Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – October 26, 2011

REPORTS

Minute No. 518 Tree Pruning – Replacement Tree Planting – Ban on Planting Ash Trees

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee recommends to Council:

1. That the following recommendations from the Council Motion of October 19, 2011 be referred to the 2012 Operating Budget Review Process:

    A. Council should increase funding for tree pruning so that the City of Winnipeg can achieve the 8 year best practice cycle for tree pruning;

    B. Council earmark funding for tree planting that would ensure a tree is replaced for every tree lost;

    C. Depending on cost of item 1 and item 2, the City of Winnipeg consider implementing these goals by a phased-in approach in order to achieve full funding of these items over the next three years.

2. That the following recommendation from the Council Motion of October 19, 2011 be referred to the Winnipeg Public Service for report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works:

    A. The City of Winnipeg immediately establish a policy that bans the planting of any Ash trees that would be susceptible to Emerald Ash Borer, on public and private property, in light of the impending epidemic.

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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Fielding,

That Recommendations 1, 2 and 4 from the Council Motion of October 19, 2011 be referred to the 2012 Operating Budget Review Process;

And That Recommendation 3 from the Council Motion of October 19, 2011 be referred to the Winnipeg Public Service for report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works.

Carried

COUNCIL DECISION:

On October 19, 2011, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Orlikow,

WHEREAS through the OurWinnipeg public process, it was identified by Winnipeggers that Forestry and the City of Winnipeg's urban forest is greatly appreciated;

AND WHEREAS in the last five years the City of Winnipeg has improved its tree pruning practice from a 30 to 40 year pruning cycle to a 14 year pruning cycle, but is still short of the North American Best Practices standard of an 8 year pruning cycle;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg presently cannot replace trees that are lost to disease or other factors on a tree-by-tree basis, thus resulting in a decline, over time, of the size of the overall urban forest;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has led North America in successfully managing the Dutch Elm Disease epidemic, and maintaining the City's much prized Elm Tree Stock;

AND WHEREAS Emerald Ash Borer is a disease that will decimate the City of Winnipeg Ash Tree population in the near future;

AND WHEREAS at the last meeting of the Mayor's Environment Advisory Committee a similar motion on this matter was unanimously adopted;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. Council should increase funding for tree pruning so that the City of Winnipeg can achieve the 8 year best practice cycle for tree pruning;

2. Council earmark funding for tree planting that would ensure a tree is replaced for every tree lost;

3. The City of Winnipeg immediately establish a policy that bans the planting of any Ash trees that would be susceptible to Emerald Ash Borer, on public and private property, in light of the impending epidemic;

4. Depending on cost of item 1 and item 2, the City of Winnipeg consider implementing these goals by a phased-in approach in order to achieve full funding of these items over the next three years.