Agenda - Executive Policy Committee – March 20, 2008

OPERATING BUDGET REVIEW

Item No. 20 Executive Policy Committee – Final Recommendations – 2008 Operating Budget
File FE(2008)

On March 6, 2008, the Executive Policy Committee tabled the Preliminary 2008 Operating Budget, which outlined the following recommendations:

1. A. That the 2008 Preliminary Operating Budget be approved and forwarded to all Members of Council for their review; and

   B. That the 2009 and 2010 projections be received as information on the preliminary financial plans for those years.

2. That the City's mill rate remain fixed at the 2007 level of 25.448.

3. A. That the City's business tax rate remain unchanged at 7.75% for 2008; and
   B. That Council extend to 2008 the 15% limit on business tax increases resulting from the 2006 General Assessment.

4. That Council enact a by-law establishing a 5% hotel tax effective June 1, 2008, and that the by-law be forwarded to the Lieutenant Governor in Council for approval as required by the Municipal Revenue (Grants and Taxation) Act, and that the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to finalize negotiations with the Province to collect the tax on the City's behalf.

5. That the transfers to/from utility operations, reserves, and other funds as well as the fees and charges outlined in the 2008 Preliminary Operating Budget be approved, including:

   A. Emergency medical service fees effective April 1, 2008 as follows:

Proposed Emergency Medical Service Rates (Per Call)		
(in dollars)	Present Rate	**April 1, 2008**
Emergency Medical Service		
Basic Rate (not subsidized)	550	560
Regional Rate (provincial subsidized)	413	420
City Rate (city and provincial subsidized)	275	280
Interfacility Transfer Service		
Basic Rate (not subsidized)	398	406
Regional Rate (provincial subsidized)	299	305
City Rate (city and provincial subsidized)	199	203
Treatment No Transport Service - Basic Rate		
Basic Rate (not subsidized)	234	238
Regional Rate (provincial subsidized)	176	179
City Rate (city and provincial subsidized)	117	119
Treatment No Transport Service - Advanced Care		
Basic Rate (not subsidized)	418	426
Regional Rate (provincial subsidized)	214	320
City Rate (city and provincial subsidized)	209	213

   B. A surcharge of $150.00 on calls requiring Advanced Life Support (ALS) procedures be approved effective April 1, 2008.

6. That the $500,000 for Public Art previously approved in the 2008 Adopted Capital Budget be reduced to $100,000 on a one-time basis to reduce debt and finance charges in the tax-supported operating budget.

7. That the former restrictions on charges to the Snow Clearing Reserve in any one year be rescinded, and that no minimum balance be required (previously set at $5 million) before any charges can be made to the reserve.

8. A. That Council establish a "Rapid Transit Infrastructure Reserve" in accordance with Section 289 of the City of Winnipeg Charter;

   B. That the Director of Transit be designated as the Fund Manager;

   C. That the purpose of the reserve be to accumulate funds and subsequently to expend on future costs incurred on account of public transit infrastructure, including the construction of rapid transit corridors contemplated in the future; and

   D. That a Transfer to the Transit Infrastructure Reserve of $2,750,000 be approved in 2008 as an initial City contribution to this new reserve.

9. That the Public Service be directed to include budgets for reserves in the budget documents commencing with the 2009 budget process.

10. That the Public Service consider alternative operating arrangements for Building Services, Civic Accommodations and Real Estate including a special operating agency and recommend the preferred approach.

11. That the Public Service be instructed to move to a full-cost recovery model through amendments to the Planning, Development, and Building Fees By-law.

12. That the Chief Administrative Officer be delegated the authority to restate the budget subsequent to adoption to allocate amounts to departments to reflect Council's ratification of collective agreements as well as cost reduction measures, on a budget neutral basis.

13. That the City Solicitor/Manager of Legal Services be instructed to prepare the necessary by-laws to implement the above recommendations.

14. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the foregoing, including the execution of any documents related thereto.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 6, 2008, the Executive Policy Committee referred the Preliminary 2008 Operating Budget and Financial Plan for 2009 and 2010 to the following budget process timetable, namely:

March 10 to 14, 2008	Standing Policy Committees - Review
March 17, 2008	Executive Policy Committee - Delegations
March 20, 2008	Executive Policy Committee - Recommendation to Council
March 26, 2008	Council