Minute No. 643
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works – September 7, 2010

Item No. 1 Annual Underwater Inspection of all Retention Ponds
eFile SD

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works and adopted the following:

1. That the Council Motion of July 21, 2010, with respect to enacting Annual Underwater Inspection of all Retention Ponds in the City, not be concurred in as the Winnipeg Public Service has the ability to determine when reduced drainage flow occurs at retention ponds and conducts an underwater investigation at that time to determine cause.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor O'Shaughnessy,
That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works be adopted by consent.

Carried

Councillor Wyatt asked to be recorded as having voted against this item in accordance with Rule 47(7) of the Procedure By-law 50/2007.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 15, 2010, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 7, 2010, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works recommended that the Council Motion of July 21, 2010, with respect to enacting Annual Underwater Inspection of all Retention Ponds in the City, not be concurred in as the Winnipeg Public Service has the ability to determine when reduced drainage flow occurs at retention ponds and conducts an underwater investigation at that time to determine cause, and forwarded to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On July 21, 2010, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works:

Moved by Councillor Browaty,
Seconded by Councillor Wyatt,

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

WHEREAS one mandate of the City of Winnipeg Water and Waste department is to ensure proper functioning retention ponds and related drainage systems;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS the Water and Waste department is responsible for the maintenance of these drainage systems to ensure the city has proper protection in the case of heavy rains, flooding, or other natural events;

AND WHEREAS the Water and Waste department of the city conducts annual maintenance of all retention ponds with regards to removing surface algae and maintaining shorelines;

AND WHEREAS the city rarely, if ever, does underwater inspections of its retention ponds outside of specific service requests;

AND WHEREAS it was determined recently that one retention pond in the city had fairly sizeable debris near the intake pipe that drains this very retention pond, possibly impacting the rate at which the pond drains and impacting the community as a whole;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Water and Waste Department enact an annual underwater inspection of all retention ponds in the city to ensure that the intake pipes and drainage infrastructure is operating at its fullest capacity.