COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Tuesday, February 22, 2011

The Council met at 9:32 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 Havixbeck.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Speaker Councillor Nordman, His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Eadie, Fielding, Gerbasi, Havixbeck, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Sharma, Smith, Steen, Steeves, Swandel, Vandal and Wyatt.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you and now could we have the Notice calling the meeting to order.

*Pursuant to Section 79(1) of The City of Winnipeg Charter, The City Clerk was directed by His Worship Mayor Katz to arrange a Special Meeting of Council on **Tuesday, February 22, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.** to consider the 2011 Capital Budget and the 2012 to 2016 Five Year Capital Forecast.*

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Jo-Ann. Today we're joined by our page, Madison Fedyck of Glenlawn Collegiate, and she resides in the North Kildonan Ward. (Applause) Thanks for being here today Madison. And we have no delegations. So, I turn it over to His Worship, Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker just for the record, the Chair of Finance will be Introducing the Report. I just want to make some very brief opening comments.

Firstly, I want to thank our staff, they are seated directly behind me. The many hours of work that's put in to Operating Budget and Capital Budget, sometimes people may not have an appreciation, trust me, they are very long and they are basically 24/7. So a big thank you to all the staff for working with us. And also, to the Chair of Finance and to EPC as well, for the long hours they put in. Everybody working hard to make sure that through the Capital Budget we can make Winnipeg a better place to live, to work, to play and with that Mr. Speaker, I will turn it over to Chair of Finance.

Mr. Speaker: Thanks, Mr. Mayor. Councillor Fielding.

REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED FEBRUARY 16, 2011

Item 1 – 2011 Annual Capital Budget – 2012 to 2016 Five-Year Capital Forecast

Councillor Fielding: Thank you Mr. Speaker. First I'd like to thank Mayor Katz for your leadership in the Capital Budget process, as well as Executive Policy Committee and as well as our Administration. It's a very long process to go through. You get a good snapshot of what's going on in each of the departments, and everyone came together in a condensed time frame. This budget process was, as I mentioned, a little bit more condensed and that's; we actively didn't start the budget process, if you will, before November. That was done on purpose because we wanted to make sure that all the new Councillors that were on board would be a part of that process. So we did crunch some time frames to make sure this happens. I would also like to thank the public for involvement for the first time in the City's history; we had pre budget consultations for the Capital Budget. We got a lot of input from our citizens, whether it be through; coming through the budget consultation sessions, the online surveys that people could fill out or the CFO's blog which we think is a step in the right direction, you know, this; in all total we had many ideas were shared. Not all in agreement of them. We of course, went through the biggest public consultation session in our four year history called the Municipal Election where people knocked on thousands of doors to get the indications from people what their priorities should be and they vote and they cast their ballots based on candidates they recognized. So we believe we are closest to the people just being out of an election.

The Capital Budget allocates $370.1 million to be spent on major Capital Projects here in the City of Winnipeg over the next year. Last year of course we partnered with the Federal and Provincial Governments on the biggest Stimulus Project in Canadian history, to address the downturn of the economy. A large amount of those projects whether it be the

Waverley West Extension Road or now the infamous Active Transportation funding projects that we went through which was part of our equation if you will and there were also some good investments in the West part of the City in terms of the Ice Complex, it wasn't on our priority list but it makes sense for the Community.

So if you factor up the Stimulus dollars we're actually spending more on Capital projects here in the City of Winnipeg in 2011 vs. 2012. As I mentioned in the past recent election campaign, we heard directly from our citizens of what their priorities would be and the message was quite clear. Spend money on public safety initiatives and more money for streets and roads. And the 2010-2011, the top priority for us of course is the public safety investment. This is what the public wanted and that's exactly what this budget delivers. We really believe the investments will help to make the community safe over the long term whether it be new police station in the downtown or new fire halls that are there, all totaled about $182 million will be spent on public safety infrastructure over the next number of years. Downtown, a big part of that public safety infrastructure of course is the downtown police building. A number of years ago we made, I think, a pretty good decision. Instead of wasting a whole bunch of money on the face if you will of the Public Safety Building, we instead, invested money in a new state of the art facility in the downtown Winnipeg. This is going to provide a whole host of different benefits. First of all, you are going to have more police presence in a high-risk area which we know is needed. There is going to be efficiencies that are associated with it, you are going to have of the people from all over the City from the Police combined in one area and plus you'll save some time and labour for police travelling back to and fro court dates. So we think that was good investments and will help keep our community safer.

Another part of the equation is the Fire Halls. We invested; this budget invests 4 new Fire Halls over the next year, we anticipate it being built. And a part of that the big one is Sage Creek and I know Councillor Vandal has been lobbying for this for a long period of time. What this budget does its builds a new Fire Hall in Sage Creek, it going to cut the response times almost in half to allow the citizens of this area to be included and protected in a more complete way, if you will. Part of that there is also new Fire Halls in River Heights, Charleswood and according to the Chair of Finance, in St. James, which is very much needed. The Five Year Plan for Fire Halls also includes 3 additional Fire Halls that will happen I believe before 2014, which is a big priority, just an award basis, very happy that the Ferry; or rather the Lodge, Whitewold will be incorporated in this. We take these decisions lightly but I can tell you these are decisions that going to protect the public over the next number of years, when you give first responders better equipment, better tools, better ability to reach and address incidents that are there.

Another part of the equation of the Capital Budget is the investments in roads and streets. All totaled over $111 million will be spent on total streets project here in the City of Winnipeg over; well actually this year. Chief Peguis Trail Extension as well as the Osborne Street Bridge Project will be a big part of that. You know the focus for 2011 of course on regional local streets. The regional local streets budget for 2011 increased by over $6.3 million, I think this is an important part we're spending just over 17% more on regional local streets this year than last year, and more importantly almost 30% more than what we allocated we budgeted for in last year's document to be spent this year. We think that's a priority, we're focusing in on that areas. These funds basically allocated, as I mentioned to regional local streets projects but also additional regional local renewals. There is traffic improvements, that going to be part of it, there is also money that goes into recreational facility parking lots that are there and two additional programs for regional community parks and boat launch and dock launches.

So we think that this is very much a step in the right direction. Does it get to where we want to go in terms of the spend for these areas? No. But we believe it's a step in the right direction. And also very happy that part of this budget is a new gravel back lane program. This is something, I know that I fought quite heavily with my residents have had concerns with that. I know that's something the Speaker has, Councillor Steeves, Councillor Smith and a whole host of other Councillors. What this budget does, it allocates up to a million dollars over the next five years to address some the crumbling roads. They really are in horrible shape. We have over somewhere in the neighbourhood of 380 gravel back lanes and we believe this will address the problem over the next number of years and I can tell you its going to be something that's well accepted by our citizens. Parks, green space and recreation facilities, I notice the time isn't going, not sure if we know what's (inaudible speaking in the background) Perfect.

Councillor Gerbasi: Does that apply to all of us?

Councillor Fielding: Except for Gord. But with parks, green space and recreation the City of course will make another historic investment in Assiniboine Park. This year we are allocating $9.6 million to upgrades to; Capital upgrades to Assiniboine Park that includes also $800,000 of first call money into the 2012 year. Overall over the course of this budget we're spending $57.7 million on Assiniboine Park. We truly believe these investments are going to make Assiniboine Park the jewel of our park system again. I can tell you, some of the investments we made last year and this year are starting to bear fruit. Anyone that has gone to the expanded Duck Pond over the last little while, we're seeing numbers of people skating or go to the toboggan hill which is something that is very much desired, I can tell you families

are going there in droves and enjoying this. We're seeing this investment bear fruit and attracting lots of private sector money to this which I think is a very important equation. So we're making a lot of good progress.

This budget also includes $2.6 million in additional funding over 2010 levels for additional community parks, and multiple use rec. centre parking lots. The investments also includes additional $1.5 million for community parks and $1.7 million for playground structure renewal. What that averages out to about $100,000 each of those programs of $200,000 you will be able to address in your own wards to address any community park issues that are there. And one thing over the last 4 years Mr. Speaker that we made dramatic progress on I think the community parks and park and open spaces that we have here in the City of Winnipeg.

Another part of the big equation of the budget Mr. Speaker is delivering on a key promise that Mayor Katz made in terms of the Indoor Soccer Complex at the University of Winnipeg. Anyone who travels downtown or has been a part of that knows there is a revolution happening with a lot of the projects that U of W have been part of. You drive down there you know what's going on. What this money does it puts more money into recreation facilities so Inner City Youth as well as kids throughout the area and adults can use this facility. We think this is a very wise investment.

This budget also includes money for a new library. Investments in public libraries that are there. Our plan, give some seed money for library within Windsor Park and North St. Vital area, we know this is something that is very much needed. We also put some more money into existing infrastructure that is there. Transit, the budget makes advancement in terms of transit related infrastructure. We're spending money to have new buses that come online; there are 10 additional buses for the Rapid Transit Corridor that is a part of this budget. We're also spending money on the bus replacement process as well as modernizing our fleet in terms of the final commitments, in terms of the fare collection systems to make our buses more reliable, have people come on board and use our facilities. Water and Waste, the budget also lays out our plan for Water and Waste and we're living up to our commitments for the Clean Environment Commission for upgrades to the Water and the Sewer Treatment Plants, we meet our obligations. But I would like to add is that we still have not received the two-thirds funding from the other levels of government that were a part of these recommendations. One thing that isn't part of this budget, the Five Year Plan, is the ill conceived nitrogen removal plant that is there. We believe that we're not interested in wasting $365 million of hard earned taxpayer money when you have a truckload of scientists that say at best it's going to have a neutral effect and if fact might even have a detrimental effect to Lake Winnipeg and our facilities there.

Infrastructure deficit is something that we always talk about here when the Capital Budget comes along and is raised on an every day basis. One thing that can be said, when you go through the budget process and you look at the numbers have been over the last number of years, in 2001 and 2002 we were spending about $125 million on Capital Projects here in the City of Winnipeg. A short 7, 8, 9 years later we're tripling the amount of money we're spending. So to say that we're not addressing the infrastructure deficit or we're not spending more money is completely false in my opinion.

We're also taking some measures that I believe will make sense. We continue to lobby the Provincial Government for a growth-based revenue, we think that makes a lot of sense in terms of how we're spending our money, it means when the economy gets hot, Manitoba and Winnipeg specifically represents anywhere between 6 to 7, 70% of all GDP growth hear in the Province of Manitoba. So as the economy gets hot we believe that we should be part of that the growth based revenue, we believe, is a longer term approach that can help address the infrastructure deficit. So that's a part of we continue our lobbying and we hope that the Provincial Government hears our calls to do this.

A new part of this equation is the asset management strategy. This is a strategy a few departments are involved in already. What it does is, it allows us to spend money in a smarter way. So it looks; instead of just arbitrarily putting numbers, dollars in different budget lines it says where the money is spent most needed and we're going to start addressing our Capital Budget that way and I think you'll see a very different Capital Budget over the last number of years.

So in conclusion, Mr. Speaker the budget meets the priorities of our citizens, it invests in public safety infrastructure, invests in roads, invests in bridges, it invests in a new downtown Police Station, invests in Fire Halls, whether it be this year or years to come, it also makes large investments in public and open spaces. We think this budget is a step in the right direction and we hope that you'll; all the Councillors will be supporting this and we'll hear your comments and respond back to any comments in my closing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thanks Councillor Fielding. First up Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The Capital Budget and Five Year Forecast represents Council's vision for the next five years. Every budget obviously has some good projects in it but what we're approving today, the entire package, is the vision or lack there of contained within. Unfortunately, the 2011 and Five Year Capital Forecast is not a

very collaborative vision. A significant number of City Councillors, elected representatives of our citizens have been completely excluded from meaningful input into this budget. Keep in mind there is not one Councillor on Executive Policy Committee who represents the Inner City of Winnipeg. One would think that with a new four year term of Council there would be a strategic planning session where all Members of Council could decide budget priorities together but that would be something that would happen in other cities across Canada, not here in Winnipeg. When I tell my colleagues across the country how non-EPC members of Council are excluded from the budget process their jaws drop. In Councils such as Edmonton and Saskatoon, all Members of Council are included throughout the budget process which begins months before the budget is made public. In Edmonton, 7 Members of Council are not even allowed to meet privately. So informal meetings at Executive Policy Committee would not even be tolerated. We all know that behind closed doors of informal EPC is where most of the decision making occurs in this building. I expect we'll here today that the budget process is set out in the City Charter and that EPC has the power to exclude the rest of council, however just because they can do this doesn't mean it's the right thing to do. They have a choice. Some will probably argue that this is the way budgets have always been done but by saying that things have always been this way is just a way of avoiding the issue. Our Mayor has been in charge going on year 7. He ran on transparency and more open process. So let's stop the excuses already, it doesn't have to be this way, we can do better. While having a couple of pre budget meetings for the public was a very nice gesture, the City of Winnipeg budget process continues to be an insult to duly elected Members of Council. In past years consultation with non-EPC members of Council sometimes meant the Mayor would give you a 15 minute phone call asking for input into the budget. This is a bizarre and inadequate process as the discussion is only with the Mayor who reminds us a lot lately, that he is only one Vote on Council. Secondly, the phone call discussion is out of context. While EPC Members work on the budget with the support of a crew of staff at their beck and call to answer questions and provide different options and solutions the rest of us are expected to give out a wish list in the vacuum without knowing all the financial choices that could be made. However this year there wasn't even pretence of the annual phone call from the Mayor. For years I have tried to fully participate within our existing structure, appearing before Standing Committees and in front of EPC and the budget process and frankly I'm not sure if it was really worth the effort and this year I saved my breath. However, Councillor Eadie, newly elected made a significant effort to participate in the process and was fully and utterly ignored. It seems the decisions in this budget were already made. Even the Acts of the Advisory Committees, very responsible request to increase the amount in the Accessibility Program, was turned down. It makes one question whether there is much point in participating in the budget process or asking for consideration of the most reasonable of requests. Let's stop pretending, shall we. In reality this is not a Council of consensus this is not a team. This is an excessively powerful Mayor and his group holding all the cards and calling all the shots. So this budget belongs to this Mayor and his supporters. Let's make that clear and you guys can have it. One of the biggest problems with in budget is there really isn't a plan outlined to deal with the infrastructure deficit. It is a strange twist of events that the Infrastructure Commission's Report remains buried. During the election, the Mayor at one point said he was waiting for that Report to decide on whether or not we would have a property tax increase. We still don't know if that's happening or not, or at least a lot of us don't. This Report is also supposed to provide a list of revenue sources to deal with the infrastructure deficit. Wouldn't it be useful to have that information in front if us now? A good question is why don't we have it here? I don't blame the Commission for the delay. Like many Reports that Council asks for, I suspect the Report is not being released because the Mayor and his group don't like something in it. I have to wonder what sources of revenue are suggested in this Report. Is it the new development fees that cover; is it new development fees that cover more of the infrastructure costs that come with new development? Or is it other fees the Mayor does not want to have to take responsibility for charging? It is much better optics to have another level of government being the one to raise taxes. Either way we have no solutions here or suggestions to help address the infrastructure deficit. We have a back sliding budget that leaves us further behind than when we started and no vision of how to get ahead of our challenges and inspite of the mass Our Winnipeg exercise which was suppose to take us in the direction of sustainability, this budget has little to do with sustainability. When the Mayor held his Sustainability Summit to launch the Our Winnipeg process, 99% of the people in that room expressed priorities that emphasized investing in public transit, active transportation and fixing existing infrastructure rather than building new roads. Yet there was no money in the Five Year Capital for Rapid Transit once the Phase 1 is completed this year. The Rapid Transit Task Force in 2005 recommended setting aside a reserve for Rapid Transit in the Capital Budget so we would be ready to match other funding that came available. This budget contains no reserve for this and no plan or intention to build any sort of Rapid Transit. What Winnipeg is doing makes no sense to anyone who has an elementary understanding of Urban Planning. There is no commitment in this budget to complete Rapid Transit to the U of M whether it's LRT or BRT. Meanwhile we just approved a 33,000 seat stadium at the U of M we have 40,000 students going to the U of M with a Rapid Transit line we would have a safe and connected bike path so that students could leave their cars at home and choose to bike or Public Transit. This flip flopping has gone on too long. Rapid Transit was cancelled in 2004, started in 2008 and now once again is stalled with no plan in sight and a half finished route. What must developers think? They need a stable environment to invest in or they won't take the risk. It's a miracle we've gotten the transit orient infill development at the Fort Rouge Yards at all considering what's going on. We're falling behind other cities as we continue to delay Rapid Transit Development. Stopping, starting stopping and delaying and each time, the cost goes up. I was very disheartened to hear the Mayor's comments about his priorities in the Mayor's State of the City speech. He stated if he had $350 million that we didn't

have now to spend removing nitrogen from sewage, imagine what we could do. He painted a clear picture of his priorities. He listed a number of very costly projects involving widening and extending the Regional Street System and in other words spending hundreds of millions on facilitating single occupancy automobile use and nothing for the Public Transit, Rapid Transit, or alternatives to the car. What happened to the LRT he promised in the election and got elected on? This all goes back to a statement made by the Mayor when Rapid Transit was first cancelled in 2004 when he said "it's about priorities". It's true. The Mayor State of the City made it very clear his priorities are to build and widen roads. He did not talk about building Rapid Transit or about.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Pagtakhan moves extension.

Councillor Gerbasi: …or fixing existing roads and sidewalks. It is simply not sustainable to halt Rapid Transit Development and under invest in fixing our existing infrastructure. I also remain concerned about previous budget decisions of this Council that will have an ongoing effect on our future. The decision to use 50% private financing for the Chief Peguis Trail Extension and Disraeli Freeway projects will cost us. It's been said that on the public record that private borrowing is more expensive so why the heck are we doing it? Public/private partnership mania and ideology should not be driving important financial decisions. The Chief Peguis Trail Extension is now a massively costly project and the cost benefit case has never been made. It seems to be politically driven. And furthermore the next extension of Chief Peguis Trail remains in place as a top priority of this Council while Rapid Transit was removed from the priority list. No one has justified why the next road extension would be a higher priority than Rapid Transit and it certainly does not align with the 99% of people who attended the Mayor's Sustainability Summit. This budget leaves us in continued decline in the quality of our streets, sidewalks lanes and existing facilities. We're paying a fortune to borrow to expand space for cars and instead we should be encouraging public transit and active transportation infrastructure and now that the Stimulus is over we're back to the same old skewed priorities that promote sprawling of our city, and increasing automobile dependency while letting the Inner City crumble. I know that all Members of this Council would like to be working together in harmony and accomplish our dream of making a better City. I would remind you that harmony never means that everyone is singing with the same voice. If this Council is ever to work together the vision must be broader to include the full spectrum of citizens that all of us here in this Chamber represent. This budget is the physical representation of our Mayor and his group's vision and sadly is a document I cannot support today. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thanks Councillor Gerbasi. Any volunteers? How about Kumbya?

Councillor Swandel: Let me take this opportunity to jump us back to reality, Mr. Speaker. I don't know what to say after that. A walking contradiction more than anything else. But let me start by saying one of the things that Councillor Fielding noted when he stood up was our asset management strategy that we have coming forward and I think it's important for us as were going through this year's Capital Budget process to keep our eye on that ball. By 2013 we hope to have a comprehensive asset management strategy to help us focus our dollars, both in Capital and in Operating. And doing our maintenance as well as where we're spending our Capital dollars. So while it's neat to talk about visions and long term future, we are really in the middle of a process right now that's going to see a lot of these priorities change over the next five years. When that asset management strategy is saying you know, this bridge is a greater priority or this sidewalk is a greater priority than something that may already be in this budget. We have to expect these changes to come and we have to be committed. Once we all get the understanding of how this asset management strategy will work going forward, we have to be committed to staying with those priorities and not getting into the world of political parochialization which we so often do and not just us but the other levels of government as well. And I think that has to be one of our biggest challenges in our budget process. As we go forward. And it's the way those federal dollars come into us and those provincial dollars come into us. They are pigeon hold into certain areas that is we don't have the ability to prioritize. The fuel tax money, you know, if you look at how much federal gas tax money and provincial roads money there is in our regional streets, we have to put that money in there because to fits their criteria. We don't have the ability to just move it over to doing a police station or something else. So, we're going to have some challenges there is with our other partners and we'll have to work through those in the next few years. Cash to Capital is another interesting thing. We have this constant desire where we're in this world of cost, we have to spend, spend, spend and we think it's great that we spend more cash to Capital every year. That might not necessarily be the case. We have to get away from some of that thinking and I think our asset management strategy, how we do that is going to help us do that because you might want to spend more in one year and less in the next and so on and so on to make sure you're hitting the priorities and getting the bang for your buck that you want and you want to think long term value as we go through this process. One note I didn't put out there and want to make sure we all paid attention to, the big AT addition to the Peguis extension, the active transportation crossover at one of the major roadways or active; there's a linkage there to get over this, and it's not set aside as an active transportation component it's just buried in there but its a fairly expensive piece of active transportation infrastructure and I think we should make note of that. It's also interesting to see in the Peguis project that we were able it access federal dollars that we wouldn't have accessed if we can't done it as a P3. There is $22.3 million in there that's an actually Federal grant of P3 money so we were able to

do something creative to get this important piece of infrastructure. Those among us might criticize it because it uses cars but it also uses trucks and facilitates truck and car movement and the efficient movement of goods and people around the City. And part of the sustainability is economic and social sustainability, and being able to move efficiently around a City also not only does it meet those two but it also helps us to meet the goals of environmental sustainability. I think I've made a bit of a reference to some of the oppositional disorder stuff that we've got going on amongst us. We live in a City where things are going great right now, people are seeing things changing, and we're seeing development coming as a result of the investments we've made in Rapid Transit. Nobody cancelled Rapid Transit and in 2004 it was set aside until such sometime as we had a suitable funding model to do it and that's exactly what we're doing with the future Rapid Transit investments and hopefully we'll do it in the context of the entire city and all of its needs based on a asset management strategy that says here are our priorities, here is how they plug into our sustainability plan here's how they plug into Our Plan Winnipeg. We're right in the middle of a transportation strategy, transportation management strategy being developed and just to throw money "willy nilly" out there to some ideological, driven notion that people that live in the City that hits 40 below that everybody should be on a bus or a bike just doesn't make sense. We need to be representing the entire city as opposed to the bike riding, Birkenstock wearing granola crunching hemp gown wearing individuals that will just jump at any opportunity to do something different than actually live in an efficient City that makes sense to the whole population. I'm certainly quite willing to spend money to invest in a reasonable amount that helps address those who want it use alternate forms of transportation and can make sense of it. It's a dig big difference between a 20-year-old individual riding their bike in -40 degree weather down Pembina Highway and a 60-year-old person who needs an efficient way or 70 year-old person needs a efficient way to get to a medical appointment so let's take all people into consideration when we're doing this. I think listening to Councillor Gerbasi that we saw that it doesn't matter what document comes before this Council it is just going to be used as an anti-EPC, anti-mayor conversation and it's almost to the point where we should just refer to the good Councillor as the queen of contradiction who loved the process when she was a member of EPC with a Mayor who created his own Secretariat to take over the day to day operations of the City. Talk about hypocrisy contradictions. Here we have the individuals who at the time went so far; never mind doing the budget behind closed doors as it so often is done and we know we have to do a great deal of that work behind closed doors as does every City the other representations I'm not sure how accurate they are but certainly you see the hypocrisy when there was an EPC and Mayor who created their own Secretariat to try to drive themselves into the day to day operations of the City and here we are, probably -- the most transparent we've ever been in a budget process, it's interesting it see that Councillor Gerbasi didn't bring any Motions forward through this process, but yet is here to criticize everything that's been done without making any positive recommendations or suggesting where that funding would come from. I want to remind people as well that Winnipeg was just awarded a designation of the most desirable City in our country for redevelopment and mostly because of the work we're doing in our Downtown, Rapid Transit, Active Transportation, so infill and Brownsfield development we're seeing as being a leader on; a leader in that area and we were awarded for it just this past year. Really, I want to get back to what I started with saying and that's focusing on what we're doing in the next year….

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Sharma moves Extension. All those in Favour? Opposed? Carried.

Councillor Swandel: This asset management strategy comes out that we need to be diligent and ensuring our Federal and Provincial partners work with us to allocate their dollars on our priorities not the political priorities of those levels of government and ensuring we getting the best value for the taxpayers in the City of Winnipeg. We're always challenged with infrastructure. Infrastructure deficit. People say raise taxes and you'll solve the infrastructure deficit and the Mayor is often quoted as saying 1% property tax increase brings you $4 million. One of those G.S.T. points that was eliminated would bring you $125 million or there about; if you take both of them under consideration. $250 million you could start to make a fair bite into a $4 billion whatever number you use on any given day but a $4 billion infrastructure deficit and we know we're experienced quite a bit of growth right now and we do get a bit of a positive lift at the beginning years of that growth, we're getting this new development the cost benefit analysis of those new developments tends to show that there is; there should be extra monies available to us to do a bit of work but also to get into better maintenance practices that will allow us to bring the value that we need as we go forward. So, let's spend wisely as we go forward and let's make sure we do it in the big picture context. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thanks Councillor Swandel. Councillor Smith.

Councillor Smith: Yes Mr. Speaker. There are some good things in this Capital Budget. A few good things. The funding of Assiniboine Park Conservatory which includes ongoing upgrading and improvement in the Park is really important. We've neglected this Park for too long, so I really welcome this in the Capital Budget. Also, the 2 million for the new University Winnipeg Soccer Complex for recreation in that part of the City it will be tremendous, especially with a lot of the immigrant groups from Africa, soccer is their game. So, I think this is fantastic. But the Mayor's comments in the budget document, he says the Public Service is also begun a comprehensive Asset Management Initiative. This work will ensure department implement leading practices and managing their infrastructure assets and are limited Capital resources are funding the highest priority projects. Obviously the Mayor doesn't care about the back lanes in my

Ward. When the old City of Winnipeg. The fact is, I have over 200 back lanes that have to be rebuilt but he just closes his eyes and ignores it; doesn't care. I had someone say to me, getting your back lane done; redone is like winning the lottery and that's true because I can only get 3 or so back lanes done a year. When I've got 200 that need to be done. Now, Councillor Fielding talks about the gravel back lanes but nothing has been done to improve the situation in the lanes in the Inner City generally. I have no; I have I think one or two gravel back lanes. So your gravel back lane initiative does not help me very much. So I've been thinking how do I get across the idea of the back lanes that need to be done? What can I do? Well today I'm announcing that I am starting; I'll attempt to start; look at establishing the Harvey Smith Lottery for back lanes. And I'll make my recommendations to the Department based on the reaction from the people in my Ward. So, you know, let me tell you, they are fed up but they are not organized. They only have a representative here to tell you about the bad back lane situation. I noticed the Mayor is just ignoring this. I would like to hear you talk about back lanes. Now also in the kettle budget book, they renamed something. Used to have pathway, roadway, tennis court upgrading now renamed, hard surface upgrading. So you don't know what it is until you read the fine print. But the fact is we haven't maintained the tennis courts. The tennis court at Notre Dame is so wrecked, nothing has been done and we haven't maintained our infrastructure at the parks. So, I can't support this budget, it doesn't do that. And also, remember the Mayor made a big deal about the traffic enhancement and synchronizing so we could get through from one point to one point faster? Well, we have in the Capital Budget we have a sum for 2011 and 2012 but after that there is nothing. We're not going to have that job done. The Mayor's words are worthless. In fact they will not happen; we will not have the synchronization of the traffic lights to achieve.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Smith your comments should be through me to the Mayor.

Councillor Smith: Okay. I said that with the idea that Councillor Steeves' Motion is going to be coming into play. But the fact is, the Mayor has ignored the whole idea of synchronization of traffic lights and we won't have it done the way he had hoped to many, many people. Thank you. I will not support this budget. It's a budget with no vision and has nothing to do with expanding public transit. It's not a good budget. It's something that has some good points but overall is bad.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be supporting this Budget. I will be supporting it because I think on balance and given the tools that we have at our disposition today, in this point of time, we are addressing the challenges our City faces. The problem is of course is that those infrastructure challenges are like this. The Capital Budget is like this. And so in 2011 for example we're spending $370 million to address streets, sidewalks, public buildings, police buildings, water and sewage systems, Transit, Community Services, Libraries all over the City. Specifically we're spending $119 million on public works including 43 million on regional and local streets more on the local street side than we've spent in a while. I'm proud of the fact we're introducing $1 million for granular back lanes and I thank Councillor Fielding and Councillor Nordman for their leadership on this because that's an issue that I heard time and again as I knocked on doors in St. Boniface in Autumn of 2010, whether it was Norwood, whether it was Archwood whether it was St. Boniface East it's a priority. For years we haven't been doing anything we're doing a little bit and it's my hope that over time we will be doing more for those constituents. We're spending $81 million on the Water and Waste Department in 2011 this is a significant reduction basically because the North End Waste Water Treatment Plant has been delayed in 2012 for various reasons. In over the 6 year term we'll spend close to over $1 billion in the Water Waste and Solid Waste Departments, most of which is covered off in this document and I think this is the crux of our challenge in this City. Water, Water and Waste and Solid Waste we're spending 1.1 billion over 6 years and all the other departments in the City of Winnipeg Mr. Speaker are spending $1 billion. So you've got 1,100,000,000 in Water and Waste and you have 1 billion in all the other Departments whether it's Transit, whether it's Civic Buildings, whether it's Community Services, whether it's all the physical building infrastructure we have for the entire City of Winnipeg is being outspent by Water and Waste and Garbage collection essentially. And you don't have to be an economist to know where we could potentially find some economies, some savings, so that we could put more money from the Water and Waste side into back lanes, into streets, into concrete, into sidewalks and I think that's a challenge that certainly I'll undertake as Chair of Public Works in the upcoming years and in fact there is some good news in a Report that's coming forward tomorrow. We need to answer those questions Mr. Speaker and the priority is to engage the Provincial Government and the citizens of our City in this challenge. We're spending 13 and a half million dollars on water main renewals in 2011. We know that that's a hot button issue especially in the last few months and over the 6 year term we're investing 92 and a half million dollars in water main renewal and we know the need is even greater than $92 million over the 6 year term. One of the more positive initiatives that I'm proud to support promising is over the next 3 years we have $25 million identified, I hope it doesn't cost all that money but we have $25 million identified for waste minimization strategy. Something we've all been working on for a long time and the final results of that strategy will be I hope a mixture of rollout garbage carts, rollout recycling carts, some sort of curb side service for organics. Certainly we need to do something with yard waste but the money has been identified over the next 3 years. The consultation will continue over the next few months and I hope that a Report will be debated on the floor of this Council in September.

We're spending $28 million on a Transit Department. 18 million for 40 new low floor transit buses and about $8 million, most of which has already been budgeted for a new fare collection system. As Councillor Fielding has mentioned at Sage Creek we're building a new Fire Hall we're building a new Library in the St. Boniface/St. Vital area, as well as a new Police Station smack dab Downtown. And I know at Committee we were criticized for not spending enough money in the long term in our Capital Budget and I just want to make the comparisons this year we're spending $370 million and on a rolling five year average, not including 2011 we are spending $368 million average per year, so the spending is approximately the same over the 6 year term. That's not to say Mr. Speaker all is well in this whole process. Because simply stated our infrastructure challenges are huge. Our ability to pay for those challenges are not as big as the challenge. We know about the infrastructure deficit. Councillor Russ Wyatt commission a Report in 2009 of course identifying the cumulative 10 year infrastructure deficit at $3 billion and approximately $250 million a year and those numbers are very large. Those numbers for the most part are real and are they're not going away and in fact the longer it takes to address those challenges, the more that that deficit is going to loom. So our biggest challenge, Mr. Speaker as the collective Mayor leading the challenge and certainly our challenge as individual Councillors is to engage the other levels of government, be it Province or Feds, to try to; we've all heard the new deal talk we've all heard about the strategic infrastructure reinvestment talk. The issues haven't changed a heck of a lot but the numbers ballooned. Our challenge is to engage other levels of government in growth revenues for cities, for municipalities that will grow when the economy grows, so that we can invest that excess money into our infrastructure and into public safety Mr. Speaker, and that's something that's not going to happen alone. It's not a new discussion. It's been going on for years; we need to continue to lobby other levels of government for bigger share of the existing pie.

In closing I want to thank Councillor Fielding for his work in putting this budget together and I want to thank the Administration, I know you've been working for a very long time on this with different alternatives to get to this point and I appreciate your work, I know it's a tuff job. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker: Thanks Councillor Vandal. Councillor Havixbeck followed by Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Havixbeck: First let me start by saying that the reason I became a City Councillor was to try to make the City a better place for my children, for our grandchildren and this budget is one step towards that end. We are City Councillors not Ward Councillors. We have the title of City Councillor behind our name for a reason. We are to look outwardly at the City as a whole, versus our own individual issues in our own Ward yet we are accountable to our own constituents. As a newcomer both to City Council and to EPC, I can say from concurrently going through this budgetary process and meeting with all the Directors of all the Departments, that our resources are stretched to the limit. And that poses some restrictions on the amount of flexibility and the amount of creativity that can be achieved through a Budget process. For example, wouldn't it be a great world if we could just stop and say let's build this from the ground up or do a zero-based budgeting process. It would be very simple but we're left with what we are left from a prior Administration, from a prior Mayor and overruns that have begun long before any of our time sitting around this table. So, we do the best we can with the existing resources we have. The priorities I heard during the campaign were public safety, improving opportunities for young people to have activities that they could be engaged with and roads and infrastructure. And that's what I heard from the constituents of Charleswood. Now those priorities may have shifted maybe public safety is more important in certain other areas but overall they are the most important and I believe that with the additional police officers that we're approved, with the fire stations planned for Sage Creek, River Heights, Charleswood, those issues among public safety will be addressed through this budget. Other activities included a large funding towards the Assiniboine Park Conservancy this happens to be in the Charleswood-Tuxedo Ward but I can tell you that I was there two weeks ago with my kids and there were people there, there were some German tourists there and they thought what an attraction. The tobogganing, the duck pond for skating, two weeks prior to that there were some Asian tourists there; thinking what a fantastic City this is and commenting on that. I can also tell you there were hardly any people from Tuxedo-Charleswood. Many of the people there enjoying the toboggan run were from other areas and in fact many from the core area. I think something that's often missed is where our roots are and I can tell you that the Mayor and I have our roots in the North End of the City. And the core area is near and dear to me. So for anybody to say that people on EPC cannot possibly have the perspective needed from what goes on in the core or the northern area of the City is almost ludicrous. I can tell you also that public consultation is very interesting. Councillor Fielding held two public consultation forums. There was one Councillor at that public consultation forum at only one and that was Councillor Browaty. Two maybe, okay, I would have to argue though that they were none of the naysayers to this Budget that actively participated in attending those consultation processes. And I think that's a good step engaging the public and getting them more involved in what we're actually doing here, and I would look to the future to broadening that using maybe social media and try to capture more of the audience we need. And I would like to comment also Mr. Speaker about Transit. And I represent White Ridge and Charleswood. Two extreme ends of the City and there are many. Garden City is a growing end. North Kildonan all these Ends of the City. Transit is nearly impossible for many students. Many University students attending the University of Manitoba; and I took the bus during the campaign. It takes an hour and a half from Charleswood. And I can tell you that I think that the resources to fund those; that and add another bus into the system is incredibly difficult. So I think this budget does the best to address some of those growing

infrastructure challenges. We have typically been a town-based organization, we need to get into City thinking and so that's where I would encourage my Councillor colleagues to go to with this budget. So, in summation, I too, express my appreciation to the Administration, the Finance staff in explaining to me reserves and different kinds of transfers and all those new things that seem overwhelming. People would be very helpful in explaining that I know they worked long, long hours to pull together this budget. So I thank them and I thank my colleagues in EPC as well for making me feel welcome and explaining those things as we go so thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you Speaker Nordman. Well what a great opportunity for me to come to City Council and actually be able to be a City Councillor and speak to this Capital Budget. I would really; I know that the Administration goes through a lot of work in order to help to prepare us elected people to be able to present and vote for a City Budget and I would like to thank that Administration for their really hard work. When I was a School Board Trustee at the Seven Oaks School Division all 9 elected people actually worked with the Administration to determine, how we could best meet the needs of the students of the Seven Oaks School Division and as City Councillors and yes I agree with Councillor Havixbeck it does say City Councillor and we do have to keep in mind the whole City and I think that I do in terms of transit systems, I come from Mynarski and I believe that Rapid Transit for my kids when they start going to University. Hop on a 32, get off Via Rail, jump on a Rapid Transit all the way to U of M would be nice. I would like to take Rapid Transit all the way to U of M as a matter of fact to catch a football game as I can jump on the LRT in Edmonton via the Commonwealth Stadium for a football game. So these are big picture things that we all need to keep in consideration when we do deliberate on what kind of budgets we need to pass. And I must say as a new City Councillor and it was referred to giving a little extra time for new City Councillors to get our minds around a Capital Budget. Starting in November, I know that that's; it should have started earlier, given it being an election year and but really, unless you're actually participating with the Administration on a day to day basis as the hard working City Councillors on EPC did attending all those meetings, working with Administration, I would love the opportunity just as a City Councillor, who was elected by quite a few people in the Mynarski Ward. I want to say that this Capital Budget, I've been through it in a fine, detailed comb, combing through it and you know what there is a lot of good projects in this budget and I have to say that I commend the idea of expanding a bus garage so that you can actually have a larger fleet of buses to serve the people. I really appreciate being on the Winnipeg Public Library Board that we're building; we're combining two libraries and building a new library in St. Vital and I think that's a great thing. I think that though we could invest more. I know that in the future plans in the Five Year Projections that we're looking at renovating more libraries I think that is very import, there is a whole bunch of projects. Councillor Vandal mentioned the environmental take we'll be moving forward on garbage. I think that's essential. And from where I'm coming from, the number 1 issue, to 311 and to my office is about auto bins and garbage and so we need to come up with a better plan to deal with that in this City. So I'm all aboard on that I think it's great. So there is a whole bunch of projects and I just; but really, I think that what we really need is I think that a bigger, fuller vision is not achieved in this budget, Mr. Speaker, Speaker Nordman and I think that's the case because we didn't have the input of all our City Councillors along the way and I do understand that some people did grow up for a little while in the North End and I currently live in West Kildonan just outside of the traditional North End but I walk those streets every day I have for many, many years. I do it all the time and I have to say you can't really know what the need is unless you're walking around on those streets. Just like you can't know what the real needs of public transit is if you don't ride the public transit system every day and this City Councillor rides it every day because really, I have no choice. What we have is in this City part of the bigger vision is what we're missing I think and I'm not faulting anybody for this but what we really need to look at is this, is that there is a lot of capital investment in expanding out our City because our City is growing. I think that's great that our City is growing and it's very important that we do build things like the Chief Peguis Trail. I think it's very important that we do have proper regional streets to drive on. I don't think we need to speed up cars to make it more dangerous for pedestrians who live close to regional streets who could get hit and we do need to have more pedestrian controls and things like that. But in terms of the overall growth of the City, what's been happening is we're neglecting our Inner City. The Inner City has been neglected while we're building a new Disraeli Bridge. We have to look at the Arlington Bridge, it's really old. There is a whole bunch of old infrastructure that exists within our Inner City and a more; a better vision would be one that addresses these issues in a quicker matter. I heard our roads budget increased by 17% and regional and local streets but I was looking at; there is a $2 million extra increase for streets but you know what does that mean to Mynarski? I get this year I get two streets, Pritchard to Austin, which is I don't know what, maybe 250 feet of road. I get two of those this year that is nowhere going to keep up to what the problem we have. And I have to say that we need to figure out a better way to do it and asset management is a great thing however, if you don't have the money, to manage the assets, what do you going to do? Because we already know where the failed streets are. Councillor Smith referred to a whole bunch of crumbling back lanes. Pretty soon we will have some gravel back lanes in the North End because that concrete is crumbling. We need to fix that and deal with it. And I don't see any addition getting that way at this point. The borrowing of money. We're going to borrow it says here 78 point something million dollars and I know we've borrowed money in the past. What I would like to bring to people's attention is, we are, at a time when we have the lowest interest rates in who knows how long through the late 90s and into the 2000s. We've had this really low interest rate that the City could have taken

advantage of. What were we doing; we were taking advantage of paying for private leases which everybody knows who ever took finance at any College or any University knows that leases cost more than the money you could borrow as a City. So what we're doing is; and there is some consolation though. I like to think of it this way: Because we entered into those private deals to lease streets, I just think of this way, the Federal money given to us from the privatization fund, that monies going to pay the extra interest. I'm happy to think my property taxes are not going to pay for extra profits to people and frankly, the people in Mynarski don't really get to participate in some of those big investment Capital choices because they're just working to make ends meet. So old infrastructure is there. Cash to Capital is an interesting idea when you have high interest rates. Cash to Capital is what they should have doing in the 1980s when we had high interest rates. Cash to Capital is really developed quite well with the City through the 90s because you had this debt problem and again this goes to show where's the vision? Like were now if we're going to borrow more money now, interest rates are going to be going up. Let's take advantage of some lower interest rates and I don't see that vision in here and.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel moves extension. All those in Favour? Opposed? Carried.

Councillor Eadie: I would also; there are a couple of other points I would like to bring to for instance here, there's with the older decaying streets and sidewalks, the sidewalk replacement has not increased. The back lane amount is not increased. But front streets increased. We were talking about active transportation. You can't get to an Active Transportation Corridor if your sidewalks are all busted up and your roads are full of huge potholes. Okay, if you want to utilize those active transportation systems, I think that we need to focus in as well on replacing and renewing our Inner City streets so we can get on this Active Transportation. Transit is not able to expand; actually Transit in my Ward has actually pulled away from assets that they could be using because they had to adjust their Transit system because they couldn't deal with the infrastructure problems and what that means to us and senior citizens in the Margaret Park area is that they have lesser bus service, they have to walk on sidewalks that might not get replaced. So if you're 70 years old and your spending your time walking on a street that has big bumps on it and the best the plough could do is shave off some of the top and it ices up what are those Seniors doing? You know what our Transit system has to say to people; take Handi-Transit. Handi-Transit is never going to be able to handle the load if we keep treating Transit that way. We need a bigger vision for Transit, we need a bigger vision to replace our streets and our sidewalks to make it useable by the people that live with it so because we're voting on the whole budget, and not just on individual projects, I today, I'm going to stand here to tell you I will be voting against this Capital Budget because it's short of some of the vision that I talked about.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Who is next? Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. I stand up today in support of this Capital Budget. Do I love this budget? No. Does it answer every dream I've ever had? No, but just like the girl who asks for a pony for Christmas, you have to be reasonable. This budget is balanced in my mind. It achieves a little bit of everything. There is continued investment in Active Transportation, investments in roads, in fire halls, a major investment in our new Police Headquarters and ensuring our residents are safe. Not just from providing the police a proper facility to protect us but also from bricks and mortar falling on us from our current Public Safety Building. I think this is a responsible budget. Do we need to do more? Yes. The reality today though is, you get about 6 and a half cents of every tax dollar that comes to us. I was asked by Mayor Katz following the budget to work on the Infrastructure Funding Council. I don't know what work, not exactly prior to my being involved and what discussions went on but we are continuing to look at every possible option. Sources that we control, sources we don't control. It's quite an exhaustive process and when that document comes forward it's going to be a very good piece for all of us to have to have some discussions to have some tough discussions. And there will be a number of options to talk about and consider. Will we want it eat at that restaurant? We'll have to have that discussion as to where we want to go. I know recently Mayor Katz and Chris Lorenc who is the Chair of the Infrastructure Funding Council attended the Infrastructure Summit in Regina, Saskatchewan. Further discussions, new ideas; further talk went on at that particular meeting and I know stuff from that is still coming forward to the Infrastructure Funding Council and a the final Report is certainly forthcoming. The Civic Level of government is the one that people experience every day. When you wake up tomorrow and turn on the tap; if the water not there you blame the City? If your snow isn't plowed, believe me, we hear about it. Garbage pick up or your bus doesn't show. If you call 911 and the Police, the Fire Department, and ambulances aren't there they recognize that right away but again only 6 and a half cents of every tax dollar comes to the City of Winnipeg. There is only one taxpayer at the end of the day. We have to continue to make sure that we run our shop; our shop and I refer to it as our City as efficiently as possible but we need to work with the other levels of government to ensure that their priorities are also with that of the public. So again, I will be supporting this budget. A couple of other comments were made that I should probably address here. Talking about openness of the budget process. There was an opportunity at each one of the Standing Policy Committees to come forward. There were public open houses. I attended the one at the Bronx Park Community Centre. Besides myself, all the Finance Department there was one member of the public that attended and look at the gallery today there isn't one public representation today. I think as elected officials we have to realize that

the people who call our office or email our offices and people we talk to on the street every day don't necessarily need to come to a public open house to be understood. People know that they want their streets without potholes, we know that. People know we need to continue investing in Fire Halls and Police Stations and infrastructure. As elected officials, we need to stand up and recognize what the public wants. So again, I thank the Administration for all their hard work. The budget crew spent tireless hours about the Capital and the Operating budget, to various people in the departments for all their work and to Council for going through this whole process, so again, I thank you Mr. Speaker for this opportunity today and I will be supporting today's budget.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor Browaty. Councillor Steeves.

Councillor Steeves: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'll begin with my respectful thanks to the folks who have made this budget possible. I see them over there Howard, Betty, Jo-Anne, Moira, and Mike, long hours spent preparing this with Scott Chairing the Committee not easy and getting tougher every year I would submit Mr. Speaker. Disappointed to hear some of the comments around the table this morning. Disappointed for this reason mostly Mr. Speaker. I think this budget represents a bit of a water shed for the City of Winnipeg. And perhaps not a great water shed either. This I think is a wonderful Capital Budget. I'll support it without qualification. I'll strongly support this Capital Budget. I actually think in truth you would have to work pretty hard to not support this Capital Budget, particularly if you were a person who was of the mind that you wanted to do more or spend more or borrow more in the context of the City's economic framework. The reason I say Water Shed and the reason I say I have concerns is that we're coming out of an era where there was an economic downturn as we all know. There was a pretty substantial, financial input from the Federal Government and now we find ourselves in a place where the Federal Government is in a significant deficit position, and although they didn't necessarily participate in the Stimulus process, our Provincial Government as well also have managed to get them into a significant deficit position. My point is, is over the next few years it might be pretty difficult indeed for this City to realize some of the benefits that we've seen in this Capital Budget. If folks are interested in looking forward and trying to predict the future to determine what may in fact lay ahead. I would ask you to consider that reality. Is there going to be more or is there going to be less from other levels of government?

I would say probably the latter. And I take no pleasure in saying that, but we all remember the early 90s, the last time the Federal Government went through a series of cut backs. Those were difficult times. I don't know what this City Council's going to do, what decisions we're going to make, but I can tell you back then, the City Council of the day, and I wasn't there of course, Councillor Smith and Vandal and Gerbasi were, but my understanding is for a time, residential road construction wasn't just reduced but it was ceased completely for a number of years. Those decisions are the types of decisions that were made at the hands of overspending so let's be careful. And if there is something that would underline those difficulties it's the prohibitive cost of these infrastructure projects that we are undertaking. These are huge things that we're doing for this City. These are not hundreds of thousands of dollars. These have actually, in some circumstances reached dozens and dozens of millions of dollars per project. This is what we're trying to manage. I will say this though, infrastructure projects, I think remain at the essence and at the heart of the core services that the City delivers and from an economic perspective, they do a wonderful thing for our economy and that they do ultimately support the economy from which they take money in the first place. It is the most transparent and I would say the most defensible mechanism for spending money in the context of government spending and that's why I always liked the Capital Budget. It's so transparent, I think it is so easy for everybody to understand, and I think it should be supported for that reason. I cannot support my friends who argued about the idea of consultation and the Executive Policy Committee Model. Councillor Browaty said it very, very clearly. The opportunities to consult on this Capital Budget for a person that was interested were immense. If somebody didn't come forward and say their peace on this Capital Budget, they only have a single person to blame and that is, in fact, themselves. We may criticize the Executive Policy Committee Model and I would join in with that because those EPC are scoundrels. That was a joke Mr. Speaker I thought people might laugh. But if you want to criticize the Executive Policy Committee Model you have to be careful about that, Mr. Speaker, because if what you're asking for is more responsibility for this process, then you better recall that what you might get is more responsibility for this process. I can tell you the tough part about this is trying to make decisions between very worthy projects and I've sat here and listened to some of my colleagues speak, and I have listened throughout the course of any delegations, innumerable ones have come forward; well not innumerable but some have come forward and I'm still at a loss to say that I definitively understand exactly what changes specifically, they would like to see made in the context of this Capital Budget. I see before me no Motions. I see no Amendments. I see only criticism and I see only people who say they will not support this budget. Well, what is that? I'm not anxious to work with those types of people.

If this is all you're going to do is say I'm not supporting this but at the same time I'm not prepared to make alternate recommendations, then that's fine, that is it your prerogative but I'm uninterested in working with people like that. It would have been easy, Mr. Speaker, to put forward alternate ideas, easy. The problem with that, of course, is when you do that you have to make hard choices. People have the right to not make those hard choices but again, I will choose

not to work with you if you are not willing to make hard choices. Disraeli Bridge, Peguis, BRT, Police Stations, APC all of these projects have been allotted and they all appear in the Capital Budget.

We've heard talk about other cities and the way they do it but what wasn't mentioned is that these cities have routinely over the last ten years, put 4, 5, 6, sometimes even 9% tax increases on the table in front of their citizens. If that's a choice you want to make, then tell me that's a choice you want to make. Otherwise I don't know how to receive your comments.

Comments about the downtown and the Inner City confound me. Have these people not been present to see things like the Human Rights Museum our support on that. The University of Winnipeg, BRT, the walkway, the MTS Centre, Active Transportation, the housing grants, the water front developments, there is a long list of things that have been done to support the Inner City and for someone to stand up and say there is nothing in this budget or other things…

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Steen moves extension. All those in Favour? Opposed? Carried.

Councillor Steeves: is in my opinion not supportable in fact. I'd be careful, Mr. Speaker as well, about supporting the idea of supporting the idea of additional debt and supporting the idea of going into additional debt to support Capital Projects. It is a fair comment I would suggest to talk about the P3 projects and the ongoing obligation they require from the City of Winnipeg. It would be fool hardy of us not to consider that because that is real and I appreciate those comments. I know our Administration is aware of those and I'm aware that as a City we have to be careful as to the level of ongoing payment be they debt or lease payments under a P3 that is important. The good thing though about a P3 payment that is undeniable is that it leaves the project in the hands of the proponent and after a period of time it is to be returned in a condition that is worthy of the City of Winnipeg and regrettably Mr. Speaker, it would seem we've had trouble delivering that with our own projects over the course of this City's history and if we do a straight comparative I think we'll find that the benefit may indeed lay with the P3 projects and the state of those projects after a period of time. I hope we can stand up and join in one thing at least, some of these expenditures under this Waste Water program are bizarre at this stage. Why anybody would force the City of Winnipeg to endure the type of expense for nitrogen removal is at this stage inexplicable. We should stand up as a group and deplore that stance taken by the Provincial Government of Manitoba. With that Mr. Speaker, I'll stand in strong support of this Capital Budget. I'll invite my colleagues to do the same and if they won't, I'll await a detailed list of changes that could be made.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Pagtakhan.

Councillor Pagtakhan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we sit here in circular fashion, with a Crest over your head that has the City of Winnipeg motto and the symbolism of this structure, Mr. Speaker, that we sit here speaks of equality and speaks of each of us has a contribution to make here at the City of Winnipeg Council. In the Mayor's opening remarks he talked about thanking members of the Administration and they deserve those thanks and members of EPC. They deserve those thanks as well, Mr. Speaker. But, Mr. Speaker, what rang loud in my ear was the absence of thanking other Members of Council and I asked myself why is that Mr. Speaker? Why is it that the Mayor wasn't able to thank other Members of Council? Well I never received a phone call Mr. Speaker and I thought I was the only one, maybe the Mayor was mad at me or something but I talked to a couple of my colleagues and I heard Councillor Gerbasi, she didn't get a phone call either and I wonder Mr. Speaker, Council Steeves talks about a water shed and how this budget is really a water shed for you know investment and spending but isn't a water shed for inclusion and team work Mr. Speaker? I don't think it is. Just one example, I worked with the Winnipeg Boys and Girls Club and they serve the whole City of Winnipeg, Mr. Speaker the entire City. They have Clubs in St. Norbert, they've got a club in St. Vital, all throughout the North End, West Kildonan and they also have a club in the Inner City, a couple of them. They put together a really good presentation, and we made a very good delegation before the Mayor and Executive Policy Committee and it was about investing in the Freight House, which is our City of Winnipeg asset right on Isabel, 200 Isabel and they were talking to the tune of 800 something thousand dollars renovation for their Head Office and to create some community space. Now they also came there, Mr. Speaker saying they've got confirmation of other sources of funding, broad support from their own sources, from the Thomasville Foundation, Winnipeg Foundation and others, half of their project was already in the bank Mr. Speaker in terms of being funded. They were coming to us asking for 17% of an investment that would be a total of $800,000 to our City of Winnipeg facility, and that was a couple of weeks ago, maybe 2 or 3 weeks that we made that delegation and I haven't heard a thing and here today I find out it's not on the Agenda and obviously I don't think it's being supported and for me that's a "no brainer". This particular type of investment with this Club which has a record of service in our community for decades, and decades and decades Mr. Speaker, looking after thousands of children, I mean this is a billion dollars budget and they're asking for $150,000, I would of liked to see something like that and I think that that could have been found. We need to be part of the solution. I used to be in EPC I was part of making for Capital Budgets with Mayor Sam Katz in the past and you know we need to be part of that discussion when it comes to finding out the revenue and I understand some of those challenges Mr. Speaker, I understand. You know it's tough, we don't have the money to do everything we want to, but I'm not saying

that, I don't think that anybody here is saying we have to do everything but let us be part of that conversation, and that's the truth, Mr. Speaker. No one can take that away from us. That experience, unfortunately we weren't part of that experience and so this budget I don't feel like I was really part of this budget and even though we tried to make a meaningful contribution through an organization I think that is a stand up organization of the City and for them not to be on this Agenda today Mr. Speaker, for us to support this $150,000 asset in a billion dollar budget, it kind of disappoints me. I don't know I can support this budget and thanks for your time Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Orlikow.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let's be very clear what this Budget means. This Budget means less residential streets and back lanes will be repaired. This has been confirmed with Public Works. There is no new money for existing community centres, there is no new money to protect our urban forest and projects like the Waverley By-pass something that is needed to address the safety issues facing those living in the south end has once again been deferred. This Capital Budget shows no leadership and increases the infrastructure deficit and cannot be supported. The Mayor has had 6 years to address this issue and there are numerous Reports on how the issue can be addressed. While there is an agreement, the City of Winnipeg needs to continue to advocate for its share of growth revenue. That alone will not deal with this issue. The infrastructure deficit and possible funding options Report already endorsed by Council in 2009 clearly provides many funding options, such as increasing developer fees which are the lowest in the country. And instead the Mayor chooses to ignore options and refuses to take action. The City of Winnipeg's plan of adding only $2 million in cash to the Capital Budget represents an increase of .005%. That is unacceptable. The Capital Budget of blue print on how to move Winnipeg forward. This budget takes Winnipeg 3 steps back to rutted roads, closed community centres and dead trees. For older neighbourhoods this Budget is even worse as little money is being spent to repair existing infrastructure, and the majority of money is going into new infrastructure. So moving forward, I, as my colleagues have said today suggest that all Councillors be involved in the entire Capital Budget decision-making process as Council, as a whole. Then the Mayor will have the opportunity to thank all of us rather than just the EPC and the Administration. This will allow representation to ensure community voices are heard and options can be reviewed before decisions are made, in a fair and transparent and balanced approach. It is unfair to ask people who were excluded from the process to come forward when they don't have the information or the time that other Members of Council have been provided. Why should only a few Councillors be able to develop this budget? Why are negotiations regarding priorities done behind closed doors? Why are decisions done arbitrarily and without prior consultation? My door is always open.

Lack of participation is not a result of people being satisfied. We talk about consultation today we had two open houses. I think the total number excluding Administration, only 20 people showed up to those open houses. Less than five people showed up to the Standing Policy Committee. Does that mean Winnipeggers are happy their content? No. It means I believe that there is a problem in the process and we need to address that. We all want to be responsible for this budget. We were elected to do so. However, the existing process does not allow that. To provide an opportunity to consider alternatives requires that all are respected throughout the process given the same opportunities as others to debate the issues, set priorities and to meet with Administration and also to be provided the same amount of time to do so. Again, without that, it places many Councillors that is have distinct disadvantage to come forward with an alternatives. I am Voting for a plan that reinvests in existing infrastructure, that identifies how the City will do its part and has a vision and that is why I'm voting against this Capital Budget.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Steen.

Councillor Steen: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am very supportive of this Capital Budget. Within this document, are many high priority projects that are going to be completed over the next five years and are a must for our City. I am somewhat concerned that the Louise Bridge at this time is not happening sooner because as I believe a four lane bridge would serve us the best interest for the residents within the northeast section of Winnipeg. I do look forward to the new Disraeli Bridge and overpass and I'm confident the residents who drive, walk or cycle will be happy when it's completed. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I think it's fair to say that even though the spirit and the strength of Winnipeggers is there that our infrastructure and the state of our disrepair has never been greater in this City. We know, Mr. Speaker that in 2009, $380 million was the estimate made by our staff of our existing infrastructure deficit. $380 million in one year or 3.8 billion over ten. We know Mr. Speaker those are 2009 dollars based on the projections that's well over now $400 million a year just on our existing infrastructure in 2011 dollars. This Capital Budget before us today, Mr. Speaker is a cut of 16% from the previous year's Capital Budget. Let's not fool ourselves here, Mr. Speaker. We know, Mr. Speaker that whether we're spending $10 million a year or $12 million a year on residential streets it's not

enough. We should spend a hundred million dollars a year fixing our residential streets. Last council meeting, I suggested or challenged the Finance Chair and Members of EPC and the Mayor to seriously look and try to take on one issue. Yes it's so overwhelming that I think at times we feel that we can't deal with the challenge before us, therefore, take one part of the Capital Budget and target it and make a decision to try to solve it. And I suggested residential streets. Was that done? No. There was no work done on that whatsoever Mr. Speaker. No new ideas coming forward and no tough decision that one Councillor says we should making. Instead it stays the course and stay the course right now Mr. Speaker is right over the cliff I can assure you of that. Our; we just came out of a Civic Election last fall. It's almost as if it didn't exist. As if nothing had occurred. Yet the people I talked to citizen after citizen want solutions and they know it's not going to be easy, Mr. Speaker. They know it's not going to be solved overnight but they want to have a sense that we as a Council have the ability to have the leadership to address these issues. Now it's been said, some ideas that I want to make sure I correct for the record here, Asset Management all of a sudden has become a big term today or in this Capital Budget as if we discovered it. Our Department has been doing Asset Management for some time Mr. Speaker. They've been doing Asset Management of bridges constantly, Mr. Speaker. We do that because we want to make sure the bridges are safe. Our Property Department has had a very successful Asset Management program of virtually every building in the City except for a few maybe a few small outbuildings they can tell you the state of it pretty well up-to-date Mr. Speaker. And it's amazing what they've done. I've seen their program, I've seen the work they've done, amazing. But Asset Management with the infrastructure we have today is the equivalent, Mr. Speaker, of asking a person who we know is dying, well, how sick are you? Mr. Speaker, the person is dying. Mr. Speaker as it stands right now our infrastructure is crumbling at a rate; yes it may be able to tell us a little bit here and a little bit there but if you don't have money to do anything with it Mr. Speaker, what's the point of Asset Management? Tough funding decisions. I as a Member of this Council, have not hesitated as all Councillors and the Mayor knows to stand up and to speak my mind when it comes to the Provincial Government to Move Motions when is it comes to the Provincial Government or the Federal Government, as far as that goes Mr. Speaker about their need to do more. But we as a Council must show leadership as well. We have certain spending authority already that we can act on and one was pointed out earlier today, our ability to do something with development charges Mr. Speaker. We have the power, 6 years ago, this City hired consultants, paid good money for Reports that never saw the light of day to do impost charges Mr. Speaker on developments and to have that money funneled back into infrastructure. Pay their share, pay their way and that was never enacted upon and today indeed we have the lowest development charges of virtually any Western Canadian City, if not any major Canadian City. Today, Mr. Speaker, it is safe to say we spend now the lowest per capita of any major Canadian City on our infrastructure. The lowest: And when Councillors stand up and say we dare not borrow Mr. Speaker. City after City after City in this Country borrows and they borrow against a form of revenue and they usually do it unfortunately it's sad to say, yes it's property taxes but that's how they do it across this country and it was suggested by one Councillor that criticism has been made and no suggestion, a newly elected member of Councillor shows up at EPC, gives a suggestion and is turned down flat, nobody listens to it. Sustainable borrowing Mr. Speaker can be done as long as the source of revenue is identified that can sustain that level borrowing for the period you borrow it from. Simple as that Mr. Speaker. It can be done. Now if you start doing what they did back in the 70s, 80s and borrowing and worrying about the payments later, of course you're going to run into a problem absolutely. But if you identify your form of payments Mr. Speaker, no different than we've done with P3's. P3's are a form of borrowing, on our balance books ladies and gentlemen. We have to show that on our balance books to our creditors. We've capped that at 30% of the total gas tax and cash to Capital Budget that we have today. Roughly $30 million of a hundred million dollars figure it works out to. We've had the discipline to do that, all right we've identified a source of revenue to pay for those costs. We can, Mr. Speaker, start to address these challenges. But it takes leadership and it takes all of Council, and the Mayor is the head of this Council. We live under a strong Mayor model and he has powers that no other Mayor in this City, in this Country enjoys, no other Mayor and I too have talked to Municipal Officials across this Country and this Mayor can move mountains if he so chooses to and he can involve all Council and empower all of Council if he chose to and I challenge him here to do that today Mr. Speaker from here on in. It's not too late to address the challenges we're facing today. It's not too late to speak to the issues that we heard during the Civic Election Campaign last fall. These issues are not being addressed Mr. Speaker.

This Capital Budget is business as usual. We cannot afford business as usual anymore Mr. Speaker. The City is crumbling. Literally crumbling at a rate, Mr. Speaker, that makes it look like we're a third world country. My wife is from Cuba, I've been to Cuba Mr. Speaker, and I can tell you our roads now are just as bad as they are down there and that doesn't say much for it I can tell you, I'm afraid to say Mr. Speaker. It's sad to say. And Fidel doesn't like roads but you know I guess we don't either. So Mr. Speaker what are we going to do? Are we going to continue to tie our hands and just throw our hands up and say well, where will the money come from Ottawa or the Province? Or are we going to show leadership and say we've done everything we can. We've maximized what we can do as a council, and I think it strengthens our argument when we go forward to the higher levels of government. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I very much appreciate listening to some of the comments made by Councillors who represent the citizens of Winnipeg, and through you, Mr. Speaker, it's rather interesting because quite often you'll hear Councillors bring up ideologies and we all say they aren't supposed to come here to the floor because we're to represent City of Winnipeg. But you know what Mr. Speaker unlike some of the Councillors I think Councillor Steeves was quite surprised by some of the negative comments. I wasn't surprised one bit Mr. Speaker because if you look at history and we learn from history, if you look at the last four years, all right Councillor Smith, nay, nay, nay, nay. Councillor Gerbasi, nay, nay, nay, nay. If you look at Councillor Gerbasi's voting record with the former Mayor, yea, yea, yea, yea, yea and yea. Just the reality Mr. Speaker. Coincidence? I doubt it. But let's talk about some of the real facts. Let's talk about council being involved. Number 1 this is the most transparent process of anything. For the first time we've even had public consultations for all those who criticized, did any of them attend that public consultation? Did any of them attend? Number 1. Mr. Speaker Number 2, I can assure you that on a regular basis, on a regular basis, Councillor Wyatt has an issue he calls me or emails me. Councillor Gerbasi needs help in funding a neighbourhood centre or curling club, she calls me. Guess what, Mr. Speaker, nadda. Not one of them other than Mike Pagtakhan who contacted me about the Boys and Girls Club. Not one of them had any communication whatsoever, Mr. Speaker. If you tell me that shows initiative I don't get it and on top of that, when you take the realities of life that any Councillor here can propose the Motion, make an amendment, okay, nothing, Mr. Speaker. I tell you why there is nothing, Mr. Speaker, because the realities are, if you want it make change, where will you take it from? And nobody wants to be part of that process. You think there are just roads and bridge and streets and back lanes and sidewalks that need work in the Inner City or the North End? It's right across the city, Mr. Speaker. But I can tell you, no Mayor or Councillor decides which ones get fixed first, Mr. Speaker. Why? We let the Department decide on what those priorities are. Which makes sense otherwise as you've heard, everybody has their own concerns in their Ward. Mr. Speaker, I represent the entire City which is why I let the experts decide where they should be spending the money and you know what you heard a lot of talk about borrowing. Well I'm glad even some Councillors that criticized realize that we are borrowing and for those of you who don't think we're borrowing Mr. Speaker please have them talk to the CFO and maybe he can enlighten them that we are borrowing. That's number 2. In addition to that Mr. Speaker sometimes you have to wonder why people will say certain things. It's beyond me. I've learned to expect certain things, I just take it, you know, like a duck, water goes off your back but the facts are here we listen to what everybody says. And to address one issue that I've heard which was valid because there isn't one Councillor here who doesn't support the Boys and Girls Clubs unfortunately for Councillor Pagtakhan he's not aware of the fact that we found a more creative way through the Administration of addressing that issue without going into the Capital Budget. So it can be done and Mr. Speaker hopefully in the very near future he'll be aware of that. But we are looking at that through the Administration. But Mr. Speaker there's a thousand issues, a thousand issues, which ones do you want to deal with? Mr. Speaker I'm proud to say a lot of hard work went into this, that's number 1. And for number 2, for any Councillor, and through you Mr. Speaker, I'll address it to Councillor Gerbasi. For any Councillor to start making accusations or innuendos about things being buried or doesn't exist, totally untrue and shame on you, Mr. Speaker, that's all I'll say to any Councillor who does that kind of stuff. Maybe you're looking for attention or love I don't know but the facts are what they are. The truth is the truth, Mr. Speaker.

(inaudible conversation)

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I will say to you right now Councillor; the good Councillor through you, basically said that the Mayor, EPC, is burying the Report from Infrastructure Committee. Totally false. Don't expect an apology but totally false no truth to that whatsoever. They are addressing what you would call one of the biggest problems we face. Infrastructure deficit. They are looking at all sorts of potential opportunities for that and it will come forward so I will repeat again and I have no protection or immunity. That's a lie Mr. Speaker, an out and out lie, end of story and I'll leave that for the time being. But Mr. Speaker what I will say, a great deal of hard work went into this Capital Budget. I command Councillor Fielding for looking at the big picture along with all the others and the department for basically seeing we have problems and we're addressing them and it's interesting how quite often I hear there's a lot of good things, well you know what Mr. Speaker you can't do everything all at once because if somebody knows where all the money is buried at City Hall, please let us know. We would love to do a lot more. Here is a very realistic budget that's addressing a lot of our problems and more importantly Mr. Speaker, and I assume when Councillor Wyatt talked about Third World Countries and roads, that was a joke because I've been to many third world countries, please don't compare them to City of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Totally ridiculous. But more importantly Mr. Speaker we are in a scenario were we're trying to address real problems and come up with real solutions and I believe that will be done in the very near future. And you know what, Mr. Speaker, all these Councillors are going to have to make some real tough decisions down the road when we have a menu of opportunities to choose from on how to address our challenges, but Mr. Speaker if we're in such dire straits in the City of Winnipeg, answer this question, why was the City of Winnipeg among 12 top cities across the Country voted number 1 to invest in? Because we're getting our act together and people see the progress in our City. I will be supporting this Budget Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor. Councillor Fielding to close.

Councillor Fielding: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First I would like to thank all Council for your comments. There are some good, bad and ugly comments on this Capital Budget. The questions come up, is this; does this budget answer every concern that we have here in the City of Winnipeg and the answer is quite simply no, but it is a step in the right direction in terms of how we're spending our money. As mentioned I'll do a brief review of the budget and try to answer those questions that some Councillors raised but this budget really does focus on the public safety. You have the Downtown Police Station, you've got a number of fire stations will be built whether it be this year or over the next number of years and you've got substantial more investments in roads, regional and local streets and I know that was something Councillor Wyatt had mentioned last year and this is in the document. 30% more we're spending on regional and local streets for this and we're doing gravel back lane program that's there that's very much needed, we're also doing things like green space, open green space at Assiniboine Park and putting local regional parks as well, a part of this and getting caught up in the infrastructure that is there. Turning to some of the questions, the infrastructure deficit, this is something that I think we've been fighting for a long period of time. I was reading over the weekend the editorial by one of the media outlets, and it talked about the infrastructure deficit and what the Province should do in terms of how to fund this. What was striking to me about the article was that they talked about this in 1976. This has been an issue that the cities have been facing for 35 years okay. Is there an easy answers? No, absolutely not. But it's not something that just rests with this Council; we've been struggling with this for numerous years and we think that there is a way forward, we think there's internal solutions. Some people like the P3's, some people don't but at the end of the day your getting projects on line a lot earlier, your getting less risk in my opinion but your getting projects that might not have fit into the Capital Budget, a lot earlier, from my opinion, we're doing things like asset management which we think is spending money more in a smart way. Debt Strategy which is going to be coming forward that I think addresses this, it allows us to look at these items but there are also things the Provincial Government needs to do and we need to continue to lobby them to address some of these issues that are there. Borrowing money to pay for infrastructure, well its one item that's been talked a lot. There is a limited amount of money we can do. If I want to do everything in the world, sure, throw it in the Capital Budget. The reality is we can't afford to spend money on every single nook and cranny every single initiative that's out there. Would we love to do that? Absolutely. But we need to stay within the realm of what we can deliver to our services, there is a debt strategy that's coming forward, what's going to outline of how to use that cash to capital component how we can use debt financing to make sure it doesn't get back to credit rating. And going back to the time of the 70s when they're spending money like a drunken sailor, in terms of infrastructure that's there, I don't think is a recipe for something that people want to get involved in. I can tell you there is also some talk in terms of using some the cash to capital there. Well the cash to capital If we use every single cent of that, to fund just the basic infrastructure there will be nothing new for any special projects that come up. I can tell you whether it's this Provincial Government's get reelect or its another one, what always happens is there is initiatives that come forward. You know, there's the initiative of the day, whether it's Centre Port two or three years ago, or other items like this, there will always be an initiative and we need some flexibility within our dollar system to help fund this. The cash to capital then I think is something that's there. And another issue brought by my good friend Councillor Gerbasi was input on the Capital Budget. Well, I can tell you that for the first time in the City's history we've had pre budget consultation sessions. Were some attended well? Were some not? Fair point but the reality is we put them there for the first time in the City's history for the Capital, we did the Operating last year which I think is a very important part. As I noted I know Councillor Gerbasi from you, Mr. Speaker, didn't attend any of those events and also the EPC session, where people have a say, if you've got some concerns with the item come up and bring some ideas to do it; don't just say somehow we're not dealing with that consultation session. Also I think sometimes there are opposition Councillors we can say we gave you a month to debate this thing and you can say why didn't you give us 5 weeks? We did two public consultation sessions; why didn't you do three? So you know, it never ends here, and I think what we're making some strides to make it more of a transparent process. Another item that was talked about in terms of AT funding and as Councillor Browaty had mentioned we're not just spending money on existing budget lines that's there but we're spending anywhere between 3 to 5 million dollars for an overpass, for the Chief Peguis Trail, your spending anywhere between 10 to $15 million for the Disraeli for separate AT funding, so I think the AT funding is there. Councillor Gerbasi and I don't think Councillor Eadie mentioned this but in terms of accessibility funding, well we're coming in at the same levels that we have for a number of years. But that doesn't necessarily mean same for Active Transportation doesn't mean we're not spending money that's there: You spent over a million dollars to making City Hall the most accessible City Hall I would argue in the nation that was apart of that. That funding is there. Any bridge, any sidewalk, any initiatives that come forward, the accessibility is built into it. It might not be directly with the budget, we are spending "x" amount of dollars There is also some talk about Inner City funding that was there. Councillor Steeves outlined it and I won't talk about it again about it but there are tons of projects that are going on downtown. You have got the Avenue, you've got streetscape, and everything that's happening in the Waterfront Drive, you've got parking initiatives, you've got a number of things that are going into the downtown. And to say we're not spending adequate amounts of money is just wrong. You can't just spend money in the downtown. There are needs in the suburbs, St. James, St. Vital you name it, all these other places and I'm not sure why there should always be just a focus on the downtown because the City is a very wide area that we need to look into. Our Winnipeg is something that was kind of touched upon that's there. There's a lot of Councillors here that like to come up and say we should do this, we should do that in Our Winnipeg. What drives me completely crazy on this, is we all do Our Winnipeg; we talk about these and then you have

development opportunities that come up in our City and they get turned down at the committee level. Why do they get turned down? They meet the Our Winnipeg criteria for it. If you're going to talk about Our Winnipeg, talk the talk and walk the walk and you've got to make decisions that make sense for the Community not just for political reasons. Also some talk in terms of the cut in budget last year. Well last year we had the biggest Stimulus projects in the City's history, right? Including Federal Government and Provincial Government that had monies there. So to compare this year versus last year I think is not a fair comparison. And if you factor in all the Stimulus dollars that were part this City is actually spending more on infrastructure spending than we did last year. So with that Mr. Speaker, I hope I've addressed some of the questions and concerns and encourage all Councillors to support the budget, I think it's a first good step in the right direction as we go forward. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor Fielding. Being no further discussion we will ask for the, Call the Question, a recorded vote. So All those in Favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Sam Katz. Councillors Browaty, Fielding, Havixbeck, Sharma, Steen, Steeves, Swandel, Vandal and the Speaker Councillor Nordman.

Nays

Councillors Eadie, Gerbasi, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Smith, and Wyatt.

Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker Yeas 10, Nays 6.

Mr. Speaker: Motion passed. We have a new Capital Budget.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mr. Speaker: And we have a By-law that needs to be dealt with, first reading.

Councillor Fielding: I Move Mr. Speaker that By-law 18 of 2011 be read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: All those in Favour? Opposed? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 18/2011.

Mr. Speaker: Seeing no further business, we'll adjourn. Councillor Swandel Moves Adjournment. Thank you, we'll see you tomorrow. Roll call.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: The Speaker Councillor Nordman, Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Eadie, Fielding, Gerbasi, Havixbeck, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Sharma, Smith, Steen, Steeves, Swandel, Vandal, and Wyatt.

Council adjourned at 11:24 a.m.