Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – September 7, 2011

REPORTS

Item No. 4 Proposed Policy – Public Commitment / Announcement to Fund Projects

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 Gerbasi,

WHEREAS under the system of municipal government, Council is supreme and approves all budgets and policy for the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS recently the Mayor has made a public commitment to fund $17 million of infrastructure works for the Centre Port project, on behalf of the City of Winnipeg, yet he has not attempted to obtain any approval and/or commitment for such a project from City Council;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor's commitment for Centre Port will require the City of Winnipeg to make the unprecedented decision to extend services to the Rural Municipality of Rosser, and yet no Council report or motion has been made available that outlines the source of funds for the said $17 million, the extent of the service extension to be facilitated by said funds, the cost recovery (if any) to the City for such an expenditure, and what, if any, revenue sharing agreement will be implemented between the City of Winnipeg and the RM of Rosser to ensure that Winnipeger's receive long-term benefits from development on its immediate boundary;

AND WHEREAS it could be argued that the Mayor's recent commitment to expand the Winnipeg Convention Centre has indirect Council endorsement by way of the established Accommodation Tax, however, in fact no Council report or motion has yet to be forthcoming that would formally approve and/or commit the City to such a project;

AND WHEREAS the failure to supply Council with a report or motion on the Convention Centre expansion ensures that Council is kept in the dark on matters that would potentially impact its borrowing authority, its existing annual subsidy arrangement for the Winnipeg Convention Centre, as well as outlining any impacts on the existing governance arrangement for the Winnipeg Convention Centre and City of Winnipeg's ownership of said facility;

AND WHEREAS both the Centre Port and Winnipeg Convention Centre projects may be very worthy and positive for our city, however should involve Council participation and decision making;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council establish a policy that the Mayor, or anyone acting on behalf of the Mayor or his office, can only make a public commitment and/or public announcement that will obligate the City of Winnipeg to fund a project or projects by first obtaining approval from City Council.