STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON

INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 619
Councillor Havixbeck noted that there were frequent water main breaks this summer in the Charleswood-Tuxedo Ward, and throughout the city, and inquired how well this issue was being managed by the City.

Councillor Vandal replied that since 1990, over $120 million had been invested to renew water mains, and stated this year was a bad year due to the lack of precipitation, which had an effect on watermains. He added that watermains were a very important part of the overall infrastructure deficit and the City could do a better job if there was more money to invest in watermains and waste water treatment plants. He acknowledged that it was a serious concern but stated that once precipitation started, the watermain situation should settle. He added that any questions or concerns should be directed to 311, or to the Administration if an adequate response was not received.

Councillor Havixbeck stated that the water main breaks occurred in areas that were over 50 years in age, and asked if there was a replacement plan or a better way to address the infrastructure issue. Councillor Vandal stated that watermain breaks have been reduced by half from 12 years ago, but acknowledged that the issue needed more attention and more resources.

Councillor Havixbeck stated that many residents have had brown water for months and asked what was being done about that; to which Councillor Vandal responded that according to the Administration, the brown water was a result of a lack of precipitation, ground shifting, and sediment moving out of the pipes and into taps. Directions were given to test the water after letting it run for 10 minutes but the long term solution was to wait for precipitation as it should disperse the sediment.

Regarding the garbage Master Plan, Councillor Eadie voiced concern about the bulk waste issue and whether there would be a resource recovery centre put in place as soon as possible. Councillor Vandal acknowledged that he would keep the communication with Councillor Eadie and the senior administration going to follow up.