Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – March 19, 2009

OPERATING BUDGET REVIEW

Minute No. 222 Executive Policy Committee – Final Recommendation – 2009 Operating Budget – 2010 and 2011 Preliminary Financial Plans eFile FE(2009)

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee recommends to Council:

1. A. That the 2009 Operating Budget, including the budgets for reserves (Appendix 2) tabled at the Executive Policy Committee on February 20, 2009, and amended by Recommendation No. 2 be approved; and

   B. That the 2010 and 2011 Projections on Financial Plans, as amended by Recommendation No. 2.E, be received as information.

2. That the following adjustments to the Preliminary Operating Budget as tabled at the Executive Policy Committee on February 20, 2009, be made:

   A. That an additional grant of $5,500.00 be approved for the Broadway Neighbourhood Centre in 2009;

   B. That a grant of $5,500.00 be approved for KidSport in 2009;

   C. That funding for Libraries be increased by $75,000.00 in 2009 for the purchase of library materials;

   D. That a transfer of the balance in the Idea Bank Reserve of $86,000.00 to the General Revenue Fund be approved;

   E. That the Water and Wastewater sections, contained in the 2009 Preliminary Operating Budget, be updated to reflect Council's Decision of November 19, 2008, with respect to the 2009 Water and Sewer Rates.

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

4. A. That the City's business tax rate remain unchanged at 7.75% for 2009; and

   B. That the Small Business Tax Credit By-law be enacted 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.

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

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

7. 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.

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

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Swandel,

That the 2009 Preliminary Operating Budget and the 2010 and 2011 Preliminary Financial Plan be approved with the following amendments, namely:

- Delete Recommendation No. 1 in its entirety, replace with the following and renumber the balance of the recommendations accordingly:

    1. A. That the 2009 Operating Budget, including the budgets for reserves (Appendix 2) tabled at the Executive Policy Committee on February 20, 2009, and amended by Recommendation No. 2 be approved; and

        B. That the 2010 and 2011 Projections on Financial Plans, as amended by Recommendation No. 2.E, be received as information.

    2. That the following adjustments to the Preliminary Operating Budget as tabled at the Executive Policy Committee on February 20, 2009, be made:

        A. That an additional grant of $5,500.00 be approved for the Broadway Neighbourhood Centre in 2009;

        B. That a grant of $5,500.00 be approved for KidSport in 2009;

        C. That funding for Libraries be increased by $75,000.00 in 2009 for the purchase of library materials;

        D. That a transfer of the balance in the Idea Bank Reserve of $86,000.00 to the General Revenue Fund be approved;

        E. That the Water and Wastewater sections, contained in the 2009 Preliminary Operating Budget, be updated to reflect Council's Decision of November 19, 2008, with respect to the 2009 Water and Sewer Rates,

and forwarded to Council.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

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 (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

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