STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 565
Councillor Havixbeck asked the Chair of Finance about the contract for the budget consultations, and asked if it is true that the City was three weeks behind on the process. Councillor Wyatt replied that the budget consultations, though they were related to the Finance committee, were funded and a function of the Mayor's Office, and further noted they were going well, with 800 residents having filled out the online survey.

Councillor Havixbeck understood that they had made recommendations to significantly revamp the way the budgets were currently being prepared and asked if the Chair why that route has not been undertaken. Councillor Wyatt stated that he hasn't seen any report from the consultant on the consultations but that there would be a report in the fall.

Councillor Havixbeck asked if the Chair could provide an update on the hiring of the EPC Secretariat re-creation to which Councillor Wyatt replied that it was a matter that should be directed in the question period to His Worship, as it fell under his budget.

Regarding the budget process for 2014, Councillor Gerbasi asked how the consultation process fit in with the budget process that was occurring in informal EPC. Councillor Wyatt stated that it is no different than any given year in the past; the departments worked on the budget ahead of time, but public consultation was wanted to feed into the budget process. No decisions had been made with regards to the budget and one would be made later in the fall.

Councillor Gerbasi asked if a draft budget should be expected and tabled in time to be voted on by December 2013, to which Councillor Wyatt replied that the goal was January.