Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – March 16, 2011

REPORTS

Item No. 11 Executive Policy Committee – Final Recommendation – Preliminary 2011 Operating Budget and Financial Plans for 2012 and 2013

On March 7, 2011, the Executive Policy Committee tabled the Preliminary 2011 Operating Budget and Financial Plans for 2012 and 2013, which outlined the following recommendations:

1. a) That the 2011 Preliminary Operating Budget, including the budgets for reserves (Appendix 2), be approved and forwarded to all Members of Council for their review; and

   b) That the 2012 and 2013 projections be received as information on the preliminary financial plans for those years.

2. That the City's mill rate remain fixed at the 2010 level of 15.295.
   (Note: 2011 property tax revenue will remain at 2010 levels, adjusted for new assessable properties).

3. a) That the City's business tax rate remain unchanged at 6.39% for 2011.
   (Note: 2011 business tax revenue will remain at 2010 levels, adjusted for new assessable businesses).

   b) That Council enact the attached Small Business Tax Credit by-law under Subsection 219(2) of the City of Winnipeg Charter, which will provide a full rebate of municipal business taxes for businesses with an annual rental value of $19,800 or less in 2011.

4. That the combined uniform rate for the Street Renewal Frontage Levy be increased from $2.55 per frontage foot to $3.75 per frontage foot (an increase of $1.20 per frontage foot), proportionately divided between the water main and sewer main rates on the basis of the current rates, to be used for upgrading, repair, replacement and maintenance of streets and sidewalks.

5. That the fees, levies, and transfers between funds outlined in the 2011 Preliminary Operating Budget be approved.

6. That $5 million in prior years' tax supported capital surplus identified in the recent capital review and $7.899 million from the Capital Investment Fund be utilized to reduce debt and finance charges in the 2011 tax supported operating budget.

7. That the Director of Public Works be the Fund Manager for the Insect Control Reserve Fund and the Director of Corporate Support Services be the Fund Manager for the Computer Replacement Reserve Fund.

8. That the balance in the Permit Reserve Fund be capped at $2 million from the current $3 million and any surplus funds above the $2 million cap be transferred to the Planning Property and Development Department in the General Revenue Fund.

9. That the following reserves with a zero or near zero residual balance be closed: the Aqueduct Rehabilitation Reserve, the Assiniboine Park Enterprise Reserve, and the Idea Bank Reserve.

10. That effective January 1, 2011, the Equity in Capital Assets Fund be consolidated into the General Capital Fund.

11. That the Utility Dividend Policy in Appendix 3 be approved.

12. That the following fees be adopted for appeals submitted to the Board of Revision in regards to Business and Realty Assessment:

Assessed Value of Property Subject to Appeal	Appeal Fee
Single Family Residential Properties/Residential Condos	$50
All Other Properties:	
Less than $500,000	$50
Between $500,000 and $5,000,000	$10 per $100,000 of Assessed Value
Over $5,000,000	$500

with all fees refundable upon an appeal deemed successful.

13. That the Chief Administrative Officer be delegated the authority to allocate cost efficiency measures on a budget neutral basis.

14. That the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor be requested to submit the necessary by-laws to implement the above recommendations.

15. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the foregoing, including the execution of any documents related thereto.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 7, 2011, the Executive Policy Committee referred the Preliminary 2011 Operating Budget and Financial Plans for 2012 and 2013 to the following budget process timetable, namely:

March 10 and 11, 2011	Standing Policy Committees – Review
March 14, 2011	Executive Policy Committee – Delegations
March 16, 2011	Executive Policy Committee – Recommendation to Council
March 22, 2011	Council