STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON

INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 265

Councillor Wyatt referred to the recent snowfall and an announcement from the Department of Public Works that they were clearing snow on collector streets, on P1's and P2's for sidewalks, but had not made a decision to remove sidewalk snow on P3's and asked if the Chair would have the Department undertake P3 sidewalk clearing. Councillor Vandal stated that they needed to do everything they could to provide that service to citizens and agreed to speak to the Director today and report back to Council.

Councillor Eadie noted that there were a number of initiatives in the City where people in some neighbourhoods could take the bus and walk more, such as the Live Safe Community program and questioned if the Chair would also find out if they could start residential sidewalk ploughing in some of the neighbourhoods where such initiatives existed. Councillor Vandal replied in the affirmative.

In reference to the 21 block area that surrounds McGregor, Salter, Burrows to Dufferin, where they were trying to change the Ward to improve life for residents and for those that come down to the area, by implementing new initiatives, Councillor Eadie asked if the Chair could inquire if the Administration could start sidewalk ploughing in that particular neighbourhood. Councillor Vandal agreed to review the snow clearing policy with the Director of Public Works and report back to the Councillor.

Councillor Gerbasi questioned if citizens could appear in delegation when the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works considered the Operating Budget. Councillor Vandal confirmed that every department reporting to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works, including Transit, would have their operating revenues and expenses reviewed and that the public was welcome to speak to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works on the budget.

Councillor Wyatt noted that snow clearing criteria was in place and all areas of the City were treated equally based on the policy and questioned if the Chair thought there should be special treatment for certain areas of the City over other areas to the City when it comes to snow clearing, based on the response to Councillor Eadie's question.

Councilor Vandal clarified that he agreed to speak to the Director of Public Works to review the policy and get back to Councillor Eadie on the policy that had been adopted.

Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works – Question Period (continued):

Councillor Eadie noted that the Snow Clearing Policy talked about three levels of ploughing for both roads and sidewalks but does not indicate where the snowplows started and indicated that his question to Councillor Vandal was not to ask for anything special but rather to ask that the plows started in a certain place because they could start anywhere and, in that context, hoped the matter could be discussed with the Director of Public Works.

Councillor Vandal reiterated that he would speak to the Director of Public Works as soon as the Council meeting concluded and get back to Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Swandel asked if Councillor Vandal could confirm that more than one sidewalk was ploughed at a time and that ploughing was started everywhere, not in any one particular area, as there was enough sidewalk ploughing equipment to actually start everywhere throughout the City.

Councillor Vandal confirmed that it was a big City and there were all sorts of teams clearing more than one neighbourhood at a time. He stated that he would talk specifically to the Director about where they were at with residential snow ploughing and, as it had barely snowed compared to other years, things were under control, and he was sure things would get done.