**Agenda – Council – December 12, 2012**

**Report – Executive Policy Committee – December 5, 2012**

**Item No. 4 Discount(s) to be allowed for the Prepayment of 2013 Realty, Personal Property and Business Taxes**

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On December 5, 2012, The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submits the following to Council:

1. That pursuant to Subsection 334(3) of The City of Winnipeg Charter, Council adopt a by-law providing for prepayment discounts of the City's 2013 Realty, Personal Property and Business Taxes.

2. That the prepayment discounts be allowed on payments received by the Assessment and Taxation Department during the months of January and February 2013 at the following discount rates:

| Realty & Personal Property Tax - payable at par up to June 28th | Face Value Discount Rate | Equivalent Annual Discount Rate |
|---|---|---|
| January | 0.368% | 0.90% |
| February | 0.300% | 0.90% |
| Business Tax – payable at par up to May 31st | | |
| January | 0.295% | 0.90% |
| February | 0.226% | 0.90% |

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

**Report – Executive Policy Committee – December 5, 2012**

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On December 5, 2012, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to Council.

# ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

**Title:** **DISCOUNT(S) TO BE ALLOWED FOR THE PREPAYMENT OF 2012 REALTY, PERSONAL PROPERTY AND BUSINESS TAXES**

**Critical Path:** **Executive Policy Committee – Council**

## AUTHORIZATION

| Author | Department Head | CFO | CAO |
|---|---|---|---|
| B. Cull<br>Manager of Taxation and Finance | N. Karpa<br>Director of Assessment and Taxation | M. Ruta, CFO | D. Joshi, COO |

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That, pursuant to Subsection 334(3) of The City of Winnipeg Charter, Council adopt a by-law providing for prepayment discounts of the City's 2013 Realty, Personal Property and Business Taxes.

2. That the prepayment discounts be allowed on payments received by the Assessment and Taxation Department during the months of January and February 2013 at the following discount rates:

| Realty & Personal Property Tax - payable at par up to June 28th | Face Value Discount Rate | Equivalent Annual Discount Rate |
|---|---|---|
| January | 0.368% | 0.90% |
| February | 0.300% | 0.90% |
| **Business Tax – payable at par up to May 31st** | | |
| January | 0.295% | 0.90% |
| February | 0.226% | 0.90% |

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

## REASON FOR THE REPORT

Subsection 334(3) of *The City of Winnipeg Charter* permits the City to provide for the allowance of discounts when taxes are prepaid, as stated below:

> *334(3) Council may pass by-laws in respect of real and personal property taxes and business taxes*
>
> *(c) providing that, when taxes are paid other than by installments, discounts at rates prescribed in the by-law may be allowed on amounts that are prepaid on account of those taxes by dates specified in the by-law.*

Council annually adopts a by-law establishing a discount rate that will financially benefit the City and, at the same time, provide an investment opportunity for taxpayers.

## IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

**General Implications**

(X) For the organization overall and/or for other departments

(X) For the community and/or organizations external to the City

Comment(s): The City receives advanced tax bill payments and, in doing so, property and business owners are provided a beneficial tax payment discount rate.

**Financial Implications**

(X) Within approved current and/or capital budget

Comment(s): This recommendation results in a projected net income of $0 (nil net income or cost neutral).

## HISTORY

The proposed discount rates are based on information received from the Financial Services Branch of Corporate Finance, which considers 1.75% as the City's short-term investment interest rate for 2012 (the prior year estimate for 2011 was 1.50%). A discount rate of approximately 0.90% is considered to be fair to both the City and to the taxpayer in 2013 (and provides for a breakeven position for the City).

The 2012 experience was as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Total Interest earned on prepayment amounts | $ 11,434 |
| Discount value | $ 6,923 |
| Cost to administer (ignores overhead costs) | $ 3,000 |
| Net Return | $ 1,511 |
| Net Return on an annualized basis | 0.17% |

Using the 2012 actual prepayment information, with the City's 2013 expected short-term investment interest rate of 1.75%, the following represents the interest income that could be expected in 2013 from depositing the tax prepayments:

**2013 Projected Investment Income from Prepayments**

| | Estimated Prepayments (Based on 2012) | # of months invested | 2013 Projected Investment Income |
|---|---|---|---|
| *January* | | | |
| Realty and Personal Property Tax | $1,898,198 | 5 | $13,841 |
| Business Tax | 230,401 | 4 | 1,344 |
| *February* | | | |
| Realty and Personal Property Tax | 160,472 | 4 | 936 |
| Business Tax | (166,597) | 3 | (729) |
| 2013 Projected Gross Income | $2,122,474 | | $15,392 |
| *less:* Discounts and administration costs | | | 15,392 |
| **2013 Projected Net Income** | | | **$0** |

2013 Projected Annualized Return of 0%

**Comparison 2012 / 2013**

| | **2012** | **2013 (Projected)** |
|---|---|---|
| Net Return | $ 1,511 | $ 0 |
| Annualized Net Return | 0.17% | 0% |

Note that the 2013 projected net income is nil. While interest rates are improving, there is still negligible investment income projected for the 2013 Prepayment Program; not sufficient to generate net income when all costs are considered. As in 2012, this program will be offered as a customer service initiative with full information on the Assessment and Taxation website. There will be one advertisement placed in the Winnipeg Free Press newspaper. Further, the 311 Customer Contact Centre will be prepared to handle phone calls on this program beginning in January 2013.

It is recommended that Council adopt a by-law to provide for prepayment discounts received by the Assessment and Taxation Department during the months of January and February 2013 at the following discount rates:

| Realty & Personal Property Tax - payable at par up to June 28th | Face Value Discount Rate | Equivalent Annual Discount Rate |
|---|---|---|
| January | 0.368% | 0.90% |
| February | 0.300% | 0.90% |

| Business Tax – payable at par up to May 31st | Face Value Discount Rate | Equivalent Annual Discount Rate |
|---|---|---|
| January | 0.295% | 0.90% |
| February | 0.226% | 0.90% |

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

### Financial Impact Statement

**Date:** November 21, 2012

**Project Name:**

Discount for 2013 Prepayment of Realty, Personal Property and Business Taxes

**First Year of Program** **2013**

| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Capital** | | | | | |
| Capital Expenditures Required | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| Less: Existing Budgeted Costs | - | - | - | - | - |
| Additional Capital Budget Required | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| **Funding Sources:** | | | | | |
| Debt - Internal | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| Debt - External | - | - | - | - | - |
| Grants (Enter Description Here) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Reserves, Equity, Surplus | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other - Enter Description Here | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Funding | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| Total Additional Capital Budget Required | $ - | | | | |
| Total Additional Debt Required | $ - | | | | |
| **Current Expenditures/Revenues** | | | | | |
| Direct Costs | $ 15,392 | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| Less: Income from investment of prepayments | 15,392 | - | - | - | - |
| Net Cost/(Benefit) | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| Less: Existing Budget Amounts | - | - | - | - | - |
| Net Budget Adjustment Required | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |

Additional Comments:

Using the 2012 actual prepayment information, with the City's 2013 expected short-term investment interest rate of 1.75%, the interest income that could be expected in 2013 from depositing the tax prepayments is approximately $15,392. However, after applying the projected tax discounts and administrative costs, the projected net income is nil. Despite the nil net income, this program will still proceed as a customer service initiative. Based on past experience, it is expected that 3,000 - 4,000 property owners will take advantage of the 2013 Prepayment Discount program.

[original signed by]

Radhika Abeysekera
Manager of Finance (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

## CONSULTATION

**In preparing this report there was consultation with:**

**Internal**

Financial Services Branch of Corporate Finance Department

## SUBMITTED BY

Department: Assessment and Taxation
Division: Taxation and Finance
Prepared by: B. Cull, Manager of Taxation and Finance
Date: November 21, 2012
File No. n/a