Minute No. 239
Report – Executive Policy Committee – March 19, 2009

Item No. 1 2009 Operating Budget – 2010 and 2011 Preliminary Financial Plans eFile FE(2009)

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

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.

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COUNCIL DECISION (continued)

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.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Swandel,

That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted.

In amendment,

Moved by Councillor Gerbasi,
Seconded by Councillor Vandal,

WHEREAS the Overview of Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative received by Council in January of 2008 demonstrated a significant financial benefit through increased neighborhood assessment values;

AND WHEREAS in 2008 the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee recommended to the Executive Policy Committee that $2 million be allocated in the 2008 Operating Budget for housing initiatives as part of the Winnipeg Housing Homelessness Initiative;

AND WHEREAS funding for Housing Improvement Zones has remained frozen at approximately 1 million dollars for many years;

AND WHEREAS the impact of inflation, increased building and permit fees and going from 4 to 5 housing improvement zones has resulted in less funds available for real projects in the existing housing improvement zones;

AND WHEREAS there are several other inner city neighborhoods identified which intervention and would benefit greatly from investment in affordable housing;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the funding in the 2009 Operating Budget targeted to the Housing Improvement Zones be increased from one million to two million and that the funding be taken from the appropriate Reserves as determined by the Public Service.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued)

The motion moved by Councillors Gerbasi and Vandal was put.

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

Yea: Councillors Gerbasi, Smith, Thomas and Vandal. 4

Nay: His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Clement, Fielding, Nordman, O'Shaughnessy, Pagtakhan, Steeves, Swandel, Wyatt and Lazarenko. 11

and the motion moved by Councillors Gerbasi and Vandal was declared lost.

The motion for adoption of the item was put.

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

Yea: His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Clement, Fielding, Nordman, O'Shaughnessy, Pagtakhan, Steeves, Swandel, Wyatt and Lazarenko. 11

Nay: Councillors Gerbasi, Smith, Thomas and Vandal. 4

and the motion for adoption of the item was declared carried.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 19, 2009, the Executive Policy Committee recommended 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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued)

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued)

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 submitted the matter to Council.

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.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued)

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued)

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.

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