EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

MOTIONS

Minute No. 514
Moved by Councillor Browaty,
Seconded by Councillor Wyatt,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has been encouraging homeowners to install both backwater valves and sump pumps for years;

AND WHEREAS the recent extraordinary heavy rain events overwhelmed the City of Winnipeg storm and sanitary sewer systems;

AND WHEREAS many residents in Winnipeg have yet to install either a proper backwater valve and sump pump with pit;

AND WHEREAS it is recognized that the City of Winnipeg storm and sanitary sewer system was negatively impacted with storm water from weeping tiles and/or basements being directly drained into the sanitary sewer system;

AND WHEREAS homeowners who install both a backwater valve and sump pump with pit directly minimize the risk of sewer back up, while at the same time reducing the amount of storm water flowing into the sanitary sewer lines;

AND WHEREAS the installation of a backwater valve and sump pump with pit can cost homeowners over a thousand dollars and therefore poses a financial burden to many;

THEREFORE BE IT RESLOVED that the Winnipeg Public Service work with the Province of Manitoba and the Insurance Bureau of Manitoba to establish a credit and/or grant and/or finance program to directly assist homeowners with the financial cost of installing both the backwater valve and sump pump with pit.

Automatic Referral to the Executive
Policy Committee in accordance with
Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law

Executive Policy Committee – Motions (continued):

Minute No. 515
Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Browaty,

WHEREAS communities in the Red River Valley, including the City of Winnipeg, the southern Interlake and Westman suffered significant public and private sector damages due to the storm of May 28th and 29th with the Province of Manitoba declaring the event an official disaster;

AND WHEREAS the Disaster Financial Assistance Program that has now been established for this storm event exists to assist both municipalities and private property owners with damages that are uninsurable, such as overland flooding;

AND WHEREAS due to the overwhelming rain event experienced at the end of May, many homeowners in the City of Winnipeg suffered a combination of sewer back up and overland flooding;

AND WHEREAS the Premier of Manitoba has publically stated that the province will fund overland flooding claims through their Emergency Measures Organization, with 90% of the funds being derived from the federally funded DFA program;

AND WHEREAS at a recent public meeting in North Kildonan, provincial EMO staff indicated that they would deny basement damage claims of overland flooding where sewer back up was also involved;

AND WHEREAS in a provincial News Release of Tuesday, July 20, 2010, the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization, Steve Ashton, was quoted as saying that "where there is a combination of overland flooding and sewer backup, Manitoba is prepared to pay its fair share of assistance if the federal government agrees to this change in DFA eligibility.";

AND WHEREAS the storm that hit Manitoba was the kind of extraordinary event that the DFA program was designed for and that non-insurable coverage, such as overland flooding, should not be denied due to the existence of an insurable loss, such as sewer back up;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Winnipeg call on both the Federal and Provincial governments to immediately live up to their longstanding commitment to provide disaster financial assistance for overland flooding by ending the unfair and unjust practice of denying flooded basement damage claims that were the result of both overland flooding and sewer backup.

Executive Policy Committee – Motions (continued):

The Speaker ruled automatic referral to the Executive Policy Committee in accordance with Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law.

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
That the rule be suspended to allow consideration of the item at this time.

Carried

The motion for adoption of the item was put and declared carried.

Minute No. 516
Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Vandal,

WHEREAS demolition permits are required by the City during a demolition to ensure all proper safety precautions are in place for the dangerous task of demolishing a building;

AND WHEREAS there was a failure to take proper safety steps to ensure public safety pertaining to the demolition of Transcona Meats/Transcona Locker Room on the 100 block of Regent Ave East;

AND WHEREAS the community was very fortunate that no one was insured or killed in relation to the building collapse;

AND WHEREAS some building materials may have included asbestos and other harmful substances which clearly require provincial government intervention;

AND WHEREAS this incident was the second example in three years of an unsafe demolition resulting in building collapse, with the first being the WRHA site on Main Street, where the collapse of the building precipitated lane closures on Main Street;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Auditor or another independent entity, fully review the city process for regulating demolitions, and that the WPS work with the Province of Manitoba to review their safety standards, and to report such a review with recommendations for improvements to Council.

Automatic Referral to the Executive Policy Committee in accordance with Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law