EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 440
Councillor Smith questioned why the Mayor Offices' expenses were not audited as councillors expenses were.

His Worship Mayor Katz replied that he was the first elected official to have all of his assets on the website noted that if an expense was incurred by a Councillor or a Mayor that does not have any back-up after an Auditor's review, it was obvious what should take place.

Councillor Smith requested a list of sponsorships under the sponsor program as well as a breakdown of the costs of the program; to which His Worship replied that he has a press announcement of what was being done.

The Deputy Speaker, as the Councillor responsible for sponsorship, clarified that Councillor Smith was asking if there have been any other sponsorships announced within the Sponsorship Winnipeg Program.

His Worship replied that they had announced one to date and expected to have another announcement within the next few months.

Councillor Gerbasi referred to the lack of staff resources needed to deal with issues around garbage complaints and asked His Worship to comment on the impact of the budget restraints and how they were affecting front line services.

His Worship took Councillor Gerbasi's question under advisement, but noted that during events such as flooding due to excessive rain, extra resources were put in place to pick up the extra garbage generated.

Councillor Gerbasi noted that Monday was Aboriginal Day and every year at the event, hamburgers, bison burgers and bannock were available. She advised that no food or lunch was available this year and questioned why; to which His Worship replied he would take her question under advisement.

Councillor Gerbasi asked if His Worship would comment on the Winnipeg Police Service cancelling a recruit class citing fewer retirements than expected.

His Worship stated if Councillor Gerbasi was questioning the integrity of Police Chief McCaskill, then she should be clear, as he would be prepared to defend the Police Chief.

Executive Policy Committee – Question Period (continued)

Councillor Browaty referred to the May 29 and 30 unprecedented levels of rainfall and wide spread basement flooding especially in northeast Winnipeg. He noted on that weekend, the Hawthorne pumping station went down, but after speaking with the department, he was advised that the Hawthorne pumping station had nothing to do with basements flooding. Councillor Browaty stated the Mayor was on record saying that if the City was at fault for anything, they would be liable for it. Councillor Browaty questioned if they Mayor would be willing to communicate in some way on what happened at the Hawthorne pumping station and that the City was not at fault for it.

His Worship stated that if for some reason the City was at fault, it would be the first to accept responsibility. He noted he had been out to parts of the City that flooded and heard comments about pumping stations being down. His Worship stated that some pumping stations did go down, but that this had nothing to do with the flooding. His Worship further stated that no City has the facility to handle the type of rain Winnipeg experienced at that point in time.

Councillor Browaty questioned if the Mayor would be willing to communicate that to the public; to which His Worship replied in the affirmative.

Councillor Wyatt stated that the preliminary result was that it wasn't the pumping station's failing, but the actual amount of sewage that contributed to the flooding. Councillor Wyatt questioned if the Mayor would direct the administration to provide information regarding any investigation they've done and advise that the systems were working the way they were supposed to, and if they were not, that this be brought out as well; to which His Worship replied in the affirmative.

Councillor Vandal referred to the construction of a firehall in southeast St. Boniface and questioned if there would be a report to the Standing Policy Committee, Executive Policy Committee and Council before the next election.

His Worship advised that a request for proposal on the matter had gone out and was now closed and being reviewed. He noted that they were very close to moving the report forward.

Councillor Vandal questioned if the Mayor could do everything he could to make sure that a report would come to the floor of Council before the next election; to which His Worship replied that he would do everything within his power to move this forward as quickly as possible and was hoping to get it done by July.

Executive Policy Committee – Question Period (continued)

Councillor Orlikow stated that the City provided exclusive use permits to organizations to use city-owned fields. He cited that in this specific case, it was a soccer field that had been given a substantial amount of money from the Federal Government to rehab the field and that he was shocked to find out that the general public would not have access to that field because it was under an exclusive use agreement with a soccer club. Councillor Orlikow questioned if the Mayor was aware of this.

His Worship advised he was aware of using fields, but had never seen exclusive use agreement. His Worship advised that if given more details, he would look into the matter, specifically if it was a City-owned facility.