COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Wednesday, October 7, 2009

The Council met at 1:04 p.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 Fielding.

ROLL CALL

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

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We have a motion, leave of absence. Could you read it out, please?

MOTIONS

Moved by O'Shaughnessy,
Seconded by Councillor Fielding,

That Councillor Clement be granted a leave of absence from today's meeting due to a personal family matter.

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

Notice of a meeting, can you read it out, please?

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pursuant to Section 79(1) of The City of Winnipeg Charter, I am directed by His Worship Mayor Katz to arrange a Special Meeting of Council on ***Wednesday, October 7, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.****, to consider Award of Contract for Residential Garbage Collection in Northwest Area of Winnipeg.*

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works, Report of September 25th, 2009. Councillor Swandel, would you please introduce the report?

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE
ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
DATED SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

Item 1 - Award of Contract for Residential Garbage Collection in Northwest Area of Winnipeg
eFile GL–9

Councillor Swandel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand there is a motion on this item as well, so I'm just going to introduce the clause, hear the motion and perhaps I can speak…stand up and speak to both at that time.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

(Inaudible)

Councillor Steeves: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. Just on the motion that's before us, I would've thought all of (Inaudible) being equal that given that this motion calls for the acceptance of essentially one of the Alternatives under the existing report, I guess my thought would be why do we need a stand alone motion on this? Couldn't…if Council in its wisdom decided they wanted to support Alternative A, it would have the power to do so, I assume. My question is, why do we…whey do we need an additional motion on this? I would suggest that the motion is out of order. But, if Council…

Mr. Speaker: Councillor, we have not been dealing with those motions yet. It's not on the floor yet.

Councillor Steeves: Okay. I trust you'll consider my comments at the appropriate time.

Mr. Speaker: Oh yes, I sure will. And…Councillor Swandel, you want to introduce the report?

Councillor Swandel: I believe I've already introduced the report and waiting for the motion. I've asked to be able to speak to both the motion and introduce the report at the same time.

Mr. Speaker: Okay. We have two motions on the floor. Motion No. 2, Councillor Orlikow, I rule that your motion No. 2 is out of order. And I'll just give you the reason why. In talking to Legal Services, it is of their opinion, Mr.…Councillor Orlikow, that it would not be proper based on the law of public procurement to award the contract as set out below. Bid Opportunity 570-2009 is a tendered document and the law is that the tender must be awarded in accordance with the criteria set out in

the tender document. According to the evaluation criteria in Bid Opportunity 572-2009, the City must select and award for one of the Alternatives for the full term of the contract. If the City wants to change the method of collection part way through the contract, that would be subject to negotiations with the contractor and a change order. So I'm ruling it out of order. Thank you.

Thank you. Motion No.1. This is the…this is a motion's being specific that week, Award of Contract for Alternative A, Manual Collection, and that, Councillor Orlikow, I'll rule that it's in order. Would you want to introduce it? Your motion No. 1.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS MOTIONS

Motion No. 1
Moved by Orlikow,
Seconded by Vandal,

THAT Item 1 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works dated September 25, 2009 be amended by deleting Executive Policy Committee Recommendations 1 and 2 and substituting the following:

That a multi-year contract for Bid Opportunity No. 570-2009 be awarded to BFI Canada Inc. for Alternative A Manual Collection, the lowest evaluated responsive bidder for Alternative A meeting the specifications in the amount of $2,053,029.60/year, GST and MRST extra as applicable for the period of February 1, 2010 to January 31, 2017. The total estimated cost over the term of the contract is $14,371.207.20.

Councillor Orlikow: Pretty well self-explanatory I believe. It's just instead of using the Alternative B, Automated Collection, that due to some considerations and some issues that have arisen that at this time it would be most prudent to go with Alternative A instead.

Mr. Speaker: Any speakers? Councillor O'Shaughnessy.

Councillor O'Shaughnessy: Due to some considerations and some issues, what…what considerations? What issues? You've given absolutely no reason to do this. But, you've crossed the river, you've come into my ward and Mike's ward and Harvey's ward and told us we have to have good old fashioned manual pick up, not modern containerized pick up for some reasons and some considerations. What is that?

Mr. Speaker: Any further speakers? Councillor Vandal followed by Councillor Thomas.

Councillor Vandal: Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to say that…I'm going to talk to the motion and to the clause. I'm not going to say there is nothing positive about this initiative because I believe there is. I think in the long run, Automated Collection makes some sense, but I believe this initiative is premature and not discussed in the right context. It should be…our overriding principle when we are talking about these issues, should be waste reduction or waste minimization. Not, Mr. Speaker, simply not on the radar in this discussion. In my experience, bins of this nature which are equivalent to three garbage cans simply serve to promote garbage. Big bins equal big garbage they're simply too convenient to toss potential recyclables and compostables into the bin.

What we need to do is look at the big picture. We need to look at the over arching principle, what are we doing with waste reduction and waste diversion as a baseline for moving forward, and then we need to roll out this waste pickup system at the same time as we are implementing enhanced recycling, composting or a leaf pick up because as it stands now, Mr. Speaker, this is a cut in service. In the northwest quadrant of the city we will no longer be picking up leaves at the curb side. That is a service which has been eliminated. It has been cut. If it does not fit into the bin it will not get picked up. And I'm not a big promoter of hundreds of bags of leaves at the curb side. I don't do it myself. I refuse to. It's not environmentally friendly. It's…it's…I tell my wife it's a waste of my energy. (laughter) I don't do it. But, I can tell you. I can tell you it doesn't work. I can tell you that there are hundreds of homes in Norwood and East Norwood and Windsor Park that put out hundreds if not thousands of bags, bagged leaves in our community. It's a service we've provided and a service that residents are expecting from Winnipeggers. So unless there is an alternative to those dozens of bags of leaves that go to the recycling or to the leafed or to the compost, then that essentially is a cut in service. And by the way, it costs more. We're…the system that Executive Committee are recommending actually costs more for less service. There is something there. There is something there, Mr. Speaker, but at this point in the game, it's simply…it's premature.

We have not made any improvements to our Waste Management Strategy since the Great Garbage Debates of 01 and 02 where we introduced a multi-family recycling and we need to look at what we're doing in the Great Garbage Debates. We looked at the big picture, Councillor

Steeves, that's something we all have to do as well as yourself, when multi-family recycling was introduced. So, before we introduce this, we need to…we need to slow it down, I think automation makes sense in the long term. What we should do is…is award the actual cheapest contract, the manual contract for the next few years, develop a waste minimization strategy in the long term and roll it out with the next contract that comes up. Because right now, Mr. Speaker, this is not the best way to go forward. I could talk about the process but I won't. The process is what it is. We've had less than two weeks notice. We did get a late July e-mail from our management, briefly outlining what it is we're doing. But certainly…I'm not even worried about the politicians. We get paid to do this, we get paid to do our research. I know what's going on at this point. But it's the thousands of residents that are out there that really don't know the logistical answers to their questions.

I'm going to close by talking…referencing an e-mail which I received from a former City employee, Dan McGuiness on this whole issue. And I quote, "in my opinion, the best time to implement a change of this magnitude is when there is a well thought out Waste Management Strategy in place. As part of the development of this Strategy there should be broad public consultation, a robust discussion of goals and a best plan to achieve these goals. My fear is that dispersing carts at this time the City will be locked into the 240 litre cart and will not provide incentives for residents to compost the grass cycle or to partake in other diversion programs. The timing is simply wrong. If the Strategy outlines a variable rate volume based system such as Seattle, the City will have 240 litre carts that may not be needed. They are simply too big if you…if you add on the Waste Management Diversion Strategy as well. The time to enhance the service is when there is something fundamental changing. My conclusion is that the Administration should be directed to provide a report on the process to develop a Waste Management Strategy and that this Strategy should be ready for implementation at the time of the next Manual Collection." Mr. Speaker, that's our former Waste Management Director. Now works for the Province I understand, and I think he hits the nail on the head, relative to this one there is something there. It just needs more work. We need as a Standing Policy Committee, to regroup, to go over the Broad Policy Objectives, check out our contracts as they're coming up and then roll it out forward with a lot of public consultations, so that people in our wards know what we're doing.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Thomas.

Councillor Thomas: Thank you. I do want to talk a little about the process, and this isn't the first time I have talked about it over the past number of years that I've been on Council, and I think there has to be a co-ordination between the Administration and the Councillors to get this happening. Because what often happens is it's just left to the last minute. Let's do a new contract. Now, there should've been opportunity, particularly for recycling contract and refuse contents. There should've been opportunities before the request for proposal went out for people to express their concerns with regard to how refuse was being collected in their area, and any concerns they would like to see brought forward, and how that's done. And when I was on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works, I brought that up a couple of times, that we shouldn't be doing this right at the last minute, that this…we need to have more thought about it.

But now what's happened is there's been significant changes to collection, and people haven't had the input on that. So, I'm concerned about that lack of front end input and consultation, particularly since there is a new method happening. And I believe that the…that the new big bins are too large and they actually don't encourage environmental sustainability. If we have a bin that's three times the size of what a normal Husky Glad Bagger, one of those 40 litre bags that we get for putting our refuse out if we don't have a garbage tin. This is at least double if not triple that size, and we want to encourage people to put less in it. I actually half fill up one of those large garbage bags and put out two bins of recycling, and I think that this method encourages people to worry less about recycling and less about the things that they're putting into recycling and not really care about that, because they now have the space to not segregate their garbage into recyclables and non-recyclables. So, I'm very concerned about doing that because I don't think it promotes the direction that we want to go in. I also felt very uncomfortable about the timing that happened at the last time. Normally we get four days to look at the reports before they come out, which is why I called notice on it, because we didn't even get that. So, I don't think that was very much time. I think for something like renewal of a garbage contract, we should've had more time than that and the time should've been on the front end rather than the back end when everything came and the contract had already been decided on so that you have an opportunity to look at new methods and new ways. But, I don't think that we got enough time to properly peruse it and I really didn't like it being walked in with the meeting happening at Executive Policy that morning, and walked in with about half an hour in which to read

documentation. I didn't think that was a good way of proceeding.

Content. Since there had been decisions made to contract out all of our refuse collection services, we were told it would save us at first $3 million then $2.4 million and $1.8 million. And we've had a number of contracts renewed since that time and I don't know what it saved, because we haven't had any kind of report on that, any kind of comparison to what City services were being provided, and how it compares to the contracted out service. And I was told that we would have that feedback and we've had no feedback with regard to that. We also divided up the City into a series of pieces of pie so that people could compete on all of the pieces of pie. Well, someone's got the whole pie now, so it…we were told that there would be competition and this would keep the prices down. Well, when we put out all those pieces of pie and everybody's…this one individual is taking all the pieces of pie. How do we know that we've got the best price for that? Because we're only going to one contractor now, and that concerns me.

Last but not least, no one has talked about the new method that is going to be done. It wasn't going to be as big barrels but this was a method that CUPE had already said when they were about to lose this. This is a method that they said that they could save the City some money. If they had this method, they could come in with a lot less money to do the same kind of work because it would be easier on their workforce. Now, this is actually costing us more money to do the same work and it's not clear to me why that's occurring. So I have all these hesitancies. And sadly, because the contract has been completed now, there is a number of these questions that will not be answered in this contract and cannot be answered until we do the next one. So, in the meantime, I would be supporting the motion put forward by Councillor Orlikow and Councillor Vandal. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Councillor Steeves.

Councillor Steeves: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not an economist. I do have an undergraduate degree in Economics from the U of M, doesn't qualify me as an economist certainly. What I do have is a strong interest in Economics. I recall as a young man spending most of my summers on the farm (Inaudible) Saskatchewan. It was difficult for me because I wanted to be in the City and it was hard for a young man to be stuck out on a tractor all day long in the middle of nowhere, far away…far away from the happy occasions that I knew my friends were having. (Laughter) And during those long days, Mr. Speaker, in the tractor, I would think about stuff.

(Singing in the background)

And there were three questions. There were three questions that I had a difficult time reconciling in my head. Those three questions were the price of grain, Mr. Speaker. I guess I'm going to have the honour of speaking to our brand new Deputy Speaker. (Inaudible) It never seemed to make sense to me that while people were starving to death in places like Ethiopia that we couldn't find markets for our grain in Saskatchewan. That didn't make any sense to me. Didn't make any sense to me where, with the price of gasoline, how nobody could come up with technology to introduce a proper electric car, couldn't figure that out.

Yet the third thing that confounded me was Japan. This was a country…this was a country that ostensibly had been mired in almost a constant recession for a period of 20 years despite the fact that in my opinion, Japan had so many of the world's great ideas, so many of the world's great manufacturing successes. Growing up, it seemed all new electronic products were coming out of Japan, all of the new things that everybody wanted was coming out of Japan. As it happened, I went to Japan shortly there after. I was astounded at what I saw. In Japan there had been thought out government policy to not use technology. The reason being was that people felt that if technology was used, people would become unemployed and the economy would suffer. As such, at a time when Canadian banks were moving into bank machines and all sorts of internet banking and technology if you went to a Japanese bank, they would…to exchange your money, they put it in a plastic bowl and they open up a big book that had pictures of different money and then they get a printed page with that days currency exchanges, they work like that. And we asked…why? And people would say that was the policy of the government, to not advance using technology. And that country suffered and is still suffering because of that policy. And ironically enough, this whole thing surfaced again and you're going to laugh again my colleague when I use my next example. But, do you recall when the NFL was considering going to the instant replay for review? The huge debate that centered around that, whether it should be done or it shouldn't be done? Most people didn't want it.

Councillor Swandel: How many calls did you get on that Councillor?

Councillor Steeves: And then someone wrote in the debate and caused text and said in the context of debate they wrote a one line letter that

read, "If we have the technology to live in the present, why would we elect to live in the past?" It's a bit salient to this debate, isn't it, Mr. Speaker? I see these young men in my neighbourhood, up every morning. God bless them, they work hard. These people hustle. It's 5:00 in the morning. It is minus…god knows what, and they're picking the garbage. These are self inspired, hard-working people. If one of your concerns today is that these type of people will be of no use to society if we suddenly move to this type of contract, and what you're concerned about is if we don't stick to the old fashioned way of doing it, then everyone's going to be out of a job and our economy is going to suffer and the world will collapse. I'm going to assure you that is not so.

It is always the obligation of a society to try to advance if it can. I can assure you, we can use these people in our organization or they will be useful to society somewhere. Granted on this occasion these are people at the private sector, but if people are willing to work this hard, which they clearly are, they are going to land on their feet. And, I'm going to suggest to you that many of them are going to find spots in our society that may even be better than where they are. And I'll tell you what else. If for some reason we decided that we still need people who are picking up garbage and those sorts of things, think of all the other things that could be done in our society. The garbage cans along bike paths, in parks you know the ones that never get emptied out. Perhaps those could be cleaned up now. Who knows? This technology is going to be a type of technology where the truck is gong to pull up beside the bin, eventually maybe even these types of trucks are going to have…they are going to be automatic. They will grab the bin and tip it up and it will be done. They move by themselves apparently. It's good technology. If you talk to Calgary, if you talk to Fargo, they will tell you it is working. I just spoke to someone in Fargo and they just rolled this plan out in September 14th. Sixty five maybe seventy percent of the people in that City chose this size of bin. It is the overwhelming choice of people and it meets their needs. I don't think the people of Fargo are necessarily that different than us.

I was confused by Councillor Vandal's comments, this will…this will eliminate recycling? The bins are too big? That's the problem? Or the problem is we won't be able to pick up everybody's garbage because of all these bags of leaves and all this stuff. Which exactly is it? It seemed to be two diametrically opposed arguments that he was making side by side. Are the bins too big and they'll encourage people to throw away too much? Or, is the fact that we are only going to pick up this much is going to inconvenience all of these people, not him, but all of these people who have so much more garbage to throw out? There is no way that you could reconcile those two arguments that he just made. A word about the process. Yeah, it was a little bit rushed. Obviously as Councillors it would appear that no one paid heed to the e-mail that was sent three months ago. I guess that sometimes happens in the context of being a busy…

Deputy Speaker: Councillor Browaty moves to extend.

Councillor Steeves: But it would seem that the half dozen, seven I don't know how many people are going to ultimately vote against this today, at the time despite the fact that they fully admit they received this information, didn't deem this to be of significant enough import to raise the issue. How angry can we be at our Administration if they took the time to send out the e-mail to City Council? If no one caught it, I think we have to at least consider the possibility that the fault lay with us, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I don't know if I have to apologize for saying this, Mr. Speaker, but I am actually excited about this. I think this is a really positive move for the City of Winnipeg. I think if you were to take a snapshot into the future of any major North American City, 15 years from now, you will not see a garbage bag beside the curb come garbage day. This is progress. I recognize technology and progress and change is always scary. It's always difficult. And I think our human nature is to want to hang on to the past. We all understand that as City Councillors. We want to hang on to the past. Why? Because we know what it is. We know it's not a threat to us. We know that as things don't change, we are not vulnerable but it is not an excuse to not progress. And make no mistake, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is progress, and one year from now, this area of the City will be held up as the model to which other areas the City will want to strive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Steeves. Councillor Lazarenko.

Councillor Lazarenko: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise to speak to a subject that's before us that I got involved 20 years ago. When the opportunity came for to us get involved in a better way of picking up refuse collection garbage in the City of Winnipeg, I had met with some of the proponents that already had it in Regina and Brandon and I agreed to have that roll out bins and auto bins put into my area. Nobody else from Council thought of doing it. They were too leery of it. And when that was introduced in the year of 1990, it was implemented in the year of 1992 of May and elections were held in October. I paid a price because I had opposition, had ways of

getting to me politically to go public to condemn the process and condemn also the method that the garbage would be picked up. Some had said there would be these big huge trailer type bins in the back lane and as big as a boxcar, they would be dumping everything that is living and dead. I paid the price and I had to go for a judicial recount in the elections of October of 1992 lasted for six days and was all on account of the bins, the false accusations would be made at that time, it was so unfair but that's politics.

We had an e-mail from Mr. McGuiness the former manager of our system in the Garbage Collection. Mr. McGuiness sent to every member of Council the e-mail, but not me, excluded me. And he knows why and I can tell you why, because I was on his tail each and every time when he was the manager. The changes that he started making was against what we had introduced, City owned and City operated, and it was not manual pick up. That was the old ways we had at that time that we had time compensation cost for a four year period worth $3 million and compensation people that were getting injured by picking up these cans. Some of the cans we've had had that much mud or sand, the rest garbage, they'd pick up and they would wrench their backs. We went the best way possible, the most humane way of getting garbage picked up and that was manually not to be done but with a machine, by a push of a button and that was implemented. We were in the Northwest area of Winn…of the City of Winnipeg, most of my area. We were having savings of $500,000 a year. Mr. McGuiness at that time hid some of those numbers. Those numbers are not there. We had a…we had a special By-law. The auto bin By-law that we paid for damages to eaves troughs as the machines were picking up those boxes and also damages to garage doors or whatever the case may be.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will not support this motion that's before us that to go manual. Councillors, please have some pity on the people out there working. They are busting their backs off trying to get the garbage picked up and especially in the private sector. They run, they don't just walk, they run. I'd like to know how much compensation cost is incurred by that way…that way of picking up garbage. That's gone, it says pretty well all over North America. The way is to modify to point it to satisfy the stakeholders and also to satisfy those who are doing the work.

The question that was raised a number of times as what we were doing, what we intend to do. In July of…July 28th of this year, a memo was sent to all members of Council. The information was there. I had the information but I didn't bother because most of my area is auto bin pick up and roll out bins. We had a survey taken a few years ago. Eighty six percent of the users, the customers, wanted that type of service. And, I can't see…I did not support the contracting out the rest of the City, garbage that we were picking up. I didn't support it. But majority of Council members voted for it. I have to live with it. How can I say, no this is no good, penalize someone, penalize the contractor because it may be a monopoly. That's hogwash. It's open. The open process takes place for reference work for proposal RFP that is being submitted. Each and everyone, every company has the right to come and put their bid in and our policy is the lowest bidder that meets the specs is the one that is recommended for approval.

There's some concern was raised as how this was being handled. Tell me how else could we do this? If I wanted to be on the negative side I would've said, Mr. Mayor, EPC, dump this. But it would not be my due diligence. My responsibility, the oath of office I've taken. I've lived with a lot of motions that I have submitted. I lost them but I had to live with it because that's my responsibility. Councillor Steeves is correct. They have in some areas the method as being picked up as garbage is unbelievable. We have the bins. It's not that big. I have a roll out bin. It takes three garbage bags and if you put one on top of there, they'll take it away. The one concern that I've had that Mr. McGuiness did not address and I challenge him on that, why didn't we use enforcement on the auto bin tied for garbage picked up with illegal dumping? Not one prosecution took place from the beginning, beginning when that was introduced, yes we were prosecuting the illegal dumpers those who didn't belong in the area, those who brought their chesterfields and cupboards and who knows what and they would leave it. Our City forces used to pick them. Right now it is not being picked up, we have to do it ourselves with the additional cost because in that bid process that was not included, what the residue should be picked up and the company is right to say that is not in our contract. So now I just hope that this…this will be dealt with in such a way that each and every one will have to be looked at every way that we try to do better services in picking up garbage for the City of Winnipeg taxpayers. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I speak from experience 20 years ago. At that time, I can tell you that if it would come back, I don't think that I would've even tackled this new system but I had administrators that were on my side, the former commissioner, Rod McRae, Cal Stewart, director of operations, were on my side and they said, "Councillor don't back off."

This is the system that's the most convenient, City-owned even though the Union was not too

eager for because this will lose the jobs. Not one person lost a job. They were transferred to other places. We had people that were injured and I've got to tell you one incident. I had met one person, an employee of the City of Winnipeg, back at that time. He was working in the garbage pick up. Three times he was injured, he was put on light duty. And as he went on light duty, little by little the Administration felt hey you can go pitch garbage. I saw him one Saturday. He was walking, just barely moving, forty-five years of age. And I told him as well "hey Mike, it's not bad because you are getting compensation." He looked at me with that look in his eyes and closed his fist. He said "Harry, if I didn't know you as much as I knew you, you'd get this right in your bloody kisser. To hell with your compensation to hell with the rest of the system. My back will be finished."

Deputy Speaker: Councillor Fielding moves extension.

Councillor Lazarenko: My back will be finished. Doctor told me I will be in a wheelchair in five years time. Bring me back my back. I don't care about anything else. That woke me up to a point. Strenuous work like that that's being done, it's inhumane to have people work and run, pick up the garbage, put it inside, back and forth, back and forth, day in and day out. And let me tell you, the private sector would not be doing what we are doing as the City with the system that we were in control. Our employees that were injured, they were put into different departments. They went on a lighter…lighter work. There was an avenue that we supplied that for them, because right now they work in safe place. You talk to some and they'll say to this now they would recommend that a person shouldn't be doing that type of work now. And we have that program in place that will able to satisfy the needs but politics took that course including the Union, got involved because land basing back and forth playing politics, which to me I think was just one of the most strenuous in my time. In 1992, while I sat for six days counting those stupid ballots, cross crock croak. This…this is out, that's…spoiled ballots don't (Inaudible) because there is a little x there and little x over there because people made a few more lines. I thought to myself, my god what am I doing here? Had a good job at the railway. I don't need this. But I stuck it out. I did not quit. We have something in place and Mr. Deputy Speaker I'm not bragging because I want to get the lime light. I'm not bragging because I deserve that, but I paid the price, but I stayed with it. Close to 20 years ago. Ladies and gentlemen, the Council and the Chamber, let me tell you, this is working very well. It's the only way that can be done in such a way that it will satisfy the workers or satisfy the company because it is a saving. There is a saving in it, there is no question because one person operator. It's not three, it's only one and the system, I just…one thing I'm just very disappointed in the former manager of our department that he had to be so gullible and send that e-mail that didn't make any sense at all.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Lazarenko. Councillor Pagtakhan.

Councillor Pagtakhan: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I'm just glad that I had a chance to speak before or after Councillor Lazarenko. I really…I have a question for you Mr. Deputy Speaker if you can tell me how many trannies that Councillor Steeves blew out on those tractors when he was a farm boy in Saskatchewan. I'd love to know that. I'd love to know the answer to that. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a good day for…this is an exciting initiative of Automated Garbage Collection. I think it makes sense and if the goal, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is to do waste reduction in our city, then I think this is a step in the right direction. Let me tell you why I believe that:

The media has been covering this issue and my office's been getting some calls relative to the new automated garbage carts. And a lot of the folks…I represent a lot of constituents, a lot of many Winnipeggers who have the auto bin system and a lot of them are actually wondering, is this new automated cart going to be going into their area? Mr. Deputy Speaker, the auto bins, they are good, they work and…however we have issues with illegal dumping. In the summer time they stink. The lids are burned off of them. People can't even…people want to wash them down but can't because they're always full of the garbage. These…the people with auto bins, Mr. Deputy Speaker, are just yearning to have these carts in their area as well but that contract isn't up for a couple of years, I understand 2011. So there is a huge problem, Mr. Deputy Speaker with recycling in the auto bin in areas of our city. Let's…let's make that clear right now. There is an issue with recycling. The folks…some of them recycle but a large part of them don't. If we could move to this system that encourages the segregation of garbage where people actually make a choice between segregating their garbage into the automated carts and putting their recyclables in a blue box. I think this is a good thing eventually for the auto bin areas.

And also, for the areas that don't have auto bins but don't have back lanes that have front drives, Mr. Speaker, The Centennial and West Alexander neighbourhoods, there is a great deal of rental properties in those two neighbourhoods, Mr. Deputy speaker, and the issue there is

when…often with rental properties, they are…the folks get confused when there is a statutory holiday and they put their garbage out, you know, they put it out on whatever the previous cycle was, and when it changes their garbage is out there for four or five days. And, guess what? Dogs are picking through it, cats are picking through it, the wind is blowing it all over the place. That's why that part of the city is filthy sometimes. And…but this I think will help resolve that problem where the garbage is now self contained and you know…another thing, some of the seniors who were calling me in older neighbourhoods wondered "how are we going to pull these carts out?". Well we have a walk up service that our public service is advocating for. So I think we're addressing I think avidly some of the issues and we are being sensitive to some of the concerns of our constituents. I want to thank the media for their coverage on it because I think that has helped us a little bit here as well and all in all, Mr. Speaker, I just want to say I'll be supporting the clause item No.1 and I won't be supporting the motion.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Pagtakhan. Councillor Fielding.

Councillor Fielding: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'd first like to say that I will be supporting this motion before us. I do think this is very much a step in the right direction. For me really what this debate boils down to is a modernization and more clean and green effective system that I think will save taxpayers' money and will be more effective in the long term. There are six main points that I'm going to cover briefly on it. The first element that I think makes sense is in terms of the clean and green aspects of it. Number one, in terms of the clean. We prided ourselves here in Council, this Council the last two or three years of being a clean and green city and I think this is very much a step in the right direction. When speaking with the constituents and I have had a lot of calls on this, I probably had about 30 calls and e-mails from constituents. I think most people…when you do explain it to them, they very much are support of it. One fellow I was having coffee with just a week ago or so, he had asked me the question, "is this the same system they've been using in Saskatchewan and other areas and such as this?" I said, yeah, you know one element that hasn't come out in the media so far is in terms of the esthetics of it, how much better it's going to look, instead of you know you're looking at your neighbours in terms of endless amounts of garbage that are there, it makes sense, and from an esthetic point of view and I very much think that is the case.

Another element that I very much I like is in terms of…it's gong to be more efficient and effective system that I think will save money in the long term. The new system is more efficient, most definitely than the other ones. There's going to be less staffing that's involved in this. Instead of having three people would be hauling the garbage, you'll have the one. You're going to have less injuries, you know, to this and I think also the system is going to be a lot quicker once…you know there should be some kinks right off the bat but overall it's going to be more efficient and more effective. So I do very much like this. You know I won't be as…as going to my tractor story like my good friend Councillor Steeves, but I can tell you the technology is there. It is there, right? And it does make sense from a variety of things. I think we really do need to embrace change when it does come forward. We can look at examples and I don't mean to dumb this down to the horse and buggy verses the car and the home computer verses other things, but this is a technology that has come up that is modernization really of the garbage system that's there and I think we really need to embrace change that is there. I think it's…I think it very much is a step in the right direction and I encourage all of you to do it. I think it's going to make our city a great city in terms of a variety of things.

Also the size of the carts, I've got a number of comp…another concerns. Initially we had this discussion in kind of a background meetings beforehand. I wanted the larger cart. I was pretty up front about that. I look at my own personal experiences, you know I've got two kids, I've got a wife. We use probably three or four garbage bags a week.

We use a lot of recycling as well. But I wanted to assure that it was there. I did get assurance from our Administration that we are obviously going with the 240 that's there, but if someone does want a larger cart or if they want a smaller cart we can make those arrangements and that was important to me because like I said, the reality is, the garbage is the garbage is the garbage. You are going to use the same amount in my opinion, and I want to make sure that there isn't these concerns that are for people. Another element that I very much support is…I want to take a look at what other cities are doing. This isn't a social experiment that we are trying here. This is being used in a variety of other cities if you look just in western Canada. The only three cities that aren't using this system right now are Edmonton, Winnipeg and Victoria and my understanding is Victoria is taking a look at this as well. So this has worked well in other cities. It's done in the United States, throughout Canada. It's a modernization of the garbage system and this is something that I think we're behind the times not

opposed to it and I think we should look at this for recycling. You know I'll be very happy to see something like that come forward. So once again it's not a social experiment, worked well in other cities, let's try it here.

The other process that I wanted to talk about is the tendering. You know I've heard some Councillors talk about the tendering of the process and how the company that's going to win the award is…will have some sort of a monopoly in terms of the garbage process. Well, the reality is we've got a tendering process and the tendering process says it gives you a criteria, you need to hit a service level but you've got to go with the lowest bidder. How are we going to…why would we mess around…monkey around with a tendering process? We need to go with the most effective one that's going to be the least in terms of expense for our taxpayers. And I tell you what I think probably the same people that are making these allegations or saying that you know we should've chosen one of the other contractors as opposed to the one that went out, will be the same people that would be crying, you know, foul if all of a sudden we took the one that wasn't the least amount of money for the taxpayers so I don't think those arguments are relevant. I think you put it a tender. You look for the best service, you look for the least amount of money to the taxpayers and that's the one you go with. If one of the companies seems to be effective in terms of getting the least amount of service that's there, you know who the winner is? The taxpayers. That's who the winner is.

So in conclusion, I very much support this. I think it is a step in the right direction. I think that it probably could've been communicated a little bit better and as we move forward with other systems I look forward to that communications but I think it's going to be a cleaner, greener, more efficient system and it's a modernization that I'm proud to embrace. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thanks, Councillor Fielding. Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll spare everyone my auto biography today since we've already heard a couple of those but I'm going to spare you that. I'm going to focus on the motion…the clause in front of us today. I mean, I think, you know, it's been a bit inaccurately portrayed that those who are not necessarily in favour of supporting this contract today oppose all modernization, we only want Manual Collection. It's not often I'm accused of being against the workers, usually I'm accused of beholden to labour but I'm on the side of the workers too and I'm on the side of a better system that's better for our staff. I think everybody knows that and I think we know that the other Councillors that have been accused of being against modernization and progress and against our workers are the strongest advocates for working people. So I think that's obviously a fallacy.

But secondly, what's before us today is the specific contract. And I want to talk about that specific thing we're voting on today which is to lock us into seven years at a 240 litre size cart in the Northwest area of the City. And the problem with this is, is that the work, the policy work and the background work to bring in waste minimization and other progressive strategies, that these other cities you've talked about are doing, is not part of this plan today. We were told in the Council seminar that was…happened on Friday that this is not about waste minimization. This is about a contract deadline. And, you know, that's the realities that we have to pass something, which is why Councillor Orlikow and Councillor Vandal put forward a motion saying well if we have to do this, if we're in a deadline situation then let's not bring in a new system yet. Let's wait till the next contract is up next year or the year after and bring it in the context of waste minimization.

If you go to Halifax you put out a bin for composting as well as…and recycling as well as garbage. It's not just about garbage, it's about composting, it's about reducing waste. That's not what this is about today. This is about a business contract. This is about a business deal because we are trapped in 100% contracted out system. Okay, let's…as Councillor Lazarenko said, some of us didn't support a 100% private running of our contracts but that's what we're stuck with and we have to deal with it. That's why I think instead of everybody dumping on our new Councillor who came up with an alternative, you know who's trying to and they are ruled out of order and he is shut down, we are trying to bring in alternatives. So, I just like to say, you know, I think you've gotta cut the new guy a little slack. Listen. I think…I think. (Inaudible speaking in the background) (Laughter) Oh, whatever. Okay, okay, next. Order please.

Anyway, my point is, I don't think it's unreasonable to not rush into a seven year contract that locks us into something that has not been properly thought out, and that's really what we're saying with the…what Councillor Orlikow's motion is saying is the Northwest part of the City is for seven years but there is contracts for the whole rest of the City coming up next year the year after, the year after. So maybe in this case since we haven't really improved the system, maybe we don't want to lock into a 240 litre size

bin which is certainly not…that doesn't deal with composting and doesn't really look at the waste diversion issues. Maybe we should hold off making this change right now and next year or the year after when the other contracts come up and all the other…maybe we can look at it there. So that's the suggestion and honestly, we don't relish saying no to things as members of opposition or whatever, we're really trying to make the City better. We really do also believe in progress. We do also care about working people as much as all of you do and probably more…some cases. Like that's the priority for some of us, those people.

And unfortunately I would also like to clarify something that's...you know those workers are non-unionized workers. The ones that pick from the back of the truck are not even in unions. So if I'm beholden to a union which I'm not. I was accused of that in the media and I didn't get a chance to respond to it so here is my chance to respond to it. But you know, I mean I think it's nothing…there is no…nothing wrong with caring about working people that are pitching garbage and I think we all do. I think that's the point, but, you know, the fact is… the fact is that according…we've been given a variety of advice and I think one of the other frustrating things is there is conflicting versions of events. Like, we've been told by some staff it's two…it says in the contract it's a 240 litre cart. Well, now I'm hearing from somebody else that you can have a different sized cart. Well we were told that the City is buying 240 litre size carts for every household in the Northwest. We're buying them so how can you have a different sized cart? That's not in the contract. So, things are changing from day to day. I think we need to know what we're voting for. We were told we were voting for 240 litre sized carts. Like which one is it? And you can dismiss Dan McGuiness, you can dismiss Dan McGuiness but he ran that department for 20 years. (Inaudible) Councillor…no, I'm saying Councillor Lazarenko dismissed his ideas and here's what…I just would like to say…excuse me, please. Could we have some order, Mr. Speaker? Or I believe that's what you're supposed to be doing is asking for order.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi, will you please stick to the subject? You are enticing the members this is why they are challenging you. (Laughter)

Councillor Gerbasi: Councillor Steeves, hear that? We're supposed to stick to the subject. Okay, Mr. Speaker. It's been pointed out that this change is not really going to save us money. It's not really going to reduce the amount of waste, and it could be more harmful to the environment in other ways and the reason why is that it's not been brought in properly. The public hasn't been consulted and that's another whole issue that we've gone over and over in the media, but you know which is valid because the public is worried and wondering what's going to happen. But because it hasn't been communicated well and that's unfortunate and I hope we're going to see some improvements in how we communicate things are rolling out. I really do. I hope we'll see that soon because that's hard on our citizens.

But, I mean, there's been…I think the way to do it…and what has been pointed out is the timing is wrong. Let's do this next year, after we have a plan in place and I think that was what we're trying to say is we're not saying go backwards and only have Manual Collection forever. We're saying let's take a year and when the next contract comes up, let's bring this in the proper context. That's the crux of what we're saying. Let's bring this up, at the same time bring in better recycling, automated, better…composting, automated. That's what we're saying. Nobody is saying we don't want automated. We're saying we don't want to be locked in for 7 years with one contract that's one size of bin, that doesn't reduce waste. And so really, there's been a lot of misinformation about that and it's…it concerns us.

So, I think that…I think that we are all trying to do the right thing. The question is how do we get there and I think what…if we leave the Northwest for now, we can move in other areas of the City over the next year or two but you're going to have to do some policy work. You're going to have to have some staff working on environmental things. I know we're trying to do that within Plan Winnipeg, but shouldn't that be part of plan Winnipeg? Shouldn't that be…shouldn't we have an environmental co-ordinator and a committee that has resources to work on those things. Well we don't and that's why this work hasn't been done so…but we haven't done our homework and now we're stuck based on a contract that we're stuck with a deadline. This is not about waste minimization.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Fielding, extension of two minutes. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Gerbasi: This contract we're voting on is not a waste minimization contract or it's not progress in itself. It's a contract deadline that we're rushing something through and we're going to be stuck with a cart the size of three garbage cans for the next seven years. Some people think it's too small but a lot of people from an environmental point of view think it's too big. I mean there should be some flexibility in that cart size perhaps. Maybe we need to have some flexibility for the inner City which has unique

problems. Maybe we have to consider on how to keep esthetics happening in every part of the City. It's a whole different scenario when you have a big driveway and you live in a suburban area than when you live in these areas with back lanes that are rutty and bumpy, summer and winter. And those problems are being addressed here and if they have, nobody knows because we've only had a week or so to look at it and sending out a one page e-mail as soon as Council prorogues for the summer.

I guess we should apologize that some of us take a little bit of time off in the summer and don't organize…It's not up to each Councillor to roll out a City-wide change in the garbage system. That's up to our Administration and up to EPC and the Mayor that are leading these initiatives. It's not fair to turn it around and say we…sorry I went on vacation, I didn't roll this out for you. You're the ones with the communication staff. So, I'd like to see you roll this out properly and that's our job as Councillors, to ask you to do that. So you know what, of course you're going to turn it around and blame us for it, but this isn't about blaming. This is about how are we going to bring in a better system? And that's what we are all trying to do and I don't think this has been done properly. The timing isn't right and I know you're going to say, oh we're backwards because we're saying to go with manual, I know you're going to pin that on us but there's a whole bunch of other contracts coming up next year, the year after, the year after that. And you have a chance to do something innovative. You have a chance to deal with some of these environmental issues and you are the ones who have more than nine votes around. So you do something, we can't do did all. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Nordman.

Councillor Nordman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I listen to Councillor Gerbasi, I guess size does matter.

Councillor Gerbasi: What does that mean? (Laughter)

Councillor Nordman: You know, to quote the alternative rock band, REM, I would suggest this is not the end of the world as we know it. We're about to roll out a program that is, I think, very positive for the City of Winnipeg. I agree with Councillor Steeves when he says that the…that the visual attractiveness of this will improve considerably as we go forward with it. The time frame that we dealt with this in probably could've been better. Could it have been unveiled earlier? Probably. Could we have had public debate? Possibly. Could the Councillors have seen it really prior to being put on the floor of Council last week? Possibly. But at the end of the day I think it is the right thing to do.

Certainly there are concerns and most of the phone calls, similar to Councillor Fielding, we had about 30 phone calls and e-mails in our office in St. Charles. And we do have a disproportionately large number of seniors in our community and it's a concern for them, particularly the empty nesters that don't have anybody to assist them in the placement of a rather large tool, but at the end of the day, I think they will find that it works just fine. The biggest portion of the calls that we had were considering the Biomass Collection, the leaves, the grass, that type of thing. At particularly time…at particular times of the year, spring and fall particularly with grass, and the raked grass in the spring and the leaves in the fall, do add to the number of bags that are normally used. And I would suggest that we may be offering a larger carbon footprint if you can only get a dozen bags in your car and you've got 24 of them on your driveway, you've got four trips to the…to the landfill or the collection site to make that happen.

So at this point, there are still kinks I think that have to be worked out and given that we've got other contracts coming along in the next couple of years, I imagine that the folks at Solid Waste will have a chance to really examine the great Northwest which St. Charles ward is a part of and we're certainly in support of the original motion. We won't be supporting unfortunately Councillor Orlikow's motion today. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to be supporting the amendment before us today. The amendment I think distracts from the real issue that we're seeing. I think the automated system is a good way to go ultimately just from the point of view of worker injuries, and also cost to…the direct cost to Workers' Compensation. I think the automated system is the way to go.

But also, Mr. Speaker, I actually won't support the clause either and I'll explain why. I was one…like yourself, I was one of the people who did not support the ultimately the…back in 2005, I think it was July, the move to have the City completely out of the waste business. And my concern at that time and I think this was the concern of other Councillors was that there was a fear of the consolidation of waste into fewer, fewer hands which I think is what's happening now. I think we see this happening whereby one company virtually has…will be having a monopoly on waste collection in this City. And this is not a phenomenon just for Winnipeg by the way. This is happening across the country, where there's fewer and fewer companies that control the

waste management of the…of every large City. Waste Management is one of them. BFI is another. There's not a lot of them, Mr. Speaker. I mean there's a reason why every year BFI puts on a hospitality suite at the FCM Annual General Meeting, you know. I mean they are a smart business. They are a smart company and they know that there is a profit to be made in garbage pick up, municipal garbage pick up. Mr. Speaker, that is the heart of the issue here. The heart of the issue is the consolidation in fewer, fewer hands of waste collection. And the fact, Mr. Speaker, that they are…they do see a profit there. Profit is not an evil word but when it comes to garbage in some ways it is, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to garbage in some ways it is because there's absolutely zero incentive to reduce the waste flow. As it stands right now, Mr. Speaker, the incentive is to produce more garbage because if you've got more garbage that means a bigger contract. More households, more garbage, bigger contract, more money. There is no incentive, Mr. Speaker, to drive that waste down and to have all the alternatives with regards to waste. We often go back to the consumer, the householder and penalize them when we come forward alternatives for incentives, yet there is no incentives for industry or corporations to ensure that the waste is driven down.

We need an integrated Waste Management Strategy for the City, Mr. Speaker. I think…really I would encourage the Mayor and EPC to start working on that immediately. We have household hazardous wastes that are…they have random depots, they are not available all the time. The average consumer is putting household hazardous waste directly into landfill, majority of them. Electronic waste. There is now more depots. They established more depots this summer but the fact is Mr. Speaker, a lot of people don't use the depots. You've got to get to curbside. Organic wastes, Mr. Speaker. Organic wastes? Why don't we have a curb side organic waste collection program in the City? We should've been moving in that direction years ago. The last great initiative this Council had when it came to waste reduction was in 1995 when we introduced the recycling program. That was the last one, Mr. Speaker, really when you think about it. That was the last big initiative. So it's been 14 years Mr. Speaker, and we haven't had another big initiative since then. We really have to do this, Mr. Speaker.

And finally, we always talk about the household, we always talk about the average home owner in the city but we tend to forget about the commercial waste. The commercial waste going into our landfills contributes to 50% of the waste and some of it…some of it is actually the easiest to probably recycle and to recover and recycle. And yet there is no incentive there, Mr. Speaker, to do that as well. We have to work with the industries in this city and the commercial industries in this city to ensure that we get at that as well, Mr. Speaker. That has to be part of the integrated waste strategy, there's no doubt about it. So my concern, Mr. Speaker, is that we've got a contract here we're moving towards I think…a consolidation in fewer and fewer hands and furthermore we're losing an opportunity here to really get at the heart of the issue. That is how do we reduce waste because right now there's no incentive to do that. It's the exact opposite. As long as the money is tied to the amount of garbage being thrown out, the more garbage being thrown out the more money, it's as simple as that and that's the heart of the issue. So if we can put a value on that damage that that's doing to our environment, if you want to call it the equivalent of climate credits for…they are talking about greenhouse gases. If we can work on that and if we can work to reduce our waste going out and it has been done in other cities, Mr. Speaker. Edmonton now is recycling upwards of 70% of their waste coming out of households. You know other countries in the world, Councillor Steeves mentions Japan. Japan is recycling huge amounts of their waste. They're pushing close to 90% in some cases, you know, reducing waste as well, Mr. Speaker. This is the key. We have to get at that.

So I'm not going to be supporting either one of these motions because of those very reasons and I think I would encourage and implore EPC and the Mayor to start looking at those Alternatives as quickly as possible because we really need to start getting our Council moving in the direction of reducing waste rather than just continuing the…the same…the same business as usual. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Smith.

Councillor Smith: Mr. Speaker, you know Councillor Steeves gave a wonderful speech but it was very tedious. (Inaudible) He pictured everybody who was opposed to the proposal as being luddites that they didn't want any modernization, that they want to stick to the old ways of doing things. That's not the case. That's clearly not the case. The fact is we need to go ahead and have proper consultation with the people in our wards and you know, this is so crucial. Remember the great garbage debate? Remember all the e-mails we got? Now…now we happen to be picking in the area where there's a lot of difficulty, where the back lanes are a mess, where when snow comes it ruts…like it's incredible.

So you know, I think that we have to do a lot more thought to this whole proposal. Many residents will not be able to move the cart across the lane. You know I got an e-mail from Christen in Garden Grove, and she said this: my concern is that if someone is putting out recycling maybe one or two regular sized bags of garbage they shouldn't have to haul that cumbersome cart to the curb. I know my older family members aren't going to be able to do it by themselves. What is it going to be like with two feet of snow on the ground as well as people are going to be leaving their…these carts at the curb after collection because they are too lazy to take them back to their yards, or may be too difficult for them? This will further reflect negativity on this part of the City. Dan McGuiness in his e-mail said the same thing. Now, people are saying well, there is the walk up policy. But do you know what that is? You have to go to a doctor and get a statement from the doctor saying that you can't…I mean let me tell you this: many elderly people are not so weak that they…they're going to go to a doctor for such a referral. The fact is they're going to have difficulty. Now, I can understand if we increased our cleaning of the lanes, and even paving them, like our lanes are a mess, so you are picking the worst part of the City for this change and a lot of rental properties so it's not going to be good.

Now, in the presentation it says I…that will reduce the use of plastic bags, doesn't explain how that's going to happen. It's not going to reduce the use of plastic bags. It undermines waste reduction because people…there's going to be plenty of room to put more in these carts and of course it creates an awful situation and we're getting conflicting information, you know, of all types. Dan McGuiness, former manager of Solid Waste Services states that the load of automatic collection vehicles is considerably less than manual collection vehicles resulting in more trips to the landfill. The current manager of Solid Waste Services says the opposite, this is not true. You know, there's so many…there's not enough information and that's why consultation is important. It's just so obvious and why didn't we have consultation? That's a question. Why did we rush into this? There was plenty of time for consultation. It didn't occur. So you know, don't picture everybody who doesn't support the recommendation as being luddites, as being against modernization and a new way of doing things. The fact is we need to change but we need to go ahead and work it out with waste reduction and…I mean, you know, it's so obvious that this came through at the very last minute and it shouldn't have. So, don't attack the people who are not supportive as being against modernization and new ways of doing things. I would say (inaudible), by the way, it would be nice to introduce this in Councillor Steeve's ward first.

Councillor Steeves: I would welcome it. I'd love it.

Councillor Smith: Well, it just seems to me that there is room for change and we can do it. We should have comprehensive plan to do with waste and recycling and this is not just…this is just not fitting the bill. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: No further speakers? Mr. Mayor.
Mayor Katz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think there's two issues I would like to address and first of all, Mr. Speaker, I will address the issue of process because unfortunately that was brought up today. Number one is we all know, Mr. Speaker, there was an e-mail that was sent out…just waiting, are you done?

(Inaudible)

Mr. Speaker: What's your point of order?

Councillor Gerbasi: I was just wondering if you could clarify the process… (Inaudible)

Mr. Speaker: Well, the Mayor is speaking to the clause and then closing will be by Councillor Orlikow and Councillor Swandel. Go ahead Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, Mr. Speaker, on the issue of process which has been brought up today. As has been stated already there was an e-mail that was sent out so this was nothing that was hidden. Every Councillor had access to it, that's number one. Number two as we all know, it's…I believe it was on Friday, October 1, it did go to Infrastructure and Public Works. I know Councillor Vandal and Councillor Smith were part of that, and I guess, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting because I did a little homework and so I did a little research, Mr. Speaker and I'm not going to bore you with all of this. But I have seven pages, Mr. Speaker, of items, that have been what you would call walk ons and I'm sure that Councillor Vandal and Thomas and Gerbasi will be very familiar with some of these. Provencher Bridge Project Preliminary Design, walk on. Small Commercial Garbage Collection Rates, walk on. Utilization of the 2001 Forecast to General Revenue Fund Surplus, walk on. This one I'm sure Councillor Vandal will like. Award of Contract for Supply, Installation and Operation of Photo Enforcement Program, walk on. On the biggest deal the City has ever done, Mr. Speaker, Manitoba Hydro Proposal to purchase Winnipeg Hydro, walk on. These were all the day of, Mr. Speaker. Funding for the True North Projects, walk on. I can go on

and on but I think the point is, Mr. Speaker, I don't think any of us like what you define as walk on. Sometimes obviously they are out of necessity, sometimes maybe political. I can tell you that this Mayor and this EPC are against anything other than what's out of necessity and it was out of necessity by the department saying it had to be done now and even though we wanted to do it in October, that it was brought forward, that's number one, Mr. Speaker.

The other situation on this proposal, Mr. Speaker, I would hope that everybody would see that this is something good. And if something is good you embrace it sooner not later. This happens to be the first contract that's coming up. You embrace it now because, Mr. Speaker, I'll give you a few. Minneapolis, Fargo, Kelowna, Moose Jaw, Medicine Hat, Saskatoon, Toronto, Lethbridge, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Prince George, Regina, Austin, Texas, Raleigh, North Carolina, Brandon, Manitoba, Vancouver, B.C., Kamloops, B.C., Calgary, Alberta, Hollywood, Florida, Dallas, Texas, Anchorage, Alaska, Whitehorse, Yukon, and Arbour, et cetera, et cetera. Guess what they have, Mr. Speaker? They have these bins, garbage and/or recycling. Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is and I've had this conversation with Councillor Gerbasi. This to me is the first step in the journey to improving our system to waste minimization. I can assure you in the very near future sure you will see something similar coming forward for recycling. We want more recycling. We want less garbage.

And Mr. Speaker I totally concur with Councillor Wyatt. I think he made some great points and what I would do as the co-chair of MIAC, hopefully we bring it up there, they can come forward, we have some great expertise there, come forward with some good ideas and I certainly hope that you will move on that because I agree with you 100 percent. Mr. Speaker, it's time. You know we talk about our existing system but the reality is, that workforce isn't there. How many people approach you, Mr. Speaker and say "I want a career in garbage collection and I want to work on one of those trucks" it doesn't exist, Mr. Speaker. The injuries we know, okay. City's been doing this for so long, to me it's embarrassing that today we're debating and many Councillors will vote against this, when this is part of modernization. This is progress. And progress takes change. And I know that sometimes change and progress are very hard to embrace. It's not easy, Mr. Speaker. But this is the right thing, this is a good thing. I wish this were happening where I lived first. I would embrace it. It's wonderful. I've seen this in action. I've seen how the streets are clean because all the garbage is in one container with a lid that the wind doesn't blow so you won't have garbage strewing all over the city trying to figure out who is going to pick it up. This is good. I've seen cities where they have one colour for recycling and another colour for garbage and gets picked up on different days during the week.

This is a good thing, Mr. Speaker. It should've come forward a long time ago and this is something we should all embrace, but do not blame the system. Do not blame any committee. Do not blame EPC or Infrastructure. The bottom line is the contract was coming up, we had to move it forward. Mr. Speaker, I even had the opportunity as a result of what took place last Wednesday to have a Council seminar. I thank those Councillors who were able to attend and ask questions and the department was there to answer every question honestly and I guess to Councillor Smith you will have to decide who you want to believe. Obviously you've heard one person say one thing, another person say another thing. You'll have to make that decision. Mr. Speaker, we should all be supporting this. It's long overdue. You know what I would've liked to see Winnipeg at the top of this list and other cities following us and let's pray we are not the last City in North America to do the right thing when it comes to garbage collection and recycling and starting to use bins. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be supporting the motion of EPC.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Closing, Councillor Orlikow on your motion.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker: Motion No. 1.

Councillor Orlikow: So on the motion to…to choose Alternative A, Mr. Speaker, even today when we've been talking and I'll give the rationales now but even today when we've been talking I've heard now from the Legal Department that you can choose option A and B you'd get down the line and do automated. I believe that's what Legal's opinion was, so we could do a year and then we could go bid into the automated system. Again that's my understanding from what I just heard from the Legal Opinion. (Inaudible) Again…again the second comment I just want to point out, last week when I was quite…I would say fairly upset, was due to the fact that I've been getting some information from the right and then some other different information contrary to the left and I couldn't figure out what the bin size was. And now here it's…I'm told quite clearly 240, okay so that's what I've been told both at the seminar and previously. And now tonight I hear again, that there is the option of having a smaller bin. Again, this is coming from members of the EPC. I hear this again. It may be true but maybe not but again it shows me this confusion. Again it

makes it very difficult for a person to make a decision based upon not politicalized ideology or where you're at or who you want to stick it to but based upon the facts. And that's all I'm going on. I don't care really about all the other stuff, I really…what I do care about is trying to make sure that this is a very successful program and including using those automated bins. However, we're just not at that point. We are not at that point because this is an Ad Hoc process.

When I first got elected I met with the department, all of them, and that wasn't that long ago and I heard about this possible before this little e-mail that went out saying hey we may be doing this later and they told me about this. I said that actually is a great idea but you better really put some upfront work into that so we can communicate this properly because I've seen as a late person how this government has been in the past. It actually takes away from what we're doing so you need to discuss it, however, that fell on deaf ears obviously because we never…that never happened. So again, there was a hope that we would've consulted ahead of time. We knew when this contract was coming up. It wasn't a surprise to anybody. We could've done this last year even though it wasn't even awarded yet. We could've said what do you think about the idea of a bin…of an automated bin and then that would've allowed us to ask questions. (Inaudible) Well it is called planning and it's called waste…and again, what I would've said in back then, even I'd say let's put this in a waste reduction context and it's going to make it more sellable to people. They're going to understand why. They're going to understand how that works with bin sizes. Let's put it in that context. Let's start aligning the contracts up so we don't have these big legs and pulls. We can start doing that now. What about the organic waste? Can we offer, you know, during the spring and the fall monthly pick up of organic waste through bag system? What about…what about…so we have a contract for leaf reduction…what about the bin size? Can we provide alternatives for people to use? For example, if we use recycling, and we put out the bins I would suspect that the larger bin should be for the recycling and the smaller one, bin should be for the waste reduction, if there is going to be a smaller but again it's in the context so people understand that and they also understand that this bin process will allow us to move towards a compost program potentially. Again they would understand that so I wouldn't be getting all these calls from environmental groups or just seniors or just really not sure what's going on.

So that leads me to my second point. So the first point is it's done outside of the waste reduction context. They've actually said that…we said very clearly on Friday and I do thank the Mayor for that meeting. This is not part waste reduction. I was horrified to hear that, but that's what they said quite clearly and I understand that. I hope it is. So again what would the consultation do besides aggravating some people that are already against this? Well not everybody would be against it. Those people that do need that door to door service again, there's many, many people out there I believe are going to need this door to door services especially in my neighbourhood where they're going to…they are trying to stay at home. They want to stay at home and sure hopefully they have a great son or daughter or great neighbour that's going to help them move that bin out but again many people won't have that opportunity. Where do we put in the bins? Let's see all, get out a little map and have a committee meeting say your bins are going on this side of the street so they can actually start talking to their neighbours and we can start solving these problems, not after the fact but before the fact. Again it's the planning.

What about the fact that there will be bulky waste pick up required? Are we going to be starting offering a service once a month? We should talk about it. It maybe too costly. But again I believe there's going to be a lot of people who are going to have so much garbage sticking around their place that they're either going to throw it on their neighbour's yard, throw in a BFI container behind Seven Eleven or hopefully they will drive it somewhere which again is not part of the Waste Reduction Strategy because that's an enormous amount of fossil fuels. So we also heard about the cost. Well, I don't believe the cost is accurate right now because we are missing that extra cost of door to door service. There's going to be a lot of it. I don't see that incorporated anywhere in there. We are going to have more responsibility of cleaning up back lanes. I can't see that not happening. How much will that cost? Nothing's in there so we need to be talking about that and that's where I see the cost is. And when we also talk about costs, I also talk about the bin because we have to supply the bin. There is a user portion but there is the actual infrastructure which are those bins and that concerns me greatly because we're going to be using the environmental levy to pay for these bins. This is what the objective is to pay for the bins where it's been cited but however I quote, well, from the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure and Renewal and Public Works, June 9, 2009, while the framework has not been decided by the Province it is expected to stipulate that grant funding can only be used for environmentally sustainable programs. That's half a million dollars we're taking away from the environment budget in my opinion, to put in garbage bins. To me that's not acceptable. We need to find another budget line for that.

However, that's not a part of this. We're going to take this from the environment budget. That's not appropriate.

We all understand that for workforce this is a very hard job for people, again we understand that and we…that's why again I do support the idea of moving towards an automated system. However, at this time there is just too many unanswered questions. There is no context to be actually putting this in. It's very Ad Hoc and like I say, we can move and change the program if the Legal Opinion I just heard from the speaker is correct. We can look at an automated system in year two, three, four, five, when we get this framework set up and when we do that we can actually do it with recycling together. So then we're just doing it once, educate the people once and they understand what's going on. To me that seems an appropriate planned response. The cost is nominal that I can see. However, again I wish I had more time to meet with the department to go through that. However, I've been trying diligently to try to find solutions to some of these problems. However, during…just because it is a contract and the special type of meeting it is, I'm very limited to my options so actually the motion in front of you is my fourth attempt at trying to get some of these things resolved and the only result…the only one I can get through today was this option…motion in front of you. So it's not an end to the world. It's not saying that we won't ever do auto bins. It's saying let's just put in a context, let's consult with people a bit more, let's fix some of these problems that we know we know are going to happen prior rather than being reactive. Let's take a lead in this rather than just getting beaten up by it.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel in closing.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a lot that's been said here and I've been scribbling notes down all over the place. I don't know where to start. I guess you could haul it 240 litre container in here. We might be able to fill it with some of the garbage that's been uttered here today, at least some of the incorrect statements.

Competition is one of the areas that people brought up. Councillor Wyatt mentioned that we're not healthy in the world of competition and this report actually dispels that myth when you consider the fact that we have five bidders when it comes to automated pick up but yet only four when it comes to manual pick up. Five bidders I think is a very large number. We're very pleased to see five bidders on any tender that we get so you can sort of take the competition argument out of the equation, at least relative to what Councillor Wyatt was arguing. He also talked about the need to deal with commercial waste and I think we all agree that we do need to do something with commercial waste but I'll remind my colleagues that only last year, a year and a half to two years ago we dealt with increase in our tipping fees at the landfill, commercial waste…the great penalty there, the negative aspect to it is you pay by the ton so as you drive the price to dump a ton up, it should help to divert waste away from our landfill site.

People mentioned organic waste pick up. You know I think it's a great idea, great program but you know it's…in that sort of world of leadership, you know Councillor Gerbasi eluded when we needed to be leaders. Well, when you are going to do when you want to talk about going out and doing a whole Waste Minimization Strategy, be leaders, get up there and talk about the probably $10 million that it would talk about. And as leaders we could probably all take a step back and remind ourselves that we don't get to pick and choose when we are leaders. You know I can say that on this issue yeah there was…there may have been something flawed in the process at the end of the day. I think that we can manage this process going forward, still keep going to positive directions with waste minimization and you know you don't get to step back and just be the contrary on some of this. You have a responsibility and I applaud Councillor Wyatt for coming forward today and not being a contrary and showing us some of the positive aspects of this and actually allowing his vote to lie there because I think like him I would say that my conscience wouldn't allow me that luxury to pick and choose when to be a leader.

I already mentioned that…a bit about the competition. I'll just add that there are five garbage/recycling contracts throughout the City. They are staggered. We have the ability to control competition in some regard. This one is going out to BFI, the next one I think is coming up shortly in the next couple of year or two on garbage anyway I know there's a big one coming up on recycling but my sense is that this area which was a waste management area before is now becoming a BFI area. The next contract may shift over, and we deliberately stagger these contracts so that we are controlling competition in that regard. There was a fair bit said about yard waste. Yard waste can still go in these bins but the reality is that we would like to see yard…property owners divert their yard waste from the landfill. In the Northwest area, one of the strategies that's been implemented is there will be two new leafed with us…the depot sites. I don't think anybody's mentioned that today but it's part of the strategy as well as some additional communication strategies in that regard.

The other thing, you know this contract doesn't preclude a compostables pick up either, you know. And it's like having the size of bin doesn't necessarily…you know this size of bin might be a better bin for recycling. It might be a better bin for yard…compostables or yard waste pick up. You could ticket with that stuff as you go forward as well. So you're not right out of the game here as Councillor Orlikow might have alluded to and then sort of suggested that we should go into a seven year manual contract which I think is completely backwards thinking. The size of the bins also we need to realize that there was a little bit of research that was done on this and the size of the bins we arrived at knowing what was out there, what people did today. So you'll see that…and the other thing is that the bin goes to the house, doesn't go to the individual and while some of us will say I'm not going to use all that space or that bin or I need a smaller bin, these bins are attached to the house so you have the research telling you that this is the correct size bin so I don't know how we can argue that.

Back lanes. It was also brought up. I grew up in River Heights with a back lane. At the end of my yard was a bin that we put garbage cans into and we walked the garbage bags out. There is no reason why people can't have the…this big blue bins sitting out there at the end of the yard in a little enclosure and just carry their garbage out and stick it in there. In Brandon, I believe this had been an issue before. The folks just leave the blue bins in narrow back lanes than ours. They leave them out in the back lane. This was told to us in the Councillor seminars, well I believe. They leave the bins in the back lane throughout the winter when there may be some ruts and stuff in the back lane and you just carry your bag of garbage out and throw it in there. The system works, so the back lane is a bit of a pig in a poke as well. I don't know if I have time, but I've got a kind of a top 10 list here as to why we might want to support this. Obviously, and I think Councillor Steeves eagerness to have it brought into his area as I would be or have it brought into my area, that speaks to the fact that more people would see this as a positive step as opposed to that loud vocal minority that we seem to be listening to will take it as a negative. The motions, you know, actually show the fact that the motion was dismissed and is out of order trying to just yard waste for a year so we could limp along this conversation throughout an election period. And we all know that seeing that's out of order then agreeing to sort of go into the seven year, wanting to do a motion to showing the manual is seven years also just further…sort of enhances the logic of going directly into the automated system now rather than any delay.

For the waste minimization, the number for the waste minimization perspective, people now have multiple big bins. You know, from a waste minimization perspective, you know, I could carry five bins out to the end of my street if I want right now. Limiting people with the amount of space they have is actually a positive step, and nobody has to use all that space and I think in this day and age, our environmental conscience is…would stop us from doing that. And there's also additional previous provisions for yards waste as previously mentioned and there are alternatives that we should be promoting when it comes to yard waste. As I also mentioned that the contracts are staggered and somebody mentioned the contracted service verses a City service. Well, I can tell you from just looking at what inflation's done that we are on the right track here and you having a contract is still better than being in City services and number two, I'm tired of hauling bins and I want wheels. I like the idea of having wheels to take it out to the end of what I own is a pretty lengthy driveway. And probably the number one reason, Mr. Speaker, is because Councillor Thomas has said CUPE thinks it's a good idea, I think we should all agree to it. So Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day I think Winnipeg and Winnipeggers are all grown up enough to handle this change. Will there be some hiccups in the transition period? Probably. Absolutely there will be. Are they of the magnitude that we need to delay a contract at great expense and award to an archaic practice? Absolutely not. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: The vote on motion number 1 moved by Councillor Orlikow and Vandal. Recorded vote has been called for. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Gerbasi, Orlikow, Smith, Thomas, and Vandal

Nays

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

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 5, Nays 10.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is lost. On the report of September 25th of 2009, item 1. Recorded vote has been asked for. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Nays

Councillors Gerbasi, Orlikow, Smith, Thomas, Vandal and Wyatt.

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 9, Nays 6.

Mr. Speaker: It's carried. Councillor Nordman moves adjournment. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Roll call. Please stay until the roll call. Roll call, Mr. Clerk.

ROLL CALL

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

Council adjourned at 2:41 p.m.