STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 185
Councillor Mayes stated that Council voted in July 2012 to look at a managed competition process for City owned Golf Courses and he was aware that City staff were encouraging other levels of government, such as the Federal Government to invest taxpayer dollars into the facilities. He indicated that he was pleased with the policy direction authored by City staff and questioned, given the investment of taxpayer dollars, if the City was continuing to look at contracting out this site. Councillor Wyatt agreed to take the question under advisement and report back.

Councillor Mayes asked if Council could get an update on whether the City would be investing more into Kildonan Park and Windsor Park and if that would influence the decision to look at contracting out or referring those parks to managed competition. Councillor Wyatt agreed to take the question under advisement and report back.

Councillor Mayes noted that Council debated the issue of the four golf courses on July 18, 2012, the application to the Federal program was signed by City staff on August 2, 2012, and asked for confirmation that Council was not aware that City staff were seeking Federal taxpayer dollars to be invested into the golf course. Councillor Wyatt replied in the affirmative.

Councillor Havixbeck asked the Chair to outline briefly, or present a plan, for how Council will proceed with the 2014 budget, inclusive of how they could engage and provide more consultation, with all Councillors and with the community.

Councillor Wyatt confirmed that the budget was passed yesterday, January 29, 2013 and commencing tomorrow, January 31, 2013, work would be underway on the 2014 budget and he looked forward to bringing something forward in the near future.

Councillor Havixbeck questioned when Council would see the lists for street renewals that have been approved on a City-wide basis, not an individual ward basis.

Councillor Wyatt advised that he had not seen a City-wide list but some Councillors had met with Public Works staff to discuss the work and other blocks could be added to the list. Councillor Wyatt indicated that the Public Works Department does not politicize a list; they take the funding, divide it up and look at a percentage. He noted that every year they do a condition index of all streets, lanes and the percentage in each ward dictates the level of ward funding. Councillor Wyatt concluded that Councillor Havixbeck's ward received more funds through the Operating Budget to assist with the unique challenges of grading, resealing, ditch cleaning, culvert steaming and all of those things that take time, energy and staff to maintain the type 2 gravel roads, those chip sealed roads in her ward.

Standing Policy Committee on Finance – Question Period (continued):

Councillor Havixbeck asked if the Chair could provide a list of streets that would have been done under 2013 money, a list of new streets out of the one percent new money on a City-wide basis.

Councillor Wyatt replied that he did not see why it could not be provided but stated that he did not want a list provided until every member of Council had an opportunity to meet with the Public Service and the Public Service comes forward with streets they recommend be added.

Councillor Eadie questioned if the Chair was aware of anything to undermine a person's ability to get a street on the list for the 14 million new dollars that was passed.

Councillor Wyatt replied in the negative and advised that the infrastructure deficit on the local streets happened over decades and based on the 25 year plan, it would take 25 years to renew every broken down street. He hoped that future Councils would have the will and desire to stick to that plan, whether it be new monies coming from the Province or Federal Government to off-set any increases and keep to the plan. He suggested that it would take some discipline and early on folks would be asking why they are not fixing their street.

Councillor Eadie questioned if the Chair was aware that a list $3.6 billion worth of failing residential streets could be located on a website; to which Councillor Wyatt replied that he was not aware of that.

Councillor Browaty asked if the Chair would be available to attend a ceremonial ribbon cutting on Grandview Street, an additional street being done in 2013, to recognize a very small first step towards addressing some of the local street infrastructure; to which Councillor Wyatt replied in the affirmative.

Councillor Browaty questioned if the Chair felt it was appropriate to invite all of Council to attend the ribbon cutting or sod turning. Councillor Wyatt replied that he was sure an invite could be extended to all and reiterated that he would be happy to be there.