COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Wednesday December 17, 2008

The Council met at 9:33 a.m.

The Clerk advised the Speaker that a quorum was present.

The Speaker called the meeting to order.

The opening prayer was read by Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: In keeping with the multicultural nature of our City, I will be reading a prayer from Unicef.

I am a member of the world family. I am relating to those who stand next to me and those who are far away by the air we breathe, by the light we share, by the hope we have for a better world. I have a responsibility to give, to receive, to be open, tolerant and free. I have inherited this world from those who have lived before. I occupy space and time for a few short years. I hold this world in trust for those who will follow. My life with others can fashion this world towards peace rather than strife, hope rather than despair, freedom rather than slavery. I, with those about me, can make the brotherhood and sisterhood of humanity a living thing. I pledge my willing spirit to this spot. We will do this together. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Amen. Roll call, Mr. Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Mr. Speaker Councillor Lazarenko, His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Clement, Fielding, Gerbasi, Nordman, O'Shaughnessy, Pagtakhan, Smith, Steeves, Swandel, Thomas, Vandal and Wyatt.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. We have Pages Rory Mitchell of Kelvin High School who resides in the Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry Ward. Welcome.

Welcome guests announcement. Adoption of minutes. Councillor Wyatt moves that the minutes of the meeting held on November 19, 2008, to be taken as read and confirmed. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Delegations, none.

Now we get right down to business. Executive Policy Committee report of November 26, 2008. Mr. Mayor, you're on.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED NOVEMBER 26, 2008

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce the report and move adoption of Consent Agenda Item 1.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

The Report of December 3, 2008, Mr. Mayor.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED DECEMBER 3, 2008

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce the report and move adoption of Consent Agenda Items 1 to 4.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Report "A" of December 10, 2008, Mr. Mayor.

REPORT "A" OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED DECEMBER 10, 2008

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I'd like to introduce the report and move adoption of Consent Agenda Items 1 and 3 to 21.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Two minutes? Two minutes? That's all? That's all it took. Two minutes. We have EPC motions. Oh no. Oh pardon me, Number 2, go ahead.

**Item 2 - Aboriginal Youth Strategy - Approval of Community Funding Proposals
eFile CR-4.1**

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to make sure that everybody was aware of the fact that there are 11 proposals totalling approximately $542,000. The details I think are before you all. This also includes a proposal regarding Eagle's Nest which received $46,500 from the Winnipeg partnership agreement, and $100,000 from the Mayor's City Initiative account. There were many proposals put forward. The proposals that were selected were done in conjunction with the Aboriginal Partnership Committee. I certainly hope that everybody realizes the importance of these initiatives. They very much deal with specific programs and skills for development as well as employment opportunities for the Aboriginal youth, something that I believe we all know is necessary, and something that I hope that everybody here will support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this initiative. I want to say that this initiative has been a long time coming, and it's really a culmination…it's the fruit of a couple of important initiatives we approved on this Council early in the year--A million dollars for Urban Aboriginal Initiatives and an Urban Aboriginal Youth Strategy. And I want to put it on the record that I think Urban Aboriginal Issues, specifically concerning youth, is the most important issue facing the City of Winnipeg, and we have to be proactive to work with other governments and with the community, to make sure that those opportunities are there, and that I'm proud to be supporting this initiative and I think that what is important now is to ensure that we're not creating what I would call little orphans that are there for one year and then run out of money after one year. And I don't for a minute think that all these projects are going to be very, very successful, but I think most of them will be and the ones that are successful, are the ones that we have to make sure that there is long-term funding to continue the success. So, which is why I'm introducing a motion. I've handed the motion that we will debate further in the budget deliberations, to make sure that those projects where we're getting quality service and positive effects, have funding to continue in the long term. So I know I'm proud to support this. I think it's an initiative that's long overdue and I hope that the entire Council supports this and I want to also thank the Mayor for his leadership on this issue. And thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Councillor Thomas.

Councillor Thomas: Yes, I'm also rising in support of this Aboriginal Youth Strategy for the approval of the one-time funding. I hope that everybody will also support Councillor Vandal's motion for continuing funding of this. As the first Secretary of Urban Aboriginal opportunities, I was honoured to accept that position and very excited to see what is happening here today. This is the greatest number of youth that we will have in the City, is our Aboriginal youth, and we have to make an effort to make sure that they feel included and feel that the City is not only a City of opportunity for some but is a City of opportunity for all and on that basis, I'm supporting this initiative and Councillor Vandal's motion. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. No further speakers? Councillor O'Shaughnessy.

Councillor O'Shaughnessy: I noted when the Mayor took responsibilities for Urban Aboriginal opportunities, that it moved certain issues more to the front burner on this Council, not just by his individual strengths but by virtue of the position that he holds, and to see results coming in this positively this soon, shows that it was…that the right thing was done and I look forward to seeing that this is merely one short step in a much needed long hike to the rising of the lot, if I can say it like that, of the Aboriginals in Winnipeg to take their rightful spots as

leaders in our community, and I know that this is a very small step on the way and just the beginning. Mr. Mayor, great things are expected of you and I'm sure that you will not let any of us down.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Just a quick couple of comments. A great program to support, and obviously there's a great need in our City for this type of work. You know, it's unfortunate that we have to pick up the ball when it comes to some of these issues because these issues traditionally aren't City issues. I agree with Councillor Vandal's concept of on-going funding but perhaps the Mayor in his closing can give us some commentary on how we measure our successes here and how we know that we're putting our money to work wisely. That we're getting the outcomes and that we're getting the support of other levels of government who traditionally have been the levels of government that shoulder this responsibility. If we're taking this on, I think that any monies that are spent there has to be some sort of measured outcomes that we're looking for, and we need to know that we are gaining. There's got to be a base line to start, and we need to know that we are gaining and that the monies that we are spending are getting us the desired outcomes and that we're not just substituting for other levels of government. And I know some of these programs that we are participating in have multi-level funding in them and we're there partnering, as well as not just from the other levels of government but from some of the Aboriginal institutions in our City, and throughout the country. So, perhaps the Mayor in closing can give us some comment on how we know that this money is bringing us the desired results. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'll also be supporting this. I'd also just like to acknowledge some of the history of this and how we got to where we are today. Councillor Vandal and I co-chaired the Aboriginal…the M.A.P. Strategy, Municipal Aboriginal Pathways strategy, with Councillor Vandal taking the major lead on that back before this Mayor was in place, and that was very important ground-breaking work. We were the first City in Canada to have a Municipal Aboriginal Strategy, and that policy was embraced by Mayor Katz and this Council over the last four years and continued on. It was always called a first step because that's what it was. One of the elements of that, that was very important, was the consultation with the Aboriginal community that took place at the time. I was part of it, former Mayor Murray was part of it and Councillor Vandal and there were public town halls held not just with the Chiefs and the high level people in the Aboriginal community but with the grandmothers and the people working at the grass roots level and they were part of that process. And former Mayor and Councillor Vandal and I committed to those people that we would continue that kind of consultative process with the grass roots of the Aboriginal community, not only, you know, a few high level Chiefs or whatever, but everybody. So I hope that commitment will be remembered and continued on as this process continues.

I'd also point out that Councillors such as Councillor Vandal and others advocated strongly that this million dollars that was sort of being put off from budget to budget to fund these programs we're having today, be put back in the budget and carried through with. So, and I'd also like to thank Councillor Thomas and Councillor Vandal for the time they put in working from the outside on these Aboriginal files as the Secretary of Urban Aboriginal Strategies and not really being part of EPC and part of the whole thing. They still worked hard on those files, and I think that this is a reflection of a history that came before. This isn't the first thing that's happening. And now, and now we're spending the funds that were fought for and were put in this budget by this Council and supported by this Council, and that's excellent.

I also think we should be supporting future funding and continuing this on. One time funding of something and then stopping is not going to address the

problem. So I hope people will be supporting Councillor Vandal's motion and I thank the Mayor for taking on a file as challenging as this and as important as this, and with his role as the Mayor, obviously it's going to get more profile and that's a good thing. So, you know, that's great. But, as I said, I think it's very important that we consult with the Aboriginal community on where we're going on this at the grass roots level as well, not only with the small number of the political leadership, but on a broad-base as this was done back when we first started entering into this arena of having a Municipal Aboriginal Strategy. Thank you Mr. Speaker:

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Yeah, Mr. Speaker, I want to echo the thoughts. From my meetings with the Aboriginal community, the biggest issue that I've noticed or found which really would be a first step, is a genuine dialogue, which I think needs to take place and it's not just I think with the traditional Aboriginal leadership being the chiefs of being identified as the traditional Aboriginal leadership. What I've heard from a lot of the Aboriginal community is it's the so-called rank and file if you like, for lack of terms, the average folks out there. There is clearly, there is the Urban Aboriginal challenges facing our City and then there's challenges on the reserve outside of Winnipeg. Those are different challenges faced by the Urban Aboriginal community and quite often those challenges are in conflict with each other is what I've heard, and…or not necessarily conflict but competing agendas if you like. And sometimes there is a sense that the Urban Aboriginal challenges, because they're not as formalized within the chief system, the band system, that sometimes they are missed. And I think it's crucial that we as civic leaders spearhead, and it's great to see that the Mayor has taken on this file, because that dialogue is not happening to the extent that it could be happening. And the only way, Mr. Speaker, we're going to find solutions, and I know we look at the problem and we see it as being so insurmountable, so huge, that the poverty, that the poverty plaguing this one community, the fact that Aboriginal citizens fill the prisons of this Province to a far greater degree than their actual population numbers represent, over 50% I think the number is 60% of Aboriginals are making up the prisons of our Province. Mr. Speaker, we have a long way to go. But the only way we can find solutions, Mr. Speaker, is by having a conversation. It's like anything else. When you have problems in the family you sit down and you have a conversation. When you have problems in your Council, you sit down and you have a conversation. The only way we can have this, Mr. Speaker, is through a dialogue, and we have to start this dialogue, and we almost have to make it a formal dialogue involving members of the Urban Aboriginal community who are dedicated to solving problems to start to come forward with solutions. I agree with other speakers who say that it should be the Federal and Provincial Governments, especially the Federal Government that should be coming to the table in a big way here to show leadership, because it's their lack of leadership, Mr. Speaker, on the reserves, in many ways that have created the challenges we're facing today. When you hear the statistics that they're spending less than half per student on education, on reserves, compared to what we're spending here in the Province, Mr. Speaker, and you wonder why the drop out rates are the way they are on the reserves, and you wonder why young people are gravitating to the City, it's no surprise, Mr. Speaker. But, we have to show the leadership. We have to do it locally because unfortunately we can't wait for the Federal Government. If we continue to wait for the Federal Government, we'll continue to see the headlines we as a City have been seeing with regards to our crime statistics and the national headlines we see in the Globe and Mail. It's all linked, Mr. Speaker, to the challenges that we're facing. We might as well be open about it and say that we have a challenge here that we have a divide in this City, a great divide that unfortunately seems to be growing greater not smaller. It's not shrinking, it's growing and we have to overcome this, and the only way you can overcome it, Mr. Speaker, is by reaching

out and involving and including and having that dialogue. And that's the only way to do it, Mr. Speaker. And if we don't start doing that I realize we have these programs coming forward. I'm fully supportive of this report and I look forward to seeing an action plan and results based on this, but, Mr. Speaker, we have to do more. We have to do more because if we don't do more, it's going to get worse. And, let me tell you something, the worst thing you can have is a young person, Mr. Speaker, that doesn't have any hope. That has no hope. Because anywhere in the world a young person who has no hope, they're the most dangerous people in the world. They're the ones who set off bombs They're the ones who go out in the streets and fight. They're the one who have no hope. They have nothing to lose so they fight back. And that's scary, Mr. Speaker. We have to give hope and we have to instil hope again and we're the City fathers and mothers they say of the City. It has to start here. The buck starts here, Mr. Speaker. So I look forward to supporting this and seeing future initiatives. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: No further speakers? Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Katz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think everybody here realizes this is a significant issue facing our City. Councillor Wyatt probably summed it up fairly well and I think the southern chiefs would concur with him, because if you talk to them, they will tell you about the problems with the Federal and Provincial Governments, and the end result is the problem ends up on our doorstep.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you in the last few months, I've had several meetings with Grand Chief Ron Evans, David Chartrand from the Manitoba Métis Federation, southern chiefs, elders, the list goes on and on. And we have, I guess, an opportunity, and we either seize that opportunity or we will take something that could be very valuable and turn it into a major liability. And that's the growing Aboriginal population.

I'm not sure I could say it better than Councillor Wyatt but you're right, people need hope. People need opportunity. People need to have self respect. People need dignity. People need to know about their culture, and the only way, the only one I'll disagree with, is I can tell you that Chief Dennis Meeches from Long Plain publicly stated that over 70% of the population of Headingley and Stoney Mountain are Aboriginal Métis. Sad statement. It's scary and it shows there is a problem there. It also tells you why they get into gangs, because they don't have hope. They don't believe there is opportunity for them. My opinion is quite simple. Is that education can give you hope and opportunity. Training for a job can give you hope and opportunity. And to have your parent or parents working and providing for the family can show you the way for the future of what you should be doing as well. So you know, it's interesting. This morning I appeared at a pancake breakfast at the Friendship Centre, and as you know, these are opportunities quite often where politicians will have these wonderful photo ops, serving pancakes. I shied away from that and I didn't want to do the photo op, Mr. Speaker.

But I spoke to the people there about how I was glad I was invited. But I wasn't happy I was there. The issue was all about poverty and this comes right into play. And I don't believe there is a member of Council who can't fathom that in our City, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, a very wealthy nation, that children go to bed hungry every night. That people don't have a warm bed or a roof over their head, happening right here every day, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. And they talk about the issue. And you know what? Quite often you will see people laying blame, okay. They'll blame the poor. They'll blame the homeless. They'll blame the Federal Government. They'll blame the Provincial Government. They'll blame the Civic Government. They'll blame religious organizations. They'll blame the corporate community. They'll blame everybody. Mr. Speaker, it is my opinion that we're all part of the problem and we all have to come together to be part of the solution. This is something we can change. I'm not going to pretend that there aren't other levels of government

that should be doing more, but as Mayor, I'm not going to sit back and do nothing. That is not acceptable. It's just not acceptable. And from my point of view, this is a great first step, and I can assure you we have many other steps that we're already planning along the way, to deal with the problem right here. That doesn't mean I won't be talking to the Federal Government and Provincial Government, because they have a significant role to play, along with many other organizations. This is a problem that can only be solved by us all coming together and pulling in the same direction.

But I will say one thing. One of the obstacles that we face is that you want to talk to the stakeholders. I mentioned a few and some of the Councillors mentioned the grass roots. Part of the problem that you have of trying to address this problem is that every week another organization comes forward and they now want to be part of the solution. If you look at the picture, there is only five or six real issues to address and there's 142 or more organizations out there, and if you don't include them, they're upset or angry. From my point of view, leadership is getting things done, and hopefully you're talking to the right people. You can't possibly get all these organizations at the same table together. And quite often when you do that, you don't make progress. You don't make progress. From my point of view, we're trying to get the right people. I think Council knows it's an issue. I'm glad to see the support that's coming forward. This is something we have to resolve, we have to address, and I know that we can do it, working together, and I thank Council for the support they've shown this morning.

Mr. Speaker: Item 2, all in favour? Contrary? Carried.

There are two motions on the floor. The Motion Number 1, Mayor Katz.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE MOTIONS

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I would like to suspend the rules in Council regarding Motion Number 1, please.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Motion No. 1
Moved by His Worship Mayor Katz
Seconded by Councillor Swandel

WHEREAS Council at its meeting on March 25, 1998, appointed Shannon Hunt as the City Auditor;

AND WHEREAS Shannon Hunt has indicated her desire to retire from her position as City Auditor effective December 31, 2008;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

1. *Mr. Brian Whiteside be appointed as the Acting City Auditor effective January 1, 2009.*

2. *The Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.*

Mr. Speaker: And the motion? All in favour? Contrary, Carried. Motion Number 2 is automatic referral to the, automatic referral to the budget process.

Motion No. 2
Moved by Councillor Vandal
Seconded by Councillor Gerbasi

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has adopted an Aboriginal youth strategy in April 2008;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has approved funding for 11 youth oriented projects which support Aboriginal youth to prepare for employment;

AND WHEREAS it is important to ensure financial sustainability for those projects which are providing value for money;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Winnipeg approve funding in the amount of $1.5 million for urban Aboriginal youth issues for the 2009 and 2010 operating budget years.

Mr. Speaker: Consideration of By-laws. Mr. Mayor?

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Second reading only.

Mayor Katz: I'd like to move that the following by-law be read a second time. By-law No. 147/2008 and By-law No. 148/2008.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 147/2008 as amended, and By-law No. 148/2008.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I move that By-law No. 194/2007 be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 194/2007.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I move that By-law No. 194/2007 be read a third time and that same be passed in order to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I move that the following by-laws be read a first time. By-law No. 188/2008 and By-law 194/2008.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 188/2008 and By-law No. 194/2008.

Mayor Katz: And Mr. Speaker I move that By-laws numbered 188/2008 and 194/2008 be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws numbered 188/2008 and 194/2008.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I move that the rule be suspended and By-laws number 188/2008 and 194/2008 be read a third time and that same be passed in order to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary. Carried. Question period. Councillor Gerbasi.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Through you to the Mayor, my question has to do with Plan Winnipeg. You know we've been hearing a lot of talk in the media of public hearings and to amend Plan Winnipeg, projects being approved or talking about, we've already supported them before we've even done that and a lot of people are wondering what is happening with the Plan Winnipeg process. It's long overdue and we've heard there's stuff in the works for a long, long time, but there still has been no public roll-out of Plan Winnipeg, and a lot of people are wondering when, and almost if that's going to happen. It's getting to the point where when is there going to be public involvement in the Plan Winnipeg process. I was told I don't know how many, half a year ago or a year ago it was started. I know there's still funding issues in the budget and so on, but you know when is somebody other than a few inner circle members of EPC going to know what's going on with the City's Plan Winnipeg. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I thank Councillor Gerbasi for the question. I certainly don't agree with some of the narrative. I think everybody here on the floor of Council knows that parts of Plan Winnipeg, they have commenced. We also know because I've been asked the question many times before on the same subject, and I repeated that we were waiting to have final negotiations with the Province completed and just recently, and the Premier stated publicly that the Province is coming to the table with fifty percent of the funding. Now that we know how…now that we know we finally do have the funding, we can move forward and I can assure Councillor Gerbasi that she will see things move much quicker,

and if Councillor Gerbasi ever has a question and feels she's in the dark, she can always pick up the phone and call me or come to my office at any time. She is more than welcome.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question Councillor.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Mr. Mayor, and I often do phone you but I also, we also have question period for a reason, to put things on the public record.

I am just wondering if you can outline what the public process on Plan Winnipeg will be. What can you tell us about the Plan for public consultation? What's it going to look like, what type of meetings, when, where, anything you can tell us because there has been no information forthcoming in that regard. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I don't understand why Councillor Gerbasi would think that the process would be any different than Plan Winnipeg has been in the past. Obviously there will be public input. I think we all know that, that's part of the process and nothing will change as to the way things have been done.

Mr. Speaker: Your final question Councillor.

Councillor Gerbasi: The way the former process was done was there was publicly named Chairs of the process, there were three or four Councillors and there was a schedule released to the public about when there was going to be meetings and what the time lines were. There has not been a public roll-out and I guess that's what I'm asking. Will there be a public roll-out with more information so people know what that process is going to be?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, we finally just recently, I think it was the last two weeks, had confirmation that we have the money to do a thorough Plan Winnipeg, and we will follow that exact strategy of naming chairs, et cetera. That process will begin, I don't know if it will start, obviously we'll start naming Chairs, whether it be before the holidays, but in the New Year that's exactly what we will be doing, no different than has taken place in the past. The exact. We will follow it.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Smith your first question.

Councillor Smith: Yes Mr. Mayor, you know I'm very happy to see the appointment of Councillor Wyatt as Strategic Infrastructure Renewal, Secretary of Strategic Infrastructure Renewal. Beautiful title, beautiful job you spelled out for him, but what about resources? Have you given him an assistant? Have you given him any budget? Like how is he supposed to do this job without any resources?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I'm not sure whether Councillor Smith was being sincere or facetious. Number one, if it's a beautiful title and a beautiful job, then the Councillor can thank myself and Councillor Wyatt because we worked on that together, that's number one. Number two, this was something that Councillor Wyatt felt very strong about, our crumbling infrastructure, and I'd like to think that the good Councillor Smith also feels strongly about our crumbling infrastructure and it's time we address it with a long-term plan. I can tell Councillor Smith that Councillor Wyatt has already started working on this. He's contacted every department, there have been scheduled meetings set up with the departments. He knows he has the resources of the Public Service behind him and I don't know why the Councillor is mocking that, but hopefully maybe he'll share more with me because I find it really insulting to Councillor Wyatt.

Mr. Speaker: Maybe Councillor Smith you'd like to take a position as the assistant. Your second question Councillor.

Councillor Smith: You know there should be a budget for this position. Are you allocating a budget for this position?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: There is a budget for this position, number one and number two, Councillor Wyatt and I have already discussed once we determine what more he wants to do, we will find out the exact numbers of what's required. But yes, there is a budget with dollars and cents as well as the resources of all the departments that we have available. If that isn't enough for the good Councillor, I'd like to hear his suggestion.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. That's it? No further questions? Okay. We get on now to the, oh, pardon me. Sorry just a minute, Councillor Browaty. The last questions were too interesting. I missed you. Go ahead.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Residents of northeast Winnipeg including Premier Doer continue to express concerns about the traffic gridlock that we created during the much needed sixteen, or during the sixteen months of Disraeli rehabilitation and reconstruction. While we would never want to see a tragedy like the ones in Laval or Minneapolis, the adoption of the 2009 Capital Budget yesterday includes plans to start work on replacing the Louise Bridge in 2012 with a four lane structure. While I don't think anybody around this Council table is a bridge engineer, an American firm that scenarios were studied to identify the feasibility of replacing the two lane Louise Bridge first and keeping the Disraeli open while capacity is added with a four lane structure.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker we've obviously had many discussions regarding Disraeli Bridge and I know right now that the department is out there looking into, I guess, the method they will use to address the Disraeli. I know that I've spoken publicly and I know I've told Councillor Browaty that in my opinion, a sixteen month delay was definitely too long, and one of the goals and objectives is to one, make that time shorter or see if there is an opportunity that the work can be done while having part of that bridge still open. That's something that is being explored. I don't want to pretend to be an engineer of any kind because I'm not, and I'll wait for them to get back to us and report and I will share that with Councillor Browaty.

As the other question about how, you know, can we do one while the other, it's something that certainly I'm more than prepared to discuss with the department. That is not something that's come forward as yet but from my point of view, you can always explore every opportunity to decrease the inconvenience to our citizens, and that's something I'm certainly happy to look into.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: I thank the Mayor for the answer.

It's been suggested that there would be costs involved with keeping the Disraeli open. In my discussions with the department, it's been suggested that there would be costs associated with keeping Disraeli open and those costs would be completely lost because when you do these band-aids on the Disraeli they would be thrown away once the deck is replaced. As the decision makers around this table, we need to get an idea, to quantify what those potential costs would be and what kind of unplanned closures that would be. Would the Mayor be willing to ask the department to get an idea of what those costs would be and to look a little bit at the feasibility?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Katz: I think at this particular point in time Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of speculation out there. We don't know exactly what's going to happen until we get responses from the private sector on ways that this can be done and what those costs are. I mean we have to start the process. I know I've heard the same comments that Councillor Browaty has

just made but you know what, there are many creative approaches to solve a problem, and I'm hoping that one of those will come forward that can address those issues. And I think until that happens, I don't think people know for sure. So you know what, this is a process that has now started. I would ask the good Councillor to be a little bit patient. I think they're starting to come back, and let's see if some solutions come forward and how we're dealing with this and that's what we're hoping for. Will it happen for sure? I don't know. Do we want it to? Yes, and I certainly will keep the Councillor informed of that as well.

Mr. Speaker: No further questions? Councillor Vandal your first question.

Councillor Vandal: Question is, back to Plan Winnipeg, I know that we've done an employment land study and we've done an industrial policy land study and my question is, why are we waiting for the Province to provide money for a Plan Winnipeg review, given the fact that they never invite us to do any of, to any of their planning exercises and we are duly elected to this office to lead the City of Winnipeg. Why delay for Provincial funds to do, to begin Plan Winnipeg? Why didn't we begin this before?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I very much thank the Councillor for that question. First of all, I'm sure most people know that the City of Winnipeg is over two-thirds of the Province of Manitoba, that's number one. And I know that Councillor Vandal has seen, it happens all the time with infrastructure funding, once you start a project, you don't qualify for funding. It's no different at this level. Quite often once we start something we're on our own. We want to do this right, we want it to be encompassing and we wanted to make sure that we've got the funding. And you know what Mr. Speaker? It was successful. It worked. We now have the funding and now we can start the process.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question Councillor.

Councillor Vandal: How much funding are the Province giving us and what is it for?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Katz: We were looking at approximately 3.5 million dollars if my memory serves me well and the Province has come to the table with fifty percent of the funding for Plan Winnipeg.

Mr. Speaker: Final question? No further questions? Standing Policy Committee on Finance, report of December 4, 2008, Councillor Swandel.

**REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE
ON FINANCE
DATED DECEMBER 4, 2008**

Councillor Swandel: I'm pleased to introduce the report and move adoption of the Consent Agenda Item Number 1.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi?

Councillor Gerbasi: I'd like to have it stood down please, Item 1.

Mr. Speaker: Go ahead, Mr. Clerk.

**Item 1 - Transfers to Reserves and an Additional Grant to Assiniboine Park Conservancy Inc.
File F-1**

Councillor Gerbasi: No, no, no. (inaudible).

Mr. Speaker: OK, so you want report December 10th not December the 4th. Okay. All in favour of Item Number 1? Contrary? Carried. Now the report of December the 10th of 2008, Councillor Swandel.

**REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE
ON FINANCE
DATED DECEMBER 10, 2008**

Councillor Swandel: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move the report and move adoption of Consent Agenda Item Number 1.

Mr. Speaker: I've got you down Councillor Gerbasi. You want to stand down December 10th, item 1.

Item 1 - Fees and Charges Policy
File GL-5.8.1

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: I mostly have to listen to see what Councillor Gerbasi has to say. This is basically sort of a consolidation of all our fees and charges that will allow us to bring a document forward once a year that has all the fees and charges in it rather than doing things piecemeal all over the place through the year. Most of our departments already have the ability to…the same criteria that we've used here. Our Community Services Department, Public Works Department, I believe, their permitting fees. They already have the authority to increase by inflation. This just brings the other pieces into the mix, and allows us to…there's a clause in there that allows us to accumulate the inflation for up to four years, but it's for very small amounts of money. So I'll wait to hear what Councillor Gerbasi has to say and respond.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. One of the reasons I pulled this off is because things come flying through here rather quickly and members of Council haven't really had a chance to have this fully explained. I know in the middle of a budget process and everything else, I know I didn't have time to talk to the Administration and try to figure out what this really means, even if I could, from talking to them.

But there's a couple of things in here that concern me that I hope Councillor Swandel can clarify. Item D, it says "Permit the Chief Financial Officer to establish, rescind and determine the amount of fees of an administrative nature based on the principle of cost recovery;", and I guess I'd like to know, it would have been helpful if the report was a little more detailed about exactly what that means. What services are we considering for cost recovery? I mean, services like public transit, for example, always have some degree of a public subsidy. It's really hard to tell from reading this what is meant by cost recovery. Are we adding more services that are now going to be cost recovery, you know, the way we've done with licence fees and other things? I wanted to have some clarification on what that means.

The other issue in here is, I may have misunderstood the report and I'd like clarification, but am I correct that what this means is that there can automatically be a 5-cent transit fare increase, for example, without any debate at Council because those can be now done administratively for 5-cent increases? If that's what it means, I am concerned about that. I can tell you the City of Toronto froze transit fares in their recent budget. Just froze them, and we have,.you know it's really…maybe that should be a political decision, what our transit fares are, whether there's an increase or not. And I think that we're giving away, I hope we're not, but if I read this properly, we're delegating that to the Administration, so again, we don't have to deal with the sticky political issues like transit fare increase. And other cities make choices to reduce transit fares or freeze them at times, and so I just would like some clarification. This report is not very detailed and we've all had the experience of going oh that sounds reasonable and then suddenly there's a big fee increase or there is some kind of a fee increase that doesn't come forward politically and then they tell us later well you voted for this delegation of authority and we don't even realize what we voted for. So perhaps Councillor Swandel can re-assure me on those issues, but I don't know if we now, based on this report, expanded which services are now going to be done on a cost recovery basis, and if that means there's not going to be any more transit fare debates for five cent increases. I'd like to know what this means. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Smith.

Councillor Smith: Yes. I think the same question that Councillor Gerbasi, I'm

concerned with transit, if it's going to be automatic. I don't think it should be. And what about the situation with the department that makes some changes and is very efficient and don't need the increase? This is automatic. You know, it seems to me that this is a revenue grab that we don't miss a nickel.

Also concerned with the report, it says this: "The CFO would be authorized to determine which fees should be contained in the Fees and Charges Schedule but the goal is to include all fees and charges for the City of Winnipeg excluding some Leisure Guide fees." What Leisure Guide fees are being excluded? You know, I just think that…I see this City Council having less and less authority all the time. We're delegating, we're turning over. It seems to me that we should be on democratic, a Council…the people that the City of Winnipeg elect to City Council should be making the decisions, and I think this is an important decision.

Mr. Speaker: No further speakers? Councillor Swandel, closing.

Councillor Swandel. Mr. Speaker. Interesting comments. I guess it's unfortunate that people didn't have time to get into this in more detail and we all have been busy with dealing with the Capital Budget and other matters.

You know, just on Clause D I believe it was, fees of an administrative nature aren't referring to transit. Fees of an administrative nature are things like when you ask for photocopying of certain documents when you go into offices there is a small administrative charge. The T.I.P. charges there is an administrative fee on that. There's…that's what administrative fees are. They're not transit, they're not permit fees, they're administrative fees. When we charge an administration fee for doing a specific task for somebody. That's what fees of an administrative nature is

Regards to transit, at the end of the day what happens here is we have one document that comes forward. It has all of our fees and charges in it. It comes to Council and if we decide to not take the inflationary increase or to go more than inflationary or go less than inflation, Council is still supreme and we can do that. This is not a blanket approval. The report still has to come to Council and we still have to approve the fees and charges. It just means that it all comes as one report.

The bit to do with Leisure Guide, I believe that all the stuff that's in here that refers anything to do with Community Services, Community Services already has those authorities. I believe it's things what they are talking about are very specific types of things like a mechanics course or belly dancing or something that they may have to adjust the number based on the amount of people that…could be. If there's not enough applicants or if the cost of hiring the person to teach Belly Dancing Councillor Smith goes way up then they would adjust the fee. I believe that authority is always, is already included in our…in the authorities given to the departments. So it's not that we are taking any more, we're just stating once again that that authority is already there and it's a reasonable practice. I mean, we can be sitting here having long-winded discussions about every little fee that we have to deal with or we can have it all come as one report, take a good look at it, digest it, and put it forward there for the people.

So you know this is just a good organizational change. It allows us to see information more clearly and to deal with these charges in one large piece at one meeting, and if people want to suggest changes to any of the charges at that time they're more than welcome to do so and Council, you know, is supreme in this matter. We don't have to accept the fees, the inflationary increases coming forward. We can always make amendments to it if we want.

Mr. Speaker: Ready for the question? Recorded vote has been called by Councillor Gerbasi. Report of December 10 of 2008. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Browaty, Clement, Fielding, Nordman, O'Shaughnessy, Pagtakhan, Steeves, Swandel, Thomas, Wyatt, Mr. Speaker Councillor Lazarenko, and His Worship Mayor Katz.

Nays

Councillors Gerbasi, Smith, Vandal.

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 12, Nays 3.

Mr. Speaker: The item is carried. Motions none. Consideration of By-laws, Councillor Swandel.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Councillor Swandel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll move that By-law No. 196/2008 be read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 196/2008.

Councillor Swandel: Mr. Speaker, I will move that By-law No. 196/2008 be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 196/2008.

Councillor Swandel: Mr. Speaker, I'll move that the rule be suspended and that By-law No. 196/2008 be read a third time and that same be passed in order to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Questions? None. Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development. No report. No motions. No by-laws. Any questions? No questions. Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development report of October 28th of 2008, Councillor Fielding.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT DATED OCTOBER 28, 2008

Councillor Fielding: Mr. Speaker I'll introduce the report and move adoption of Item No. 5.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT DATED NOVEMBER 25, 2008

Councillor Fielding: Mr. Speaker I'll introduce the report and move adoption of Consent Agenda 1 through 5 and number 9.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Fielding: I'd like to advise that Items 6, 7 and 8 have been filed insomuch as the applicant has withdrawn the application.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Report "A" of November 25th of 2008.

REPORT "A" OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT DATED NOVEMBER 25, 2008

Councillor Fielding: I'll introduce the report and move adoption of Consent Agenda Item No. 1.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. No motions. Consideration of By-laws. First reading only Councillor.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Councillor Fielding: I'll move that By-law No. 190/2008 be read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 190/2008.

Councillor Fielding: I'll move that the following by-laws be read a first time: By-law No. 177/2008, 179/2008, 180/2008, 181/2008, 182/2008, 185/2008, 186/2008, 187/2008, 189/2008, 192/2008 and 195/2008.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 177/2008, 179/2008, 180/2008, 181/2008, 182/2008, 185/2008, 186/2008, 187/2008, 189/2008, 192/2008, and 195/2008.

Councillor Fielding: I'll move that By-law No. 177/2008, 179/2008 to 182/2008, both inclusive, 185/2008 to 187/2008, both inclusive, 189/2008, 192/2008 and 195/2008 be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 177/2008, 179/2008 to 182/2008, both inclusive, 185/2008 to 187/2008, both inclusive, 189/2008, 192/2008 and 195/2008.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Fielding?

Councillor Fielding: I'll move that the rules be suspended and By-laws No. 177/2008, 179/2008 to 182/2008, both inclusive, 185/2008 to 187/2008, both inclusive, 189/2008, 192/2008 and 195/2008 be read a third time and sent for passed, ordered and signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Question period. Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services report of December 1 of 2008. Councillor Steeves.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DATED DECEMBER 1, 2008

Councillor Steeves: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Regarding the report of December 1 of '08 I'll introduce the report and move adoption of Consent Item No. 1.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Motions none, by-laws none, question period. No questions. Standing Policy Committee Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works, Report of December 2 of 2008. Councillor Clement.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS DATED DECEMBER 2, 2008

Councillor Clement: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Be happy to move Items 1, 2 and 3 as Consent.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Motions none. Consideration of By-laws. First reading only, Councillor Clement.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Councillor Clement: I'll move that By-law No. 183/2008 be read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 183/2008.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Clement.

Councillor Clement: There was only one reading on that first by-law and now there's more. I'll move that By-laws 191/2008 and 193/2008 be read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 191/2008 and 193/2008.

Councillor Clement: I'll move that By-law 191 and 193/2008 be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Clement: I'll move that the rule be suspended and By-laws No. 191/2008 and 193/2008 be read a third time and that same be passed in order to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Question period. No questions? Councillors before we adjourn, I would just like to, the late Councillor Brenda Leipsic, her photo and the roses and the flag remains here today for the last time, and the flag is flying at half mast. There will be memorial services for Councillor Brenda Leipsic on Sunday. You can get the information from the Clerk, and also this is our last meeting for…of this year, and I would like to say to my friends and family members.... (inaudible) and also Happy Hanukkah, Happy Hanukkah, that's (inaudible), you're right Councillor Thomas. And also Happy Hanukkah. It starts Monday evening, so also Happy Hanukkah to those who will be celebrating that, and I'd like to wish each and every one of you Councillors a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, a prosperous New Year, and I hope that we'll have good festivities. We come back sometime in January, the third Wednesday in January. And also, to those people who are watching this Channel, the Shaw television people, a Merry Christmas to you folks also and also to the people of the City of Winnipeg. So just be careful. Watch how you drive. It's very slippery and it's very cold, and if you don't have to go outside, please stay indoors especially the elderly. And those who are at the Holy Family condominium, Holly Family, a very Merry Christmas (inaudible).

Councillor Steeves moves adjournment. Roll call. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. for the adjournment. Roll call, Mr. Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Speaker Councillor Lazarenko, His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Clement, Fielding, Gerbasi, Nordman, O'Shaughnessy, Pagtakhan, Smith, Steeves, Swandel, Thomas, Vandal and Councillor Wyatt.

Council adjourned at 10:28 a.m.