Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – March 14, 2012

REPORTS

Minute No. 203 Executive Policy Committee – Final Recommendation – 2012 Operating Budget and Financial Plan for 2013 and 2014

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee recommends to Council:

1. That the 2012 Preliminary Operating Budget, including the budgets for reserves (Appendix 2), tabled at the Executive Policy Committee on February 28, 2012, and amended by Recommendation No. 3, be approved.

2. That the 2013 and 2014 projections, tabled at the Executive Policy Committee on February 28, 2012, and as amended by Recommendation 3, be received as information on the preliminary financial plans for those years.

3. That the following adjustments to the 2012 Preliminary Operating Budget and the 2013 and 2014 Financial Plan, as tabled at the Executive Policy Committee on March 14, 2012, be made:

    A. That the Winnipeg Public Library materials budget be increased by $135,000, subject to the Province of Manitoba (Culture, Heritage and Tourism) removing the cap on library funding for the City of Winnipeg (The Public Libraries Act - Public Libraries Allocation of Grants Regulation).

    B. That an extra $150,000 annually be allocated to expand recreational pleasure skating ice surfaces in neighbourhoods that are not located near other ice rinks.

    C. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to Standing Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works in 180 days with a comprehensive strategy, outlining potential options and their associated costs to enhance protection of our urban forest from Dutch Elm Disease.

    D. That the Council Decision of November 16, 2011, for a transit fare increase of 20 cents for new Rapid Transit Development be rescinded, inasmuch as the Council Decision was predicated on the Province of Manitoba agreeing that there would be no (negative) impact to the current operational funding, and the Province of Manitoba has since advised the City of Winnipeg that they are not prepared to amend the Transit Cost Sharing Agreement to fund new Rapid Transit Development.

E. That the annual grant funding for Heritage Winnipeg Corporation be increased by $2,500.

F. That the annual grant funding for Winnipeg Arts Council Inc. be increased by $50,000, with the understanding that 100% of the increase be utilized for arts projects/grants and not administration.

G. That a grant of $7,500 cash and $3,000 in-kind services be approved for the Manito Ahbee Festival Inc.,

with offsets to corporate accounts.

4. That the City's mill rate be reduced from 15.295 to 14.056 for 2012 to reflect the effect of the general assessment, adjusted for new assessable properties, and for the purposes of raising revenue as required for the annual estimates.

5. A. That the City's business tax rate be reduced from 6.39% to 5.9% for 2012 to reflect the general assessment. Note: 2012 business tax revenue will remain at 2011 levels, adjusted for new assessable businesses; and

B. That the Small Business Tax Credit by-law be enacted under Subsection 219(2) of The City of Winnipeg Charter, which will provide a full rebate of municipal business taxes for businesses with an annual rental value of $22,680 or less in 2012.

6. That the fees, levies, and transfers between funds outlined in the 2012 Preliminary Operating Budget be approved.

7. A. That the following Emergency Medical Service rates be approved to bring the rate charged to residents of Winnipeg to the same level as the rate charged to other Manitobans:

Proposed Emergency Medical Service Rates (Per Call) (in dollars)	Present Rate	Proposed April 1, 2012
Emergency Medical Service		
City Rate	383	479
Regional Rate	479	479
Basic Rate	767	767
Inter-facility Transfer Service		
City Rate	306	383
Regional Rate	383	383
Basic Rate	613	613
Treatment No Transport Service		

City Rate	153	192
Regional Rate	192	192
Basic Rate	306	306

B. That the City finalize negotiations with the Province of Manitoba and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority with respect to a new cost-sharing agreement for emergency medical services; and

C. That the cost-sharing agreement include a provision to ensure that the revenue generated by the change in rate policy noted above reduces the subsidy provided by City of Winnipeg taxpayers to this health-related service as health is the responsibility of the Province of Manitoba.

8. That $6,130,811 in prior years' tax supported capital surplus identified in the recent capital review be utilized to reduce the transfer to the General Capital Fund in the 2012 tax supported operating budget.

9. That the schedule of fees and charges for Cemetery products and services in Appendix 5 be approved.

10. That the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor be requested to submit the necessary by-laws to implement the above recommendations.

11. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the foregoing, including the execution of any documents related thereto.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Fielding,

That the 2012 Operating Budget and Financial Plan for 2013 and 2014 be approved with the following amendments, namely:

- Delete Recommendation No. 1 in its entirety, replace with the following and renumber the balance of the recommendations accordingly:

    1. That the 2012 Preliminary Operating Budget, including the budgets for reserves (Appendix 2), tabled at the Executive Policy Committee on February 28, 2012, and amended by Recommendation No. 3, be approved.

    2. That the 2013 and 2014 projections, tabled at the Executive Policy Committee on February 28, 2012, and as amended by Recommendation 3, be received as information on the preliminary financial plans for those years.

    3. That the following adjustments to the 2012 Preliminary Operating Budget and the 2013 and 2014 Financial Plan, as tabled at the Executive Policy Committee on March 14, 2012, be made:

        A. That the Winnipeg Public Library materials budget be increased by $135,000, subject to the Province of Manitoba (Culture, Heritage and Tourism) removing the cap on library funding for the City of Winnipeg (The Public Libraries Act - Public Libraries Allocation of Grants Regulation).

        B. That an extra $150,000 annually be allocated to expand recreational pleasure skating ice surfaces in neighbourhoods that are not located near other ice rinks.

        C. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to Standing Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works in 180 days with a comprehensive strategy, outlining potential options and their associated costs to enhance protection of our urban forest from Dutch Elm Disease.

        D. That the Council Decision of November 16, 2011, for a transit fare increase of 20 cents for new Rapid Transit Development be rescinded, inasmuch as the Council Decision was predicated on the Province of Manitoba agreeing that there would be no (negative) impact to the current operational funding, and the Province of Manitoba has since advised the

City of Winnipeg that they are not prepared to amend the Transit Cost Sharing Agreement to fund new Rapid Transit Development.

E. That the annual grant funding for Heritage Winnipeg Corporation be increased by $2,500.

F. That the annual grant funding for Winnipeg Arts Council Inc. be increased by $50,000, with the understanding that 100% of the increase be utilized for arts projects/grants and not administration.

G. That a grant of $7,500 cash and $3,000 in-kind services be approved for the Manito Ahbee Festival Inc.,

with offsets to corporate accounts,

and forwarded to Council.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 13, 2012, the Executive Policy Committee received as information the delegations and presentations pertaining to the Preliminary 2012 Operating Budget and Financial Plan for 2013 and 2014, and referred the matters brought forward to the Operating Budget deliberations by the Executive Policy Committee on March 14, 2012.

Further, on February 28, 2012, the Executive Policy Committee referred the Preliminary 2012 Operating Budget and Financial Plan for 2013 and 2014 to the following budget process timetable, namely:

March 5, 6, and 9, 2012	Standing Policy Committees – Review
March 13, 2012	Executive Policy Committee – Delegations
March 14, 2012	Executive Policy Committee – Recommendation to Council
March 20, 2012	Council

On February 28, 2012, the Executive Policy Committee tabled the Preliminary 2012 Operating Budget and Financial Plan for 2013 and 2014, which outlined the following recommendations:

1. a) That the 2012 Preliminary Operating Budget, including the budgets for reserves (Appendix 2), be approved and forwarded to all Members of Council for their review; and

b) That the 2013 and 2014 projections be received as information on the preliminary financial plans for those years.

2. That the City's mill rate be reduced from 15.295 to 14.056 for 2012 to reflect the effect of the general assessment, adjusted for new assessable properties, and for the purposes of raising revenue as required for the annual estimates.

3. a) That the City's business tax rate be reduced from 6.39% to 5.9% for 2012 to reflect the general assessment. Note: 2012 business tax revenue will remain at 2011 levels, adjusted for new assessable businesses; and

   b) That Council enact the attached Small Business Tax Credit by-law under Subsection 219(2) of the City of Winnipeg Charter, which will provide a full rebate of municipal business taxes for businesses with an annual rental value of $22,680 or less in 2012.

4. That the fees, levies, and transfers between funds outlined in the 2012 Preliminary Operating Budget be approved.

5. a) That the following Emergency Medical Service rates be approved to bring the rate charged to residents of Winnipeg to the same level as the rate charged to other Manitobans:

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Treatment No Transport Service		
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   b) That the City finalize negotiations with the Province of Manitoba and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority with respect to a new cost-sharing agreement for emergency medical services; and

   c) That the cost-sharing agreement include a provision to ensure that the revenue generated by the change in rate policy noted above reduces the subsidy provided by City of Winnipeg taxpayers to this health-related service as health is the responsibility of the Province of Manitoba.

6. That $6,130,811 in prior years' tax supported capital surplus identified in the recent capital review be utilized to reduce the transfer to the General Capital Fund in the 2012 tax supported operating budget.

7. That the schedule of fees and charges for Cemetery products and services in Appendix 5 be approved.

8. That the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor be requested to submit the necessary by-laws to implement the above recommendations.

9. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the foregoing, including the execution of any documents related thereto.