Minute No. 233
Report "A" - Executive Policy Committee - March 12, 2003

Item No. 1 2003 Preliminary Current Estimates
File FE(2003)

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the Executive Policy Committee motion recommendations and adopted the following:

1. That the 2003 Operating Budget as tabled at the Executive Policy Committee meeting of January 21, 2003, and amended by Recommendation 2, be approved.

2. That the following changes, which have a neutral impact on the mill rate for the tax-supported operating budget, be made, namely:

Description	Revenue	Expenditure	Mill Rate Support / (Contribution)
Tax-Supported Budget Tabled January 21, 2003	**$ 677,569,254**	**$ 677,569,254**	**$ -**
RECOMMENDED CHANGES:			
1. Increased funding from the Province for Mosquito Larviciding in municipalities surrounding Winnipeg ($1,000,000) and the Fire Investigation Unit ($400,000).	1,400,000	1,400,000	-
2. Increased property tax revenue based on revised assessment projections.	3,392,564	-	(3,392,564)
3. Increased business tax revenue based on revised assessment projections.	787,313	-	(787,313)
4. Increased contribution from the Sinking Fund.	1,962,123	-	(1,962,123)
5. Contribution to capital.	-	4,511,000	4,511,000
6. Do not proceed with the parking meters in parks initiative.	(200,000)	-	200,000
7. Funding for the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra as approved by Council on January 29, 2003.	-	200,000	200,000
8. Transit service to Amber Trails development.	-	65,000	65,000
9. Sidewalk and curb maintenance.	-	400,000	400,000
10. Downtown Wayfinding System.	-	250,000	250,000
11. Downtown Regional Park and Waterfront Drive maintenance.	-	500,000	500,000
12. Winnipeg Boys and Girls Club.	-	16,000	16,000
Tax-Supported Operating Budget as recommended by Executive Policy Committee	**$ 684,911,254**	**$ 684,911,254**	**$ -**

3. That the City of Winnipeg's 2003 mill rate remain at the 2002 level of 29.686.

4. That the City of Winnipeg's business tax rate for 2003 remain frozen at the 1996 level of 9.75%.

5. That the transfers to/from utility operations, reserves, and other funds as well as the fees and charges outlined in the budget be approved.

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COUNCIL DECISION (continued)

6. That the City of Winnipeg negotiate with the Province of Manitoba for equitable cost sharing of services and/or the authority to introduce alternative sources of revenue in order to reduce reliance on property tax revenue.

7. That the City Solicitor/Manager of Legal Services be instructed to prepare the necessary by-laws to implement the above recommendations.

8. That the Proper Officers of the City of Winnipeg be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the above recommendations.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Clement,

That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted.

In amendment,

Moved by Councillor Steek,
Seconded by Councillor De Smedt,

WHEREAS the tax supported budget has had revenue increases of approximately 3.3 million from revised property tax assessments and approximately $780,000.00 from increased business tax, for a total additional revenue of approximately 4.18 million;

AND WHEREAS throughout the course of budget deliberations Council's plan was to work within a frame work of $677 million for its Current Budget;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following items be not proceeded with and referred to the 2004-2006 Current Budget:

1.	Downtown way finding system	$250,000.00
2.	Downtown regional park and waterfront maintenance	$500,000.00
3.	Public art strategy	$500,000.00
4.	Street scaping lighting	$675,000.00
5.	River bank access park and dock network	$700,000.00
	Total	2.625 million

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above noted $2.625 million be returned to the City of Winnipeg taxpayers via a municipal tax reduction.

In amendment,

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Smith,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Transcona Historical Museum budget be increased by $36,682.00.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued)

In amendment,

Moved by Councillor Lazarenko,
Seconded by Councillor Wyatt,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Seven Oaks Museum Budget be increased by $6,800.00.

Moved by Councillor Steek,
That Council go into Committee of the Whole.

The motion that Council go into Committee of the Whole was put,

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

Yea: Councillors Angus, De Smedt, Gerbasi, Lubosch, Pagtakhan, Smith, Steek, Steeves, Vandal, Wyatt, Lazarenko and the Speaker Councillor O'Shaughnessy. 12

Nay: His Worship Mayor Murray, Councillors Eadie, Clement and Deputy Mayor Thomas. 4

and the motion that Council go into Committee of the Whole was declared carried.

The Deputy Speaker, Councillor Lazarenko, in the Chair.

Council recessed at 11:58 a.m., and reconvened at 1:38 p.m., same members present, the Deputy Speaker in the Chair.

The Committee of the Whole rose and reported at 1:57 p.m., Wednesday, March 19, 2003.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

Moved by Councillor Angus,
That the motion moved by Councillors Wyatt and Smith, regarding the Transcona Historical Museum, and the motion moved by Councillors Lazarenko and Wyatt, regarding the Seven Oaks Museum, be referred to Executive Policy Committee without instruction.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued)

The motion was put and declared carried.

The amendment proposed by Councillors Steek and De Smedt, was put.

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

Yea: Councillors De Smedt and Steek. 2

Nay: His Worship Mayor Murray, Councillors Eadie, Angus, Clement, Gerbasi, Lubosch, Pagtakhan, Smith, Steeves, Deputy Mayor Thomas, Vandal, Wyatt, Lazarenko and the Speaker Councillor O'Shaughnessy. 14

and the motion was declared lost.

The motion for the adoption of the Executive Policy Committee recommendations was put.

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

Yea: His Worship Mayor Murray, Councillors Eadie, Angus, Clement, Gerbasi, Lubosch, Pagtakhan, Smith, Steeves, Deputy Mayor Thomas, Vandal, Wyatt, Lazarenko and The Speaker Councillor O'Shaughnessy. 14

Nay: Councillors De Smedt and Steek. 2

and the motion for the adoption of the Executive Policy Committee recommendations was declared carried.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued)

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 12, 2003, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following motion for Council's consideration:

1. That the 2003 Operating Budget as tabled at the Executive Policy Committee meeting of January 21, 2003, and amended by Recommendation 2, be approved.

2. That the following changes, which have a neutral impact on the mill rate for the tax-supported operating budget, be made, namely:

Description	Revenue	Expenditure	Mill Rate Support / (Contribution)
Tax-Supported Budget Tabled January 21, 2003	**$ 677,569,254**	**$ 677,569,254**	**$ -**
RECOMMENDED CHANGES:			
1. Increased funding from the Province for Mosquito Larviciding in municipalities surrounding Winnipeg ($1,000,000) and the Fire Investigation Unit ($400,000).	1,400,000	1,400,000	-
2. Increased property tax revenue based on revised assessment projections.	3,392,564	-	(3,392,564)
3. Increased business tax revenue based on revised assessment projections.	787,313	-	(787,313)
4. Increased contribution from the Sinking Fund.	1,962,123	-	(1,962,123)
5. Contribution to capital.	-	4,511,000	4,511,000
6. Do not proceed with the parking meters in parks initiative.	(200,000)	-	200,000
7. Funding for the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra as approved by Council on January 29, 2003.	-	200,000	200,000
8. Transit service to Amber Trails development.	-	65,000	65,000
9. Sidewalk and curb maintenance.	-	400,000	400,000
10. Downtown Wayfinding System.	-	250,000	250,000
11. Downtown Regional Park and Waterfront Drive maintenance.	-	500,000	500,000
12. Winnipeg Boys and Girls Club.	-	16,000	16,000
Tax-Supported Operating Budget as recommended by Executive Policy Committee	**$ 684,911,254**	**$ 684,911,254**	**$ -**

3. That the City of Winnipeg's 2003 mill rate remain at the 2002 level of 29.686.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued)

4. That the City of Winnipeg's business tax rate for 2003 remain frozen at the 1996 level of 9.75%.

5. That the transfers to/from utility operations, reserves, and other funds as well as the fees and charges outlined in the budget be approved.

6. That the City of Winnipeg negotiate with the Province of Manitoba for equitable cost sharing of services and/or the authority to introduce alternative sources of revenue in order to reduce reliance on property tax revenue.

7. That the City Solicitor/Manager of Legal Services be instructed to prepare the necessary by-laws to implement the above recommendations.

8. That the Proper Officers of the City of Winnipeg be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the above recommendations.

The Executive Policy Committee further received as information the recommendations of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services, the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works and the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES:

On February 13, 2003, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services considered delegations and presentations relative to the 2003 Preliminary Operating Budget.

On February 20, 2003, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services recommended approval of the 2003 Preliminary Operating Budget as submitted by Executive Policy Committee, with the following amendments:

Museums

That funding for the Transcona Historical Museum be increased by the amount of $36,700.00.

That funding for the Seven Oaks House Museum be increased by the amount of $6,800.00.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued)

Fire Paramedic Service

That all proposed increases in the Emergency Medical Fees, for City rates only, be deleted from the budget, at an estimated cost of $152,730.00.

That proposed Burn Permits Fees of $11,250.00, Fireworks Permits Fees of $11,250.00 and what is referred to as "Other Licensing Inspection Fees" of $75,000.00 be deleted from the budget; and

That the Administration provide options for the offsetting reductions in revenue.

Community Services Department

That the proposed increase in Recreation and Aquatic Program fees of five percent (5%), at an estimated cost of $356,396.00, be deleted, and

That the Administration provide options for the offsetting reductions in revenue.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS:

On February 11, 2003, the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works recommended approval of the 2003 Preliminary Operating Budget as submitted by Executive Policy Committee, with the exception of the following:

Transit Department

That $65,000.00 be included in order to extend transit service to the Amber Trails development north of Leila Avenue.

That $3,500.00 be included to fund the Rhythmic Gymnastics National Team Monthly Bus Passes.

Public Works Department

That $2 M be included in the Public Works Department for the following:

- $50,000.00 for pleasure skating rinks,
- $500,000.00 for curbs and sidewalks,
- $500,000.00 for playground structures, upgrades and maintenance,

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued)

- $500,000.00 for building maintenance (pools and arenas)
- $250,000.00 for Regional parks, and
- $200,000.00 for street cleaning and lane lining.

That $75,000.00 be included for an annual public education campaign and research on integrated pest management for weed control and alternative control strategies on both private and public property.

The Standing Policy Committee on Public Works also passed a motion that an Ad Hoc Committee comprising of Councillors Lubosch, De Smedt and Wyatt be struck to study possible alternate service delivery of low revenue routes as it relates to the Transit Department, and that the Public Works Department report back as expeditiously as possible on the impact new capital projects have had on the annual operating maintenance budget over the past several years.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT:

On February 6, 2003, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development recommended approval of the 2003 Preliminary Operating Budget, and submitted its recommendation to the Executive Policy Committee.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On January 21, 2003, the Executive Policy Committee tabled the 2003 Preliminary Operating Budget with the following recommendations from His Worship Mayor Murray and requested the Standing Policy Committees to review them and submit their recommendations no later than February 26, 2003, namely:

1. That the Preliminary 2003 Operating Budget be forwarded to all members of Council for their review and approval.

2. That the City's 2003 mill rate remain at the 2002 level of 29.686.

3. That the City's business tax rate for 2003 remain frozen at the 1996 level of 9.75%.

4. That the transfers to/from utility operations and reserves, as well as the fees and charges outlined in the tax-supported budget submission be approved.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

5. That the City negotiate with the Province for equitable cost sharing of services and/or the authority to introduce alternative sources of revenue in order to reduce reliance on property tax revenue.

6. That the City Solicitor/Manager of Legal Services be instructed to prepare the necessary by-laws to implement the above recommendations.

7. That the Proper Officers of the City of Winnipeg be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the above recommendations.