EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 41
Councillor Smith referred to a letter written to the Winnipeg Free Press, wherein the individual asked what progress had been made on the light synchronization program that had been announced two years ago.

His Worship Mayor Katz advised that light synchronization has taken place on Route 90 Kenaston. He further noted that the significant amount of money announced as part of the program is spread over a four year period and that McPhillips, Main Street, St. Mary's and Portage Avenue were being looked at.

Councillor Vandal referred to the transfer of water and sewer revenue into general revenue questioned why this process continued when water and sewer rates continued to rise.

His Worship responded that he moved a motion that was supported by Council to end the transfer, with an effective date of 2009.

Councillor Vandal noted that there would be 14 million dollars of transfers being discussed shortly and questioned why put off to tomorrow what you could be done today; to which His Worship advised that the motion of Council was not putting off anything.

Councillor Vandal stated that in the last four years, rates have risen forty six percent, and would be forty eight point seven percent if the report was approved. Councillor Vandal questioned if His Worship thought Winnipeggers were paying enough for their water without the transfers.

His Worship advised that in the past there have been thirty two percent increases, which Councillor Vandal supported. He further advised that it was unfortunate but sometimes that was what happened in a society of democracy when there was a cost to do something; that cost was passed on.

Councillor O'Shaughnessy questioned if His Worship would forward to all members of Council the report of the progress of light synchronization; to which His Worship replied in the affirmative.

Councillor Nordman stated that last month, the Vancouver Olympic Games organizing committee requested that the City of Winnipeg consider participating in the 2010 torch run and requested the status on the matter; to which His Worship replied that the matter had been referred to the budget process.

Executive Policy Committee - Question Period (continued)

Councillor Wyatt advised that in December 2005, Council passed an inner municipal shared services expression of interest process that directed the CAO, upon completion of the expression of interest process, to recommend a pilot project or pilot projects for shared services agreements. Councillor Wyatt questioned if the City was close to having a pilot project proposal or agreement back from one of the municipalities; to which His Worship replied that there were several responses from the capital region.

Councillor Vandal referenced the moving forward of the corporate utility and asked if there would be public consultation with Winnipeggers on the merits of the corporate utility plan.

His Worship stated for clarification, he assumed what the Councillor was implying was that the City was moving forward to explore whether it could find a strategic partner. His Worship stated that if a strategic partner was not found, then the City was back to the drawing board, but if a strategic partner was found, then there would be public input.