Minute No. 409
Report – Executive Policy Committee – April 16, 2014

Item No. 7 Water Usage Due to Frozen Pipes

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 16, 2014, the Executive Policy Committee submitted the following to Council:

1. That Council confirm that the historic practices of the City in estimating water usage and waiving the cost of water in circumstances associated with actual frozen pipes or the risk of frozen pipes as set out in the Preamble constitute City policy to be carried out by the Director of Water and Waste;

2. That notwithstanding Resolution 1, in light of the exceptional and unprecedented nature of the scope and severity of the problem of frozen pipes in the winter of 2013-2014, Council direct that the City waive, for the period between December 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014:

    A. the incremental cost of water used to prevent a frozen pipe as directed or advised by the City to a maximum of 1.5 cubic metres per day beginning on the date the occupant of the property was notified to run water to prevent freezing and ending on the date the occupant of the property was notified no longer to run water, on condition that the customer provide meter readings as directed by the Water and Waste Department, regardless of whether the risk of freezing in the pipe is determined to be under the street or under private property;

3. That Council endorse past decisions of the City's Public Service to waive the cost of water and to estimate the usage of water in accordance with this resolution.

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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Katz,

That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 16, 2014, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the extent of frozen water services this winter is an unprecedented event in scope and severity, resulting in 2442 properties in Winnipeg to be without a water supply as at April 10, 2014;

AND WHEREAS, as a preventative measure, the City has as at April 10, 2014 directed the occupants of 9,266 properties to run a cold water tap continuously to prevent a frozen pipe;

AND WHEREAS the owners or occupants of 851 properties as at April 10, 2014 have permitted their neighbours to obtain water through their own water service;

AND WHEREAS the City has historically;

- adjusted the cost of water used by a property that is supplying water to a neighbour with a frozen water pipe through an estimate on the basis of past and future water usage rather than relying on a meter reading;

- waived the cost of water used by a property that is receiving water from a neighbour because their water pipe is frozen

- waived the incremental cost of the water used to prevent a frozen pipe to a maximum of 1.5 cubic meters per day beginning on the date the occupant of the property was directed by the City to run water to prevent freezing and ending on the date the occupant of the property was directed by the City to cease running water, when the customer provided meter readings as directed by the Water and Waste Department, and when the risk of freezing in the pipe was under the street and not when it was under private property;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that:

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

1. Council confirm that the historic practices of the City in estimating water usage and waiving the cost of water in circumstances associated with actual frozen pipes or the risk of frozen pipes as set out in the Preamble constitute City policy to be carried out by the Director of Water and Waste;

2. Notwithstanding Resolution 1, in light of the exceptional and unprecedented nature of the scope and severity of the problem of frozen pipes in the winter of 2013-2014, Council direct that the City waive, for the period between December 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014,

    - the incremental cost of water used to prevent a frozen pipe as directed or advised by the City to a maximum of 1.5 cubic metres per day beginning on the date the occupant of the property was notified to run water to prevent freezing and ending on the date the occupant of the property was notified no longer to run water, on condition that the customer provide meter readings as directed by the Water and Waste Department, regardless of whether the risk of freezing in the pipe is determined to be under the street or under private property;

3. Council endorse past decisions of the City's Public Service to waive the cost of water and to estimate the usage of water in accordance with this resolution.

and submitted the matter to Council.