Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – March 19, 2009

OPERATING BUDGET REVIEW

Item No. 10 Executive Policy Committee – Final Recommendations – 2009 Operating Budget – 2010 and 2011 Preliminary Financial Plans File FE(2009)

On February 20, 2009, the Executive Policy Committee tabled the Preliminary 2009 Operating Budget and the 2010 and 2011 Preliminary Financial Plans, which outlined the following recommendations:

1. a) That the 2009 Preliminary Operating Budget, including the budgets for reserves (Appendix 2), be approved and forwarded to all Members of Council for their review; and

   b) That the 2010 and 2011 projections be received as information on the preliminary financial plans for those years.

2. That the City's mill rate remain fixed at the 2008 level of 25.448.

3. a) That the City's business tax rate remain unchanged at 7.75% for 2009; and

   b) That Council enact the attached Small Business Tax Credit by-law under Subsection 219(2) of the City of Winnipeg Charter, which will provide a full rebate of municipal business taxes for businesses with an annual rental value of $14,040 or less in 2009.

4. That the transfers between funds and the levies outlined in the 2009 Preliminary Operating Budget be approved.

5. That the Chief Financial Officer be delegated the authority to allocate cost reduction measures on a budget neutral basis with no reduction in services.

6. That $2 million in prior years' tax supported capital surplus identified in the recent capital review be utilized to reduce debt and finance charges in the 2009 tax supported operating budget.

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

8. 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:

Further on February 20, 2009, the Executive Policy Committee referred the Preliminary 2009 Operating Budget and Financial Plan for 2010 and 2011 to the following budget process timetable, namely:

March 3 to 10, 2009	Standing Policy Committees - Review
March 11, 2009	Executive Policy Committee - Delegations
March 19, 2009	Executive Policy Committee - Recommendation to Council
March 24, 2009	Council