Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – March 16, 2011

OPERATING BUDGET REVIEW

Minute No. 218 Winnipeg Police Service Complement – Source of Funding for Additional Officers

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee received as information the matter of the funding source for the 32 additional positions being added to the Winnipeg Police Service complement in 2011.

(See Minute 224)

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Fielding,

That the matter of the funding source for the 32 additional positions being added to the Winnipeg Police Service complement in 2011 be received as information.

Carried

COUNCIL DECISION:

On January 26, 2011, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That the City of Winnipeg Public Service be directed to increase the Winnipeg Police Service existing complement by hiring an additional 58 police officers (over and above the additional police officer positions to be funded by the Province of Manitoba), projected to occur during 2011 and 2012 as follows:
   - 8 new positions in the February, 2011 recruit class
   - 24 new positions in the September, 2011 recruit class
   - 22 new positions in the January, 2012 recruit class
   - 4 new positions in the September, 2012 recruit class

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On January 19, 2011, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following resolution, namely:

WHEREAS crime reduction is a top priority for City Council and the citizens of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS gang activity across Canada has become increasingly more prevalent and organized in recent years, leading to increased instances of significant violent crime;

AND WHEREAS the Winnipeg Police Service has implemented various initiatives to combat violent crime and make Winnipeg a safer place, including:

- a successful auto theft strategy, which has seen a 74% reduction in auto theft since its implementation in 2004
- a police helicopter, which tool has proven to significantly reduce crime in other jurisdictions including Edmonton and Calgary
- the City's first full time Tactical Unit, a SWAT team to respond to high risk situations

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

- a cadet program, which frees up police officers to respond to serious crimes by utilizing cadets for minor issues such as directing traffic
- a strategy to suppress violent gang activity, involving the intense supervision of gang members released under court orders;

AND WHEREAS it is important that City Council and the Winnipeg Police Service continue to build on these successful initiatives, to ensure that Winnipeg has additional police officers to combat violent and gang related crime, through initiatives that may include more officers for the gang suppression unit, additional foot patrols in high risk areas, and additional shifts for cruiser cars;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Winnipeg Public Service be directed to increase the Winnipeg Police Service existing complement by hiring an additional 58 police officers (over and above the additional police officer positions to be funded by the Province of Manitoba), projected to occur during 2011 and 2012 as follows:

- 8 new positions in the February, 2011 recruit class
- 24 new positions in the September, 2011 recruit class
- 22 new positions in the January, 2012 recruit class
- 4 new positions in the September, 2012 recruit class

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the funding source for the 32 additional positions to be added to the Winnipeg Police Service complement in 2011 and the 26 additional positions to be added to the Winnipeg Police Service complement in 2012 be referred to the 2011 and 2012 operating budget processes, respectively,

and submitted the first Resolve to Council, and referred the Further Resolve to the 2011 and 2012 operating budget processes, respectively.

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