Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – September 7, 2011

REPORTS

Item No. 3 Municipal Boundaries – Extension to the Perimeter Highway

COUNCIL DECISION:

On July 20, 2011, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Eadie,

WHEREAS the Conference Board of Canada's forecast predictions for the growth of the City of Winnipeg have been accurate for the last number of years;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg is running out of land in its suburban areas, resulting in more pressure from the development industry to expand into the Municipalities known as the Capital Region;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has a higher level of development standards and services when compared to the substandard requirements permitted in the Capital Region;

AND WHEREAS in recent years there has been pressure to extend City of Winnipeg municipal services, such as sanitary sewer and water into the Rural Municipalities of the Capital Region, and this will have a direct impact on the ability to accommodate future growth in both the City of Winnipeg and the Capital Region;

AND WHEREAS growth in the Capital Region, if serviced by City of Winnipeg services such as sewer and water, will undermine the goals of sustainable planning such as densifying growth preventing ex-urban sprawl and have a direct and negative impact on Winnipeg's services and infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS over $200 million of infrastructure dollars is being spent on new regional roads into the RM of Rosser, diverting said dollars away from badly needed infrastructure works that could have been conducted inside the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS Provincial governments of any political stripe, be it NDP or Conservative, have failed to address the issues of development and sprawl in the Capital Region by ensuring there is orderly and sustainable development;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor recently committed Council to fund $17 million in water and sewer services as part of the Centre Port venture, with much of said services being directly provided in to the Rural Municipality of Rosser, and yet no report has been provided to Council with regard to the source of said funds, the cost recovery (if any) to the City of Winnipeg and a share of Property Tax revenues (if any) from the future growth expected within the RM of Rosser;

AND WHEREAS if Rural Municipal lands now between the City of Winnipeg's existing boundary limit and the Perimeter Highway were to fall under the jurisdiction of the City of Winnipeg, development would be allowed to occur in a more orderly and sustainable fashion, and with a higher level development standards;

AND WHEREAS any future development in the ex-urban lands that were previously part of the capital region should be subject to the full cost accounting which would include costs such as transit, fire, police, recreation and leisure services, and said costs be charged back to the development/developer(s);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Winnipeg call on the Province of Manitoba to bring into effect Municipal Boundary Redistribution by amending applicable legislation to conduct boundary realignment for the City of Winnipeg and Capital Region municipalities in order to change Winnipeg's existing municipal boundaries by extending it up to the Perimeter Highway.