, of things slipping back without the police presence to work with the community and prevent neighbourhoods like that from slipping back. And there is concerns in Osborne Village and Corydon where our volunteer programs that were fostered by the local beat officer who is no longer there since the spring, that those programs are diminishing and we're now going to lose our volunteer programs in those areas which are very beneficial to the businesses and the residents.

So my question is I realize there's problems with filling those positions right now but if we're going to stand up and say we have 150 new police officers but we can't train them and we can't get them on the street, beyond hiring a new Police Chief, I know that's part of the answer, what innovative policies can our Committee, and I would be happy to work with you on that, come up with to get those officers on the street? Maybe comment on that. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Steeves.

Councillor Steeves: I want to thank Councillor Gerbasi for that question. It's a fair question. That's something we have been dealing with extensively at Committee and in fact as Councillor Gerbasi is aware in September because of the rather sustained discussion about community service, community policing and people's different ideas as to community policing. Because of that sustained discussion, I brought forward a motion, I guess in the spring and we discussed it in September as to how, where are we evolving to as a police service with respect to the issue of community policing? What does it really mean? The beat officers, all these sorts of

things. We had I think a good discussion on it.

What regrettably is not abundantly clear is a) what does this community necessarily mean when we talk about community policing? Some people seem to really think it means exclusively police walking the beat. I think by definition most people who have a little more knowledge surrounding community policing think it's a lot more complicated than that. I'll tell you what I think based on my discussions right now. I think as we move through at the hiring process, and I won't dwell on that but Councillor Gerbasi acknowledges as well she should, that it's a key component of getting this piece right as it were in our community.

I think we have essentially two immediate, well three immediate things that we have to deal with in our police service and they are a) we have to strengthen that community administrative connection through whatever means necessary. That there is a perception that that connection just doesn't exist to the extent that it should. And it's causing problems and its causing concerns frankly and that has to be bridged and it has to be addressed. And that I think is probably the primary purview of the new person when they take the seat as the new Police Chief.

Having said that technically, I still think we are having some issues with call prioritization and getting sort of the numbers to where we need them in terms of what really requires police response. We are hearing from people in terms of our consultation. Professionally is that we're having some issues in terms of using our police officers to respond to calls maybe that aren't necessarily the priority that necessarily equates a police officer going there. There might be alternative methods to do that, to free up our police officers to do more and that might include being more visible in the community.

In terms of our reporting systems we're having some problems I think with the up front, the up front input in terms of crimes. It's taking too long for people to, our people out there to get the information into our system and we need to streamline that.

Those are some of the, those are the three things primarily that I think we have to put on the front burner and I think it would work best if the new person, which will be named within the month I hope, can work towards Mr. Speaker. So I thank Councillor Gerbasi for the question. That's my personal assessment of what needs to be altered in the short term.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: One final question. Through you to Councillor Steeves, do you have any sense of a time line? Every month I'm at community meetings throughout the communities I represent and they're asking me when are we going to see our police presence? And it's not just seeing someone visually but somebody that they have as a contact to in the targeted areas of the City that we've all agreed including Mayor Katz who's agreed that we need that in certain areas like the downtown and the north end. And we've all agreed we need that, those people working closely with the communities. And I guess I'm wondering when, do you have any sense of a time line of when we are realistically going to see those officers restored in those areas?

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Steeves.

Councillor Steeves: I would like to remind folks and I thank Councillor Gerbasi for the question. I know she is legitimately trying to solve an issue that does exist but we are, we do have a program that's called Crime Stat, we're trying to use in all good intentions, with all bona fides to put in place to respond to true areas of concern. That is what we're doing. Our professionals are trying to implement it based on the model. We went down and we saw it work in Minneapolis and we know it works in other cities and that is what we are trying to do.

I don't know specifically the people that Councillor Gerbasi is talking about. I

might have an idea generally but we have to make sure that our response as a professional police force is based on our professional assessment as to where the true problems are in this City. I'm not saying that when someone comes forward and says there is a problem in our community that there isn't a problem in the community. There may well be. I just want to ensure that it checks out against the professional system that we have in place because we do have a system that we bought into that we're trying to implement. Professionally and with every good intention, and we do believe it's going to work to reduce crime in this City. So yes, we're listening to people who are saying there is a problem here and there is a problem there but it has to be supported by real and empirical data. That's important as well.

Mr. Speaker: Your final question? Councillor Thomas your first.

Councillor Thomas: Yes thank you. I also have questions with regard to community based policing. I had four foot patrol officers and two beat offices that were closed and since we're getting money for community based policing officers from the Province I'd like to know where those officers went. The level of crime has not gone one down in my area and I do not know where there are any foot patrol officers. Now we've got the money for it, where have they gone? Where have the beat offices gone in my area? Where have the foot patrol officers gone? There were two in east Elmwood, two in west Elmwood. They're gone.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Steeves.

Councillor Steeves: I'm not in a position to comment on these specific officers. I will undertake to find out that information with respect to where folks are and are not. As folks are asking questions where Councillor Swandel, we're looking at some numbers on the Crime Stat trying to figure out. Again, I mean where exactly the hot spots in the City are, I, Councillor Thomas did not specifically allude to the Crime Stat model and the recorded offences and those types of things. I want to encourage and maybe remind Council Mr. Speaker that we bought into this system. We bought into this program. I think I don't know if that there was any detractors necessarily on Council, I can't recall. But we want to give it a chance to work. So, when we're looking at that, I'm hoping that Councillors are working with the Crime Stat model to sort of work with our professional administration on the police force to say okay, these are, this the empirical data is showing these are the hot spots. How are we deploying our people? Is it working? Is it having the desired affect? I just want to encourage Council to work that philosophy and that tool into their thinking. But I will undertake to try and find answers to Councillor Thomas' specific questions regarding the people in her ward.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question Councillor Thomas.

Councillor Thomas: Yes a follow up question on that. When community based policing was implemented we were invited to come to the Concert Hall and we were shown who the 20 officers were, where they would be assigned. We were introduced to them personally. But when they left, there was no notice. I had to find out from the community that they had been removed from my area. So I'm very, promises were made at the time that we would be informed if we were no longer to receive officers. That hasn't occurred. And I don't know anybody that has received new foot patrol officers so I'm concerned about the lack of foot patrol officers when we specifically got money for the foot patrol officers and that's why I would like to know what happened to the ones in my area and I would like to know what happened to all of them, because we've received money for that. We got a commitment that they were going to happen.

Mr. Speaker: Your question Councillor. Your question?

Councillor Thomas: I don't know what happened to any of them. I would like to know not just what happened to my foot patrol officers but what happened to the foot patrol officer program which we are

receiving money for? So I wanted to make that clear. That's my question.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Steeves.

Councillor Steeves: Thank you Mr. Speaker. When Councillor Thomas states that they're "my", I don't know if they had to sign a personal contract of personal servitude to Councillor Thomas. I don't know. I don't recall the meeting that Councillor Thomas is speaking about. It may have been before my time on Council or perhaps before I was born, I'm not sure.

The issue of where the particular people is, I think, is the same question that I've responded to prior. I will undertake to try to find out where those specific people are and we will, I will endeavour to get that information to Councillor Thomas.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Thomas your final question.

Councillor Thomas: Yeah, okay Councillor Steeves has just admitted that he is six years old, so that's okay. (laughter/applause). I would appreciate knowing what's happened because this was passed as a policy not just on Council but we received Provincial government funding from it. So reassigning those officers to other duties not foot patrols is probably in contravention of our agreement so that's why I consider this very very serious.

And we were all invited over to the Concert Hall when we did that. We were all introduced to the officers if we had beat officers in our area. So I don't know maybe you didn't have a beat officer in your area.

Mr. Speaker: And your question?

Councillor Thomas: And you were told they were ours.

Mr. Speaker: And your question Councillor Thomas?

Councillor Thomas: The question, the question is, is not only are there beat officers, are we in contravention of our agreement if we don't have them? Thanks.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Steeves.

Councillor Steeves: Yeah, I'll try to work that into the question that I believe was asked two times previously and we'll attempt to get an answer to Councillor Thomas on this one. Okay? Thank you Mr. Speaker and well played by Councillor Thomas on the six years old thing.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Vandal your first question.

Councillor Vandal: Thank you Mr. Speaker, to chairperson Steeves. You mentioned a few minutes ago that part of the focus is trying to find where the true problems are in the community and I can tell you that the City thinks that a true problem is in the downtown where I can think of eight people off the top of my head being shot if not more and a daylight stabbing in front of Portage Place. My question is what is the strategy what is the plan for addressing this problem?

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Steeves.

Councillor Steeves: Thanks for the question Councillor Vandal. Generally, or specifically, I think there was an attempt to get some increased presence in that area and I know that there was an incident over the weekend, and there was I don't know exactly what the specific reference is to that shooting but as I hope folks are aware, there wasn't a question as to police response or even necessarily police presence in the general area. I think what we'll find is if you look in that area on any given Friday or Saturday night there is no shortage of police officers in that area. There's a strong and pretty robust frankly police presence in the Market district and the bar district on those particular evenings.

Some questions as to whether or not they are inside the establishment that is entirely a different issue. But there is going to be an attempt through some increased presence with respect to the other shooting, to try and deal with that. I

always am very, very careful to say that increased police presence, that is no guarantee that we are going to see an end to some of the problems that we've seen but through responses and some of that increased presence we're hoping to do our best to try to address the problem. Thanks.

Mr. Speaker: Question Period has expired. Councillors preambling was, the time was taken up by two Councillors, members of Council. So those who are on the list that did not get a chance, it's Smith and Gerbasi, would you please email to the chair and copy to all members of Council and you'll get your reply. Thank you Councillor Steeves.

Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works. Councillor Clement.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS DATED OCTOBER 9, 2007

Councillor Clement: Thanks Mr. Speaker. I'll move the clause from the meeting of October the 9th as Consent.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Motions none. Consideration of By-laws none.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Speaker: Question Period. Councillor Wyatt, Vandal. Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Yesterday Mr. Speaker the Premier hosted a conference on climate change with the Premier from British Columbia and the Governor from Arizona attending and one of the areas that they agreed on was to promote the development and use of low emitting vehicle technologies including plug-in hybrids and hydrogen technologies.

My question is to the chair is Public Works has large fleets whether it be through the Public Works department itself through maintenance, the maintenance division or also through Transit. What initiatives are under way so that we can start seeing the introduction as we purchase these vehicles in our fleets?

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Clement.

Councillor Clement: I'm not even going to attempt to answer that Mr. Speaker because I don't know all of the technical data involved, particularly on bus purchases. But I would be happy to have Dave Wardrop contact the Councillor and provide him with all of the data that he could read for hours and hours and hours I'm sure, on how the, all of the specifications that are required for the buses.

I don't know about this press conference yesterday. I haven't read the paper today yet so I don't really know what's in there. But the, I'm sure that when they have these agreements that they will ultimately send something through the appropriate Minister to our people suggesting these types of opportunities, and hopefully they'd send some cheques with their ideas. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt your second question.

Councillor Wyatt: My second question and maybe it could be part of the information to me not just with regards to Transit but also the department of Public Works. We see Public Works vehicles all over the City, trucks and smaller vehicles and larger vehicles. We always want to lead by example. Is there an initiative or is there plans that these should be in the future, as we expand our fleet or replace our existing fleet that we be purchasing hybrid vehicles at all times?

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Clement.

Councillor Clement: Yes I believe that we are already using some strategies with these vehicles Mr. Speaker. Some of them are simplistic things and I don't

know whether they are all following all of the policies. When they are at red lights they're supposed to shut their vehicles off you know that type of thing. Or not red lights but at, when trains are going through. Waverley is a good example, yeah. And they're not supposed to leave their vehicles running although I know I've seen the odd one doing that from time to time.

But all of our people are cognizant of all of these issues and we've tried to get them to review all these technologies on an ongoing basis. I don't think any of this is new to them. When we're improving our fleet, I think that all of the fleet, when they are initially purchased are purchased with the most environmentally friendly opportunities that are out there. And of course that's a changing set of technology on almost on a month-to-month basis. So, but in either case I can have the appropriate people contact you if you would like to know a little bit more specific data.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt do you have a final question? You don't? Councillor Vandal your first one.

Councillor Vandal: Thank you. Could you tell us what the criteria is or what the policy is for the delaying of capital projects in the '07 budget?

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Clement.

Councillor Clement: I don't know if I would call it a policy Councillor Vandal so much as there is a reality that there is a shortfall in the amount of available money that we approved in the 2007 capital to complete all of the projects. I don't have that list yet. I know that we're going, we're asking them to produce it and we are going to be seeing some of that information very shortly but to date we haven't and that review is ongoing.

But I think the simplistic answer to your question is that although we passed the capital budget and we believed when we passed it that we had enough money in the budget to initiate tendering and the successful completion of those projects, the fact is is that as a result of a number of things but the key one being inflation, there doesn't appear to be enough money available to complete all of the projects and so we're having a hard look at them to try and determine what we can move and without causing any undo concern either in this room or in the public, to try and get as much as we can done with the money that we do have.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Vandal your second question.

Councillor Vandal: The freeze has been on for approximately a month so certainly there must be some way to determine what goes forward and what doesn't and I'm just wondering if you can clarify for this Council what goes forward and what doesn't?

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Clement.

Councillor Clement: I guess it, a lot of it will depend on what hasn't happened to date and how much money that we actually have left. You know you have to try to balance those things out. If you've got, if you've got $40 million dollars and you've got five projects and they total 62, you can't do them all, you know. And we haven't, we haven't seen the list of projects that have not gone out yet and we haven't been given a definitive amount of money that we're looking for. I've heard the number $25 million bandied about but I don't know if that's an accurate number. It could be 23.5, it could be 26.2. I don't know the exact number.

And so until we can physically see something and you're right, it's been approximately a month since that's happened. We have people who are reviewing that in the CAO's office and in that general area and we thought, actually, that we were going to get some of that information on Monday and it wasn't, they weren't quite ready. So we're anticipating that we're going to be looking at that very shortly. But I, I don't know the answers specifically because we actually haven't had the meeting with the people that are putting together all the information.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Vandal. Councillor Smith your first question.

Councillor Smith: Yes Councillor Clement my question you are not going to be able to give an answer to because, but you can get back to me with the answer. I would like to know what the cost is to remove snow from the sidewalks in front of businesses in the City of Winnipeg.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Clement.

Councillor Clement: He's right I don't know that specific number off the top of my head. I do recall last year when we did the budget we put I believe an extra $2 million dollars into the snow budget and that $2 million dollars was going to provide the opportunity for us to clear the windrows in front of businesses throughout the City. And I'm not sure how that worked out in their total budget yet.

And because we haven't got into the current budget yet we don't have that data from, you know we're still in the year. We're within the calendar year. We don't typically get real solid data on those kinds of things for a couple, you know we're into February or something like that on where we wound up with that Harvey, but I believe the number was $2 million dollars that we added to the snow budget last year. I might be wrong but I'm pretty sure that's right and the reason why was public safety and if you were curious about why we did it. But that's the number I'm pretty sure.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question Councillor Smith.

Councillor Smith: More specifically, you know I supported the budget to remove the windrows for safety reasons, but I'm concerned about the sidewalk itself. I mean they can hire someone or go out and shovel their sidewalk. Why don't we have them, you know I would like to know what the cost is for to us doing it for them?

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Clement.

Councillor Clement: Mr. Speaker I might need a little bit more clarification because the original question was dealing with windrows in front of businesses or that's what I thought it was.

Mr. Speaker: His question was sidewalks.

Councillor Clement: If it was sidewalks, we're already cleaning the sidewalks in front of businesses and residences and we have a very clear policy on it, Mr. Speaker. And Phase 1 of any plow when we are doing regional streets, it's in Phase 2 when we are doing the collector streets that we actually clear the sidewalks on regionals and collectors. And in Phase 3 we do them on, pardon me in Phase 3 we do them on the collectors and in Phase 4 of any plow is when we do them on the residential streets. We budget to clean the sidewalks every year so I'm confused by your question. Your question I thought was why don't we clean them but we do clean them every time it snows.

Councillor Smith: My question is what is the cost of us cleaning the sidewalks in front of business establishments in the City of Winnipeg?

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Clement.

Councillor Smith: In some cities they don't do that.

Councillor Clement: I'd have to ask somebody like Bruce McPhail for that answer and I would be happy to do that and get it for the Councillor so that he's got a specific number on that initiative. The snow budget, you know is all over the place and they rob Peter to pay Paul to deal with all these things. We never know how much it is going to snow Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi. Your first question.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Earlier I asked the Mayor the question about the capital funding for the busway and I was very pleased to hear that it was proceeding but in the light of this and I did mention the capital freeze but from what Councillor Clement is saying I guess I would like clarification

from the chair of the Committee. I believe that project hasn't started yet so I assume it is affected by the freeze and I would like clarification. We're talking about, some of our projects are $100 million dollars or $64 million dollar road extensions and then we've got a relatively small study and I guess I am wondering if you are going to cobble together all of those little those projects for $25 million a lot of things aren't going to happen and I guess I'm just wondering if you can enlighten us about whether the busway study is one of the things that's not going to happen to save this $25 million. The Mayor has committed it is happening but I guess I'm wondering if it's happening in my life time.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Clement.

Councillor Clement: Mr. Speaker it's difficult to provide a definitive answer. I've stated here already today that the review has been ongoing and that as of this moment, we haven't seen any numbers or any data on which projects haven't been started, et cetera. That may well be one of them. I've already suggested that the number was approximately $25 million. I know that there is some cash because there was some surplus funds and some old accounts associated with past capital projects that were beyond five years so I know that we have some cash there that we can use as a one time basis to try and solve this problem.

But, we just honestly haven't had a meeting yet, to get all of this data. Like I said, we were, I actually went to a meeting on Monday afternoon and thought that's what I was going to hear and it wasn't quite available yet and I believe that sometime later this week we are going to have that meeting but it hasn't happened yet.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi your second.

Councillor Gerbasi: Is the information from that meeting going to be made available to the public and all members of Council so that we can see the workings of that decision rather than just an announcement? I think we really need clarity on which items in our budget that's already been passed are going to be going ahead or not. Will we have that information available to Councillors?

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Clement.

Councillor Clement: That probably would have been more appropriately asked of the Mayor Mr. Speaker because I'm the chairman of Infrastructure and Public Works and although I'm a member of the Executive Policy Committee and I'm also a member of the Capital Budget Committee that's going to review this information once it's made available, I don't know how Executive Policy Committee is ultimately going to deal with it but it's pretty rare that this kind of information isn't made available to Councillors as fast as we have it, and ultimately shared with the public as well. So I don't know exactly what the flow of information is going to be and whether it's going to happen in 48 hours or in the next week or 10 days but I believe that all of that information will come out at the appropriate time.

Mr. Speaker: Your final question.

Councillor Gerbasi: When will there be a Council seminar? Again I know you're chair of the Committee and not the Mayor but that question period ran out too. When are we going to have a Council seminar and begin discussion on the capital budget for all members of Council?

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Clement.

Councillor Clement: I believe that the process is pretty much the same as last year. We have a committee who will deal with… Do you want to me to finish answering it?

Mr. Speaker: Yeah just briefly.

Councillor Clement: Okay, well I'm trying to be brief unlike my friend over there. Anyway, I almost forgot what the question was now. Yeah the seminar, the process Mr. Speaker is generally speaking, that the committee will work with the capital budget, ultimately report to EPC. EPC will

then bring forward a draft preliminary document and once that draft document is released then I believe there will be a seminar. And I think that's exactly what happened last year as well.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor Clement. Councillor Browaty you didn't have a chance to ask the question. Can you do the same as what previously I had mentioned to the Councillors? Is you email to the chair for the questions and copy to all members of Council and we'll all get that. Time has expired on the, on that Committee report.

The Standing Policy Committee on Finance. We have no report. Motions, none. By-laws none. Question Period. Councillor O'Shaughnessy is the chair. Any questions of the Finance Committee? None.

Downtown Development. No report. Motions none. By-laws none.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Speaker: Question period. Councillor Gerbasi, Swandel.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. There has been a lot of discussion among advocates for the downtown about the need to refresh our Centre Plan and I know there is rumblings that something may be going on there but there has never been a public announcement saying that we are going to be working on updating or refreshing Centre Plan. There has been no clear public process and I'm wondering if the chair of the Downtown Standing Committee could comment on that or give any information. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you Mr. Speaker. It's either going to take place at the next meeting or the following meeting there will be an update coming forward with regards to that work.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question.

Councillor Gerbasi: My second question has to do with another plan. There was also talk of a downtown housing plan that's a significant piece of our strategy on the downtown. I know everybody around Council is supportive of that of moving forward with housing in the downtown and I haven't heard where that project is at or who is involved in it or what's happening with that if you could provide that. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: I can tell you Councillor Gerbasi through the Speaker that the administration has been working on that strategy and it is based on the schedule that we have right now. It's hoped that it will be either at the end of this year or the beginning, early in the new year we'll have a chance to have a look at a sketch of a strategy for the downtown with hopefully recommendations in the future.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi your final question? Done? No more? Councillor Swandel your first.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Speaker. In recent weeks we've had a number of incidents in the downtown mostly around drinking establishments. My question Mr. Speaker to the chair of Downtown Development is has anybody been in contact with the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission regarding the policing from a liquor licencing perspective of these establishments, to ensure that they are being held to the appropriate standard and that all, from a liquor control perspective is being done to ensure the safety of our citizens when visiting these establishments in our downtown?

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: To my knowledge the answer would be yes. The Minister responsible for the MLCC, Greg Selinger announced the other day an initiative to review the Act with looking at introducing certain requirements, potentially province wide with regards to security in bars and from my understanding Mr. Speaker our

Winnipeg Police Service will be consulted as part of that process.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Speaker, through you to the chair Mr. Speaker, does the Downtown Zoning By-law provide any opportunity either in its current form or through amendment to the Zoning By-law to hold these operations to a standard of security that would ensure that safety is increased in these establishments in the downtown?

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: I would have to take the question under advisement and get back to Councillor Swandel. It's, I think it's fair to say though that with the announcement that the Province is pursuing potential regulations through the MLCC and their inspection requirements that that might be the first initiative that we would follow verses our own By-law but nevertheless I'll get back to him with regards to that question.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Vandal your first question.

Councillor Vandal: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Could we get an update on the Ryan Building on King Avenue that was in front of City Council recently?

Councillor Wyatt: 104 King or the Ryan Building or the King Building as it's referred to. It is actually right now Crozier Kilgour has been hired by the City. They've been undertaking over the last month to do engineering work, studies on the building and it is expected that in November, ideally early November, that a contract will be awarded for them to perform work on the building, to secure the building, which would see it secured for at least five years plus with regards to its walls, specifically the heritage walls that are on the two facades.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: My information suggests that the City is prepared to spend upwards of a million dollars to do the restoration. Is this correct?

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: The cost is estimated to be up to potentially a million dollars. It could be as low as $800,000. It could be approximately as high as a million dollars depending on what, they will find that out when they get into the building and depending on the circumstances but that is correct.

Mr. Speaker: Your final question Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Given that that is a very significant sum of money that we are not likely to recuperate, was consideration given to closing the gap of what I understand was a viable redevelopment option for that block rather than spend a million dollars on empty vacant building?

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: The City will actually, will recoup the funds. The cost of the expense will actually be applied to the property owner's tax bill and will have to be recouped so that cost will actually be recovered by the City.

Mr. Speaker: No further questions? We'll go on. Oh Councillor Vandal you have a second time around? Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: I'm going to change areas of the downtown. Can you give us an update on what's happening with the Metropolitan Theatre? That's been off the radar for too long.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: I could obtain that update for, take it under advisement and obtain that update for the Councillor.

Mr. Speaker: No further questions.

Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, report of October the 2nd, 2007. Councillor Swandel.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT DATED OCTOBER 2, 2007

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to introduce the report and move adoption of Consent Agenda Items 1 through 14.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Motions none. Consideration of By-laws. Councillor Swandel.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Speaker I'll move that the following By-laws be read a first time. By-law No. 182/2007, 183/2007, 184/2007, 185/2007.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 182/2007, 183/2007, 184/2007 and 185/2007.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: I will move that By-laws No. 182/2007 to 185/2007 both inclusive be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws No 182/2007 to 185/2007 both inclusive.

Councillor Swandel: I will move that the rule be suspended and that By-laws No. 182/2007 to 185/2007 both inclusive be read a third time and that same be passed in order to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Speaker: Question period. Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Yes Mr. Speaker, yesterday again just referring to the climate change conference, one of the items noted in the climate change conference, coming out of it, was that the Province would work towards moving towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels. And one of the initiatives cited was developing and implementing green building codes that achieve the higher standard of energy efficiency in Canada. And I'm just, I would like to know if the chair is aware of any initiative under way right now with regards to the City and if that is something that is going to be contemplated in the future?

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Councillor. Through you Mr. Speaker to Councillor Wyatt, we do have some initiatives that are for increased efficiencies of buildings. We are involved with Manitoba Hydro. As you know, building code is something that's the responsibility of the Province and we merely through the permit process ensure that the building code is being met.

But there have been works done on our civic arenas, and the rest of our City buildings including our very own City Hall here to increase the efficiency from an energy and environmental perspective and I'm sure there are others that I'm not aware of but I can ask Civic Accommodations to provide you with that information.

Mr. Speaker: That's it? I would like to ask Councillor Swandel to read the report of the Secretariat Committee of October the 15th. Can you do that on my behalf Councillor Swandel?

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT COMMITTEE DATED OCTOBER 15, 2007

Councillor Swandel: I would be pleased Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce the report and move adoption of the Consent Agenda Item No. 1.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Mr. Speaker: Councillors I would like to thank the Journalism Instructor, Duncan McMonagle and the Red River College and his class of journalism students who have been with us all since morning, both sides. Congratulations and thank you for coming out and come again. (applause).

Councillor Steeves moves adjournment.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Speaker Councillor Lazarenko, His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Clement, Fielding, Gerbasi, Leipsic, Nordman, O'Shaughnessy, Pagtakhan, Smith, Steeves, Swandel, Thomas, Vandal and Wyatt.

Council Adjourned at 11:14 A.M.