COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
November 25, 2009

The Council met at 9:33 a.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 Nordman.

ROLL CALL

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

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Pages, we have Kayla Ruiz of Kelvin High School, resides in Daniel McIntyre Ward and Nick Bruneau of Garden City Collegiate, resides in Mynarski Ward. Welcome.

Mr. Speaker: Welcome Guests and Announcements, Councillor Pagtakhan.

Councillor Pagtakhan: Yes, Mr. Speaker, good morning and I'll be really brief, a few minutes here, but this week, I'm pleased to introduce a special guest but before I do that I want to say that Sunday, November 22, 2009, was National Housing Day in Canada and it's the 10th year that Canadians have been celebrating National Housing Day across this country, and this our third year in Winnipeg that we've been supporting National Housing Day with two breakfasts in the past and last year we had a luncheon with guest speaker Sandy Hopkins from Habitat for Humanity.

Now, just so that this Council knows, because in 2006, Mayor Sam Katz and this Council, we provided a million dollar operating grant to our Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve, which funds many housing programs across the city and that was a real milestone for the City of Winnipeg, and I thank Mayor Katz for his leadership on that issue. But just in the recent past, Mr. Speaker, this past Fall, a number of projects have been coming into fruition. We had the Habitat for Humanity announcement with a block of housing on Ross Avenue, just over here, just to the west of us. The Urban Ecology House by Winnipeg Housing Rehab Corporations and Net Zero House that is being built on William Avenue. We have Newcomer Housing for new Canadians that is being built by Welcome Place on Elgin Avenue, Mr. Speaker. Centre Village on Balmoral. A bunch of vacant lots have been vacant for many, many years is now being built by our development corporation, CentreVenture Development Corporation and is called Centre Village. It will be co-op housing, 27 units. And just yesterday, Mr. Speaker I attended a ground breaking ceremony in your ward for 14 new visible housing for Aboriginal people and the proponent Kinew Housing, there's a lot of work that is happening, I just wanted this Council to know that part of its million dollar contribution is really going a long way and leveraging with both the Federal and Provincial Governments through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative.

Now there is also a special individual that I'd like to recognize here today, and while all the other proponents are large organizations, this guy, Dr. Gord Simms, he's a private developer, came to the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative to inquire about any financial assistance because the cost of extensive repairs exceeded the economic value of the property and I'm talking about 37 Grove Street in the North Point Douglas area, which your ward, Mr. Speaker. Although we had rehabilitated numerous residential properties in the past, he had never sought government funding and was unsure whether this type of assistance would be available to him as a private developer. Basically, both the City and the Province agreed to provide funding for this property in the amount of $10,000 per unit, from each funder, 40,000 total. This funding which complimented his investment of over 240,000 was sufficient to bring the project to completion, Mr. Speaker. Now, this duplex, this building of 37 Grove Street, was purportedly a crack house and was

just a problem within the North Point Douglas area. Now, this building now, it's completed and it's visually attractive, it's a complete reversal of its former self. Each unit has been leased to a family with children and rents were established at $865 plus utilities. Of note, the owner has stated that he is unlikely to run a small…that he is likely to run a small deficit on this property, but accepts this because he sees value in investing in the North Point Douglas area. Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like him to stand, Dr. Gord Simms. I'd like to recognize him formally for his work, so I'd like to just encourage and thank Dr. Simms, and he is also joined by Stan Dueck and Dave Dessens from our Land Development Division, and…sorry our Housing Development Division, and would like to encourage all private developers, including Dr. Gord Simms to continue the work of infill and again thank this Council for its leadership with respect to housing programs. Thanks Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor Welcome.

MOTIONS

Moved by Councillor Steeves,
Seconded by Councillor Nordman,

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.

Moved by Councillor Browaty,
Seconded by Councillor Thomas,

That Councillor Wyatt be granted a leave of absence from today's meeting due to his absence from the City on City business.

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

MINUTES

Councillor Orlikow moves that the Minutes of the meeting held on October 28 and November 4, 2009 be taken as read and confirmed.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Smith moves that the rule be suspended and the following communication which was received too late to be placed on the regular agenda be received as information. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Delegations. Mr. Clerk, none eh? None. No delegations. Okay lets get down to business, the Executive Policy Committee Reported of November 13th of 2009, Mr. Mayor.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED NOVEMBER 13, 2009

Mayor Katz:: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would introduce the report and move adoption of Consent Agenda Items1 to.3.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Report of November 18th of 2009, Mr. Mayor.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED NOVEMBER 18, 2009

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I would introduce the report and move adoption of Consent Agenda Items 1 to 7.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Thomas? Number 2? On the …Councillor Vandal? Number 5. Okay so 1, 3, 4, 5…no, 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7. Pardon? And number 7. Okay Mr. Clerk: what have we got? Okay you've heard it. One, 3, 4, and 6, Councillors All in favour? Consent. Contrary? none.

Motion Number 2, Mr. Mayor.

Item 2 - Disraeli Bridges Project – Amendment to 2005 Manitoba/Winnipeg Infrastructure Funding Agreement eFile SB-3

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I would love to hear from the Councillor and then I'd be happy to respond.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Thomas.

Councillor Thomas: Yes. I'd like to thank the Manitoba government for their contribution. That's what this clause is about, is the change to the infrastructure program. But I'd also like to caution Council that as long as we continue to go forward by making part of this a P3, that it's going to cost us more money, that we should be looking at borrowing. Our rates to borrow as a city are lower than what it costs a contractor to borrow, and I believe that it's not fiscally responsible to continue part of it as a P3. But, I will still be supporting the Clause for the money that comes from the Provincial Government. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to take this quick opportunity to remind all Council members that the value in P3s does not just come from the cost of borrowing related from the private sector to the public sector. It is indeed the value for money that you gain from the outcome that you're purchasing over 30 years and apparently it continues to go on that some of our colleagues on Council here do not understand the value for money equation and the value that that brings to the taxpayers of the City of Winnipeg. So, while I agree with Councillor Thomas that it's always nice to thank Big Brother on Broadway, I don't agree with her comments relative to P3s. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. No further…Mr. Mayor, closing. Oh, Councillor Vandal on number 2?

Councillor Vandal: That's fine, Mr. Speaker. I found my answer.

Mr. Speaker: Okay thank you. Mr. Mayor, do you want to close?

Mayor Katz: Yes, Mr. Speaker. First of all, there are normally 16 opinions that sit around this table, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes we agree and sometimes we don't. But I do believe that it would be incumbent upon us, since not all of us have a degree in every single category, when we have our Administration, when we have our CFO explaining to us the value of money and why this is a good deal, although Councillor Thomas may not agree with Councillor Swandel, I'd like to think that we could all agree and take the guidance from our officials who have the expertise, and that would be something nice. There is no doubt in my mind, and I've seen it before, the value of money, especially in the maintenance of the project is where we win big, because if you look at our maintenance, we know we're not spending the money we need to spend, Mr. Speaker. We know that deferred maintenance is our biggest challenge for our entire infrastructure--roads, bridges, community centres, everything. Any building we have, deferred maintenance is our big (inaudible) because we have not been spending the proper money, and this is a scenario where we can all work together to accomplish something good. So one, I'm ecstatic that Councillor Thomas will be supporting this motion and I hope this is unanimous. I also want to thank the Administration for doing their due diligence and conducting the negotiations with the Province to get them on board, and we all know that decisions are made for many reasons and whatever the Province's reason was, I'm happy they came on board. Keeping in mind when this bridge was built, the Province contributed 50%, not 25%, 50%. It's a good deal for the Province. I'm very happy that this is moving forward, at least I hope it will, and I think we should all look at the realities and not just make comments without facts. But if you have expertise, I'd like to think that if you need an operation, you'd listen to what your doctor said, not an elected official. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. The vote on Item 2. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Item No. 5, Mr. Mayor.

Item 5 – Aboriginal Youth Strategy – Oshki Annishinabe Nigaaniwak – Young Aboriginal People Leading eFile CR-4.1

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I very much would like to hear Councillor Vandal's comments and I certainly will try and address if there is a question at the end.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Mr. Speaker, thank you. I want to pull this down because I think it's an incredibly important issue and it's all good. I think the report is very well written. It's appropriate and it's very relevant to our City today, our great City today.

Whether we choose to recognize it or not, Mr. Speaker, we are the Aboriginal capital of Canada. We have more Métis and First Nation people living in the City of Winnipeg today than there are in Nunavut, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon combined, and when you think about that for a few seconds you realize that is remarkable, and it's my opinion that urban Aboriginal issues, especially involving youth, is the most important issue facing the City of Winnipeg as we move forward. We're not a fast growth City. Projections are more aggressive than what they were ten years, five years ago, and that's positive, but we're still not a fast growth city. The fastest growing demographic are young Métis and First Nation people in Winnipeg, and that brings both opportunities, incredible opportunities and huge challenges, and I don't want to talk about the challenges because we all know what they are. We hear them in the news everyday, and when you talk too much about the challenges you negate the opportunity, but this report is about opportunity, and in my mind, Mr. Speaker, the opportunities are education, employment, and training. Across Canada, 30 years ago there were 200…I believe there were 200 Aboriginal people in university. Thirty years later, Mr. Speaker, that number is 30,000 and that is remarkable and that's something that's going to bear fruit for generations to come.

Other opportunities, I think, are also well defined. A Free Press article about a year ago, the headline read "10,000 Trade Workers Needed. Boilermakers, Construction Workers, Mechanics, Heavy Equipment Operators", and what we need to do, our job as well as the other governments including First Nation and Métis government is connect the dots between the young workforce out there in our City, and the jobs that will be available across the City of Winnipeg in the next decade, and I think that's what this report does. It begins connecting the dots for our City, because we're an aging workforce. We're going to need transit drivers, police officers, firefighters, city planners. We're going to need politicians and I hope that when we do hire those folks at the City of Winnipeg that they are going to be representative of the people we serve, including First Nation, Métis and Inuit people.

Now the strategy itself talks about enhanced literacy, education opportunities, enhanced physical activity opportunities and enhanced…increased employment and training opportunities, and as I read the report, I can read it with some pride because the author of the report, I had the privilege of working with the author of the report for two years at Winnipeg Partnership and Agreement, and I know that due diligence, that this administrator will deliver the City of Winnipeg second to none and when we talk about value for money, when the City is granting funds to third parties, I can assure you that we are going to get value for money with Rhonda Forgues heading this file. I also know the CAO Secretariat did a tremendous job in shepherding this through the community over the last year, and I think they need to be commended, as well as Mayor Katz, being a champion of this initiative at budget time and that's what we need. We know that without money attached that there's not a heck of a lot we can do at the City, whether it's urban Aboriginal issues or public works or community services. So I also want to thank the Mayor for that. This is about

hope, it's about opportunity, and it's about addressing an issue that is incredibly important for the City of Winnipeg. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Vandal. Mr. Mayor, in closing.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I don't think there is very little that I can add to what Councillor Vandal has just stated, and I certainly thank him for that. I know he is very passionate about this. Mr. Speaker, as you know, I am the Secretary of Urban Aboriginal Affairs. I think Councillor Vandal has stated the statistics very accurately about the fastest growing population, about the challenges, and also understands what a great asset this can be to our community, and it's these types of projects that will turn this into the asset. When you talk about education, employment and training, what we need to do is empower our Aboriginal and our Métis people, and these are the tools that will make it happen. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure there are days each and every one of us goes home and basically, you know, wonders if we're…if we can see the light at the end of the tunnel, and I just want to share two experiences that I had at the beginning of this month. There was the Young Aboriginal Awards that took place about three and a half weeks ago, and about a week ago, the Manitoba Business Council had their awards where they give out bursaries, $3,000 and $1,500; 3,000 if you're going to secondary education at university, post-secondary, and if you're going to technical colleges. Mr. Speaker, if you could see the faces of our young people who are going to High School, and their stories, and as I'm sitting there listening to their stories, what I found interesting is that every single one of them that received the award and the recognition for their accomplishments, talked about one thing. There was someone in their life that gave them guidance, that gave them mentorship. It could have been a parent, an uncle, a grandparent, an elder. But someone who showed them the path and their accomplishments are unbelievable, and Mr. Speaker, just last week when I attended the Manitoba Business Council bursaries, if you heard the stories of these people and the challenges that they faced growing up in an environment with alcohol and drugs, an abusive family, there was one who was a mother of five people, Mr. Speaker, and she was so proud that she would be graduating. If you listen to their stories, you can see that positive things are happening, and with this type of program, we are giving hope and that's what it's all about, giving hope, and Mr. Speaker, I have seen the accomplishments. What we need to do now is get more and more of this. And I know that people want to see performance indicators. They are built in there, so I do thank Councillor Vandal for his assessment of it, and I agree with him completely and I hope we will be able to continue this and move forward and maybe even with other levels of government, expand the program. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. On Item 5. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Item 7.

Item 7 – Winnipeg Police Advisory Board
eFile GF-2.2

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I look forward to hearing the very sweet words of Councillor Steeves and then I'll respond.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Steeves.

Councillor Steeves: They will…they will actually be brief. They will actually be brief this morning, Mr. Speaker. This is evolving into the most loving Council meeting we've had in some time I think with the issues we've had on the agenda, and this is going to be no exception I can tell you.

Mr. Speaker: And we've just started.

Councillor Steeves: I want to, I hope, on behalf of all of Council, stand up and congratulate the Police Advisory Board for the work that they've done over the course of the almost last two years. Gerry Forrest and the members of the Committee have done, I think, excellent

work on behalf of both this Council and the citizens of the City of Winnipeg by extension.

I had a chance obviously as the then Chairperson of Protection and Community Services to sit on the Committee, and I thought that this group did an extraordinary job of being that liaison between City Hall and the community that we often talk about as something that's missing in our process. We understand as Councillors that when we get into the policy and the written words and the reports, it is sometimes a little bit too easy to lose touch with what is going on out there in our community, although I anticipate each member of this Council and the Mayor does their very best to stay in touch. The story that Mayor Katz just related about the folks out there who are accessing the Aboriginal Youth Program is another example of that.

We had meetings at William Whyte, Magnus Eliason Community Centre in Elmwood, other places where the Committee, the entire Committee went out into those communities, sat down in those community centres, had sent out mailers and invited people from those communities to come in to sit around four or five round tables to discuss the issues in their communities, and I can tell you, even as a person that has lived in this City for virtually their entire life, the challenges were stark and even by my own reckoning, surprising.

The report, if you have a chance to look at it or if you've had a chance to look at it from the Police Advisory Board that has been issued already last year to the…this year I guess to the Police Service, is a report that contains, I believe, around 25 recommendations, most of which the Police Service has already committed to implementing, based on the research and the work done by the Police Advisory Board. It really was a great organization. Obviously, as everyone is aware, because the Provincial Government has now announced they're moving to a Police Commission model that, of course, we are going to be subject to as one of the municipalities of Manitoba with their own independent police force, the idea of appointing new members as per our time line to our Police Advisory Board makes no sense. We wouldn't want to go through that process and bring somebody in and ask them to sit on a board that we know is imminently going to be dismantled once the Police Commission comes into place.

So with some final comments on the Police Commission, I'll ask this Council to be ever vigilant about the upcoming Police Commission because we don't know when it's coming. We don't know what it's going to cost. We don't know a lot of the details surrounding that Police Commission and I would serve notice on this Council and on our community that there is the capacity that there could be a lot more responsibility and expense placed on the City of Winnipeg because of that. So, my thanks, I hope, on behalf of all of Council for the work that Gerry Forrest and the balance of the Committee has done for the City of Winnipeg. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Just quickly, Mr. Speaker, perhaps in closing on this matter, the Mayor might be able to provide us with what he thinks Councillor Steeves definition of brief is.

Mr. Speaker: No further speakers? Mr. Mayor would you like to close?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, for Councillor Steeves, that was extremely brief and I thank you for those comments. I certainly echo the sentiments to the Chair and all the people who sat on the Police Advisory Board for their hard work. We all know what's happening at the Province right now. I think Councillor Steeves had made it very clear, and hopefully this will address some of the issues that the Province believes is out there and we all may have our own opinions on the pros and cons of a Police Commission but the reality is, it's happening and we just want to make sure that it does the best job it possibly can, and I certainly want to thank all those who served on the Police Advisory Board.

Mr. Speaker: The vote on Item 7. All in favour? Contrary? It's carried.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Mr. Speaker: Notice of Motion. Moved by Councillor Smith, Seconded by Councillor Gerbasi. You have that in your table…what's? Councillor Swandel?

Moved by Councillor Smith,
Seconded by Councillor Gerbasi,

WHEREAS on September 24, 2008, Council adopted Item 1 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated September 24, 2008 regarding Organizational Restructuring;

AND WHEREAS on September 24, 2008, Council also adopted By-law 143/2008 regarding amendments to the City Organization By-law 7100/97;

AND WHEREAS the above 2 items changed the reporting relationship of the City Auditor from reporting directly to Council through the Executive Policy and Audit Committees to reporting administratively to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO);

AND WHEREAS the City Auditor is charged under The City of Winnipeg Charter with undertaking examinations of the operations of the City and reporting on such examinations to Council;

AND WHEREAS having the City Auditor report to the CAO, rather than to elected officials, potentially hinders the democratic process by making it less transparent;

AND WHEREAS ensuring the City Auditor keeps Council informed aids them in protecting the public purse;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Organization By-law be amended to have the City Auditor report directly to Council, through the Audit Committee and the Executive Policy Committee.

Councillor Swandel: Mr. Speaker, I'm going to move referral. I think there is some desire on all of…part of most members of Council to see some change in this area. I tried to talk about the possibility of some amendments this morning but they get pretty complex when you start to look at reporting structures, and I'm going to move that the matter be referred to Executive Policy Committee to bring back to Council and perhaps provide some greater scope than the current motion allows for, so that would be my motion for referral.

Mr. Speaker: Council you've heard the motion. Councillor Smith you have two minutes to…you heard the motion is for referral. Do you want to speak? You have two minutes.

Councillor Smith: Yeah, I'm supportive of the motion because I really think that the…since I put forward that, that I found out since, further changes have to be made specifically with the City Clerk's Department, so I appreciate Councillor Swandel's direction and I'll be supportive.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Council you heard the motion? All in favour? Contrary? Carried. It's referred. Motions, none, Mr. Clerk?

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mr. Speaker: EPC By-laws. Third reading only, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I move that By-law No. 200/2007 be read a third time and that same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. EPC Consideration of By-laws, second and third reading. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I move that By-law No. 120/2009 be read a second time.

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

Clerk: By-law No. 120/2009.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I move that By-law No. 120/2009 be read a third time and

that same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

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

Mayor Katz: I move that the following By-laws be read a first time: By-law No. 134/2009, 135/2009, 141/2009 and 143/2009.

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

Clerk: By-laws numbered 134/2009, 135/2009, 141/2009 and 143/2009.

Mayor Katz: I move that By-laws numbered 134/2009, 135/2009, 141/2009 and 143/2009 be read a second time.

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

Clerk: By-laws numbered 134/2009, 135/2009, 141/2009 and 143/2009.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I move that the rule be suspended and By-laws numbered 134/2009, 135/2009, 141/2009 and 143/2009 be read a third time and that same be passed and order to be signed and sealed.

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

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Speaker: EPC question period. Councillor Smith, your first question.

Councillor Smith: Yes. Mr. Mayor, you know with your recent appointments, you appointed Councillor Pagtakahan, my friend, to Chair the Housing Steering Committee for 2009. We didn't have one meeting. You know, he gave a good accounting today of all the work the department is doing, but the fact is, not one meeting in 2009. I hope we're going to have a meeting. Are we going to have a meeting in 2010?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: I'm the Mayor, not God, but I will try and answer that question Mr. Speaker. I would be happy to speak to Councillor Pagtakhan who is the Chair and share whatever information I can as to when the next meeting is taking place. There might be a simpler process to basically avoid going through the middle man, and since Councillor Smith is sitting extremely nearby Councillor Pagtakhan, he may want to slip him a note or ask him the question but I can assure you that Councillor Pagtakhan will be having his meetings and maybe there is a reason for what's taken place. I don't know that. But I do appreciate Councillor Smith making me aware of that.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question Councillor. That's it? Councillor Gerbasi your first question.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. There were hints earlier in the year that the Operating Budget process might occur earlier this year than in previous years, and I'm wondering if the Mayor could advise Council as to what is a realistic time line that he expects to see the Operating Budget process, the document tabled and the Council meeting. I know you don't have exact times but if you just have some idea, that would be helpful.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, through you I thank Councillor Gerbasi for that question and she is absolutely correct. If you recall our goal was to try and do the Operating Budget along with the Capital Budget, and what we discovered very quickly is we were not going to get the Capital Budget done on time and it was extremely important to get that done as early as possible so we could go out there for tender and get the best possible prices on some of our capital projects that we're working on, so that's why there was that change that's made, and we are working on the Operating Budget as we speak and we hope to move that forward as quickly as possible. What I would commit to doing for Councillor Gerbasi is right after the next meeting that we have, get back to her and give her the time period,

and we hope to have something for everybody to take a look at.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question Councillor.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you for that answer Mr. Mayor through the Speaker.

Last year there was also talk about improvements to the Operating Budget process. This year, will we see pre-budget consultations as well as more time for community members and groups to review the document and participate in the process?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker it's always been our goal to make as much time available to have all members of Council review that, and that would certainly be our goal as well and also to have as much input as we can. We all know there is a process that we go through so the goal certainly would be to achieve input as well as giving all Councillors as much time. The end result, I will find out how much time later on once we get through the process. I think everybody knows there are many people who are sitting on this Chamber floor who have been part of the Operating Budget, and they know how difficult the challenges are, so I would once again be more than happy to continue to update Councillor Gerbasi.

Mr. Speaker: Your third and final question Councillor.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm actually referring beyond just members of Council but to the community-at-large. Last year the process was less than three weeks before the public saw the document and then there were quickly meetings. They really can't participate. Organizations really can't participate, and other cities such as Vancouver have pre-budget meetings for the community-at-large. I'm just wondering if there is consideration of actually doing something different than we've done in the last few years in our budget process. That was my question.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I understood the question the first time and that is something we will endeavour to do, giving all people as much opportunity to participate in our process, as possible.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Swandel your first question.

Councillor Swandel: I don't have a question. I think it was Councillor Steeves that raised his hand.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Vandal?

Councillor Thomas: I raised my hand.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor. Councillor. Councillor Thomas!

(Inaudible speaking in the background).

Mr. Speaker: I can recognize Councillor Thomas' snapping of the finger. I don't know when she did that. Councillor Vandal is next and then Councillor Thomas and then Steeves. Councillor Vandal, your first question.

Councillor Vandal: Okay. Through Mr. Speaker to the Mayor, the City of Winnipeg issued an Expression of Interest for wireless internet services in the downtown earlier this year. The E.O.I. closed on March 30th of '09. I'm wondering if you can share with this Council the results of that Expression of Interest.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I know that we had a goal to try and provide wireless in our downtown, including outdoor areas such as Old Market Square, et cetera, et cetera, and my understanding is that the Administration is still working on this project. I haven't heard of any final conclusion, but I would be happy to get back to Councillor Vandal and bring him up to date, possibly later on today.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question Councillor? Councillor Thomas your first question.

Councillor Thomas: Thank you. Next week, each of the Standing Committees will be meeting on the Capital Budget, and then Executive Policy Committee will be receiving delegations on the 3rd and making their recommendations for final…recommendations to Council on the 4th, and then we have two weeks where there are no meetings. Can you comment why there is this dead zone between the recommendations and when it's proceeding to Council?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I think from what I heard, Councillor Thomas has the scheduling accurate, and it's a matter of all the Standing Policy Committees having their meetings so they can hear representation and then EPC does the same and then it moves forward. Specifically why there may be a gap, Mr. Speaker, that's just the way the scheduling turned out. I don't have a specific answer for that.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question Councillor.

Councillor Thomas: Wouldn't it be more appropriate to take some more time after each of the Standing Committees have heard delegations and Executive Policy has heard delegations to take some more time rather than coming back the very next day with final recommendations, since we do have that two weeks before the final vote in which Executive Policy have the time to consider what delegations have occurred at Standing Policy Committee and Executive Policy Committee before they submit their final recommendations to Council?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, the whole purpose is to hear from the public, which obviously is what we're doing. I think the realities are that we know that we're facing challenges. We're trying to accommodate them. We know that we could spend twice as much as what we're spending even though we're spending more than we used to. The facts are that once we have the input that we need and all committees will make their recommendations to EPC, you know, it doesn't take a long time to figure out what we can do and what we can't do. There may be things you want to do, but if the money's not there you're not going to do it, so whether we have a day or four days, once you have all the input you can make your decisions and sometimes decisions aren't easy to be made, but there's no point in procrastinating and putting them off. I think the key thing is is making sure we hear from the public, and that's the process that's been put together. We obviously work with the Clerk's office to make that schedule work.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Thomas your third and final question.

Councillor Thomas: Yes, my third and final question is the Mayor committed at the last meeting to have a meeting with me with regard to the Youth at Risk in my community and that meeting still hasn't been arranged. Can the Mayor tell me when that might occur?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned last time this was brought up I welcomed Councillor…the Councillors to basically get together with me and I made it public that my door is always open and I would very much appreciate Councillor Thomas and I getting together with, I think it was Director Clive Wightman. Obviously, it appears that the Councillor was waiting for me to call her and I guess I was waiting for her to call me, so now that we know she is waiting for me, I'll be happy to set up a meeting with Clive Wightman. I'll try and get that done this afternoon and respond to the Councillor and let her know when the time is and hopefully it works out. If not, we'll arrange for another time.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Steeves your first question.

Councillor Steeves: Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the Mayor, obviously as Chair of EPC, the Provincial Legislature in its wisdom I believe passed Bill 35, the Municipal Council Conflict of Interest Act. My understanding is that now

Councillors who are running for Council… or people who are running for Council will be limited to a $750 contribution to their own campaigns. Using 2006 statistics, my understanding is that a full 30% of all Council candidates would have been in violation of that provision in 2006. Obviously it wasn't in place. But if 2010 comes and goes and we see similar circumstance, the Act doesn't seem to speak, as far as I can tell, to what the City of Winnipeg is expected to do with people who are in violation of this. So my question is, Mr. Speaker, to the Mayor, has the Province contacted his office or him to tell him or this Council what we are expected to do or whoever Council is after 2010, what we are expected to do with the 30% prospectively of candidates who are in violation of this Act in terms of prosecution?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, the short answer is no. They have not in any way, shape or form communicated with yours truly or to my knowledge, our bureaucracy. The realities are, when this was first taking place, my comments were made loud and clear to Minister Ashton at the time as well as the Premier on what they were doing, and I don't think it was very well thought out. I made it very clear to them that in my opinion, this was extremely self-serving. But they are the Province and we are a creature of the Province and obviously if they want to do something like that, we can't stop them, in theory. By the same token we can certainly tell them that there are other issues that were of a much higher priority than this. Why those continue to get ignored and something like this becomes a priority for them, I cannot explain, Mr. Speaker. So, I do not have an answer for Councillor Steeves. I can certainly go out and try and get one.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Your second question, Councillor Steeves.

Councillor Steeves: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Through you again to the Mayor I thank him for that. I was going to suggest that I draft a letter, asking these questions to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and perhaps he would consider either signing it himself or co-signing it with me. The letter would ask the questions, what we are expected to do as a Civic Administration, a Civic Public Service with the anticipated 30% of people who will be in violation of this Act, post 2010. Will it be the criminal prosecutions in the same way we see at the Province, Federal Government, those types of things? I would however note the circumstances here are much different in that Councillors and people who run for Council do not have the same benefit as other orders of government and candidates in that realm.

Mr. Speaker: You're asking the Mayor to co-sign a letter for you?

Councillor Steeves: If he would consider that.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, as Councillor Steeves already knows as one who has sent several letters, quite often they don't even respond to those letters. Since I am in charge of intergovernmental affairs, I certainly will work through and I will communicate with the Minister and maybe they will respond in writing to us, but I certainly will contact them. If Councillor Steeves wants to write a letter, I don't have any problem with that whatsoever.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Your third and final question, Councillor Steeves.

Councillor Nordman your first question.

Councillor Nordman: Thank you Mr. Speaker. More of a commercial and a comment for the Mayor. This past Monday we launched a new program at the City of Winnipeg called "Sponsor Winnipeg". The initiative started two years ago and we are now out actively promoting the concept. I just thought the Mayor may like to make a comment on the program.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: I wasn't going to but I guess I am now Mr. Speaker. I think we're all

cognizant of the fact that Council approved a sponsorship program. Councillor Nordman has taken over this, taken it over. We have launched the campaign. It's not only for sponsoring specifics such as community centres, et cetera, but there's also the opportunity to sponsor programming and each one of us has been impacted in our lives by different scenarios. I know when I was growing up it was, you know, Vince Leah soccer and Vince Leah baseball and, you know, thank God for Vince Leah and Mrs. Patterson at the time who put together these sporting programs. We all know the positive impact it can have on children. We all know the positive impact that having recreational facilities available to children as opposed to the options such as gangs or hanging out on street corners. So from my point of view, we're basically making everyone as aware as possible that these opportunities are out there. There are some for smaller amounts, there are some for larger amounts, so anybody who wants to leave a legacy for them or their family or wants to create a program for our children, just get a hold of Sponsor Winnipeg. We'd all appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question? Councillor O'Shaughnessy, your first question.

Councillor O'Shaughnessy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A bit knee jerk I'm afraid but when Councillor Steeves spoke of the new election bill, aside from the broad smile it brought to my face since I won't have to go through another one of those God awful things, it brought a question to mind, Mr. Mayor and maybe you have the answer. If not, perhaps as the person responsible for intergovernmental affairs you could get the answer and put it back to Councillors. It just seems to me off the top of my head that what was said about a $750 maximum contribution from a candidate to their own campaign, would that not…here is my question. Would that not put the person who has a spouse and four children about $3,750 ahead, or the ability to go there if they had the money, to a single candidate running who would be allowed $750 times one instead of times six, as would be the case in my other example?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, a fair question. I think at this point in time, now that it's been raised, I would encourage all Councillors who have any questions on this to please e-mail them to me and I will make a list of all the questions and hopefully we can get some good answers from the Minister. I think that would probably be the best thing to do at this stage of the game.

Mr. Speaker: No further questions Councillor O'Shaughnessy? Councillor O'Shaughnessy? That's it? Councillor Vandal second time around. Councillor Vandal, your first question.

Councillor Vandal: Yes, Councillor O'Shaughnessy never say never on running again. (laughter).

To the Mayor, you recently, or you just mentioned in response to Councillor Steeves question that Bill 35, the Conflict of Interest Legislation was self-serving. Can you please tell us how it is self-serving?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Katz: I was not specifically referring to Bill 35. I was referring to the fact about corporate donations and union donations as you're much aware of and there is absolutely no doubt in my mind, Mr. Speaker, through you to Councillor Vandal, that whoever is in power, doesn't make a difference which party it is at that level, will make changes that obviously… let's say will assist them in being there as long as possible. That's the nature of the game. That's the way it is and that's exactly what I was referring to.

Mr. Speaker: No further questions? Councillor Vandal you've got a second question? No further questions? Thank you, Councillors.

Standing Policy Committee on Finance, Councillor Fielding, Report of November 12 of 2009.

**REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE
ON FINANCE DATED NOVEMBER 12, 2009**

Councillor Fielding: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce the report and move adoption of Consent Agenda Item Number 1.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Motions none? Mr. Clerk? No motions? Finance Consideration of By-laws none. Question period. Councillor Vandal.

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE
ON FINANCE
QUESTION PERIOD**

Councillor Vandal: Yes. We're heading into an Operating Budget after Christmas. Can you tell us if there will be any business tax or property tax…business tax cuts or property tax freezes in the upcoming budget?

Councillor Fielding: Well, we're in the process of looking through the Operating Budget as we speak, so no decisions have been made on that as of yet.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question.

Councillor Vandal: Can you share with this Council the directives that have been given to the Administration many months ago on their Operating Budgets? Are they looking at 5% reductions, 2% reductions or cost of living increases?

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Fielding.

Councillor Fielding: Well, if you're talking about the global, over all essence of things, we are looking at everything. I think you've got to look at each department in a one-off basis which makes sense for taxpayers. I personally, if you're talking about a global tax level, I would like to see us come in at a proper tax freeze. I've been pretty forward and front on that record and so I think we are moving towards that direction.

One thing that is important I think that the Mayor has emphasized over the last number of years and I think supported by EPC is we want to maintain core services. So, we don't see reductions in any core services for the City of Winnipeg.

Mr. Speaker: No further questions? Next, Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Report of November the 6th, 2009. Councillor Swandel.

**REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE
ON DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
DATED NOVEMBER 6, 2009**

Councillor Swandel: Mr. Speaker, we have one item on that agenda. I'm going to ask for a friendly amendment. This is the item dealing with the purchase of the Canada Post building. Through the due diligence process, both parties have agreed to reduce the purchase price from 30 million as stated in today's recommendation to $29,250,000. So just to amend the purchase price from 30 million to $29,250,000. Through the due diligence process there's a couple of things that have occurred that make this number the appropriate number.

Mr. Speaker: Councillors you've heard the motion. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Swandel: And I guess, just rather than just letting it go forward, I'd just like to make a couple of quick comments. I'd like to thank our Administration and in particular Phil Sheegl, our Deputy CAO, for getting this done. I think this is a great feather in our cap to be able to have this type of square footage located in the heart of downtown. You know, I don't know how many officers will come and go on a daily basis from this building but they will be perhaps walking through our skywalk system, you know down, trying to get to the court building and throughout our streets downtown. And you know, there's…I think all of Council has been briefed on what the redevelopment of the Canada Post building might look like when it's done and basically we will end up with a state of the art Police centre that we will, I'm sure, be the pride of…the rest of the cities in Canada will look at it as something that

they would like also to achieve. So with that, I will move concurrence in the recommendation.

Mr. Speaker: On Item 1. All in favour? Contrary. Carried.

Councillor Swandel: Mr. Speaker we have a walk-on item here today. This is a matter that we're all aware of, the sale of Winnipeg Square Parkade. It may have to go to a Special Meeting of Council but today, I'm hoping that we will see the wisdom of dealing with this today and I'm going to ask that we suspend the rules and deal with the matter today. It's an important initiative in our downtown and it creates some great opportunities for us in the very near future.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Just a minute. Mr. Clerk, suspension of rules. Yeah. That's what I mean. You need…you need…yes. You need 10 votes. Ten votes. Okay you heard the…you heard…recorded vote? Okay. Councillor Gerbasi beat you to it. She's asked for a recorded vote. 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.

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 9, Nays 5. The motion is lost.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is lost. Motions none, Consideration of By-laws none. Question period. Councillor Steeves.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Steeves: Just a first question, going back to the Post Office acquisition. Councillor Swandel…and I'm completely supportive of the program obviously and the purchase, mentioned that there was change to the purchase price because of the due diligence process. I wonder if he is able to give a short explanation on why?

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: I was not provided with the specifics, Mr. Speaker. We knew that there were a couple of items in the due diligence process. I believe it had something to do with the structural… something structural in the building that would cost approximately three-quarters of a million dollars to remediate and that's where this three-quarters of a million comes from. I don't have the specifics right now, just Legal has given us the indication that there's an agreement between both parties to reduce the purchase price to $29,250,000 to properly reflect the value as the deal was done.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question, Councillor.

Councillor Steeves: Yeah, and to the other item we just dealt with, obviously it's not going to be discussed or go ahead this morning. I do note there was a date that was mentioned with respect to the offer on the parkade issue. Now that Council has decided not to do this today, I'm…I believe I'm aware that we're going to be outside of the original date which I thought was the 27th or the 28th and I guess I wish I could have stated this before we voted on not hearing this today but I have to ask Councillor Swandel, are we going to lose this deal or how concerned should we be?

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: I don't think that we'll lose the deal. You know, there is some concern, the date as stated was November 27th because I guess the

parties…the other party involved knew that we had a Council meeting on the 26th. I think their intention is to purchase this building if, you know, we'll do it next week by way of a Special Meeting of Council. There are also some other things that are going on in the inner city around this parking strategy that's probably not appropriate that we talk about too much here in front of us. But if we can get the job done by Special Meeting next week. You know, for me, it's just, I'm getting, you know, a little tired sitting here as a Councillor, you know with people complaining about what's going on in downtown and we have these opportunities. You know, carpe diem, you know, it's time to seize the moment and you know I'd hoped to stand up today and say, you know, do you hear that Mr. Speaker? That's the sound of something getting down in downtown. You know, we've got this $24 million pocket of cash and now we can look to addressing the parking issues that people refer to in our downtown. We know there's a parking strategy coming but we've once again as a Council, you know, we're creating the opportunity for something to maybe fall off the table. I think we have enough…we're dealing in good faith here on both sides. I think we can negotiate it. I don't know the Nygard lands deal, they were certainly looking at us being able to show an indication that there were funds in parking but if we do this next week, I think that that will probably stay alive. You know, but it's…once again, I think we had the opportunity to be leaders and champions for downtown, and we're dragging our heels a little bit here.

Mr. Speaker: Your final question, Councillor Steeves. Councillor O'Shaughnessy your first question.

Councillor O'Shaughnessy: The question was asked thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gerbasi your first question.

Councillor Gerbasi: Councillor Swandel, you say you're interested in something moving forward but yet, you know, there was a refusal to commit the money to the downtown, so are you willing to make any changes to that, and then I think we would certainly be moving forward in the downtown immediately. We'll still be dealing with this. This won't have any effect so, I think we need to make a point here.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Just, you know, the clause, the recommendation that came out of our Committee that, Councillor, you didn't support…or perhaps you did, I'm not sure…I know the vote was three to one, but the recommendation was that the monies be held in a Special Operating Agency because, I don't know if you're aware of this, the parking assets actually sit in a Special Operating Agency. We as a Council approve their business plan on an annual basis. You can't do anything with those proceeds until you have the Parking Authority's business plan. I certainly believed that they should be used downtown. I think you have to rationalize it and the entire business plan of the SOA. So whether you use it to offset accumulating deficit and have a cash flow that you can use in downtown every year, whether you put it 100% equity into parkades or partial equity and use some outside borrowing and let the business plan for each parkade dictate what happens. I think that's the type of information that you have to have going forward. You can't just stand up here and say, you know, 100% of the money gets spent on parkades. That might not be the best business practice for the Parking Authority and I don't think it would be appropriate for us to pre-state what their business plan is going to be. So that's why we added the clause to be rationalized in their business plan, but our intent is to hold it in the SOA until the parking strategy for downtown is complete. I think we might have some opportunities even before that parking strategy is complete. We know that there are areas of immediate need and all the stakeholders in downtown will agree to those, you know, I think their fairly obvious. So if we can access those funds prior to that, but we know we're going in the direction of the strategy, where the strategy is going, then certainly those things would happen but, you know, I

guess what I'm trying to say is this represents opportunity for downtown. The specifics of how that will look at the end of the day we can't possibly pre-state what the Parking Authority needs to come and give to us and then we'll make our recommendations from there.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question, Councillor. Mr. Mayor your first question.

Mayor Katz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, Mr. Speaker, to Councillor Swandel, Council could have chosen to debate the issue of declaring the property surplus. Council decided not to do that, so through you, I ask Councillor Swandel, because he mentioned it, about…he talked about a Special Meeting, and I guess I'd like to know, Mr. Speaker, if Councillor Swandel would like a Special Meeting of Council to deal with this issue, because if he does, I would be more than happy to call one.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Certainly, Mr. Speaker, I think a Special Meeting of Council is appropriate. I'm looking at the calendar. I see December 2nd, next Wednesday, a week today, as an EPC day. Perhaps we could move the EPC date, time to start it to ten o'clock. I don't know. I think that's something that we'll have to go with the Clerk's and we can certainly call a Special Meeting. We don't have to resolve it today. The sooner the better, you know, is all I'm saying. There are other issues going on in the downtown that are looking at what we're doing with whether or not we will have money to do something with parking, so you know, without getting into details, they are sort of behind closed doors right now.

Knowing that this deal is done, that the Parking Authority has monies to move ahead on what the parking strategy will ultimately give to us, it's important so the sooner the better. I don't think…I think timing wise, the earliest date we could do it would be Monday. Tomorrow we could do it, if…but I think we can resolve that by the end of today and give proper notice as required. Maybe we could even call it for later on today. We're all here. We could, you know, two o'clock this afternoon. I'm certainly…

(inaudible speaking in the background)

What's that? To have a Special Meeting? No I don't think you do, Councillor. I think. No, no, no, no. It says whenever possible, or…but if we decided that there was an issue with the date of the 27th, I think there's enough flexibility in the Procedure By-law that you could suspend the rules, or without suspending the rules, you could call a Special Meeting of Council for later on today and deal with the matter today.

I don't want to get into the silly politics of this. I just want to see this deal done and opportunity created for downtown, so rather than argue about a date or a time, whatever makes it easiest for everybody to feel like there was enough process given to this, that we've, you know, in spite of Council seminars, in spite of sitting through numerous meetings with regards to this, whatever else needs to be done to make you feel like you've been given due process, Councillor. You know, I don't want to shock you with a Special Meeting of Council later today. I just want to get something done in downtown. I want to be able to stand up and say do you hear that? That's the sound of getting something done downtown because it's… it hasn't been happening and, you know, if somebody wants to ask for a Special Meeting of Council this afternoon, I'd be more than happy to attend and move this matter forward today and we wouldn't have any issues. So, you know, let's go!

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor, your second question Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, basically I've heard the answer loud and clear and I will certainly address that issue post haste, end of story.

Mr. Speaker: No further questions, Mr. Mayor? Councillor Orlikow and then Vandal. Thanks for being an accomplice.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you very much. I just request that when we decide on the date, the reason that I felt that it

was important not to run this through today is my…actually, I feel very comfortable in the decision that I will be making when this vote comes up, however, this is a public asset and the piece that is missing for me is the public having the opportunity and notice to come forward and voice their concerns. So that's the only piece that I'm missing so this afternoon would be a little quick for me, however, I know the rules state such, just allowing enough time for the public to be able to come here as delegations and speak their mind.

Mr. Speaker: And your question?

Councillor Orlikow: Would that be possible?

Councillor Swandel: I think this has been out in public enough and Council has certainly been briefed on it. This is the type of things…the type of decisions that leaders need to stand forward and make decisions in the best interest of the public. I believe that this is in the best interest of the public. Getting something done downtown is in the best interest of the public. If we want to sit around and make political hay about the lack of consultation I'll start throwing the stones back on the sale of Winnipeg Hydro and the demolition of the Eaton's Building and blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. So let's…do you want to do that or do you want to get something done in downtown? You know, let's stand up and champion our downtown and let's create this opportunity. Let's hear the sound of getting something done in downtown. So whether it's today, tomorrow, Monday, Wednesday, as soon as we can get it done, let's get it done and create the opportunity to change our downtown!

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel I think Council is giving you a message about walk-on items. Councillor Vandal and then Thomas.

Councillor Swandel: I don't believe it's against the rules to walk-on items. This is a point that I don't think is appropriate for…

Mr. Speaker: Councillor, what I'm saying…Councillor, what I'm saying…what happened before.

Councillor Swandel: It's a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I don't think it's appropriate for the Speaker to be suggesting that it's inappropriate to walk on items. If Councillors want to change our Procedure By-law, then they're more than welcome to bring that forward as a recommendation to this Council.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor Swandel. Councillor Vandal and then Thomas. Councillor Thomas.

Councillor Thomas: Yes, I'm rising on a point of order. The previous speaker did not seem to be aware of the 96 hour rule that is in our rules and procedure and we do have the right to call notice if not sufficient notice has been given. Thank you.

Councillor Swandel: Ninety-six hours is fine. Another ninety-six hours to wait to get something done in downtown is fine with me, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Vandal your first question.

Councillor Vandal: Mr. Speaker, I'm all for getting stuff done in the downtown. Councillor Swandel, are you aware that if you really want to finance another parkade in the Exchange District, that the value of the Winnipeg Square Parkade and the revenue it generates is as good as gold? We can start today.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Sending things is good as gold Councillor. The debate that you might want to have is how much gold do you have? I would tell you that creating great…you know, seizing this moment and looking at other opportunities in downtown, you got more gold, Councillor. You know, the…I'm a firm believer that the City should only be in the parking business where it's not appropriate for…or either the private sector won't be in the parking business or they won't do it at an affordable price.

You know, the Trizac parkade, the Winnipeg Square Parkade, is a perfect example of that. When our downtown needed stimulation before, the City stepped forward. They built this Parkade. They subsidized it for years and it got development done at Portage and Main. It's time to take our economic development dollars out of that parkade and let's clean up the East Exchange District. Let's do something on the south side of Portage. Maybe let's do something on the north side of Portage so that things like the Avenue Building and other buildings on Portage Avenue don't create that visual blight that they currently create as you drive through the major heart of our downtown, Portage Avenue. So I think there's more gold to be had out there. Let's get into a bigger gold mine.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: My second question is, I think we're saying the same thing. All I'm saying is equity, value and cash flows are like cash. Are you aware of that Councillor Swandel?

Councillor Swandel: Absolutely Councillor Vandal. Through Mr. Speaker to you, I can tell you they are. There's also the value of opportunity, which is difficult to equate into dollars and we know that we spend money on economic development that is not like cash at that moment in time. It's the opportunity to make it something great for our city in the future. So yes, you can argue cash flows and dollars. You and I have argued the cash flows being worth up to $30 million on this. You know, people have argued with me that it's $21 million. I think that the offer, you know…who am I to say that my assumptions are better than Price Waterhouse Cooper's assumption, or our Chief Financial Officer's assumptions, you know. Often said, I'm just a simple guy from the south end so when it comes to this mathematical wizardry who am I? I could certainly take a test, but you know if people are telling me that $21 million is the number and through some strategic efforts we've been able to get $24 million on the table, I think we're doing pretty good, and I think we're getting great opportunity to do something in our downtown. So if we want to drag this out for another 96 hours, I don't think the deal will fall off the table but, you know, let's drag it out for 96 hours and get the deal done in 96 hours or shortly thereafter and, you know, get moving on getting stuff done in downtown. Let's build a bigger gold mine. Let's name our downtown a bigger goldmine. Let's get it done.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Thank you, Councillor.

Councillor Swandel: I still have 42 seconds.

Mr. Speaker: I'm sure that the Mayor's going to correct it today. Mr. Mayor you have a second time?

Mayor Katz: Yes, Mr. Speaker, thank you. To Councillor Swandel.

Mr. Speaker: Your first question.

Mayor Katz: To Councillor Swandel, did you know that it appears there are many Councillors ready to debate this issue right now?

Councillor Swandel: You think I should ask to suspend the rules and have a Special Meeting of Council today? Is that what you're suggestion?

Mayor Katz: No, but the Clerk has made me aware of the fact that, as Mayor, I can call a Special Meeting of Council and I intend to do that right now, starting at 1:30. (inaudible)

Mr. Speaker: Okay, good.

Councillor Swandel: I welcome it.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Special Meeting be called at 1:30 this afternoon to deal with the subject matter.

Question period is over. Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development. Councillor Steeves. Report of November the 3rd of 2009.

**REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE
ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
DATED NOVEMBER 3, 2009**

Councillor Steeves: Thanks very much Mr. Speaker. With respect to November 3rd meeting, 2009, I move Items, I guess, 1 through 9 I suppose.

Councillor Thomas: Eight please?

Mr. Speaker: Thomas 8. From 1 to 7 and 9. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Item 9.

Clerk: Item No. 8

Mr. Speaker: I mean, pardon me, Item 8. Mr. Clerk?

**Item 8 - Lease Amendment –
Henderson Library – Unit 1,
1050 Henderson Highway
eFile FI-2.3(33)**

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Steeves.

Councillor Steeves: Yeah, Mr. Speaker. Are you aware that the library has been located in the Rossmere Shopping Centre, I think since 1961 if my information is correct? In 2008, approximately 12,000 square foot lease was renewed to a 10 year term which was to expire in 2018 at a net rental rate of just under $15 for years 1 to 5 and then from years 6 to 10 it was to go up to just over $16. The landlord was to paint and carpet the library. In the Fall of 2008, I understand an additional 4,000 square feet was vacated in that shopping centre and this landlord, because I guess they sensed that the library was doing well and busy, approached the City to expand into this space along with, I guess, an additional 2,000 square feet of vacant space located on the northwest corner at the rear of the library for an additional total of 6,000 square feet. My understanding after speaking with our Library Administration, who of course is supported by the volunteer community board, is that this is the preferred avenue to go, and I will hasten to remind my friends on Council that we have a Capital Budget process that admittedly we have to go outside of sometimes because of opportunity, because of issues that present themselves, but by and large, if possible, we try to stick to the plan. Our Administration in our Library Services has a plan. I think we would all agree they are library people and so they do planning pretty well. And the plan is to do what is mentioned specifically in this report, to vitiate or move away from this report would put this Council into an area of making policy and capital decisions on the fly, none of which I imagine would be supported or researched by our administrative team, the Winnipeg Public Service. I don't know what's going to be suggested as a result of this debate. I've heard snippets of information coming forward. But let's be guarded, let's be mindful of the process and let's be very, very careful about decisions that we make on the fly when it comes to our precious capital dollars, any change of which would not be supported by the Library public service.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Thomas.

Councillor Thomas: Yes, I'd like to move that this item be referred back. In so doing, I'd like to point out that it's been a matter of some debate within my area and Councillor Browaty's area. There have been a flurry of e-mails of people who are concerned that the second biggest busiest library in our City is continuing to pay rent, and the amount of money that is suggested that it would cost us to pay rent is similar to the amount of money that it cost us to build the Sir William Stevenson Library, and we end up owning that asset at the end of 20 years. There are a number of people who would like to…

Mr. Speaker: Councillor, Councillor.

Councillor Swandel: Point of order…point of order please?

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

Councillor Swandel: I believe…was there a motion to refer this?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, yes, I was just…Councillor…

Councillor Thomas: Yes, yes, I do have three minutes.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor. I was just going to remind Councillor Thomas that your motion for referral…you've moved that motion…

Councillor Thomas: Yes, and the reason…and the reasons for that is because it has been the number of some debate. I'd like to give the opportunity of the residents of the East Kildonan and North Kildonan Ward to come down and make their representation to the Standing Committee and make their concerns known about other properties that they'd like to see and about different ways of going around this item.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Steeves on referral.

Councillor Steeves: Okay just…a question on process. My time to respond to the motion to referral is. ..

Mr. Speaker: Three minutes.

Councillor Steeves: Three minutes, okay.

Mr. Speaker: Do you want more?

Councillor Steeves: Yeah, just to put a finer point on this.

Mr. Speaker: Three minutes.

Councillor Steeves: Okay. To put a finer point on this, in her comments the learned Councillor didn't mention any vitiation of the process in this item. My understanding is that this has followed all the appropriate channels all the way through in terms of process. My further understanding is if anybody in the community, in the City, in the Province, in the country, in the world, had any concerns, they could have presented themselves at any stage of these proceedings. I do note for the purposes of the record that there was no one appearing in delegation today at this Council meeting. I have received one e-mail on the issue. I don't know if other Councillors have received other e-mails or other correspondence. My impression was that this was in Councillor Browaty's ward, and I can say, although, in my opinion, the voice of the local Councillor is never all encompassing but it is persuasive, I would suggest, and he has stated that he is in favour of this report going forward. That was my impression of his comments. In the circumstances, Mr. Speaker, it would appear that what's being done here is that our Library public service administration again, supported by their community board, volunteers in our community have said this is what we think makes the most sense. And if you read the report, their position is buttressed by the idea of leasehold improvements being made both by them and by the landlord, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. It would appear, at least on its face, to be a well thought out and reasoned plan. With all due respect to my colleague from Elmwood-East Kildonan, for her to come forward and to pull this off the agenda, that would imply a suggestion that the process has been vitiated, short circuited or truncated in some way, which I don't believe is the case. We have had an item here earlier today where I thought for good and bona fide reasons, we had to go forward. However, we did in those circumstances have to change the process and it was not the will of Council today to do that, so, c'est la vie, Monsieur Le Speaker, and we had to abide by that decision. In this case, Council can rest easy in the knowledge that this process has been followed. The community has or has not spoken as the case may be. And we have a decision, and we have an idea, and we have a program that is supported by our very worthy and competent administration public service and community staff board. It's time to move.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Motion to refer is in order. Recorded vote has been called for. Motion to refer. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Gerbasi, Smith, Thomas, Vandal.

Nays

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

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 4, Nays 10.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is lost. Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Speak on the clause?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, she will speak to the clause and you had a question?

Councillor Swandel: No I want to speak on the clause.

Mr. Speaker: You want to speak? Councillor Thomas, then Councillor Swandel, then Councillor O'Shaughnessy and Gerbasi and Fielding.

Councillor Thomas: My turn? Okay.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, go ahead.

Councillor Thomas: Thank you. This is actually half a block out of my ward but it's the community library for Transcona, Elmwood, East Kildonan and North Kildonan, so it's the area library for all of the Elmwood, East Kildonan, Transcona community committee, and it's unfortunate that people did not come out today to represent their position, but they are very concerned in the community and feel that the community is getting short shrift by just expanding additional rental space. Their concerns, which they've let myself and Councillor Browaty know in a flurry of e-mails from quite a few people within our community is that it's too much money for too little space, and that if an effort was made to put in a new library in one of the many gap-tooths along Henderson Highway, that that would be worth our while. Someone mentioned the property where the old City Hall is now located. Someone also mentioned the place just two blocks to the north of it on Dunrobin. There's also a spot four blocks to the north of it on Green. There is quite a few spaces within the community on Henderson Highway where space could go and which we would spend half the amount of money that it's going to cost us in 20 years for rent, and in the end we'd own that space. Right now after 20 years we've got nothing. The space still belongs to someone else other than ourselves. There had been a strategy a number of years ago to go into malls, and the idea was that it would give us better visibility. The citizens library board actually had a speak out on this in '92, '93, when I was a member of the Library Board, and made quite a few recommendations including that we not do that any more. It was costing us too much money, and their survey said to them that most people that were going there weren't going there to shop and just popping in to use the library, but that that was their main focus was coming down with their children and that we were actually wasting money by putting it into rental space and we would continue to waste that money if we put the dollars for leasehold improvements and for rent for the next 20 years, for this space. It's also fact that this is the second biggest, busiest library in the City. I mis-spoke when I said biggest because it's not the biggest. There are some libraries that are actually larger than the Henderson Library, even though they are not as well used as the Henderson Library. And I think that this makes too long a commitment for too much money with no asset at the end, and I know that the community that I represent and from surrounding communities, they are disheartened by this. They feel that the end, this end of the City is getting short shrift and that we certainly could have something much better for less money and something that is indicative of the fact that it's the second biggest library in the City. That had come out on several occasions, on several recommendations over the Library Boards, several recommendations that said that we should no longer be renting in most of the libraries but particularly this one and that we should be looking at having that as our next major program after the Millennium Library was done, was developing this library. And I think that this rental agreement is too little and too

expensive for what we're getting and thus I can't support the clause. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be brief. I think that people have missed a very important point on this, that the first clause is that the amendment of the existing lease agreement, amending the existing lease agreement, you know. For your information Councillors there is an existing agreement, a 10-year lease on the existing facility. Ten years that we are in contract to be in the existing facility for. So, you know, I think as far as monetary value, whether you should be doing something else, that can't even be put on the table right now. We've got a 10 year contract signed back in 2008 to remain in this little facility that this community has been asking for it to expand. This is supported by the, I understand by the Library Advisory Board for the area, and this expansion is being asked for by the residents. So there is no Option A or Option B. It's either stay with the "rinky-dink" what you have or expand it out into a much greater facility at the site that you have because you're locked in there for 10 years. You're not building anything else tomorrow. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor O'Shaughnessy.

Councillor O'Shaughnessy: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Councillor Swandel covered my main point which is the fact that if we shelve this, we have nine years of an existing lease that we would have to go through with substandard space before we could do anything about it, and I wonder where else, all these sites the good Councillor pointed out in East Kildonan and Elmwood, where could you park a hundred cars, I mean, that we have there right on Henderson Highway? I've used the library. It is crowded because of its popularity. So it's popular. Move it. We've been in it since 1961 I think since the shopping centre's been built; the former City of East Kildonan. Nothing to do with Elmwood whatsoever. I don't think they were allowed in. (laughter).

But it's no good. We should move. We've only been there for 48 years. This is terrible. I'm wondering why, the…actually CUPE appeared on this matter and I was wondering…I've been racking my brain for so long as to why. There's not going to be any more librarians if we build our own library. It crossed my mind without any prejudice, without any accusation to anybody, but it did cross my mind so I thought I'd share it. Is this about one or two caretaker positions? If this were City-owned building we'd have good union caretakers in there instead of whatever rabble the private entrepreneur may hire to clean this area. I don't think so. I think we still do clean our own library, but what is it about? What the heck is the difference? And I'm sorry, Councillor Thomas, as much as I respect you, as closely as I have listened to you for so many years, what you said about us being able to get the money back and own a building at the end of it in that period of time is such a crock, I can't believe it. It would cost us many times. I don't know how many; maybe as little as three. But many times more to build from scratch to pay the land, to forgo whatever taxes we're getting on that land from someone else, to build the building, to put up the parking spots. It would cost us many times what this existing lease is costing us. I don't know what the political game behind it is. The people of East Kildonan aren't up in arms. They have a good library. They're going to have a better one. The only reason it's crowded is because they like it. Let's get on with it, or someone get up and explain what the political game is here.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Fielding.

Councillor Fielding: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, I very much agree with what Councillor O'Shaughnessy has said and others. I think Councillor Swandel said this as well, and I'm going to be very much supporting this.

You know, I think these are agreements that we should be moving towards and you know, I'll tell you, the reason why this is so busy is because people like it. It's convenient. It's in a strip mall that's there. People can use the amenities, they can

use other things that are there. Why not look at this? And, you know, my comments are brief here but my concern is why do we always have to use bricks and mortar to deliver a service. This is working extremely well. Why not continue this on? This is something that's going to be, you know, bringing in a tax base for the City of Winnipeg that's there. And I just think that it makes a lot of sense, so I very much support this. I encourage all Council to support it as well because it just makes common sense. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's…I won't be supporting this clause today and I think that there's been some very good points raised by Councillor Thomas and unfortunately Councillor Wyatt who also raised this issue quite vocally isn't here at the meeting to explain his point of view. Those are two Councillors who do reside in that region of the City and they do have very significant concerns about this so I'm not going to dismiss two relatively local Councillors' points of view.

Also, there are some implications that are not clear. It's a very brief report. First of all, there's not implications about where this fits into our overall library plan. Does this mean other closures of other libraries and future budgets? That's not been made clear. The issue of sufficient analysis of the costs, I don't see that here. We're… you know, it's often cheaper to build a new library over a long period of time, and there should have been a sufficient cost benefit or comparative or some kind of analysis other than…what we really have in front of us is a landlord has come forward asking for this and so we're reacting to it. It doesn't really appear to be part of an overall longer term plan that's been explained very well. Perhaps we don't have all the…you know, we're missing something, but there are a lot of unclear things. It's a very brief report and there hasn't been very much analysis.

I'd also like to point out that libraries are a very special kind of public service much like community centres. You know, saying that the public isn't engaged, well, hasn't been engaged enough because they read it in the paper or something, I mean, you know how the public works. This was In Camera until, what, a week ago or something like that. I've heard a couple of…I've gotten a couple of e-mails from community groups, you know, who represent a broader range of people. Yeah people don't read one article in the paper and then lodge a campaign and march on City Hall. That's not really public engagement or consultation, and when we're talking about community centres or libraries, we should allow proper time to, you know…and maybe in the end, like I'd be willing to consider this if I had a proper comparative analysis of building new and looking at all those options and having that information, but you didn't give us that information. So, you know, I think, you know, my gut feeling tells me to at least listen to a couple of the area Councillors who have raised these concerns. Leasing and renting these types of facilities in the long term is costing us a lot of money. And I have one more concern and I noticed in the financials, that the cost of this will is going to result in $60,000 from the Operating Budget of Community Services, and I'd like to know where that's going to come from, and I'd like to know what services or how they're going to scrape more money off the Operating Budget at Community Services. Those are the kind of questions that should be answered before we get into these long-term agreements. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I listened to today's debate and I spent a lot of time debating this with members of the public. Community consultation…I've been consulting with people. I've had people coming up to me, "I don't like this and don't like this, but hey, Henderson Highway expansion by the way, right on Jeff, that's right along the right track."

The Henderson Library Branch opened in 1963. It was a partnership between the City of East Kildonan, the municipality of North Kildonan and the municipality of

East St. Paul. In my opinion, it is located in the absolute best spot in our community. Look at the density around there. You've got high rise apartment blocks. You've got 210, 220 Oakland. You've got 1080, 1100 Henderson Highway--big high rise apartment blocks within easy walking distance for seniors, other smaller apartment complexes located at the corner of McLeod and Henderson Highway. There's a ton of density there. It's located in the ideal spot in my opinion in terms of transit service. The 77 bus gets off Henderson Highway at that point. Great location in terms of the 77 service as well as the more popular 11, 90 and other bus routes. It's located, in my opinion, in a totally ideal location and I think it was Councillor Swandel who first brought up there today, there are nine years remaining on the existing lease. A student in Grade 3 today will be graduating High School before that lease is done. The amount of benefit they would get over the next nine years of an expanded library branch, a library branch that offers new services. One of the things Councillor Vandal lobbied for and I agree with was getting free internet available in libraries. I totally commend that initiative. There's almost no work space available in these libraries today. I was in there on a weekday recently, at 11:30 in the morning, and almost all the tables, almost all the work stations and stuff, were full. There's very few community rooms in that particular branch. The kids' library reading sessions are held out in the open. They're very popular but again far from an ideal situation the way that's set up. I think it's such a great amenity. It's used by young, it's used by old. It's got the Transit as well does have parking. The reality is soccer moms, they need a good big parking lot. It works well. There's other amenities in the mall. People head over to the Tim Horton's in the parking lot, to the Dairy Queen, very popular.

In addition this is actually good community redevelopment. This is, in fact very sustainable, Councillor Gerbasi. This space was a former grocery store. Does it fit the proper grocery store formats today size wise? No. But if you look at it being redeveloped as a strip shopping centre, the depth of the units would be very deep and not ideal for a traditional retail strip mall. As a result, this branch starts in a corner and wraps around other commercial tenants. It uses space that would otherwise be challenging to rent out, and in fact, if you look at the terms of this lease, that 2,000 square feet at the back, we're getting it free for the first five years because again, it's not ideal commercial space. So I think it's very fair in that regard.

I think this makes a lot of sense for the community. It makes a lot of sense for our City, and it's a great development to go forward. I fully, whole-heartedly support this. In regards to, you know other spaces, we don't need to own it to make sense. We've leased space all over the place where it makes sense for us to do so, including in libraries. Right on Provencher at Taché there's a library in leased space among many, many others. Again, I think this is responsible, it's appropriate, and I look forward to having a great amenity in our community. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: No further speakers? Councillor Steeves would you like to close on Item 8.

Councillor Steeves: Mr. Speaker I don't know how I'm going to use up all of my speaking time but I will try. Although I am loathe to run contrary to the majority of the members and their wisdom on the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee, I honestly believe after listening to the comments of my great friend, Councillor Gerbasi, that we may have crossed the line on this one from sort of standard public due diligence into full conspiracy theory type stuff. This really is a fairly innocuous project in this community for the betterment of that community.

A refresher, in conclusion, on the nuts and bolts of this project, the library is working in the community. It's very busy, the second busiest as has been mentioned in the whole system. What would normally happen in those circumstances, the tenant who is happy with their busy situation would go to the

landlord and say, “We’d like to have more space here for our operation.” They’d discuss things, they talk about leasehold improvements, who is going to pay for what, and at the end of the day, 100 times out of 100 times, the landlord would come back and say, "Okay. We're going to expand your place by 6,000 square feet. You're going to pay for this and I'm going to pay for that, but to protect my interests and to protect your interests, we're going to expand the length of the lease. My friends, I am not a real estate agent. I am not a person who deals in leases on a regular basis, but this is about as simple as it gets. This is standard fair. You have the comfort of knowing how well this business model is working in the community. The idea that we should overthrow this process, and I know that Councillor Gerbasi used her time-tested comments, “I'm not necessarily against this, I just want to have a lot more process”. My word, Mr. Speaker, you’d be hard pressed to find a single issue that Councillor Gerbasi has voted against over the course of the last three years where she has taken the very strong position of, “Well I'm not necessarily against this but I'm not going to vote for it.” Reminds me of the comments that a former Mayor of this Chamber used to make on a regular basis. That Mayor used to say "some Councillors, just as we're getting to see the light at the end of the tunnel, their first response is, let's order more tunnel." It's ridiculous. This is one of those circumstances where this Council should be looking at the business plan, looking at the report that is supported, again, by the Public Service we have hired to do these things. There is a whole community of volunteers who have looked at this and said, "This is what we think we should do", and now because of a couple…and I don't think I’m understating the matter by all that much…a couple of correspondences that have come into various Councillors throughout the Chamber. We are suggesting that we overthrow the process and go into what? A complete vitiation and abandonment of our Capital Budget process? We are aware that this is not contemplated by that. We’re aware of the way things work around here. Are we going to, at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, live in a library for eight years that is ostensibly, I suppose, 6,000 square feet short? Is that the idea? Is that what we're suggesting in our wisdom, this Council and Mayor? Great! Our community has said "we want to do this. We want 6,000 square feet." and we in our wisdom are going to stand up and say, "No. We want you to stay in this facility that you have told us is substandard for just the next eight or nine years if that's okay, and then we'll think about changing the plan. People! People! People! Councillor Thomas. It is those types of comments that are going to lead to true questions as to whether or not we really do understand this community. Because I guarantee you, if the community is telling us right now that this space is 6,000 square feet short, they are not, and I’m going to repeat this, they are not going to be happy if our answer to them is, “Yea, well just hang tough for another eight or nine years and we'll get right back to you brothers and sisters.” Not good enough. I think we can do a little bit better than that, and on the comments about the Capital project being cheaper than a lease, I am not an actuarial, but if you do punch up the actuarial tables on a mortgage, you will note that the cost over time on any capital project is assumed and calculated to be much, much more than the simple one-time capital cost of construction. That is not at all an apples to apples comparison and I hope that communication is not being put out there in the community, because it is disingenuous, Mr. Speaker. I am comforted by the fact that I believe the balance of Council's wisdom is going to move forward with this.

Mr. Speaker: Councillors, on Item 8 recorded vote has been called for. All in favour please rise on Item 8.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Nays

Councillors Gerbasi, Smith, Thomas, Vandal.

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 10, Nays 4.

Mr. Speaker: It's carried. By-laws. No motions. By-laws Councillor Steeves. Councillor Steeves, By-laws.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Councillor Steeves: Okay. Just let me…sorry. One moment, Mr. Speaker, I'll be right with you.

I'll move that the following By-laws be read a first time: By-laws 132, 133, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, all of 2009.

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

Clerk: By-laws numbered 132/2009, 133/2009, 136/2009, 137/2009, 138/2009, 139/2009 and 140/2009.

Councillor Steeves: I'll move the By-laws 132, 133, 136 to 140, all of 2009, both inclusive, be read a second time.

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

Clerk: By-laws numbered 132/2009, 133/2009, 136/2009, 136 to 140/2009, both inclusive.

Councillor Steeves: I'll move the rules be suspended and By-laws numbered 132, 133 and 136 to 140, all of 2009, both inclusive, be read a third time and same be passed and order to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Question Period. None. Standing Policy Committee Protection and Community Services, Councillor Pagtakhan, report of November the 9th of 2009.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DATED NOVEMBER 9, 2009

Councillor Pagtakhan: Yes Mr. Speaker, I would be pleased to introduce the PC and S report of November the 9th and move Consent Items 1 through 3.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. No motions. No by-laws. Question period. None. Standing Policy Committee Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works, report of November the 10th of 2009. Councillor O'Shaughnessy.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS DATED NOVEMBER 10, 2009

Councillor O'Shaughnessy: Mr. Speaker, it's with great pleasure that I introduce the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works dated November 10th, and I would move Items 1 to 4 as Consent.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Hold it, Councillor Vandal? Vandal on 4. So on 1, 2 and 3, all in favour? Contrary? Carried. Item 4.

Item 4 – 2010 Water and Sewer Utility Rates
eFile WW-2.3

Mr. Speaker: Councillor O'Shaughnessy.

Councillor O'Shaughnessy: Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure how this differs from past practice and why it would be singled out, but the rates are set within the utility to pay for the cost of the delivery of the services involved, the delivery of water and the treatment of same. The costs are very, very public. Unfortunately very onerous thanks to the new higher standards brought upon us by the Province, which may be the right thing to do, although I think it smacks of overkill. But I would be more than pleased to listen to learned Councillor Vandal on the matter and may be able to respond to

something he has put before us, and if not, I will just leave it before Council.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Mr. Speaker, I have to remain consistent here. Something I brought up when I was re-elected in '06, the fact that we have these huge environmental challenges that we face, thanks to the Clean Environment Commission. I understand that they have made their decision twice, and the Clean Environment Commission is nonetheless dictating that we make a whole bunch of waste water/environmental improvements and that's fair, but since 2005, Mr. Speaker, first of all in this report rates are going up 2.7%. It's going to collect approximately six and a half million dollars to seven million dollars. And the long-standing debate we've had on transfers, while we're collecting six and a half to seven million dollars on transfers, we're transferring $13.5 million to general revenue to pay for water drainage fees which is essentially the maintenance and the interest charges on the huge lakes that service our City and many in my ward, Royalwood, Sage Creek, Southdale, Linden Woods, Linden Ridge. There's a very strong argument that that should be an Operating expense and it should be paid for somewhere out of general revenue.

Over the last six years, Mr. Speaker, we've…rates have hiked 43%. This will be about 48%, counting 2010. In '05 we transferred 27.1 million and '06, 31.3 million and '07, 32.5 million. Last year it went down significantly to 13.9 million which is good, and this year, 13.4 million, although last year was supposed to be the last year of transfers. So again, I want to keep this simple. You're raising six and a half to seven million dollars in revenue with another rate increase, making our water rates the highest in Canada. You're raising six and a half million dollars but you're transferring 13.4. So, Mr. Speaker, I was perusing Hansard last night and there is the back end of a speech I made the last two years. I have an idea and it's a novel idea. Let's give the citizens of Winnipeg a break. Let's not increase their fees of 2.7, which is approximately the same amount this year, and instead of transferring the $14 million to general revenue, 2.7, keep in mind will erase 6.7, let's just transfer the difference. 8 million to general revenue and let's find a difference which is about six and a half million dollars somewhere else. I know our learned Chairperson of Standing Policy Committee on Finance should be given our financial situation, our credit rating, our reserves, it should really not be difficult to find six and a half million dollars within our Operating Budget, and that would give the citizens of our city a break. We wouldn't have to raise their water rates. And really, Councillor Steeves says the library issue was very simple. This is even simpler than that, although you weren't exactly on the right side of that argument. But this is as simple as it gets. You raise the rates 2.7%, you collect six and a half million dollars, you take that 700, six and a half million dollars, you add on about another 7.5 million and you transfer it all to general revenue and then you're telling the public that sorry, we have environmental responsibilities we have to take care of. Now, the Department is saying, well next we're going to have a land drainage fee, which will be a one time fee on every property, and I dare say that that's not a slam dunk. People are going to have a say on that, because these are fees that you should be paying for when you buy your lot, when the subdivisions are approved. The maintenance of land drainage is something that should come out of the Operating side rather than continually jacking up your water rates which we have 50% in the last…in the last four or five years. So that's it. I'm going to stop talking. I'm going to remain consistent. I voted against this at Committee. I'll vote against it here today and hopefully next year or the year after we won't have any transfers and this can be unanimous. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Just a few quick comments. Councillor Vandal has made comments about land drainage and I think it's incumbent on all of us to remember that

land drainage flows into what are known as land drainage sewers. Those sewers are maintained by our sewer folks. It's the stuff outside that are maintained by Public Works but those transfers that we still have are relative to land drainage and also, I believe, relative to fire hydrants, so that's where those pieces are in play. It makes sense that they are related to the utility. If you try and juggle that, you want to rationalize that, you start talking to people about a 2.7% increase in their rates. If they were trying to rationalize just $6.5 million that would be approximately a 1.5% tax increase for folks. So I don't know which people would prefer but I like the idea of keeping things that are related to sewers in the sewer utility and let's keep it out of the Operating Budget. You know, it certainly is a debate that can go back and forth and I respect Councillor Vandal's opinion on it, but it is quite different from mine.

I think it's important today to point out that the projected increase for this year was going to be 2.8% due to, you know, some of the things that have been going on. I think we were able to do this again last year if I'm not mistaken. What we were showing in our projections, because of some other things happening, we were actually able to go less than what the projections are. You know, there are some significant estimates of increases as we go out through the years of what these increases will be to pay for the burden that's put on us. Councillor Vandal referred to as the burden put on us by the Clean Environment Commission. The Clean Environment Commission is not where the burden came from. The initial burden was actually when the Province of Manitoba took a Clean Environment Commission recommendation, which I believe was to complete the works within 25 years, and they changed that to 15 years. That's what created the huge burden on the ratepayers of the City of Winnipeg. And now, we've had some comment and debate on this in this Council in the not too distant past. You know, there's this debate going on as to whether or not we need to spend $350 million on, I believe, nitrogen removal. You know, there's a great deal of difference of opinion out there in the scientific community and there's even some debate out there as to whether or not removing all the nitrogen may cause more harm to Lake Winnipeg than good because there are certain types of algae that require nitrogen. If you have some nitrogen in there, those algaes are present there rather than the darker algaes, which will now have to get closer to the surface in order to access nitrogen, and it would have a far more negative impact on the lake. But, you know, it's those scientific guys that will argue this. But the most prominent scientist in the world on this matter is a gentleman…his name escapes me…but the person who did the experimental lakes project in Northwestern Ontario does not agree with the Clean Environment Commission on this and with the Provincial license requirement, does not believe that we should have to spend 350 million. I think there's some 60 other scientists that are prominent in this field, and they are like-minded to that gentleman. So this did not start as a Clean Environment Commission issue. It actually started as a Provincial issue and I think that's important. We can't point the finger here at the Clean Environment Commission. Their recommendation was well, onerous. It was still within the realm of reason. It was when the Province cranked the time lines as aggressively as they did that we started to see these problems.

I guess the only final comment is that I believe that this is, whether it's land drainage, sewer, household sewers, water, I believe this is the realm of user pay and that's my difference with Councillor Vandal on whether or not these things should be in the utility or whether they should be rate-supported, and I believe that the user should pay, even when it comes to land drainage, and it should not be borne by the taxpayers-at-large. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz

Mayor Katz: Thank you. Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it's incumbent to point out that since the Clean Environment Commission has been brought up by several Councillors today, their recommendation was very clear. This

cost should be borne by all three levels of government, one-third, one-third, one-third. As we sit here today I can tell you that is clearly not the case. That's number one. Number two, is just to reiterate, there are over 63 scientists who not only believe that spending $350 million on nitrogen removal would be a waste of money, they also believe it would be doing harm to Lake Winnipeg, and one of the top scientists in the field, Dr. Schindler, is one of those people as well. In addition to the $350 million, there's an additional $9 million per year in operating costs to do that. So first of all, Mr. Speaker, just take what it would cost to service that $350 million over 25 or 30 years, add it into the $9 million in operating costs which I can assure you will increase, and you can see the significant burden of the nitrogen removal and that is something we should speak up loudly and make sure that they look, even though on two occasions now, they have said no, that they should come to their senses and realize removal of nitrogen is not only necessary, it will harm the environment. How many more scientists do they need coming forward telling them this? So from my point of view, there is some serious issues that still need to be addressed. In the meantime, the Department has to deal with the long term. They don't do budgets one year at a time when you're dealing with a billion dollar expenditure. They do it over 20 or 30 years and that's why increases need to be unfortunately implemented now. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Steeves.

Councillor Steeves: When I put up my hand I was worried that the comments that Councillor Vandal made were not going to go challenged and that was of great concern to me. The Mayor just mentioned and I'm not going to reiterate the points, but he is correct about the CEC recommendations. From this point forward, I hope nobody on this Council will ever attempt to hide behind the Clean Environment Commission recommendations. For someone to say that the Clean Environment Commission mandated that the City of Winnipeg pay for these upgrades, is untrue. That is not true. All members of Council should be disempowered from saying that in the future. That is a disingenuous statement and it leads us away, for whatever reason, from the truth behind this matter. The one-third, one-third, one-third also appeared in that CEC report. We are aware at this stage that the Provincial Government put conditions on the City of Winnipeg getting their service license on the delivery of water, wastewater services, the requirement that we undergo this 1 to $1.5 billion worth of upgrades. They said at the time that this was pursuant to the CEC recommendations and a good lawyer could make that argument. They completely ignored the one-third, one-third, one-third. We're aware at the time that the Kenaston underpass was announced. The Province also announced $24 million of funding to this $1.5 billion project and since then, only because we issued a mailer to our customers, and they started phoning the Provincial Government asking what was going on, did the Provincial Government commit another $200 million, I believe, to this project. Those are facts.

I see our friends from CUPE in the Chamber today. You remember the water utility debate. Even though the members of CUPE did not agree with the direction we took on the water utility, my impression of their comments at the time is that they acknowledged the unfair pressure that was being put on the City of Winnipeg by virtue of the Provincial requirements under our license. And I don't want to put words in their mouth but my impression of their comments was "We're sorry that you have these pressures to deal with but this is not the way you should deal with it", but they did acknowledge the pressures, and they acknowledged them as unfair. The same came from the lady who appeared from the labour elections committee. I apologize, I probably have that name wrong, and she, too, was against our movement towards the water utility, but even though she as well and her organization as well was against what we were doing, she, too, plainly acknowledged the pressure that was being…the unfair pressure that was being put upon the City of Winnipeg Council by

the Provincial Government through that licensing process. Why is it, Mr. Speaker, that if these two groups can come forward, and while they are not supportive of our direction, they can fairly acknowledge the unfair pressures we have on us, why is it that members of our own Council cannot at least do the same? Why is this a split issue on this City of Winnipeg Council at this stage? That is irresponsible and frankly, it's reprehensible. Your first duty as a City of Winnipeg Councillor is to this office. I care not for the political stripe that you choose to wear outside of this Chamber. That is not my issue. You have a duty to represent your constituents and your constituents, Mr. Speaker, by virtue of the conditions put on the license that the Province of Manitoba issues to the City of Winnipeg, are being treated unfairly. You should stand up and speak out against that move by the Provincial Government. You can support them in any other way you wish to, that is obviously your prerogative. But nobody, clear thinking, in this Chamber should be at all supportive of those conditions on that license.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. I want to…I don't want to take up a lot of people's time here today but I want to agree with what Councillor Steeves said, His Worship said, and of course Councillor Swandel in regards to the Province needing to listen to the science of this matter. Wasting hundreds of millions of dollars to do these waste water improvements does not make sense. My issue with the water rates today and specifically the sewer component is the fact that the long term component of it assumes that these new waste water treatment plants are coming on line. The massive operating costs for them is incorporated into the future projections of the costs of operating the waste water component of our operation. There are very legitimate increases that are going to be coming in our water rates because of the cost of service. Our new water treatment plant is very close to being provisioned and being activated. I've spoken to people in the Water Department in the last week. Again, just to bring everybody back up to speed again, the water treatment plant is bigger than the MTS Centre and costs several times as much. Their first, I forget if it was a three or five trial of it, was very successful. There'll be a 21-day trial of it coming up, and it will be fully provisioned in the not too distant future from my understanding.

The cost of operating this plant compared to what is there today is huge. Water rates have to go up based on the legitimate costs of operating that facility. My issue though is with the waste water component of this. We shouldn't be projecting that we're going to lose this fight. We need to go out there with a much better attitude. We need to plan to be a winner in this argument. Therefore I'm going to be not supporting these increases today.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. No further speakers. Councillor O'Shaughnessy. Do you want to close?

Councillor O'Shaughnessy: Yes. I guess the answers have all been given by previous speakers to the concerns raised by Councillor Vandal, but just to reiterate a couple of things, our conundrum is not brought on by the CEC. It's brought on by the N.D.P., period. They accelerated the time. They increased the costs and they have refused to listen to arguments no matter where they come from.

Point 2, the increase is 2.7% which is only slightly over the inflation rate which is almost a miracle when you consider the new costs that our utility has had to bear with the water treatment plant and the new water treatment facilities which are already on line.

Last point of rebuttal, to clarify, is that none of this is affecting the costs. It's the water bill which to some extent you can control or your tax bill which you can't. The costs are there. This is not extra money being taken from anywhere, it's just which pocket it's coming from.

Finally, Councillor Browaty, the… assuming that we're going to lose, I don't think is there. These rates are based on

costs that are already in place. These aren't not based on the ultimate costs. We have not bitten the big one yet. There is a lot more to come and they will be much larger if we don't get funding, shared funding to a great extent from the Province and the Feds. Rates will go up much, much more in the next ten years unless we get that help.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Item 4, all in favour? Recorded vote has been called for. Those in favour Item 4 please stand.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Nays

Councillors Browaty, Smith, Thomas, and Vandal.

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, yeas 10, nays 4.

Mr. Speaker: It's carried. Motions none. The Consideration of By-laws, Councillor O'Shaughnessy.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Councillor O'Shaughnessy: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'd move the following by-laws be read a first time: By-laws 142 and 144 both of 2009.

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

Clerk: By-laws numbered 142 and 144 of 2009.

Councillor O'Shaughnessy: I move that By-laws numbered 142/2009 and 144/2009 be read a second time.

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

Clerk: By-laws numbered 142/2009 and 144/2009.

Councillor O'Shaughnessy: I move the rule be suspended and By-laws numbered 142/2009 and 144/2009 be read a third time and that same be passed and order to be signed and sealed.

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

Councillor O'Shaughnessy: I move the rule be suspended and the following by-laws be read a first time: By-laws numbered 145/2009 and 146/2009.

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

Clerk: By-laws numbered 145/2009 and 146/2009.

Councillor O'Shaughnessy: I move that By-laws numbered 145/2009 and 146/2009 be read a second time.

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

Clerk: By-laws numbered 145/2009 and 146/2009.

Councillor O'Shaughnessy: I move that the rules be suspended and By-laws numbered 145/2009 and 146/2009 be read a third time and that same he passed and ordered to be sign and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Question period. None. Alternate Service Delivery Committee Report of November the 2nd of 2009. Councillor Browaty.

**REPORT OF THE
ALTERNATE SERVICE DELIVERY
COMMITTEE DATED
NOVEMBER 2, 2009**

Councillor Browaty: Thank you Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to move the report of November 2nd, and I'd like to move adoption of the Consent Agenda Item No. 1.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Councillors before we adjourn, we have a Special Meeting called for 1:30 this afternoon. You've got the…I believe Mr. Clerk, the agenda is on the desk for each one of you and so we'll meet at 1:30, so Councillor Browaty moves that Council do now adjourn. 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 and Councillor Vandal.

Council adjourned at 11:45 a.m.