Minute No. 209
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works – February 10, 2015

Item No. 1 Snow Clearing Review

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works and adopted the following:

1. Review the quality and cost of internal service delivery and external contracts within the Department of Public Works, Roadway Snow Removal and Ice Control including:

    A. A comprehensive review of its approach to contracting for snow and ice control services;

    B. A comparative analyses of the costs of services delivered by area contractors versus the same services delivered by City forces;

    C. Determining the cost of hired equipment (with labour) compared to the cost of City equipment (and labour) in various circumstances;

    D. A three-year review of complaints related to snow clearing made by the general public and private businesses to 311, Councillor's offices, and the Mayor's office, based on snow clearing Areas;

    E. A 3 year review of health & safety data and scheduling issues for both contract and city services;

    F. A review of damage to curbs, roads, and boulevards, and private property due to snow clearing over the past three years, based on snow clearing Areas;

    G. A report on all instances of contractors violations of the terms of contracts over the past three years;

    H. A review of commercial vehicle safety records of contracted equipment, including accident rates and mechanical condition of equipment;

    I. Recommendations on decreasing the department's reliance on Area contracts for Snow Clearing and Ice Removal.

2. 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 Councillor Lukes,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 18, 2015, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works and submitted the matter to Council.

Further on February 18, 2015, the Executive Policy Committee received from Mike Davidson, President CUPE Local 500, a communication dated February 18, 2015 with respect to the Snow Clearing Review.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 10, 2015, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works concurred in the Council Motion of January 28, 2015 and requested the Winnipeg Public Service to report back to the Standing Committee at its meeting on June 23, 2015 and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

Further on February 10, 2015, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works received from Mike Davidson, President of CUPE Local 500, a communication dated February 10, 2015 in support of Snow Clearing Review.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION:

On January 28, 2015, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works:

Moved by Councillor Eadie,
Seconded by Councillor Mayes,

WHEREAS snow and ice clearing in the City of Winnipeg has been heavily criticized over the last few years;

AND WHEREAS Councillors' offices have had to deal with many complaints on private sector snow zones with actual damage, poor quality clearing, and part of zones not cleared identified;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has been dependent on private sector contracts to get the snow and ice cleared away;

AND WHEREAS it is time Council finds out if the city is getting value for money from its contractors;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Winnipeg Public Service provide an Administrative Report reviewing the quality and cost of internal service delivery and external contracts within the Department of Public Works, Roadway Snow Removal and Ice Control including:

1. A comprehensive review of its approach to contracting for snow and ice control services;

2. A comparative analyses of the costs of services delivered by area contractors versus the same services delivered by City forces;

3. Determining the cost of hired equipment (with labour) compared to the cost of City equipment (and labour) in various circumstances;

4. A three-year review of complaints related to snow clearing made by the general public and private businesses to 311, Councillor's offices, and the Mayor's office, based on snow clearing Areas;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

5. A 3 year review of health & safety data and scheduling issues for both contract and city services;

6. A review of damage to curbs, roads, and boulevards, and private property due to snow clearing over the past three years, based on snow clearing Areas;

7. A report on all instances of contractors violations of the terms of contracts over the past three years;

8. A review of commercial vehicle safety records of contracted equipment, including accident rates and mechanical condition of equipment;

9. Recommendations on decreasing the department's reliance on Area contracts for Snow Clearing and Ice Removal.