COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Wednesday, June 27, 2012

The Council met at 9:32 a.m.

The Clerk advised the Speaker that a quorum was present.

The Speaker called the meeting to order.

The opening prayer was read by Councillor Vandal.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Mr. Speaker Councillor Nordman, His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Eadie, Fielding, Gerbasi, Havixbeck, Mayes, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Sharma, Smith, Steen, Swandel, Vandal, and Wyatt.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. We're joined today by page Madison Fedyck. Madison, step forward. Madison attends Glenlawn Collegiate. (applause). She attends Glenlawn Collegiate and she lives in North Kildonan Ward. Thanks for being here today. I don't know that we have any special guests. The media are certainly here, but (laughing) you're special.

MINUTES

Mr. Speaker: In any event, we will ask for the adoption of the minutes and ask Councillor Steen to move that the minutes of the meeting of May 3. All those in favour? Opposed? Read

Delegations. We are not having any delegations today so I guess we can go right into the reports and ask Executive Policy Committee. Mayor Katz, if you'd like to report on June the 6th.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED JUNE 6, 2012

Mayor Katz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I would introduce the report and move adoption of consent agenda, Items 1 to 3.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Two.

Mr. Speaker: Stand down No. 2. Any others? Seeing none, we'll vote on 1 and 3. All those in favour? Opposed? Carried. Item No. 2.

Item 2 – Identification of Specific Allocated Revenues for Programs / Projects in the Capital Budget

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: I would be more than happy to hear from Councillor Eadie and then I will respond.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Speaker Nordman. I moved this motion at the last council meeting. This motion is just simply asking for the identification of revenue, the specific revenue that's going to pay for the various projects and programs that we have under our capital budget and it's just simply about transparency and accountability. It makes it easier for people to understand where the money is coming from and where it's going to. Simply that. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Councillor for the motion and obviously I have looked into it and, Mr. Speaker, the realities are, is, we already identify the revenues. We most definitely have a very open and transparent budget process. Our staff, along with Council, work very hard to deliver a balanced budget every year. Unlike other levels of government, Mr. Speaker, we don't have the luxury of running a deficit. We must have a balanced budget, and I believe we certainly need to continue to press the other levels of government for additional revenue streams so we can address our infrastructure, Mr. Speaker. So I think everything the councillor is referring to already exists.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Seeing no other comments, all those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Councillor Eadie: Nay.

Councillor Gerbasi: Nay.

Mr. Speaker: Nay? Oh, two nays? Recorded nays? Eadie and Gerbasi. Report for June the 13th, Mayor Katz.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED JUNE 13, 2012

Mayor Katz: I'd like to introduce the report and move adoption of consent agenda Items 1 and 2.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: (Inaudible) What meeting date is this?

Mr. Speaker: June 13.

Councillor Eadie: Oh, they're right, so okay. Never mind.

Mr. Speaker: Okay. Seeing none, all those in favour? Opposed? Carried. June 20th, Mayor Katz.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED JUNE 20, 2012

Mayor Katz: Introduce the report, Mr. Speaker and move adoption of consent agenda, Items 1 and 2.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: 1.

Mr. Speaker: Stand down No. 1. Seeing none for 2, all those in favour of 2? Opposed? Motion carried.

Item 1 – Land Dedication Reserve – St. Anne's Road Crosswalk

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I would be delighted to hear from the Councillor and then I certainly will address.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Speaker Nordman. This item looks like extra money from land dedication reserve from last year's motion from the former Councillor of St. Vital, and simply, I want to vote against this particular allocation of land dedication reserve for the same reason which is simply, there is already not enough money in the land dedication reserve to handle issues within our own parks and recreation and so I am opposed to having to utilize the land dedication reserve to build pedestrian corridors which are needed. I think that we should be budgeting more money in our capital budget to put in more pedestrian corridors as I must say, our streets are getting more and more dangerous

as more and more traffic flow is going out our regional streets, St. Anne's road for example, is under huge pressure from traffic, given that the expansion of the suburbs are happening so, for I'll be voting against this particular motion.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank Councillor Eadie for bringing this to our attention. I believe I spoke to this in the past. I also believe we need more investment in pedestrian corridors. I believe I raised it in the last capital budget debate that we need to put some more money in the Public Works budget to start addressing the long list of…in priorities for pedestrian corridors. And what concerns me is if it's now going to fall on individual Councillors to take money out of the park funding and their wards to pay for a corridor and then that corridor jumps to the top of the list because there is funding, you know, I don't know. It's not the way things should be done. This should be done as part of the Public Works budget. It should be done as the priorities for the ones that are most needed, and maybe this one is. I'm not saying this one isn't needed. I don't know the details on that but the point is that it should be based on the Public Works priorities and it shouldn't be based on a Councillor taking money out of parks revenues. I mean, maybe some areas have less need and they can pay for the corridors but that's not a fair system and so, I have concerns about the precedent that this sets. It's nothing against St. Vital wanting a crosswalk. I'm sure every councillor has numerous sites where they're waiting on the list to get their crosswalks in. So it's certainly not to say one is more important than the other. I don't know which one is the most important right now, but I know I have crosswalks in my area that I can't really afford to take the money out of my parks funding to put into that. So, that's the concern. Thank you.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The debate over whether we should be using land dedication funds for crosswalks is an interesting one. However, I would submit this is not the time to be having that debate, since on the facts what we have here is a crosswalk that was passed by Council last year by predecessor Mr. Steeves, wanted this project done before he left office, so he got the vote through Council, I think it's a worthwhile project. It will connect a street called, roughly where Compark meets St. Anne's. I would not have expected others to know exactly that intersection though I know Mr. Speaker, you probably do. But the bus stop connections on the east side are a number of seniors who live on the east side. I received many, many calls from those seniors essentially saying where is our crosswalk? It was promised last year, it was in the St. Vital land, so let's get this thing built. I would like to see it built, the real issue here is Councillor Steeves unfortunately undershot how much money would be needed for this. He set aside roughly 30,000, the good folks at Public Works Mr. Escobar and Brad Sacher have indicated to me we need roughly 16,000 more. They are keen to do it, they are ready to go. I'd like to see it done. Certainly the people in my ward would like to see it done. So it's probably a good theoretical discussion to be had. I would prefer not to go two-thirds of a crosswalk frankly across St. Anne's Road and that's what we would be faced with doing so I would certainly encourage others to fulfil the funding and let's get this one built. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Yeah. I rise to point out a couple of facts, Mr. Speaker. I hate to see facts get in the way of a good debate, but you know, Councillor Eadie is new to Council, so I expect that some information might not be there but Councillor Gerbasi has been here for a while and is well aware of these facts and that is that there is a warrant system, Mr. Speaker, for pedestrian crosswalks like this, that the Public Service conducts a study to determine whether the warrant meets the criteria set in place and if it does, then the funds are allocated for a pedestrian signalized crosswalk. And the funds are there. We have an account. There is a budget in place, and it is approved. So all this nonsense Mr. Speaker, that there is no funds for pedestrian crosswalks and that this is unsafe and how terrible it is, is a bunch of hooey, it's a bunch of nonsense. We have the funds, we have the funds in place.

Mr. Speaker: Easy, Councillor.

Councillor Wyatt: We have the funds in place, Mr. Speaker, and if it meets the criteria, if meets the warrant, like one recently did in another part of the city which we, the committee approved the administrative report, then boom, it will go in in that construction season. The fact of the matter here is what happened was that the Councillor, the previous Councillor for St. Vital identified an issue; he knew it wouldn't meet the warrant, the criteria set in place, so he, on his own, took funds out of St. Vital's land dedication account, not anybody else's. Nobody else's ox is getting gored here, okay? And put it into saying this is what we want; this is what we want to see happen here with regards to in my community because this is a…this is a priority to the people of St. Vital. And the good new Councillor for St. Vital concurs with that. He has seen it and clearly the previous councillor would've put the proper amount of funds had he known this was the cost and I guess the cost for these things has gone up like everything else has gone up in the world and now we have to top it up with some more money to make it work. That's what we're doing here today, Mr. Speaker. That's what the report is saying; that's what the recommendation is doing. And that's what it's all about. It's not this nonsense that there is not enough funds for pedestrian corridors and all this other nonsense Mr. Speaker, that the previous, the Councillor for Fort Rouge, Fort Garry was saying. You know, I mean, the funds are there if it meets the

warrant. This one didn't but the Councillor wanted to make it happen so he took the funds out and this councillor is supporting that so I will support Councillor Mayes and I encourage all members of Council because I don't know St. Vital like Councillor Mayes knows St. Vital. That's why we have a ward system. If we want to do away with the ward system, let's do away with the ward system but we have a ward system today. He knows St. Vital; he knows the community; he knows the issues and I support him in his issues and his cause in this matter Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Campaign manager. Councillor Fielding.

Councillor Fielding: You know, Councillor Wyatt identified a lot of the issues I was going to say. I support this. I think that this is something that's passed through Council before; the dollars were in place, obviously. It's a little bit more than we do, we're repetitive with it but I think Councillor Mayes obviously knows his area and what's needed obviously, it's a real big issue for him. It seems to hit the criteria for it. It's his land dedication. The way I look at these things, it's his land dedication funds with the, I guess it's the Riel's funds and they seem to agree with it in terms of the expending of dollars for it so who are we to judge from other wards what makes sense for that area. It's not impacting our land dedication dollars and does meet criteria so I very much support it.

Councillor Gerbasi: So no one will be overturning my decisions any more.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to add a little clarity maybe after my bombastic friend from Transcona. You know, this really is a local issue. And you know we look at crosswalks so we just think of them as flashing lights in the middle of the road but very much they're piece of connectivity, usually from amenity sometimes, it's active transportation connecting one side of the road to the other. In this case I know there's schools and seniors involved. There's a lot of new development on the other side of St. Anne's. Road. I've dealt with the same issue in the St. Norbert Ward out on Pembina Highway. We've got these huge long blocks with no controlled intersections in them and stretches of south Pembina Highway and you know what do we do, we build a seniors home in the middle of it and then we build a mall on the other side of it with things like the shopping...the health centre, Dentist, Chiropractor, Doctors, movie rentals, liquor store, some of the amenities that people might want and no way for them to get across the road. So they either have to get shuttled there or jump in their cars and drive there. So, you know, yes, it's good to have the high level criteria that Public Works works with but we also need to be able to drill down to the local level and listen to what our colleagues are saying. These are very much local decisions and as my good friend from Transcona alluded to, who are we to say that that is not the case, and having lived through it myself, I'm quite confident that Councillor Mayes is going in the right direction here.

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz to close.

Mayor Katz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I very much appreciate the comments. I must confess that I was a little surprised to see that there were two Councillors who object to this, but the reality is it's land dedication coming from the Councillor's fund. It was endorsed by the Community Committee. I think I heard several other Councillors saying that they would support any other Councillor who wants to take money out of their land dedication. From my point of view, Mr. Speaker, who knows better the issues or what safety concerns arise in the neighbourhood than the Councillor for the ward. I will definitely support Councillor Mayes and I would echo Councillor Wyatt's comments that in my opinion, everybody should support this. So I thank everybody for their comments.

Mr. Speaker: Concluding the comments, all those in favour? Opposed? Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
MOTIONS

Moved by Councillor Gerbasi,
Seconded by Councillor Eadie,

WHEREAS many of our regional parks have significantly outdated and aging facilities that are no longer acceptable in terms of condition and accessibility;

AND WHEREAS regional parks depend on centralized Capital budget funding as there are no other sources of levering funds for these basic capital needs;

AND WHEREAS a number of regional parks including but not limited to Kings, Crescent Drive, Kildonan, Kilcona/Harbourview and St. Vital have significant capital investment needs;

AND WHEREAS 7 million dollars that was to be directed to a water park project is to be reallocated;

AND WHEREAS that 7 million dollars was originally targeted to Kildonan Park, one of our regional parks;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 7 million dollars that was previously allocated to a private water park be redirected in the 2013 Capital budget process for regional park capital improvements;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Public Service be directed to provide an analysis of the scope of work and costs that could be accomplished with these identified funds as part of the 2013 Capital budget process.

Mr. Speaker: We have one motion before us. It's basically an automatic referral.

Councillor Eadie: Notice.

Mr. Speaker: Notice. Councillor Eadie. Your point of order, yes, sir?

Councillor Eadie: This happened before and it's my…this has happened before and it's my concern that when notice on a motion is given, the purpose of the notice of motions Mr. Speaker Nordman, is to simply allow somebody to move a motion, their own motion with their own motion to the…

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. I'm going to have to rule your comments….

Councillor Eadie: But Speaker Nordman, I'm trying to…

Mr. Speaker: It's out of order. I'm sorry….

Councillor Eadie: Speaker Nordman, this is a legitimate point of order. The purpose of notice is for an individual to bring their own motion to the floor here.

Mr. Speaker: All right, all right.

Councillor Eadie: And not applying notice on somebody else's motion.

Mr. Speaker: Okay, Councillor Wyatt has moved notice. Point of order from Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Point of order. I'm challenging the notice motion because I think, not I think, I've read the Procedure By-law and I can't find anywhere where we can…somebody can just call notice on someone else's motion. At the least we should have the recorded vote to see if there's the will to call notice.

Councillor Wyatt: You're asking for a suspension of rules.

Mr. Speaker: Okay, are we suspending?

Mr. Speaker: It is the practice of this Council as I understand it, not that it's happened that often since I've been here, but that any Council member can call notice and it's been the practice of this Council, it's not necessarily embedded in the rules, but any Councillor can call notice on a motion. If you'd like to challenge my ruling, but I'm going to go with the notice that it has been requested and have a recorded vote on that, but....you can challenge my decision, I guess.

Councillor Vandal: No, I have no intention of challenging your decision, but if I heard you right, you do admit that it's not in the Procedure By-law.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, but it's been the practice over time.

Councillor Vandal: Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: That any Councillor can call notice.

Councillor Swandel: On a point of order, just for some clarity, if we're going to discuss this can somebody explain to me the logic of how you discuss something when we still have an open EOI process. Procedure…there's going to be a procedural issue here. I don't know that you can go here.

Mr. Speaker: It's been sent to by-laws? No? EPC By-laws, right, okay. So, point of order for Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes. Not on this notice but asking a question for the Clerks or for the Speaker. Am I entitled to move a motion after we finish this debate on this particular resolution to have our, to have this Procedure By-law explored and come back with an appropriate usage of notice of motion?

(Inaudible)

Mr. Speaker: You have to do that in writing, Councillor Eadie and we would deal with it at a later date. It wouldn't get done today.

Councillor Eadie: I'll e-mail right now for…

Mr. Speaker: Okay. All right, we've determined that to be considered and move forward. Mayor Katz, we have a number of by-laws that are to be presented today. It will come back here in a month. That's what notice…

(Inaudible speaking in the background)

Mr. Speaker: Right, okay. Mr. Mayor, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: I'm going to wait for Councillor Gerbasi.

Mr. Speaker: Okay, all right. Order.

Mayor Katz: Ready for the by-laws, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, sir.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mayor Katz: I move the following by-laws be read a first time Mr. Speaker, By-law No. 86/2012, 87/2012, 88/2012 and 89/2012.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 86/2012, By-law No. 87/2012, By-law No. 88/2012 and By-law No. 89/2012.

Mayor Katz: And I move that By-laws numbered 86/2012 to 89/2012 both inclusive be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws numbered 86/2012 to 89/2012 both inclusive.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I move that the rule be suspended and By-laws numbered 86/2012 to 89/2012 both inclusive, be read a third time and that same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Speaker: Okay Mr. Mayor. We're up for question period for the Mayor. Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. There's been a long standing national campaign from the Canadian Cancer Society and others to reduce the use of cosmetic pesticides, and when the issue has come before Council in the past, Mr. Speaker, the Mayor has indicated his agreement that the most effective way to reduce pesticide use is through Provincial legislation. Many other provinces, such as Ontario and Quebec, have provincial bans on cosmetic pesticides. Quebec has one of the lowest rates of pesticide use in the country, having had their provincial ban in place for a long time, and Manitoba has one of the highest rates of cosmetic pesticide use in the country. The Province of Manitoba is currently holding public consultations on a potential provincial ban on cosmetic non-essential pesticides. Now that our Province is seriously looking at the issue, does the Mayor intend to send in a submission or a delegation from the City indicating support for a provincial ban on the use of cosmetic pesticides?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I'd be more than happy to send Councillor Gerbasi as a delegation on behalf of the City, because obviously this is something near and dear to her heart. I would rather appear before the Province when it comes to our infrastructure deficit and find sources of funding to solve our serious problems, so I'll take care and work on that one and if Councillor Gerbasi would have the time to represent us, I would be very much appreciative Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Second question.

Councillor Gerbasi: I think you've answered my question, so I'll move on to another one. The corner of Portage and Main recently has celebrated its 100th anniversary as you may recall. The decision to completely close the street to pedestrians years ago has long been criticized, and you may recall a design competition was held a few years ago and an international award winning design was chosen to open the corner to pedestrians at certain times of the day. There was one landlord out of seven who vetoed the re-opening who had that power and was holding out, and since then nothing has been done to re-visit that issue. My question is, will you Mr. Mayor commit to acting on this, re-visiting this exciting possibility, speaking to the property owners, and trying to re-open Winnipeg's most famous corner and bringing it back to life?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I am very familiar with that and I have spoken to all of the land owners and what Councillor Gerbasi stated regarding the fact that there was one that was totally against it. All the others were not supportive but they were definitely open-minded and some were supportive. There was a point in time where I believe there were some champions to get this corner opened. Lately I haven't heard any talk about it. I'd be more than happy to have further discussions on this Mr. Speaker. I can also assure you, when these discussions came forward, I got as many people who did not like the idea as liked the idea, but that's quite common, but I would be more than happy to talk to the new land owners as well as the ones in the past who are still there just to make sure where they're at. It would be my pleasure Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Last question Councillor Gerbasi?

Councillor Gerbasi: In the last election campaign Mr. Speaker, the Mayor committed to dealing with the blight of surface parking lots in our downtown, and he spoke of an incentive plan. We have not yet seen that incentive plan come forward, but my question is, in the light of the easy profits that are made from surface parking and the lack of motivation to re-develop them, even with an incentive program, will the Mayor consider re-visiting the tax structure to create a dis-incentive to using our land in the downtown as sprawling surface parking?

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: First of all Mr. Speaker, I very much believe that surface parking can definitely be a blight, especially ones that are gravel, not even paved or anything. They look terrible in our downtown, that's number one. Number two, this blight has been here for decades. Unfortunately no one else chose to pick up this one and champion it, so I'm more than happy to do it and I will continue this. I can tell you right now Mr. Speaker that the Department is working on a plan which I expect to come forward very shortly, but on top of that Mr. Speaker, I can tell you there are several projects that are in the works right now where large surface lots are being developed. Just the other day I was there with several Councillors; Councillor Sharma was there and Councillor Swandel, where a large surface parking lot owned by the Province of Manitoba…oh you were there too Mr. Speaker! Thank you very much for reminding me. And so there's one blight that will be removed, and I can assure you Mr. Speaker, there is at least two others that we're working on right now, so it's happening as we speak. And obviously Mr. Speaker, it's easier to work on the large lots because there's more opportunity for good economic development and getting return on your investment, more difficult on smaller lots so we will continue to move forward the way we have and some wonderful things are happening right now Mr. Speaker. So I thank Councillor Gerbasi for that question.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you Speaker Nordman. I'd just like to start off by naming off some facts. What's happening is the City is growing outwardly and in the Capital Region as well and it's putting huge pressure on our streets. It's also putting huge pressure on us supplying services to the City. So fact number one, we're removing for example bus service from our inner city area so that we can accommodate the expansion of our City. We are also experiencing lots of traffic and a warrant was developed for pedestrian corridors because there is limited resources and with the huge demand on these particular roads which are causing it so that people can't get across busy streets…

Mr. Speaker: Your question Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: …yes, so that's just a fact, and my question is simply this. When is the Mayor going to utilize some of our own methodology in order to raise the funds to supply the services that we need further out the City?

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: I'm not sure I totally understood the question but I'll give it a shot Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would point out to Councillor Eadie that in recent times, we've actually added buses to our fleet. We've actually added drivers to our fleet, so we are expanding from where we were for many, many, many years to growing that system, number one. Number two, I'm sure the Councillor is aware of the fact that we've also just recently implemented rapid transit, which is a very good thing. And we, the City, have been doing everything humanly possible to finish that rapid transit and continue in other parts of the City. The only obstacle seems to be identifying where the revenue. As you know yours truly and other Councillors have identified revenue sources, but unfortunately, we have fallen on deaf ears with the Provincial Government. Maybe together, Councillor Eadie and I can go forward and lobby them and maybe we can get this done once and for all Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Second question.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you Speaker Nordman. We've tried to get money from the Province but we have our own means within the City, but specifically I'll give you an example. The 18 Leila is being removed so that they can put an extra bus to serve the outer areas in Old Kildonan, and therefore I am asking specifically…and that's because I'm told that they don't have the money to put another bus out to the Riverbend, River Road area, so my question is simply again. When are we going to utilize our own revenue possibilities to serve the suburbs so that we don't take away from the inner city?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, if this issue is near and dear to the Councillor's heart, it certainly would have been appropriate for him to speak to me and then I could have verified what he is saying. I don't for a moment doubt what he is saying but I can't tell you that is correct. I've not heard those comments whatsoever from the Director, Dave Wardrop. So I would rather check with the Director to find out if what's being said here on the floor of Council is a hundred percent accurate because this may surprise you. I've heard many comments on the floor of Council that were anything but accurate, so this one I will verify and then I'll be happy to get back to the Councillor.

Mr. Speaker: Last question Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie. Yes, thank you. Just in terms of pedestrian corridors…a specific example. Wherever there are seniors' homes there's a need to get across the street. So again, I'm just going to ask you…it's a general question…when are we going to utilize our own…under our own Charter, our ability to find the money to provide appropriate services and facilities for our residents so that we're not taking away from the inner city?

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, every day we're here that's exactly what we do okay. I don't know what Councillor Eadie is doing but I can tell you all the other Councillors are working hard to address the issues in their community to go out and fight and lobby for the money they need to get things done. We do that in our Capital Budget, we do that in our Operating Budget. That's what we do, and we work with the Departments as well, as well as the C.A.O., the C.O.O., the C.F.O. That's what we do. I'd like to think that Councillor Eadie is part of that process, so hopefully we'll all share with each other. But that's exactly what we do every day. Every single day that's what we're doing.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. About two weeks ago, I had the pleasure of going to St. Boniface Ward and bringing greetings for Councillor Vandal and myself to a small group from Sterling Mennonite, a church in St. Vital, and there were a number of young people there who were part of what's called the "Love Winnipeg" initiative, and they were volunteering as part of a group of about 30 different churches across the City who have an annual round of volunteering called "Love Winnipeg", and these particular kids were helping clean up the banks of the Seine River in Councillor Vandal's ward, so I brought greetings, and I'm wondering Mr. Mayor, we've heard you talk in the past about the importance of faith-based groups in our City and the community work they do and the volunteer work they do. I'm wondering if we have recognized the "Love Winnipeg" initiative in the past or if we have plans to do that. Your comments feature prominently on their website endorsing them, but I'm wondering if we have done something more formal from the City to endorse the "Love Winnipeg" initiative?

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: Through Mr. Speaker to Councillor Mayes, thank you for the question. It was actually seven years ago. I believe it was March of 2005 when this initiative actually happened, and I remember the press release where we were championing what we called "Kindness to Everybody", and what basically takes place in "Love Winnipeg" is these individuals get together Mr. Speaker, they go throughout the communities and they just help people. They will help re-build a fence, paint a fence, mow the lawn, paint your house, and they're out there giving back to their community. It's something I've spoken on many occasions. Councillor Mayes is absolutely correct. More times than I can remember, I've made reference to faith-based groups, what they accomplish for the City and probably don't get enough credit for what they do. So if the Councillor has an idea on how we could recognize this wonderful initiative, I know I supported it strongly when it started in 2005. I'd be happy to sit down with the Councillor. It's a great initiative. It does so much good for the City. And it just goes to show, you know, what makes Winnipeg the great city it is...the people. And these people get together and just do wonderful things for other citizens in the City, ask nothing in return whatsoever, and I would be happy if Councillor Mayes has some ideas on how we can recognize them, but I fully endorsed this right from the beginning of time and I fully support it as well Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Second question? Any other questions? Councillor Gerbasi, second round.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have to make up for last month where I didn't ask any questions. I wouldn't want the Mayor to be disappointed.

Mr. Speaker: Easy on the preamble.

Councillor Gerbasi: I'm allowed two minutes Mr. Speaker. Let's follow the Procedure By-law.

My question has to do with the Building Canada Fund, and I appreciate the announcement yesterday regarding the Convention Centre that some of the money is going to be going there for Winnipeg. Would have liked a little more notice about the announcement because it's in my ward, but that's an aside. Our Building Canada Funds are pretty much expended I believe now into projects…I believe it's Rosser sewer pipes, Plessis underpass and the Convention Centre. If I'm not wrong about where essentially our money from the Federal Government for Building Canada till 2014, that's where it's going. So there will be…as you know we're working on F.C.M. and cities across the country are trying to get the next infrastructure program in place. My question is with the first one, transit, rapid transit, was taken out of our wish list for that program. Now we're going forward. We are desperately looking for a source of funding to complete the southwest corridor. The first part of it has been a huge success and people are asking where's the rest of it? We've

made that commitment by 2016. Will the Mayor agree to put that forward as part our "ask" on our wish list for the next round and the next infrastructure program. That's where the money is supposed to be going to cities for their infrastructure priorities. Will we be putting transit in there along with the other projects that we have?

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, first of all I thank Councillor Gerbasi for the question. Just for clarification, the approximately $150 million, which was part of the Building Canada Funds, was used up between the Plessis underpass and the Convention Centre, so that's where the money has gone, and as the Councillor knows it's one-third, one-third, one-third, and quite often the City is usually in for 40 to 50 percent because that's the way it always turns out. Mr. Speaker, the way I've always been part of this Building Canada Fund, because right now I can tell you that just the other day I did meet with Minister Lemieux regarding Building Canada Funds. I've also spoken to both Members of Parliament…Minister Fletcher as well and Minister Toews, and we've discussed this, and as I think anybody here can appreciate, when you're talking every four or five years, a tranche of money coming forward, and keep in mind, if you do base it on the one-third, one-third, one-third and the kind of numbers, $50 million isn't exactly going to solve our infrastructure problems. I believe that's why yours truly and other Councillors here have actually identified real sources of funding that can get the rapid transit done now. There was a motion on the floor that was approved that Councillor Swandel put forward. There was a motion that I put forward as well for infrastructure. From my point of view, if you truly believe in rapid transit, you've got to find a source of funds that's consistent and comes on a regular basis, and that's what we try to do, and once again, it appears it has fallen on deaf ears at the Province, which I think is extremely unfortunate. And the other thing I should tell you Mr. Speaker, what we do, as opposed to having politicians involved in this process, we let the Department give us their priorities, and those are the priorities that I fight for. Now as you can appreciate, the Provincial and Federal Governments, they may have some other priorities. God willing, sometimes they line up with ours, sometimes they don't. But that's really what happens here Mr. Speaker. And I would like to believe that every Councillor sitting here agrees that we need a dedicated source of funding for Rapid Transit because it's not just a matter of completing the Southwest, which we all want to do. I want to go east, I want to go west, I want to go north Mr. Speaker. That all has to be done. Every single one of them Mr. Speaker. So we need to identify long term funding, and I can tell you something else Mr. Speaker. I've shared my thoughts and I'm happy to make them public right now. This whole thing about Building Canada Funds, okay. Some people think this is like the messiah that's going to come and solve our infrastructure problems Mr. Speaker. That's a ridiculous thought. An absolutely ridiculous thought Mr. Speaker. Just look at the amount of money. Assuming it's similar, $50 million from three levels, it's $150 million. I'm sure Councillor Wyatt can tell you because he headed this; our infrastructure deficit right now, which is approximately 3.4 billion; in addition to that where we're going to be at in ten years. It's not going to work Mr. Speaker, and I've actually put forward the idea of getting us money on a regular basis annually that we can then go out and get money for 30 or 40 years. So as opposed to doing $50 million work, maybe we can do half a billion dollars' worth of work Mr. Speaker. That's the way we're going to solve this infrastructure problem. But the realities are, until everybody realizes how serious it is, and until someone says, okay, this is a source of revenue, this should go into your infrastructure, we shouldn't take it to try and solve our financial problems. May as well just go and hit your head on your desk Mr. Speaker, because that's as far as we've gotten. So I would very much appreciate Councillor Gerbasi and every other Councillor's help in making the Provincial Government understand that this is a priority and let's identify the source of revenue to get it done. We've come up with four or five ideas Mr. Speaker, and we will continue to do that.

Mr. Speaker: Second question?

Councillor Gerbasi: Well I guess, thank you for your response there, and I appreciate the efforts to get the funding for transit, but the fact that the transit was taken out of the first round of dedicated…I mean it is money coming. Is that going to be the scenario we're going to see a second time. We are expecting a new program in 2014. If it continues to fall on deaf ears, in spite of all our efforts, are we going to again say well, transit isn't as important as the other projects on our list and we are not going to ask for that money to go there, because I guess what I'm saying, I think it is a political priority whether or not it goes there, and it's our decision what goes on that list, and that's a political decision, so are you going to put transit on that list if we get to that point and we don't have that source of funding you're seeking.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, for the record, I've said this before. This Mayor and this Council accomplished the first phase of rapid transit, Queen Elizabeth to Jubilee. It did not come out of Building Canada Funds. It was never meant to come out of Building Canada Funds, and that's the road I intend to continue, because the realities are, we can make this happen with a little bit of cooperation. We don't even need a lot of cooperation. Just a little bit of cooperation, because if you take a small amount of money and amortize it over 40 years, you can do some wonderful things Mr. Speaker. We just need a teeny weeny bit of cooperation from the Provincial Government, and you know what, the reality is, if we don't continue that dialogue and if we don't continue talking about it, if falls by the wayside Mr. Speaker. In the meantime, there's other infrastructure in the City that we're also starting to address, so as I said before, everyone has their priorities. I believe we must get the rapid transit done, and I believe we can get it done by working with the Provincial

Government. Just need a little bit of cooperation and still continue to use our Building Canada Funds for other infrastructure, whether it's roads, whether it's bridges, whether it's libraries, whether it's police stations, whether it's convention centres, whether it's sidewalks, back lanes, etcetera, etcetera, community centres…there's lots of work to be done. And the unfortunate part Mr. Speaker, there is so much work to be done, we all know we don't have all the money to do that, but we need to start and we need to start now, and every month that goes by that we don't get started, that hole gets deeper and we're not going to get out of it Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Last question.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you for that answer. Just one…my final question has to do with…as part of the OurWinnipeg process, there was supposed to be, coming out of the sustainability piece of it, a Community Climate Change Action Plan. This was something we talked about a lot when I used to chair the Environment Committee, and there has not be a lot of signs of activity. I know that someone was hired to work on it, but if it's a Community Climate Change Action Plan, there's going to be stuff happening about it in the community and I haven't heard anything about it and I'm just wondering if you could update, if we're really going to see that piece of OurWinnipeg that is supposed to come forward.

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: Through you Mr. Speaker I thank Councillor Gerbasi, and I believe Councillor Gerbasi is correct in those assumptions, and I can tell you that I know that the Department has been working on a proposal and I don't know whether we'll get it either before or possibly after the prorogue but I can assure that some work is being done towards that. I'm very much…I had been made aware of it and we're waiting for the final report to come forward and then we'll go from there.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you Speaker Nordman.

Mr. Speaker: Okay, sorry. We have…you'll be next, okay. Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you. Mr. Mayor, last month this council chamber passed your motion in terms of the 2.5 cent gas tax, calling on the Province that the two and a half cents that they've increased to go to infrastructure. They of course, we know, took that two and a half cents and put it in their pocket without increasing spending on infrastructure for municipalities, and so Winnipeggers and Manitobans are paying that now. Your motion called rightly that that money should go back to infrastructure on an above for municipalities, and we had Doug Dobrowolski here from the A.M.M. speaking in favour of that and this Council voted in favour of that. As well, we had the motion moved by Councillor Swandel and also seconded by myself calling for the registration fee increase, another tax grab that's going directly into their general revenue line, to go to rapid transit, to fund rapid transit. These motions would have now been sent by our public service to the Provincial Government. Has there been any response by the Premier, by the Premier's office or by the Province of Manitoba with regard to the fact that these two important resolutions were passed by this Council last month.

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, through you to Councillor Wyatt I thank him for the question and I can certainly tell him that as of 9:30 this morning when I walked on to the floor of Council, there has been zero response to either of those motions. Of course they're very much aware of both motions, they're just ignoring it. I think it's extremely unfortunate that our Provincial Government has increased taxes by $182 million, and yet we can't find something for infrastructure or for transit. Obviously the money is there Mr. Speaker. I can only say this isn't their priority, but got no response whatsoever. I think it's very sad. I think it's very unfortunate, but the short answer is no, not even the courtesy of a response as yet. And if I recall, going by memory, this Council, when it came to the gas tax Mr. Speaker, I believe that motion was unanimous. All 16 supported that motion if my memory serves me well. We all know infrastructure is a priority for us. It certainly is a priority for the citizens that we represent and so far absolutely zero from the Provincial Government as far as a response. But you know what? You never give up Mr. Speaker. You've got to keep on trying.

Mr. Speaker: Second question?

Councillor Wyatt: Definition of insanity is keep doing the same thing over and over again with the same result. So my question would be, in light of this, and in light of the lack of response and the frustration shared by all of us with regards to the lack of response Mr. Mayor, and knowing that the summer is now upon us, come the fall though, come

September, and knowing how strongly Winnipeggers feel about the fact that they're paying this extra gas tax and registration and none of it is going to infrastructure, would the Mayor be prepared to undertake a public…reach out to the public, a public relations and media campaign to get Winnipeggers involved, to push the Province, to make sure that money goes back into infrastructure where it belongs.

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, could I hear the question from Councillor Eadie instead? I appreciate the question and I understand it and I'm trying to think. Well, Mr. Speaker, I have genuine concerns of what's going on in our city. I believe all members of Council are working hard, you know, to move the City forward. The City is definitely growing. There's really good things happening, but in the meantime we face some major challenges, and certainly infrastructure is one of them, and I cannot explain to anyone why the Provincial Government isn't taking this serious. The Provincial Government gets $3.4 billion from the Federal Government. $3.4 billion dollars from the Federal Government. The City of Winnipeg gets a total from the Province of $212 million. That's it. And the only source of revenue we really have is property taxes. That's a large part of it. And I think everybody agrees that property taxes are regressive tax, and we keep on looking for growth revenues and for some unknown reason it just hasn't resonated or hit home. I can't understand why. I mean, I'm sure every Councillor, spring comes, you get the phone calls about the pot holes. How many times have we heard, you know, Councillor Smith talk about the terrible condition of the back lanes, the sidewalks, the curbs. We continue to put money into our community centres which are important. So we're moving forward, and yet in spite of the Province just seeming not to care about that, some of the tools that we've been using to actually get our infrastructure work, now they want to take those away, and I'm talking about P3's, which I think I've gone on record saying it's complete insanity. So am I happy about what's taking place? No. I don't understand why any Provincial Government, I don't care what party you're affiliated with, would not care about the City that represents two-thirds to 70 percent of your province, which is the economic engine that drives this province which is where you get elected in the City. How anybody could not care about the City, it's beyond me. But that seems to be the case. I appreciate the question and the comment from Councillor Wyatt. I always try and maintain an open mind. I'm not going to give a definitive yes or no. I mean, I'd like to think that anything we do when it comes to spending money is going to get results, and if I believe we can get some results that way, totally open to that suggestion. But it has to be done very professionally because I believe that everybody does care, and why everybody's not calling their M.L.A.'s and saying why aren't you doing anything about our community centres or, you know, where are you when it comes to our roads. I mean, there's only one taxpayer and as I said, we get $212 million from the Provincial Government. And a lot of that is conditional upon doing this or doing that. So you know we only have the opportunity here to make the decisions how to spend it, and I can tell you Mr. Speaker, which I will share with you. When I went to the F.C.M. meeting, the Big City Mayor's caucus, and there were 22 of the big city mayors there. Some were represented by others…

Mr. Speaker: Councillor (inaudible) moves extension. All those in favour, opposed…

Mayor Katz: Thank you Councillor. The big issue that came up Mr. Speaker was infrastructure and how we deal with this, and to a mayor, everyone agreed, you know the problem is not the money. The money is there. The pot of money is there. The problem is the way it's distributed. Sixty-five percent is going to the Provincial Government, 27 percent to the Federal Government and 8 percent to the City. We all agreed we need a re-distribution of that pot of pie. Imagine what could happen if we went from 8 to 16. Can you imagine what we could do for the City? That's what it's all about. You don't even need to increase taxes. You need a re-distribution, and I have shared that with both Minister Lemieux and Minister Fletcher. That's just the reality of it, because we can talk till we're blue in the face. Something has to change Mr. Speaker. And I'll leave it with that.

Mr. Speaker: That concludes Question Period for the Mayor. Councillor Eadie you will have to call the mayor direct. All right, we'll move to the next standing committee which is Protection Community Services, it's the May 28th meeting. Councillor Havixbeck.

**REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
DATED MAY 28, 2012**

Councillor Havixbeck: Yes, I'd like to introduce the report and move adoption of the Consent Agenda Items 1 to 4.

Mr. Speaker: Seeing none, all those in favour? Opposed? Carried. Next we have no motions. We have no by-laws. Do we have a question period for Councillor Havixbeck, Protection Community Protection Services. Seeing none, we'll move on to the report of the Standing Policy Committee of Infrastructure and Public Works dated May the 29th, Councillor Vandal.

**REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
DATED MAY 29, 2012**

Councillor Vandal: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to move Items 1 to 4 of the report dated May 29th as Consent.

Mr. Speaker: Seeing no, set a sides. All those in favour? Opposed? Carried. We have no motions. We do have some by-laws to consider. Councillor Vandal.

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS**

Councillor Vandal: I will move the following by-laws be read a first time. By-law No. 91/2012, By-law No. 92/2012.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed. Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 91/2012, By-law No. 92/2012.

Councillor Vandal: I will move that by-laws numbered 91/2012 and 92/2012 be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws numbered 91/2012 to 92/2012.

Councillor vandal: I will move that the rules be suspended and By-laws numbered 91/2012 and 92/2012 be read a third time and same be passed and order to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
QUESTION PERIOD**

Mr. Speaker: Question Period for Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works. Councillor Smith.

Councillor Smith: Councillor Vandal, on December 19, 2007, Council ruled automatic referral to your Standing Committee a motion moved by Councillor Swandel and it stated, there is no consistent economical means of recycling plastic garbage bags, and they are constantly blowing from the landfill and store parking lots creating a visual blight in our clean and green City. The motion then requested the Winnipeg Public Service to prepare a report on a strategy for the elimination of their use in the City of Winnipeg. On November 19, 2008, Council adopted a report on the elimination of plastic grocery bags. The report called for 1. The Public Service to undertake an education program for the purpose of increasing awareness of the need to reduce, re-use and recycle plastic bags; 2. Council to support the Province's implementation of the Printed Paper and Packaging Regulation with targets for the reduction, re-use and recycling of

plastic bags; 3. The Chief Administrative Officer to investigate a strategy to eliminate the use of plastic bags in the City of Winnipeg.

Mr. Speaker: We have a question?

Councillor Smith: After almost four years has gone by, can you tell me what has been done?

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Thank you Mr. Speaker. To Councillor Smith, I am at a severe disadvantage because I don't have the information that Councillor Smith has in front of me. But I can say that we have adopted a Comprehensive Waste Minimization Strategic Master Plan several months ago and we are well on our way within the next six to seven years to reducing the amount of garbage we produce from a meager…to divert the amount of garbage to recycling from a meager 16 percent that is our current status to over 55 percent which would bring us to the top middle of the pack across Canada. It's a comprehensive plan. I know that…I'm not sure actually what the implications are for plastic bags within that comprehensive plan, but I know within that comprehensive plan we have already started to distribute recycling carts, garbage carts, and full course recycling and garbage pickup will begin October 1st of this year, and that will bring us, Mr. Speaker, to the leader of the pack in terms of recycling and waste diversion. Having said all that, I will…we have a Public Works meeting on July 3rd, which I believe is next Tuesday, and I know our Water and Waste people will be there and I'll follow up on the status of the plastic garbage bag issue. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Second question Councillor Smith? No? Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you Speaker Nordman. The inner city roads and back lanes are deteriorating way too fast. It's a huge problem that exists. It's a fact in this City, and the facts are that the Chairperson of Public Works, I voted along with him for the Mayor's motion to get the province to come on board, but my question is simply this to the Chairperson of Public Works. When will he push with the Executive Policy Committee my idea to advance forward faster the renewal of our inner city streets and back lanes with the motion that I had moved at E.P.C. back in my first capital budget experience?

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Again, I'm not aware of the specifics of Councillor Eadie's motion but I can say, as the Mayor has pointed out earlier this morning, it's not just the inner city where the deterioration is ongoing. It's all over the City of Winnipeg and that's no slight to the inner city because I know that for the most part their infrastructure is older, but I can say we do need a better deal. We've needed a better deal when Mayor Susan Thompson was here. We needed a better deal when Mayor Glen Murray was the Mayor, and certainly under Mayor Sam Katz, we are still fighting for that same better deal. The song remains the same Mr. Speaker. There have been some very concrete motions that this Council has adopted that have gone up to the Premier and the Provincial Government, and Councillor Wyatt has suggested stepping up a notch in the autumn of this year. It's a very serious issue. We all know about our infrastructure deficit and the sad part is the longer we delay in making progress on the infrastructure deficit, the deeper the hole gets. So I sympathize with Councillor Eadie's plight and his community. I am going to research the motion that he has brought forward specifically to try to give a more direct answer to his direct question, but the issue is dire for the entire City of Winnipeg Mr. Speaker, and we need a better deal from all levels of government. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Second question?

Councillor Eadie: Thank you Speaker Nordman. The fact is, we borrow a lot of money for new infrastructure, and the motion specifically moved at the...my first experience was to simply utilize the increased revenue from the frontage levy to borrow some money to advance forward in a quicker manner the renewal of the streets. West Kildonan isn't technically the inner city, but West Kildonan is falling apart too, so I want to know if he will push forward the concept that, you know, let's utilize, or leverage some of the money, the frontage levy, to move forth the renewal. People's cars are falling apart. I have people crying because their car broke down. This is a senior citizen. We need to do something within our own hands. The province obviously isn't listening to us, because I fully support that, so I'm asking specifically if Councillor Vandal, the Chairperson, would move forward to E.P.C. during the capital budget process, that we look at borrowing money and utilizing the funds from the frontage levy so that we don't see a less number of streets being renewed and repaired in our failing infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Mr. Speaker, I will commit to sitting down with Councillor Eadie and our Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure and Public Works as the budget talks come closer for 2013 and look at all options for trying to find the maximum amount of money, Mr. Speaker, that goes into our infrastructure, so I will be calling Councillor Eadie.

Mr. Speaker: Last question?

Councillor Eadie: Thank you Speaker Nordman. Simply thank you, and when will we sit down?

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Let's sit down sometime in July.

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz. Question for Councillor Vandal.

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Don't be nervous. Mr. Speaker, I'm just wondering if Councillor Vandal, did he know that the City of Winnipeg does not have the authority, as has been put forth by our Legal Department, to ban plastic bags and only the Provincial Government can do that.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Well, actually I did not know that, but somehow that does not surprise me. I find our relationship with other governments are quite paternalistic, and as I said, it's a battle that previous mayors and this mayor has been fighting for many years, and I think our challenge is to convey that message to the people we represent. Eight percent of total taxes in the City of Winnipeg are actually returned to the City of Winnipeg so that we can re-invest it in our infrastructure and in our other public services, and that's simply unjust Mr. Speaker. I harken back to the issue about reduced speed limits in school zones where we were on side and we had a motion. Police Services were on side. School Divisions were on side. Infrastructure and Transportation were on side. The Public Works Department were on side, and yes we had to go to the Provincial Government, the politicians, and actually I think they demanded that we do another study before we could actually reduce speed limits in school zones. I mean that's symbolic of the paternalistic relationship that the City has with other governments and all municipalities have to lesser degrees or more degrees throughout Canada, however I do know the City of Toronto did ban plastic bags and I'm not sure if they had to get the Provincial Government to sign off or not. It is do-able, it makes sense, and I will follow up with our administration to see what the options are moving forward.

Mr. Speaker: Second question Mayor Katz? No? No other questions? We'll conclude with Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works. We'll move to Finance, which has no report. There are no motions. No by-laws.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Speaker: Question period for Finance. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question to Councillor Fielding is, very early on in the agenda today under "Reports" we've got the Consolidated Financial Statements, and very deep in there on about page 40 it talks about our pension obligations and the ongoing future. I know we're looking at a new budget process or a re-vamping of our Operating Budget process and my question to Councillor Fielding is when we're back in the fall as we get closer to the Operating Budget, if we could have a Council seminar or some sort of ability to look at the pension issues that are before us. There was some quite big ticket items this year that swamped the money we're putting toward back lane repair and a number of other worthy initiatives, so this is a big ticket item that I think would be properly discussed by the Council. Councillor Fielding may have some other items he would want at a Council seminar so my question really is, as we head into the Operating Budget cycle in the fall, if we can consider the more thorough discussion of the pension obligations. I won't get into the specific quotes. We've all seen the reports, but there are some big dollar items here that I think we have to think through. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Fielding.

Councillor Fielding: Yes thank you Councillor Mayes for the question. Of course there's been a number of things that have come through pensions, through C.U.P.E. I actually didn't support that piece when it did come forward. There was also the Police Pension insolvency exemption report that came through Council, I think it was in…I can't remember

the date, I think it was December that we discussed that as well. That's ongoing of course, it's summer (inaudible) with the Police Union that's there, so I believe that process is happening this summer, so yeah I'm very much open to that if that's a part of the process. It's something obviously that's added $7 million to the budget as we go forward. There's some risks for further hits I guess to our budget depending on how that process goes with the Police Pension, but it is something that is a substantial risk, for not just our City but cities all over North America. So I'm very much open to that and probably through the budget process in September might be a good time for that, and I will follow up with you Councillor Mayes. In the interim, I could set up a meeting too with our Corporate Finance Department too. I know you showed an interest in that, just to give you a full briefing on that.

Mr. Speaker: Second question? That's good? No other questions for Finance? We'll move onto Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management. There is no report. There are no motions. We do have some by-laws. Councillor Swandel.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND RIVERBANK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Councillor Swandel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that By-law No. 85/2012 be read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed. Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 85/2012.

Councillor Swandel: Mr. Speaker, I'll move that By-law No. 85/2012 be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 85/2012.

Councillor Swandel: Mr. Speaker, I'll move that the rules be suspended and By-law No. 85/2012 be read a third time and that same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried. By-laws concluded and any questions for councillor Swandel?

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND RIVERBANK MANAGEMENT QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is in regards to the issue of what happens now with Parcel 4, the proposed site for the water park by the Human Rights Museum. My question is, the Mayor has recused himself from dealing with that property, and I guess I'm sort of wondering from a governance point of view or a process point of view, how do you see this unfolding given that, you know, it's been indicated that there needs to be discussion with the stakeholders involved. I think everyone agrees we want to put some thought into what we do and do something really appropriate there that people will be consulted about and such. I guess I'm just wondering how do we proceed from here when we have a situation where the Mayor can't really be involved in the process.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you for the question. Obviously we all have a strong desire to see a gravel parking lot. There's not even just a surface parking lot, it's a gravel parking lot I think for the most part, dealt with in such a prime location in our city. As for procedure, I think it's probably best to have the Clerk and then perhaps our Legal Department provide that information, but that being said, I think we've got to do it in a way that brings all the stakeholders to the table. You know, certainly the Human Rights Museum, certainly The Forks and the downtown constituency as best we can. But I'll leave it to the legal beagles and the City Clerk to give us a little better information on the structure of what

that might look like and as I've alluded to before, I think it's something that we have to get into maybe later on this year or very early next year and create a process that is really recognizing the number of key stakeholders that are in play.

Mr. Speaker: No further questions? Seeing none we'll move on to the Standing Policy Committee for Property and Development. Councillor Browaty.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
DATED JUNE 12, 2012

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce the report of June 12, 2012 and move the adoption of consent agenda, Items 1 to 8.

Mr. Speaker: No. 4. Councillor Eadie?

Councillor Eadie: Eight.

Mr. Speaker: Any others? Seeing none, we'll do 1 to 3, 5 to 7. All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Item 4 – Rezoning – 269 Nassau Street North – DAZ 202/2012

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd be…I'd love to hear Councillor Gerbasi's comments and respond.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I was not going to stand up on this issue. I was going to just be recorded in opposition but, given the words of support of the local councillor, I heard earlier, about how we should listen to local councillors and how local councillors know their area and that they have…they know better than anyone else…I could not pass by the opportunity to point out that here is a situation where my ruling at community committee was overturned by another committee. So I guess I'm just saying, pointing out the different attitudes seem to apply in different situations here. I had very clear, very clearly spelled out reasons why our community committee made that ruling. It will be affecting the neighbourhood, and I'm not going to get into the whole debate here. I don't even think it's appropriate. We had a hearing at community committee to discuss the matter and was discussed and a decision made and that was overturned by another committee and I guess I just wanted to point out that you know if you're going to say that, if you're going to say that to me earlier today, that you want to listen to the councillor when they know something about their area, we're in the middle of working on a plan for that area. I mean, I know that area, I know that lot, I know that issue and it was completely disregarded, so I just guess I just wanted to get that off my chest after listening to what I listened to this morning about the other matter. If you really believe in respecting a local councillor then practice what you preach. But with that I don't really expect a response. I don't want to reopen the whole debate. I'll save you a 10 minute explanation or if Councillor Wyatt is going to give one, maybe I will give some of the reasons why I didn't support it just quickly then since other councillors will be able to speak after me. But, I see Councillor Wyatt wants to wade into this one. I just want to recognize that I recognize that the property committee has the authority to overturn community committee decisions. I'm not disputing that. I'm not accusing anyone of doing anything wrong. It's just that you know, I guess I would ask that there would be a little more respect and attention to the points that the local councillors do bring forward. This particular property is a single family lot right beside a bike path that is going to now have ten parking stalls on it and five units. It's an over building of a lot and it will involve a cut out and a back lane right beside a bike path and there was a couple of other reasons outlined in the report that the committee did not seem to think it warranted listening to. So I just wanted to put that on the record. I hope that you do believe, those of you who said that in respecting the local councillor's view on an issue because in this case that is not what happened. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: I want to thank Councillor Gerbasi for standing this down because had she not, I probably would have stood it down to speak to it because I think it's worthy of a discussion. The report before us by the Property, by the staff of the Property Development Department, is in favour of this development. They've written a positive report saying that why this makes sense. The building itself, on 269 Nassau Street North, is literally surrounded on three sides by

multiple family housing projects, Mr. Speaker. When we asked the question in the committee, when this came up at the Property and Development, we asked why was this rejected at Community Committee. You have a positive report from the Public Service. You had no one, not one person from the public show up in opposition to this application. According to our public service, not one person showed up in opposition to this application. You have multiple family housing projects on three sides, much larger than what's being proposed here. Across the street is a centre for the deaf, six stories tall. This property is to be proposed to be three stories and five units. Five units, Mr. Speaker. Our public service had no answer. Patti Regan was there. She said, “Councillors, I have no explanation why community committee would’ve rejected this and why City Centre Community Committee would’ve rejected this application. Makes absolutely no sense”. Mr. Speaker, when you get that kind of advice from our public service, the committee, the Standing Committee of Property and Development reversed the decision unanimously, unanimously. Makes no sense. As a matter of fact we even included a provision if you read the report now that gives community committee, Mr. Speaker, the ability to have input into the landscaping and the elevations of the development. So, community committee will actually be able to have address some of the concerns that Councillor Gerbasi was referring to which wasn't there before, actually, Mr. Speaker. I don't understand why the City Centre Community Committee would’ve rejected this, specifically infill development like this, Mr. Speaker. We have consistently, there’s so many members of this Council who have rallied against suburban development, calling it a suburban sprawl, we can't have more development in the suburbs this is unsustainable. This is unaffordable, Mr. Speaker. This cost the rate payer’s money and here we have Mr. Speaker, is an opportunity where we have existing services on an existing street, surrounded by on three sides, by multiple family housing and it’s been rejected out of hand, Mr. Speaker, by the City Centre Community Committee.

Mr. Speaker: We need a question, Councillor Wyatt. No?

Councillor Wyatt: This is a debate. But anyway so, but if you like I could ask you a question. Mr. Mayor! Mr. Mayor! How can this have been rejected? (Laughter). But Mr. Speaker, you know, it makes absolutely no sense because this is infill development. This is the kind of thing we want to be encouraging, Mr. Speaker. This is what we want to see to create the kind of foot traffic that we’re on Corydon. Literally a couple of blocks away is Corydon Avenue, the most successful business district in the city in terms of a local street with street business, street traffic. Not big box stores, local businesses, local owners who take pride in their neighbourhood. Many of them grew up in that neighbourhood, living in that neighbourhood doing business there. And this encourages that kind of renewal, that kind of urban renewal. I mean, Corydon Avenue is admired across the city. I’m glad the councillor for the area raised the fact that there is a secondary plan going on. From what I hear, all the businesses in the area are up in arms about what she is doing with the secondary plan there but that’s another story, that’s another story. That’s another story, Mr. Speaker. But you know, the reality is Mr. Speaker, I'm glad you did. I'm glad you did, I really am because this is worthy of a discussion. This speaks to the heart of what we’re trying to do as a city. We know we're growing. We know our numbers are going up dramatically as a city. We want to, we definitely want to build sustainably but we know we have to do it Mr. Speaker in a way that makes sense. We want to ensure that we can still build new neighbourhoods where there should be built, and we want to be able to reduce that pressure on the need for newer neighbourhoods by being able to encourage infill development like this one. Mr. Walters, Ernie Walters who is a the proponent here, is an architect who’s done many projects in this neighbourhood, who lives in this neighbourhood, who’s part of this community and his application was rejected out of hand, without even a layover, without even any discussion, just rejected and nobody in opposition? What's going on here, Mr. Speaker? Why was this rejected? Anyway I'm glad councillor Gerbasi stood it down for the discussion and I hope that the councillor here supports the decision made by the Standing Committee based on the advice we got from our public service to overturn this unanimously.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, speaker Nordman. I didn't really want to rise on this but having been committed to the or having to have to experience the councillor who just spoke's rationale for allowing or disallowing conditional uses and zoning, I would just like to make two points. I am -- I have been a pedestrian walking in that particular neighbourhood. I have a friend I visit around there quite often and what I guess never came up from anybody from the Administration and because it's not my ward I didn't bother appearing, but I would point out that you know, adding more traffic into that little area back in there is not a good idea. It's dangerous actually. The active transportation trail does exist there. I'm hearing that a back lane is coming out to that and there is going to be ten parking stalls and we bring in more traffic issues into that area and I have to say as a pedestrian just in that immediate little area there, it's very difficult. So I stand here as a person who wasn’t in file but I'm just telling you there are problems there. And the second thing I just wanted to mention in terms of referring plans to community committee. All I have to say to the Councillor from Transcona is Wal-Mart. He knows what I'm talking about.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Any further comments on Item 4? Councillor Browaty to close.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm not going to spend a lot of time reiterating what Councillor Wyatt quite eloquently put out there but again, the report received full public service support. There was nobody registered in opposition. The property is surrounded almost all sides by multifamily properties there were concerns raised by Councillor Gerbasi, I think one of the issues she raised was there was not space for garbage bins normally on a project of this size, you don't do things like site plan approval but we in fact added at Standing Policy Committee. We added the clause that it has to go back to her committee so she can work with the applicant here to ensure that those concerns regarding bike paths and garbage bins have an opportunity to be addressed so that is certainly still there. What is the purpose of standing policy committees? In a lot of cases, it's to make sure that policies are consistent throughout the entire City of Winnipeg. If you're trying to do a project, you shouldn't have one set of rules in one part of the city and completely set a different, a completely different set of rules somewhere else. We have an overriding document in the scene, OurWinnipeg in Complete Communities. What I think one of the roles of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development is to make sure that there's some consistency in the way that's applied. This is a case where it seemed very important to set up an important precedent here. We don't take overturning a community committee decision lightly and I think we did the right thing here. All those in favour? Recorded Vote. All those in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Fielding, Havixbeck, Mayes, Pagtakhan, Sharma, Smith, Steen, Swandel, Vandal, Wyatt and Mr. Speaker Councillor Nordman.

Nays

Councillors Eadie and Gerbasi.

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 13, Nays 2.

Mr. Speaker: Motion passes. Councillor Browaty to open on eight.

Item 8 - Police Building Replacement - Funding Strategy and Award of Contract for public private partnership to build, finance and maintain the South District Police Station

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it was Councillor Eadie that stood this down. I'd be happy to respond to his comments.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you. There is a lot of in this particular report. There's a lot of measurements and considerations given and you know, whichever methodology you want to look at. There's a lot of iffy stuff related to which path to take in terms of building this police station and I just simply want to say that I just…you don't want to…I don't want to debate P3s or whatever because it's a lengthy discussion and I'm just going to say that I'm voting against this. There's iffy numbers on all sides and I'm not convinced that this is the right road to go. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Any further comments?

Mr. Speaker: Seeing none, all those in favour? Oh, I'm sorry, Councillor Browaty to close.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't going to stand this one down obviously, but I'll make a couple of comments here. Again, the Public Service Report clearly indicates that the taxpayers, the people that paid for all the infrastructure in our city, get good value for money by going down the private public partnership route that's why the recommendation was there and we've had great successes in our public private partnership up till now, Chief Peguis Trail opened a year ahead of schedule. Disraeli they just this past weekend opened two lanes northbound. A year ago, last year in April, I had a briefing on the project. They said June 23rd weekend, they'll open the northbound lanes on the new overpass. June 23rd, the new lanes open over a year in advance. There's nothing to do with winds.

Everything worked out somehow magically, Chief… Disraeli opened. I don't know maybe it isn't as windy in the northeast Winnipeg as it is in the south. Maybe we should all do of our infrastructure, maybe we should move Winnipeg further north and to the northeast. Maybe we have better luck with the projects or maybe it's the P3, I don't know. But nonetheless…again, our police will have a great new facility. The men and women of our police force need to have modern facilities. It's part of our four division model, but it's a good piece here.

Mr. Speaker: Recorded vote. All those in favour of Item 8, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Fielding, Havixbeck, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Sharma, Smith, Steen, Swandel, Vandal, Wyatt and Mr. Speaker Councillor Nordman.

Nays

Councillors Eadie, Gerbasi and Mayes.

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 13, Nays 3.

Mr. Speaker: Motion carried. We have no motions, but we do have by-laws to consider, Councillor Browaty.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – 1ST READING ONLY

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to move that By-law No. 90/2012 be read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 90/2012.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Councillor Browaty: Mr. Speaker, I will move that the following by-laws be read a first time. By-law 81/2012, 82/2012, 83/2012, 84/2012, 93/2012.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 81/2012, By-law No. 82/2012, By-law No. 83/2012, By-law No. 84/2012, and By-law No. 93/2012.

Councillor Browaty: Mr. Speaker, I move that By-laws numbered 81/2012 to 84/2012 both inclusive and By-law No. 93/2012 be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws numbered 81/2012 to 84/2012 both inclusive and By-law No. 93/2012.

Councillor Browaty: Mr. Speaker, I'll move that the rule be suspended and By-laws numbered 81/2012 to 84/2012, both inclusive and By-law No. 93/2012 be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried. Question period for property and development? Seeing none, that's it. Councillor Sharma moves that the Council now adjourn. All those in favour?

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Mr. Speaker Councillor Nordman, His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Eadie, Fielding, Gerbasi, Havixbeck, Mayes, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Sharma, Smith, Steen, Swandel, Vandal and Wyatt.

Council adjourned at 11:01 a.m.