EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 276
Councillor Wyatt referenced roadways covered with standing water coupled with frozen manhole covers and questioned if the City could get more crews and steamer equipment out on the streets to resolve the issue.

His Worship Mayor Katz replied that there are 14 crews working 24/7 and noted that there were problems with one steamer unit. He advised that discussions were taking place to see what further measures could be taken and whether there is the option of getting more people on the crews as well as looking at additional equipment being available.

Councillor Thomas advised that she was in possession of a Notice that went to the property owners along the south side of Hespeler Avenue asking them for about 1.2 meters of property. She noted that she had not been informed about a need for this property nor was it explained to the residents why the property was needed. She remarked that the Notice says it has to do with the Disraeli Bridge, but she was baffled as to how Hespeler was needed for the Disraeli Bridge. Councillor Thomas asked if there was an information seminar to take place to explain to the residents why their property was being taken.

His Worship Mayor Katz advised that it was an expropriation and noted he would talk to the CAO and the Department to get a specific answer and would make sure Councillor Thomas received a briefing which she could then share with her constituents.

Councillor Vandal stated he was of the understanding that His Worship would be in Ottawa lobbying for certain shovel-ready projects for funding from the Federal and Provincial Governments and asked if His Worship would share with Council which projects were on the list for advocacy.

His Worship remarked that they have already started the lobbying and advised that he had had a meeting with Minister Baird. His Worship cited projects on the list such as the water treatment plant and rapid transit, but advised that no specific amount of money that the City could access was identified, and as such an all-inclusive list was given to the Federal Government.

Councillor Vandal asked His Worship to confirm if a downtown people mover was on the list, to which His Worship replied that what was on the list was rapid transit, and that they were exploring ultra light rail as a rapid transit option.

Councillor Vandal noted that the General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres Plan 2025 was now complete and questioned if arrangements for a Council Seminar could be made to review the results, to which His Worship replied in the affirmative.

Executive Policy Committee - Question Period (continued):

Councillor Clement cited there was a little crisis right now with respect to sand bags. He noted that people were willing to pick them up, but nobody knew where they were. He advised that there were a bunch of sand bags at the District 6 Yards, but they were quickly dispersed. Councillor Clement asked if there would be some sandbags moved over to the District 6 Yards for people to pick up or if it was possible to get sand bags delivered to residential properties that were experiencing overland flooding.

His Worship advised that he was not aware that people were actually going to pick up sand bags only to find that sand bags were not available. He stated that it was his understanding that there were plenty of sand bags and committed to make the information available as to their whereabouts either on the website or through the media.

Councillor Clement stated that the website already had information on it as to where people can go to obtain sand bags and during what hours, but noted that the hours weren't good enough and that no sand bags would be available.

His Worship replied that before Council was over, he would have information for Councillor Clement as to where sand bags could be obtained.

Council Smith requested an update on the Public Safety Building, to which His Worship replied that in one week or less, they will all be receiving some information regarding the Public Safety Building, what some of the options were and what was being looked at.

Councillor Swandel noted that in each year that there were flooding issues, river data was provided in three difference streams. He noted the City reports in metric, the Province of Manitoba reports in imperial measurement and then there was the "James Street" data. Councillor Swandel questioned if His Worship would take up the matter of when flood issues arise, that communications provided were done in a simple single form of measurement, or that all three forms of measurement were shown at all times.

His Worship stated that he would be most happy to undertake this matter to make sure we basically abide by the "kiss" principle, to keep things simple and make sure everyone understood things clearly.