EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

MOTIONS

Minute No. 660
Moved by Councillor Steeves,
Seconded by Councillor Fielding,

WHEREAS all Members of Council under the “The City of Winnipeg Charter” must sign a “Declaration of Office” that indicates they will truly, faithfully, and impartially, to the best of their knowledge and ability, execute the office to which they have been elected and not have received, and will not receive any payment or reward, or the promise of payment or reward, for the exercise of partiality, corruption or other improper execution of the office;

AND WHEREAS “The Municipal Council Conflict of Interest Act” requires that when members of a municipal council or their dependents have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a matter that comes before Council or a Council committee, they must disclose it, withdraw from the meeting and refrain from attempting to influence the matter;

AND WHEREAS “The Municipal Council Conflict of Interest Act” takes considerable effort to set out what constitutes a direct or indirect pecuniary interest and a violation of the Act can result in forfeiture of the councillor's seat;

AND WHEREAS all Members of Council are obligated to provide a “Statement of Assets and Interests” under “The Municipal Council Conflict of Interest Act”;

AND WHEREAS a member of the electorate or, upon instructions from Council, the City Clerk may apply to the Court of Queen's Bench for a declaration that the member of council has violated this Act;

AND WHEREAS “The City of Winnipeg Charter”, declares the City Auditor responsible for determining whether "operations of the city are carried on, and money is expended, with due regard for economy and efficiency" and whether "satisfactory procedures have been established to measure, and report to council on the achievement of, economy and efficiency in the conduct of operations of the city and each affiliated body";

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Ombudsman has authority to investigate "any decision or recommendation made, including any recommendation made to a council, or any act done or omitted, relating to a matter of administration in or by any municipality or by any officer or employee of a municipality, whereby any person is or may be aggrieved”;

Executive Policy Committee - Motions (continued):

AND WHEREAS the "Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act" deals with what government information is required to be released to the public and the protection of personal information from being publicly released;

AND WHEREAS City Council adopted a Code of Conduct in September of 1994 that established Principle Guidelines that required:

- Members shall not engage in any activity, financial or otherwise, which is incompatible with the proper discharge of his/her official duties in the public interest;
- Members must disclose any business or interest which may give rise to a reasonable apprehension of conflict. A Member shall not accept a fee, gift, personal benefit, except compensation authorized by law, that is connected directly or indirectly with the performance of his or her duties of office. This does not apply to a gift of personal benefit that is received as an incident of the protocol or social obligation that normally accompany the responsibilities of office;
- Members shall not use or disclose any information gained in the execution of his/her office that is not available to the general public for any purpose other than his/her official duties;
- Members shall not use influence of office for any purpose other than his/her official duties;
- Members shall not use the services or resources of civic employees in any private or personal business or for his/her re-election during hours in which these employees are in the paid employment of the City;
- and Members shall respect the legislative and administrative regulations governing the decision-making mechanisms of the City.

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba through the Premier has indicated in the media that "the bottom line is there is a Municipal Conflict of Interest law in Manitoba. It applies to the City of Winnipeg. It is a law that provides for disclosure for any elected official and the provision for withdrawing from any decision making. If anybody feels that law has been offended in any way, there are the remedies in the law. There is a public debate going on at City Hall and that's where it belongs. The bottom line is there is a law. And the law applies to every councillor in Manitoba, it applies to every Mayor in Manitoba, and it doesn't depend upon the debate of the day. It depends upon an issue where people fail to disclose or fail to withdraw from the decision making";

Executive Policy Committee - Motions (continued):

AND WHEREAS the Secretariat Committee's functions have been established in the Organizational By-law to include among its purposes:

- To resolve non political issues between Councillors.
- To resolve difficulties between Councillors and administration.
- To consider and resolve all other issues as referred to it by Council, Committees or member(s) of Council;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

(1) Secretariat Committee review all existing measures in place to ensure accountability, transparency, and integrity including all existing legislation and further investigate opportunities to strengthen accountability at City Hall by:

(i) Establishing an Accountability Commissioner that oversees all city employees not just elected officials;

(ii) Creating an enhanced expense account monitoring reporting system for elected officials.

(iii) Enact whistle blower protection that could include a dedicated hotline that would include protection to city staff who report unethical or illegal activity;

(iv) Strengthen consequences and accountability measures for not meeting any of the criteria and terms established in all of the existing legislation.

Moved by Councillor O'Shaughnessy,

That the motion be referred to the Secretariat Committee via the Executive Policy Committee for report back within 120 days.

The motion to refer was put.

Councillor Gerbasi called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:

Yea: Councillors Browaty, Clement, Nordman, O'Shaughnessy, Pagtakhan, Swandel, Wyatt and Lazarenko. 8

Nay: His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Fielding, Gerbasi, Smith, Steeves and Vandal. 6

and the motion to refer was declared carried.

Executive Policy Committee - Motions (continued)

Minute No. 661
Moved by His Worship Mayor Katz,
Seconded by Councillor Steeves,

WHEREAS with the October 9, 2008, Royal Assent to Bill 47, The CentrePort Canada Act, the City of Winnipeg is required to appoint one person as a nominee director on the Board of Directors for CentrePort Canada Inc., for a term of no more than three years;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Art Mauro be appointed as nominee director on the Board of Directors for CentrePort Canada Inc. for a 3-year term commencing October 22, 2008 and expiring October 21, 2011.

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

Moved by His Worship Mayor Katz,

That the rule be suspended to allow Council to deal with this motion at this time.

Carried

The motion was put and declared carried.

Minute No. 662
Moved by Councillor Nordman,
Seconded by Councillor Browaty,

WHEREAS the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games are taking place in Vancouver, British Columbia, and this will be an event of special significance to all Canadians;

AND WHEREAS the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games has invited the City of Winnipeg to participate in the Olympic Torch Relay to take place prior to the Games, by hosting a special event to welcome the Olympic Torch Relay;

AND WHEREAS the prospect of Winnipeg's hosting an event to welcome the Olympic Torch Relay represents a unique opportunity for the City, as the eyes of the world would be focused on Winnipeg;

Executive Policy Committee - Motions (continued)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Winnipeg conclude an agreement with the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, committing the City to provide funding and services-in-kind in support of a civic celebration related to the visit of the Olympic Torch Relay to Winnipeg in January, 2010, in an amount not to exceed a total of one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000);

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the necessary funds to meet the City's obligations pursuant to the proposed agreement with the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games be allocated in the 2010 Operating Budget, and that the Public Service commence planning related to the visit of the Olympic Torch Relay to Winnipeg, in consultation with government and community stakeholders and potential partners.

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

Moved by Councillor Nordman,

That the rule be suspended to allow Council to deal with this motion at this time.

Carried

Moved by Councillor O'Shaughnessy,

That the motion be referred to the Executive Policy Committee for consideration during the budget process.

Carried.

Executive Policy Committee - Motions (continued)

Minute No. 663
Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Pagtakhan,

WHEREAS the Neighbourhood Multiple Family/Mixed-Use Building Grant By-Law No. 122/2007, which was passed by Council on May 16, 2007 has been a huge success with the program funds being fully committed. This program has facilitated the development, redevelopment and conversion of existing properties, added 475 new residential dwellings and leveraged $75 million of additional investments for the purpose of renewal of existing and older neighbourhoods;

AND WHEREAS the limit of $5 million authorized by Council, based on a maximum tax grant of $15,000 per dwelling unit for units with an assessed value of less than $250,000, has made it possible for previously economically marginal housing projects to proceed, creating employment in the construction industry and more affordable housing in Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the Neighbourhood Multiple Family/Mixed-Use Building Grant Program is an innovative program that encouraged renewal of existing neighbourhoods, the use of existing civic infrastructure, the development of new street level commercial activity and greater urban density, all consistent with Plan Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS with the introduction of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) legislation in the last session of the Manitoba Legislation, an opportunity may exist to expand the program to include a tax credit on education taxes, making previously economically marginal housing projects far more viable;

AND WHEREAS the 'slow down' in the housing market makes the renewal of the Neighbourhood Multiple Family/Mixed-Use Building Grant program even more of a priority;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the maximum total grants of $5 million under this program be increased by an additional $10 million to a maximum of $15 million for the duration of the program which is set to expire on June 1, 2010;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service work with the Province of Manitoba to expand the program to include a credit on education taxes, as well as the municipal taxes.

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