COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Monday, March 23, 2015

The Council met at 9:38 a.m.

The City Clerk advised the Speaker that a quorum was present.

The Speaker called the meeting to order.

The opening prayer was read by Councillor Gerbasi.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Dobson, Eadie, Gerbasi, Gillingham, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Morantz, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Schreyer and Wyatt.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Please read the special meeting notice, Madam Clerk.

Pursuant to Section 79(1) of the City of Winnipeg Charter, the City Clerk was directed by His Worship Mayor Bowman *to arrange a Special Meeting of Council on Monday, March 23, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. to consider the following:*

Item 1 of the report of the Winnipeg Police Board dated March 6, 2015 and Item 1 of the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 18, 2015 regarding the 2015 Operating Budget and Financial Plan for 2016 and 2017 and 2015 Capital Budget and 2016 to 2020 Five-Year Forecast.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. I'd like to introduce our Page for today's meeting. With us is Katrina Chanas of Miles Macdonell Collegiate who resides in the North Kildonan Ward. Thank you so much for joining us. We'll now move on to delegations. We shall hear from both delegations in support followed by questions and then from delegations in opposition. First up, we have Loren Remillard from the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce in support of the budget. Yes?

Councillor Allard: I'd like to move suspension of the rules for additional delegations. We have in the audience today, Mike Davidson, President; Dwayne Marling, Vice-President, Manitoba-Saskatchewan Restaurants Canada; Constance Popp on behalf of the Provencher Business Improvement Zone; Walter Kleinschmit from the old resident's…the Old St. Boniface Residents Association; Rob Tetrault, President of the Francophone Chamber of Commerce for St. Boniface; Elaine Sauer, resident and Dave Sauer, Winnipeg Labour Council.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. All in favour of adding time to hear additional delegations today?

Councillor Browaty: Madam Speaker, just following Council protocol. It will be five minutes with no questions. Is that correct?

Madam Speaker: Absolutely, correct.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Followed by Mr. Remillard will be is Mr. Stephen Borys, Ernest Cholakis and Barry Rempel. Mr. Loren Remillard, you have ten minutes. Welcome.

Loren Remillard: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Your Worship and members of Council, good morning. The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1873, is Winnipeg's largest business organization. We represent more than 2,000 businesses, all sizes, all sectors, from across four corners of our city. For 142 years, our mission has remained constant to foster an environment in which Winnipeg business can prosper. This mission, however, is not carried out in isolation. Rather, it builds upon a recognition that a healthy and vibrant business community exists only as part of a healthy and vibrant community and vice versa. Since the election we have met with each of you individually to discuss your priorities and key economic issues facing business. Many of these issues we discussed with you during the campaign, through our "BOLD Winnipeg" initiative. During those conversations, we stressed the need for a vision and long term financial plan that one transforms Winnipeg into Canada's leader and efficient and effective civic services. Two, it advances Winnipeg as the country's most innovative municipal government. Three, establishes a new sustainable financial framework for the City that becomes a model for others to follow. And four, sets Winnipeg's budget process and

documents itself as the most participatory, transparent and citizen friendly in North America. We recognize, given the short time frame, significant Council turnover and associated learning curve that this budget would be a transitional one. Further, that a number of tangible challenges exist. We all know about the infrastructure needs facing our City. Departmental cost increases of 4.2 percent in 2015. Forecasted departmental and corporate cost increases of 6.3 in 2016 and 4.8 in 2007; well in excessive inflation and a population growth. Given this, the Chamber was looking for the 2015 budget to set the table for the vision and change needed and endorsed overwhelmingly five months ago. Specifically, the Chamber was seeking the budget to provide, the initial steps towards a discussion of a new diverse five revenue model for the City. We absolutely need to reduce our reliance on property-based taxation. Right now, that's at 58 percent of the total operating budget. Number two, we were looking for a commitment to enhance Winnipeg's competitiveness in particular for small and mid-sized business through changes to the local business tax. Three: a clear and dedicated long term infrastructure funding plan in particular, economic infrastructure. And lastly a commitment to control costs and certainty through innovation and civic service delivery, clear and transparent performance measures and efficiency targets for City services and through an unwavering commitment to a partnership with local business in delivering effective, efficient rate of…return on investment for taxpayers. Viewing the budget through these lenses and with the holistic system wide perspective, the Chamber supports the 2015 budget. The reduction in the business tax rate by 0.01 percent and $6,000 increase in the annual rental value threshold will save local small and mid-sized companies $1.3 million or 0.001 percent of the City's total projected revenue. Where will this money go? Back into the business, into new hires, into new technology, expanded spaces and expanded opportunities. This is an investment in your local and your neighbourhood businesses who…and their future. It's a concrete statement of support and the belief in your local business community and its contribution to the well-being of this community. Why is that important? Well, in 2012 Calgary eliminated…voted to eliminate its business tax by 2019. Winnipeg now stands as Canada's only major city with a business tax, a distinction without distinction. We cannot view the business tax in isolation of the total tax burden for business because while that may work politically, business makes decisions once the picture is complete. And frankly, the picture is less than perfect. In 2014, KPMG's competitive alternatives focus on tax, Winnipeg ranked second last, among 15 Canadian cities, on the total tax index, total tax burden. The report specifically cites the City's local business tax in its ranking. It is difficult to find any community in the world that is taxed their way to prosperity. It's just not done. Again, we applaud the City for the vision encouraged to support small business in a meaningful way. Looking ahead, the threshold must continue to increase. Small business coming off the business tax world today shouldn't find themselves back on tomorrow. More is needed absolutely, but within a larger discussion of the reinvention of our Civic revenue model. On the 2.3 percent property tax rate increase the continued dedicated approach of one percent to local and one percent to regional renewal programs is encouraged. This is tempered somewhat with the need for clarity around the future of this dedicated stream, be it the time frame and the amounts. The 22.7 percent funding increase to the 2015 local and regional street renewal program is a powerful signal of Civic leadership on tackling our infrastructure deficit. Additionally, we are pleased with the identification of a dedicated funding plan over ten years to support the next phase of BRT, a key piece in building today for the city we are planning for tomorrow. These measures are consistent with Chamber calls for long term vision, planning and funding dedicated to transportation and economic infrastructure. The Chamber and our members welcome the opportunity to continue to work with the Mayor and Council on the “Build Winnipeg” partnership and beyond and we’d like to applaud the appointment of Anitta Stenning to lead that initiate…a tremendous choice. On principal, the Chamber supports the new $1 million innovation capital fund to facilitate investment in new ideas to advance city efficiency, however, greater details on how the program will function and be transparent are required. We also strongly believe that the City must move to convert the ASD Committee into an innovation committee with full standing. Cautionary notes are needed on a number of fronts, however. At 58 percent of total revenue, a reliance on the outdated use of property taxed…property-based taxation growth, while Winnipeg’s residential property taxes are amongst the lowest today and this Council and Councils before should be applauded for that. It doesn't take much to find us back to 1997 when we led the country in that regard. Calgary's property tax increased 68.7 percent over the last 15 years compared to Winnipeg's 4.4 according to the City's own documents, yet even with that enormous difference, Calgary's average property tax bill is now only $80 higher than ours. Saskatoon’s went up 62 percent in the same period of time and now only sits $140 higher, so you can see we had a lot of room to go there. Taken together these facts offer more evidence as to why the current Civic revenue model needs an overhaul. Cost control, public safety budget is now 44.5 percent of tax supported budget and rising. We urge Council, if openness and transparency are your priorities, then move immediately to establish performance measures and efficiency targets for all civic services. These measures and targets must be reported on publicly every year. This is not a race to the bottom exercise designed to reduce jobs or cut services. It is a commitment to showing taxpayers value for money especially as you seek taxpayer support for additional resources and as you make the case at the provincial level. The Mayor, during our debate in October last year, publicly indicated this would be done within the first year and we look forward to that promise coming to fruition. Our net debt per capita is increasing at a significant pace, granted, due to infrastructure needs which we support, we just add this as a cautionary point in terms of ensuring that we have a strong debt borrowing policy in place and repayment plan that is comprehensive and responsible. Chamber has significant reservations about the proposal to reduce the financial stabilization reserve from eight to six percent of tax supported expenditure as the City’s budget grows, financial prudence dictates more, not less cushion is needed to offset unforeseen one-time cost. We believe a strong case for this change has not been made to date and until such time we

cannot support this proposal. Before I conclude, I wish to note that the Chamber stands with the City in its support of the United Way's plan to end homelessness and reinstatement of the Civic museums funding. Thank you, Your Worship, member of Council, Madam Speaker for the opportunity to present our thought in the 2015 budget. When considered on the whole, the Chamber supports the budget as a transitional piece in the City's move to realize the vision articulated in the 2014 election.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Please remain on the floor and we'll hear from our next delegation. Next, we have Stephen Borys, Ernest Cholakis and Barry Rempel on behalf of the Winnipeg Art Gallery also in support of the budget today. Just yourself? Okay, welcome and you have five minutes here.

Stephen Borys: Mayor Bowman , City Councillors, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Stephen Borys. I'm the Director and CEO of the Winnipeg Art Gallery, and I'm here to speak in support of the City of Winnipeg's budget. Two years ago, we came to the City with a formal request to support the creation of an Inuit art centre which will rise up next to the Winnipeg Art Gallery showcasing the world's largest collection of contemporary Inuit art. This centre will be a place of engagement, enlightenment, exploration and learning with Indigenous art. Last year, you provided an initial contribution of 75,000 towards this project and we appreciate your support. The balance was to be tabled for 2015 and 16. But as you developed this year's budget, there were difficult choices to make and our funding request was denied. However, we are very encouraged that the City has chosen to recognize the importance of the arts and the culture sectors by increasing the investment in the Winnipeg Arts Council and historical museums. We all know from reports such as the ticket to the future and the City's own 25 year municipal plan, "Our Winnipeg", that the arts and creative industries have a major impact on our economy, through tourism, partnerships and associated developments. These studies clearly show that tourists enjoy the arts on visiting Winnipeg and how cultural tourism injects significant funds into the local economy. Tourists alone spend nearly $87 million each year on our cultural attractions. And local participation in the arts is impressive through ticket buying public and volunteers. In fact, each year, Winnipeggers volunteer 1.6 million hours to non-profit arts and cultural organizations. The visual and performing arts are indeed vital to a modern, urban centre in Winnipeg and they account for almost 1 billion of the City's annual economic output and they generate 86, 66 million in expenditures by non-profit arts organizations. Ninety four percent of this is spent locally. Our youth are well served with 84 percent of these local arts organizations creating programs tailored to younger audiences. Support for the arts enhances the quality of life for all Winnipeggers; fostering connections with the community and contributing to our sustainability. This makes our city a better place to work, to live, to play and to stay. All of these benefits will be further enhanced as you work towards the creation of an Inuit art centre. This will add another key cultural destination to the City's impressive roster of arts offerings. But the Inuit art centre is more than a building. It will be an international attraction as the only facility of its kind in the world. It will be tied to our schools, historical, educational organizations, the CMHR, the Manitoba Museum, the Journey to Churchill, and the north. It will engage youth in new ways through indigenous art and learning. It'll connect artists and students and visitors with the north providing a bridge to economic opportunities and a gateway to the north. This project, like many of our arts organizations, will create jobs in Winnipeg, enhance pride in the city, engage and honour the Indigenous and change the face of downtown Winnipeg. We look forward to working with you, Mayor Bowman, with each member of this Council to continue building Winnipeg's reputation as a vibrant cultural capital and we want to continue the critical discussions with the administration on how to find a mutually acceptable way to make the Inuit art centre a reality. Thank you for your time this morning; for your hard work and dedication to our city and for the investment you've made in the arts. As elected officials, you have pledged to serve the citizens of Winnipeg and each day, you look for ways and means to support and enrich the lives of the people who live here and visit here and during your tenure, you will look for projects that will become legacies forever linked to our city's beauty, diversity, well-being and greatness. The Inuit art centre is one of those legacy projects. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you very much. We'll now move on to questions. Councillor Wyatt. You have a question for Mr. Remillard.

Councillor Wyatt: Remillard, yes. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Remillard, could you come forward? Thank you.

Councillor Wyatt: Hi, good morning.

Loren Remillard: Good morning.

Councillor Wyatt: Just…my first question, I guess in terms of…you spoke about our taxes and then comparisons to other cities and the index report you referred to. And I guess I haven't seen that report, but I'm guessing that a lot of it has to do also with the education taxes that still remain on our property tax bill. As you know, this Council's official policy is to have education taxes officially removed…completely removed from the property tax bill. Education taxes now represents well over 50 percent of the entire tax bill that most home owners in the City of Winnipeg and property

taxpayers pay. The taxes are rising in many school divisions, even this year, three or four times the rate of inflation. It's completely unsustainable. Could you speak to that?

Loren Remillard: I'll speak to the City of Winnipeg components since that is ultimately within your control. And you know, you rate…you discuss a number of other taxes that absolutely are outside of your control at the moment. But you know, you raise a good point. Ultimately though, business does look at the total tax burden. It doesn't matter if it's from the Province, the Feds, the City, they are looking at this is how much I have to pay in taxes. So when we take a look at, for example, the City Business Tax which you do have control over, to sit there and say that business is okay with that view or not, they are not just taking a look at one single tax; they're taking a look at the total tax picture. And ultimately though, we appear before you today advocating for that reduction because this is something that you can do here and now to make a tangible, visible commitment to your local business community and say what we can control, we are controlling. How we can support you, we are supporting you. The other levels of government will appear before and deal with those issues as well.

Councillor Wyatt: Just speaking about the other levels of government, I could say wait for my next question. The, you know, for years, the other levels of government, the other level of government constantly said to the City of Winnipeg, get your financial house in order. Well, in many ways, if you look at the tax freeze that occurred here and the control in terms of the taxes only to see our tax base be taken fully by the school divisions and by the education taxes as if we made no progress from the home owner's point of view, what discussions have you had with the newly elected Premier of Manitoba or newly elected leadership candidate Premier of Manitoba, in terms of what they are prepared to do in terms of finding a new funding formula for municipalities including the City of Winnipeg across this province?

Loren Remillard: Well, we've really made two cases. One is that now the Province has to get their fiscal house in order. I think it's well documented the challenges that the Province is having with a successive deficits, a systemic deficit that's created a rainy day fund that's being decimated. So but, they have their own challenges. Ultimately, when it comes to the municipal agenda on Broadway, our view is to continue to work with the Mayor and Council, ultimately to develop a new revenue model and it really needs to be not one that kind of says, let's rob Peter to pay Paul, we ultimately want the Province to come to the City and say, you are a mature level of government and here is the ability, the capacity to develop a revenue model that you can control, that you can be the masters of your own fate with, as opposed to the annual going back and forth negotiation that takes place and saying, "Can we get additional revenue?" That's part of the conversation, but ultimately what we…our initial push right now is to get the Province to start having those conversations. Do we have all the answers? Absolutely, not. But as a community if we come together and have a meaningful conversation about it and stop trying to pick winners and losers and pitting one group against another, we might actually get there.

Councillor Wyatt: Well, I…

Madam Speaker: Third question, Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you and I wish you luck with those discussions as well. So…and in light of what's taking place on Broadway, what discussions has the Chamber had with who will probably most likely be the next Premier of Manitoba, the Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition, Brian Pallister, what discussions has the Chamber had with Mr. Pallister and what is his…going to be his commitment in terms of a new government, in terms of the issues facing the municipalities and the City of Winnipeg?

Loren Remillard: I can only speak on behalf of the Chamber. I'm not going to speak on behalf of Mr. Pallister and his intensions. I can say though, as we do with all levels of government, we've met with the leader of the Liberal Party in Manitoba as well, and yes, we have met with the Leader of the Official Opposition as we do as part of ongoing conversations and as we do with each of you that we've met with and had those kind of conversations. The same argument, the same case we're making for the City to…the changes that we need at the City with the Provincial Government, we're having those conversations with the two opposition parties as well. Ultimately, voters will decide who the next Premier and who next government in Manitoba will be. We just want to make sure that all three parties are of the same mind set when it comes to working with the City in a respectful manner to empower you to do the things you need to do and that your constituents have voted you to do.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thanks very much for coming in and …you can't escape now. Thank you very much for coming in. I just want to thank the Chamber for their contribution to a lot of the debates we're having here today. As you know, through my volunteer work with the chamber and the "BOLD" initiative in particular, that influenced some of the campaign commitments that you're seeing fulfilled in this budget, what I really want to commend the Chamber for though

is the fact that it is looking forward and looking to the future and so we got a lot of issues that we want to deal with, and we want to move forward for the benefit of all Winnipeggers. That's what's happening amongst councillors right now. We're looking forward and look forward to ongoing collaboration with the Chamber in trying to change things that are so desperately need of change and the tax model is probably top of the list. So thanks for your contributions here today.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Speaker Sharma. My question for the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce…the Chamber's goals, a good business environment can't exist without a good overall city environment and they acknowledge that quite well. Being very supportive of business, I just wanted to specifically ask if any research is done, and business doesn't only make decisions to move to a place based on taxes, they make decisions if you have skilled workers and so on. But my question is, I've really studied heavily our assessment roll when it comes to paying property taxes in the City of Winnipeg and a trend that I looked at only from 2009, but I know that trend has been going on for more than five years, but you probably, I'm sure the Chamber has seen some of the analysis I did which shows that non-residential properties of which the largest portion are commercial properties, business properties, has actually as a share of the property tax revenue in this city, has continually gone down to the point where it is actually, if it had grown with the revenue, it would have been around…it would have been up about 18 percent or $23 million sharing. My question though is, when…and I know you're looking at all the whole tax burden or whatever you want to call it, but I'd be interested to find out and it's my understanding through research that cities like Calgary and Saskatoon, the portion of the property tax revenue that they collect has a much larger component related to business. In other words, they're collecting…they're sharing more, a larger piece of the revenue pie. Have you looked at any studies from the Chamber's perspective when you are comparing Winnipeg to be a better place for business? I think Winnipeg is the best place for business, but I'm just curious if the Chamber has looked into that kind of research when it comes to reassessment and the share of the property tax revenue line.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Remillard.

Loren Remillard: Thank you, Councillor. Excellent question and we're glad that you provided that information because we believe it supports the case for the business tax reduction. The reason it supports it in a very strong and meaningful way is that ultimately it shows that housing is booming in the city, that there are just more houses in the city. If we take a look at 2010, 2,737 homes, 2011, 2,976 homes, 2012, 3,700 or 3,574 new homes, 2013, 4,705 homes and 2014 in and around 4,600. The CAO's web…the City of Winnipeg CAO web site references the conference board project…Conference Board of Canada, thank you, projects to satisfy demographic requirements. Housing starts expected to increase to 5,800 units by 2035. So in a very simplistic way, if you have five people and one of them is the business person and they all want pizza, and they all throw in $10 into that pizza, so the business person's getting…paying 20 percent and getting their one slice. The next day another five people show up, just five new housing starts, now, without changing how much they paid, without diminishing their fair share, they're now paying 10 percent. And the residents are paying a bigger chunk, but it hasn't been a fairness issue. It's just there's been growth in the non-business component. And if anything, it does indicate just how stagnant…

Madam Speaker: Could you wrap up please, Mr. Remillard?

Loren Remillard: Okay. Second point is it also demonstrates that we need to understand how business is changing. Today, there are multi-million dollar businesses on a smartphone. Your entire modeled revenue is based on bricks and mortar.

Madam Speaker: Thank you very much. Thank you for appearing today. We would need to suspend the rules, Councillor Schreyer, for any further questions. We do have many more delegations on the list.

Councillor Schreyer: One brief question.

Madam Speaker: At the will of Council. Would you like to suspend the rules to add more time? Two minutes? Okay. The question is for, all in favour? Contrary? Carried. The question is for?

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you. It's for Mr. Remillard. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Two minutes on the clock, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Mr.…thank you, Madam Speaker and thank you, Mr. Remillard for your presentation. Look forward to further discussion with you over the years to come. You have stated that the City should reduce its

reliance on property tax. You mentioned that one specifically, sir. So I ask if…what specifically you would offer as consideration for substitute?

Loren Remillard: Our "BOLD Winnipeg" initiative did reference the idea of a municipal income tax as part of the discussion. Again, this is something as a community and again, I applaud the City Council for the announcement that the 2016 process begins the day after this budget passed. So let's have that community conversation. This is an opportunity for the City of Winnipeg to actually define civic revenues for the next hundred years for the rest of the country. It's time we stop following what everyone else does and playing catch up. This city at its best was when it led the way and this is an area where we can show leadership and we can redefine the conversation, redefine the narrative and really re-establish Winnipeg as Canada's leader. And yet, municipal income tax, there's been a municipal sales tax idea. Everything should be on the table because we want a fulsome conversation and at the end of the day, you get the mix right, you can tweak it, but it's got to be a community conversation. I'm not going to sit here and say we have the answer and implement it immediately on the entire revenue model.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Remillard and Mr. Borys for appearing today. We'll move on to our next delegation is Garth Steek in opposition to the budget. Following that we will hear from David Sanders also in opposition. Good morning, Councillor, welcome.

Garth Steek: Madam Speaker, Mr. Mayor, members of Council, good morning. My perspective on this budget is quite different from those that have passed accolades to you. This budget is long on tax increases, levies, fee increases and frankly, I'm astonished by the discussion around the frontage levy, somebody suggesting that this levy is not a tax. A levy is a tax. A levy is a fee. It is punitive to us. The bitter irony to this thing is, is that the levy we are facing at best is a tax. At worst, it harms those who can least handle it. Tell the widow on Purcell, tell the seniors on Flora Avenue, tell the single mother elsewhere in the North End, that their homes and their properties assessed at a hundred thousand dollars should pay the same tax that somebody in River Heights with a home of $500,000 should pay, patently wrong. It's regressive. Frankly, Councillor Eadie stood up and is absolutely a hundred percent correct. By way of background, the reason property taxes were frozen here for so long was because of the fact that this city was not competitive on a municipal basis. And when I was on this council and the other members of Council that were here, we not only froze the property taxes, we got our spending in line in the capital budget. You know the amazing thing is, I look around this room and I don't recognize that anybody came here during those years and said you know what, I want my taxes increased. Make them higher. Councillor Wyatt, you are correct. Anybody who thinks that there is a new deal on the horizon is dreaming. But there is a major initiative that could be taken by you. And that major initiative could be whoever the next government is, the province regardless of your political stripe, get the school taxes off our backs. School taxes should be part of provincial revenue the way they are in virtually every other jurisdiction. As I said, this thing is long on taxes and short on social conscience. If you live in one of the dangerous areas of this city, if you've got a son that's being recruited into gangs, if you've got a daughter that's being lured into prostitution. If you're concerned about getting home safely at night, you know what you want? You want a new road in front of your house. I don't know how many of you saw the paper the other day, a hugely enlightening, small article about our Police Chief, Devon Clunis. Clunis is an enlightened erudite, consistent, the essence of leadership. What did Clunis say? Clunis said to the school trustees, I want to work with you. I don't want to do less, we want to do more. Under his leadership, we are starting to see crime plummet in this city, enlightened leadership. You want a bold initiative. I love that term. I haven't heard it but I love the term. Here is a bold initiative. You've got a hundred million dollars that you're spending on street repair. Take a million dollars of it and invest it in special resource officers. Put ten special resource officers in areas of the city that needed the most. Talk of closing pools, reducing hours, libraries, oh yeah, the other thing we want to do, we want…let's do away with beautification of flowers. Let's stop cleaning the streets because utopia look great without it. I didn't attend the Mayor's speech, but I read about it. And I was fascinated by the comment that 30 years off the road, this is the way the City of Winnipeg is going to look. Thousands of the citizens of Winnipeg don't care about Camelot in 30 years. What we care about is being safe now. Terrible when you get old, you have to work off of notes. The capital budget. Wow! Read the March 11 Free Press. Read the piece by Bartley Kives. Read the editorial. I'm 65. I have never read a piece of investigative journalism that struck terror in my heart like that. You approved a police station for $135 million and yet the administration knew full well that it was $180 million project. Councillor Orlikow, Councillor Pagtakhan, Councillor Gerbasi and Councillor Browaty were all here. How do you feel about the fact that you weren't told that there was another $45 million in that?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Steek, you should speak to the budget before us.

Garth Steek: Well, is that not part of the current, capital budget, the interest on it? Do you know what the interest is on that? Do you know what the interest is on an overrun of $45 million? If any of you asked the administration, well, it's 30 years in term at four percent, guess what? On $45 million overrun, you're looking at paying the same amount back in interest, but don't trust me, go to the administration and ask them. Why didn't the administration tell you that? Why do I bring that up, Madam Speaker? Because of the fact that how can you trust a budget when you've had that kind of a

history. It's incumbent I knew to ask for details. How many of you have gone to the administration and said what's the overrun on that going to be? How do we finance that? If we land up paying an extra $45 million, guess what? There's the financing for a number of critical capital projects like Councillor Orlikow's underpass. He should be asking for detailed administrative information. When you don't get it, demand it. When they say they can't find it, make them find it. This is going to sound harsh, but I'm going to say it anyway. When you find out who is behind this fiasco, when you know unequivocally who did it, you can say the ring leaders are no longer here, maybe they aren't. But somebody acquiesced and went along with it. Fire them. Fire them because they intentionally deceived you. Fire them because of the fact they besmirched the reputation of the good people in the administration and fire them because they left us with this debt which is inexcusable. Here is a bold idea. Nobody is getting the information on this. You know, I was kind of surprised when a lot of new Councillors came here, that nobody hired a guy who I see happens to be lined up behind me in speaking in opposition, I don't know David Sanders well. I just know that the presentations he makes are well researched. They're concise to the point and would've made a great addition here. Maybe he should be a member of the new committee that's looking at policy. And I want to venture into one other territory because I kept hearing about it from the people that spoke before be about the glowing opportunities in the city and they are. Here we are in the situation where we had an extraordinary opportunity to come forward and it's been pushed aside. CentreVenture/True North. Regardless of who got us into this mess, it's incumbent on you to get us out. You can't abrogate responsibility. Who among you have gone to the administration and said, "Show me the '98 By-law."

Madam Speaker: Thank you. We will take questions now. Are there any questions for Mr. Steek? Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Schreyer: Is it not to follow the protocol that we wait for all speakers in opposition before questions?

Madam Speaker: It's not always the case. Do you prefer to do that?

Councillor Schreyer: No, ma'am. No, ma'am. That's up to you.

Madam Speaker: Okay, Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Last week, well this Council has four ex-trustees from three different school boards. Last week, I know Councillor Lukes was at the school trustee meeting. I know Councillor Dobson was there. Others may have been there to hear that the Chief…certainly spoke to him afterwards. I think some of us are trying to create a new more co-operative relationship with the school boards. Your comment though about get the school taxes off our backs. I mean this reminds me when I was running for school trustee in 2006 and somebody said almost exactly that and I said, "Yes, let's put it on the backs of the provincial taxpayers who are us actually. This isn't shifting to another jurisdiction." So sounds good, let's get the school taxes off our backs, but if you shift it to the Province, how is that reallocating it? I mean, can you flesh out then how this is somewhat more…you're accusing us of lacking a social conscience. I would say, well, actually at least in this sense, it's property owners, we're paying some chunk of the school tax, under your system would be everyone who pays into the Provincial tax, people who pay the sales tax, people who don't own properties. So flesh out how getting it off our back somehow would flesh a greater social conscience.

Garth Steek: Councillor, as a former trustee, you know that the school taxes are so outstripping inflation, it's ridiculous. The truth of the matter is that it should be shared by all members of the Province the way it is another jurisdictions. That's their inequitable. You know, if I earn more than somebody who's living on a fixed income, I'm happy to pay more. It's about fairness and I have to believe that it's put under the provincial jurisdiction. They'll look at it and say we're not going to let this rampancy continue. You know, there is a fascinating discourse between Jack Nicholson and Tom Cruise in "A Few Good Men." And Nicholson, Cruise looks at him and says, "Tell me the truth" and Nicholson says, "You can't stand the truth."

Multiple Councillors: "You can't handle the truth."

Garth Steek: "You can't handle the truth". You've all heard it. You've all heard it. You've all heard it. And I would suggest this. Have a look. Have a look at the articles that I referenced. Put them on the door and every day when you come out on to the floor of Council, make a commitment, the commitment is straightforward.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Councillor Eadie. I will ask the speakers to stand. Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, Madam Speaker. Through you to our delegation, I just…I understand, I know the former Councillor Steek, very interested in always trying to keep taxes down and so on. But we heard a bold idea from the Winnipeg Chamber and I'm just wondering if they get some sort of progress, would you be supportive of probably the

most progressive kind of tax like a municipal income tax verses some of the regressive things that we have to do here at City Hall?

Garth Steek: I'd be cautionary about that. You're getting a bigger chunk of Federal and Provincial money than you've ever had. I think the first thing you have to do is challenge this administration to get spending under control. I happen to think that there is ample opportunity to do that. I brought up the issue about the Police Headquarters for one reason. When you see a fiasco like that, do you not feel have to question everything? You know, you, Councillor Eadie, questioned the frontage levy. You also questioned bringing the True North initiative back to Council. I have to support that. I think you should, but I also…

Madam Speaker: Any further questions for Councillor Steek? That is not on our agenda today. Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you very much for coming back to Council. I know it's been some time for you since you served and I want to thank you for your years of service. Obviously, we are living in very different times than the time when you did serve here on Council and I guess my question for you is, is whether or not while you and your Council colleagues were freezing or cutting property taxes, how did you manage to keep up with maintenance costs of our facilities and infrastructure because or if it all? Because we're having a legacy to deal with from past councils that we have to dig ourselves out of. And I'm wondering specifically, how did you keep up, if at all, on infrastructure while you were cutting taxes?

Garth Steek: Madam Speaker, through you to the Mayor, we didn't cut taxes. We held the line on them. The bottom line was that always, there are elements that are outside of your control. And we well realized that there were things that have to be repaired and I applauded a $100 million initiative to repair streets, but I also think that in a budget like this if you have to pull the one million out for SROs and if you had to pull one million out for the other sundry items that were cut, you'd still have ample left. Every council has its own serious issues to face. Ours was the fact that we could not be competitive with other jurisdictions. We heard from the gentleman from the Chamber here, how competitive we are now in municipal taxes. That was the number one dragon we had to slay, yours, you're absolutely correct, that it is markedly different. But the fact remains is that you have to meet the challenge and do you feel comfortable that you found all the efficiencies in the house?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Second question, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: You made some question or you made a comment about firing people. And one of the things that this council has been working very hard to do is to follow proper processes. We want to move from the time when political interference or accusations of political interference and the proper administration of Public Service are occurring and as I'm sure you're well aware, the Council appoints a CAO, but when it comes to other staff that report to directors for example, can you clarify you're not suggesting that we bypass proper process to fire individuals on a political basis?

Garth Steek: No, I'm not.

Mayor Bowman: Great.

Garth Steek: What I am suggesting is that those that were responsible for this deception be exited. And I'm also suggesting that they not get severance packages and I'm suggesting that let them sue you for wrongful dismissal and let's put it out on the table because, you know what, there somehow is the mistaken impression from some of the things the administration would've done that a lot of us just sit around on park benches and throw feed to the birds. Wrong. You know what? When you were running for election, all of you around this table, you loved this when a lot of us voted for you. You applauded us when we supported your campaigns. You appreciated us when we made financial contribution. Harvard has a very simple logo, motto, just one word, Veritas, truth. Demand that the administration tell you the truth. Demand that the members of Council tell us the truth. We can handle it.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Are there any further questions for Mr. Steek? Thank you for appearing today. Next, we will hear…

Garth Steek: Thank you, it was a pleasure.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next, we will hear from David Sanders, also in opposition to the budget. We will take questions following his presentation. Welcome, Mr. Sanders.

David Sanders: Good morning.

Madam Speaker: Good morning.

David Sanders: Madam Speaker, I'd like to thank Councillor Steek for appearing this morning. It's nice to have company. The City's Procedure By-law allows me only five minutes to speak in opposition to the 2015 Operating Budget and Financial Plan and the 2015 Capital Forecast and Budget. And so I will limit my presentation to a few bullet points. First of all, hopefully this will be the last City budget prepared by Civic department heads and members of Executive Policy Committee behind closed doors and then rushed through committee review and Council approval with little opportunity for meaningful public review and comment. The citizens who overcame their well justified skepticism and participated in last year's preparatory budget consultation processes were expecting to be able to talk choices in November, but they had to wait more than four months, until March 3 to begin to find out whether anyone at City Hall was listening to them at all. Just promising a new participatory budget planning process for next year is really not very reassuring right now. Second point, hopefully the new Chief Administrative Officer will serve as a catalyst for radical change and improvement in the performance of the senior management of the Winnipeg Public Service in service to City Council and the citizens of Winnipeg. Management reform and renewal must be very given high priority of the City as to operate properly and effectively in the future. Thirdly, if the members of Council have taken the time to review the heavily redacted or censored study reports which are finally disclosed to me by the City ten days ago, you should appreciate that those reports provide no credible justification at least for the reader, for the huge commitment of scarce public financial resources to the implementation of the proposed Southwest Transitway Stage 2 and Pembina Highway Underpass Project and for that matter, the related Cockburn/Calrossie combined sewer area drainage upgrade project. I do see that EPC has just renamed the project as the southwest rapid transit way. And I wish it was just that easy to make public transit rapid in Winnipeg. I continue to oppose the implementation of this project as presently proposed for the many reasons I have presented during the past two years. And this morning, I'm specifically requesting once again that you suspend the authority council has previously given to the CAO and CFO to proceed with this scheme. And also requested that you withhold approval of Appendix 7, the funding plan for Southwest Transitway Stage 2 under the underpass today. I believe the new Council needs to re-examine the proposed route, the economic justification for this project and its priority relative to other civic needs before approving what I consider to be a counterproductive general transit fare increase and a significant city wide property tax increase in order to pay what will be some $600 million over the following 30 years. And I wonder if we are expected to do the same for each of as many as five other rapid transit routes during the same time period? And I'll explain it now appears the City has really mishandled its selection of infrastructure priorities and the preparation of proper applications for federal and provincial funding for other major capital transportation projects. On June 25, 2014, City Council formally approved EPC's recommendation that the following infrastructure projects be endorsed as City of Winnipeg priorities for intergovernmental funding through the Building Canada Fund major projects component, the Waverley Street underpass. The Marion Street widening, Chief Peguis Trail extension, Louise Bridge replacement, William Clement Parkway extension and widening of Kenaston. I don't know what the administration and EPC were thinking, but the 2015 capital budget and 2016-2020 five year forecast on today's agenda contain almost no mention of these previously named six priority projects and certainly no plan or commitment to fund the City's one-third of the estimated total project costs.

Madam Speaker: Please wrap up, Mr. Sanders.

David Sanders: I understand Council is now planning to meet and discuss these projects at a seminar tomorrow morning and then to decide how to proceed at the regular Council meeting on Wednesday morning. If you're going to rewrite the capital budget and forecast anyway, perhaps you should defer approval of that document to then. I do object to approving $31 million, which is entirely unexpected, for the Southwest Transitway Project and capital borrowing. I do see in a footnote on Page 2, 166, that there is in fact a mention in the footnote, but it's not in the total…given in the capital budget and I suggest deferring that. And once again, I'm concerned as I said earlier about the high level of undetermined reduction in this budget particularly for vacancy management and agree with those who previously opposed it.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Sanders. We will now take questions. We have your written presentation in front of us. Thank you for that. Any questions for Mr. Sanders? Thank you so much for appearing today. Councillor Allard had suspended the rules to hear additional delegations as per the Procedure By-Law. Each additional delegation will receive five minutes each to speak, with no questions. First, we have Mike Davidson, President of CUPE 500. Welcome. Good morning.

Mike Davidson: Good morning everyone, Madam Speaker, Mr. Mayor and Councillors. Just before I begin my remarks today I appreciate you giving me the opportunity to speak here, thank you. I wanted to briefly talk about the importance of leadership. As members of this council, the people of Winnipeg then trusted in you to be good stewards of our city and I believe all of you want the very best for our city. Your job is to do what's right for Winnipeg and her citizens even that means doing unpopular things like raising taxes or making changes already made and when it comes to City's services, things aren't always black and white because you're working with people and communities. The previous

mayor and supporters on Council refuse to make those tough decisions instead of small annual tax increases of say one percent a year to fund core services Winnipeg has relied on, they did the easy thing and refused to raise revenues and instead rated all the same as it counts to cut City services and pushed staff to their limits through vacancy management asking our members, your employees to do their own job plus someone's else. You can't stretch 15 hours out of an eight hour shift. This year, we have a budget that calls for additional $3.4 million in vacancy management, and yet another business tax reduction which I'm sure makes some members of the Chamber of Commerce very happy, but puts more of the burden on home owners. This budget is full of service cuts and has little input from the public that I'm aware of. It calls for cuts to our City Park Police and additional cuts to all City departments. Now, thankfully this hasn't always been the case. Had it been, Winnipeg likely would have never grown to the great city that it is today. Early Civic leaders in Winnipeg were faced with tough decisions. Some historians claim that the…in the 19th century and the early 20th century this was a city run by the elite. Now, I point this out to dispel in advance, any mistaken notion that our cities early leaders were converts to socialism. Yet, despite their own faith in private enterprise by 1912, Winnipeg had become a leader and municipal ownership of public assets such actions came at great cost financial and otherwise. Huge sums of taxes were needed to be raised to build the infrastructure and hire the workers. Contracts with the private companies such as the Winnipeg Waterworks had to be bought out. Why did Council make these decisions at that time? To save dollars in a long run. The City spent 13 and a half million dollars building an aqueduct from Shoal Lake effectively ending the surge of typhoid, which had plagued the city especially the North End. In 1906, the City decided to go ahead with the three and a quarter million dollar plan to construct a generating station on Winnipeg River, breaking the privately held monopolies which gouged Winnipeggers. Winnipeg Hydro served the citizens of our city well for over 80 years. The City also bought a rock quarry in Stony Mountain and in doing so almost cut in half the cost of obtaining crushed rock which was so important for the construction of a rapidly expanding city. Ask yourself "why did they sell off an excellent asset like Winnipeg glacial sand and gravel and what now do we pay for aggregate?" These decisions involve much public debate, involve huge sums of money for that period of time. To this day, we as the City are still benefiting from the decision that City Council made to build the aqueduct. These early city leaders had a vision for the city and they weren't afraid to take action. Sometimes against the interest of their friends who help get them elected. Today, we're asking you to have vision to be leaders for our city. In your deliberations, please consider the negative effect, excuse me, to our citizens by continuing to use vacancy management to balance the books and stop it once reducing the business tax. Home owners and the Province can't do it alone. We need help from the federal government and business as well. Business uses our infrastructure to make a profit. That's a good thing, healthy cities have healthy businesses. Our past civic leaders applied two key strengths to make their vision a reality. Number one, political leadership and number two, political courage. Thank you for listening to me today.

Madam Speaker: Thank you for appearing today, Mr. Davidson. Next up is Dwayne Marling, Vice President, Manitoba/ Saskatchewan with Restaurants Canada. Welcome, sir.

Dwayne Marling: Good morning, Madam Speaker, Your Worship, Councillors. Given the business owners in Winnipeg that I represent I don't think there's any surprise what I'm here to address today. While previous speakers has spoken from a 30,000 foot level, I'm speaking about a very, very specific proposal that can have a very dramatic impact on a tremendous number of businesses within the City of Winnipeg, that is the outdoor patio fee and the increase that have been proposed in this budget. It's some context provincially and I'm afraid I don't have the City of Winnipeg breakdown, but provincially there are 2,400 restaurants bars and caters employing more than 43,000 Manitobans directly industry, more than10,000 indirectly. Fully half of those who are employed in the industry are young people between the ages of 15 and 24. We're also the number one source of first time jobs. I raise this because the City continually says, rightly, that it wants a vibrant, friendly, safe and walkable community. A place where young people can work, find jobs, grow in their careers and continue to live. I ask you this, where are the most vibrant areas of the City of Winnipeg? What are the areas, what…are there areas becoming more vibrant and increasing the vibrancy? And what do they have in common? The first thing the City planners try to encourage in up and coming areas is restaurants. Restaurants bring people to communities. They keep people in communities. Restaurants and particularly restaurants with patios in our short summer and as we can see the Mother Nature has a sense of humour, but that's key to seeing growth. Restaurants and any of you whoever worked with a restaurant or know a restaurant will tell you, operate on very tight margins. Increasing a fee that had its new larger rate will raise less than 1/1,000 of a percent of the revenues collected by the City this year but puts at risk hundreds of operators, thousands of jobs, doesn't make a whole lot of sense, especially if you want to maintain those vibrant communities. You don't do things that punish those that are making communities vibrant. You don't punish those operators that are providing employment to young people. It's simple. It's a simple message. We are asking you very clearly and very directly not to increase the fees on patios. In fact, if you want to encourage vibrancy, you should be talking about cutting and eliminating the fee on patios, not doubling it. If you really want to encourage vibrant communities, you want to get people back on the streets, walking in their communities, spending money, encouraging people to get jobs, you want to encourage those businesses that provide the vast majority of first time jobs for young people, not discouraging them, not further squeezing their margins. So I'm going to wrap up by encouraging you to, at the very least, return the patio fee to the level it has been at. You don't want to pick winners and losers. Picking particular zones of the city because they are the ones that are vibrant now as important as that would be. What

about those areas you're trying to encourage to becoming more vibrant? Thank you very much for your time. I'd be happy to speak to you individually after if you have any particular questions. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Marling. Next is Constance Popp representing the Provencher Biz. Welcome.

Constance Menzies: Good morning, everyone, Speaker Sharma, Mayor Bowman and all Council. I'm here in support of funding for the Marion Archibald Road upgrades. I'm Constance Menzies actually, not Popp. Popp is my stage name. A small business owner on Provencher in St. Boniface and a Board member with the Provencher Biz other than this being a very good overall for St. Boniface as a whole and better ease of traffic flow for the whole city, this will alleviate some of the truck traffic from Provencher to Marion. We are aware that there are four major projects for consideration. However, as there seems to be commitment from the Provincial and Federal governments, we hope that Council and Mayor continues to keep this as a commitment as approved by Council in 2014 and make it a priority during this budget period. Also, as a condo owner and president of the Condo Board on Tache, I'm also here to urge the Mayor and City Council to lobby the provincial government regarding the removal of educational taxes from the residential property taxes. I understand seniors will receive rebates for this to be announced in the upcoming Provincial budget. I'm asking this be taken further for the rest of us with the increase of the 2.3 percent and further increases with frontage levies, future increases will be prohibitive for most. Finally, condo owners pay more property taxes comparatively speaking than those owning detached houses. I urge the Mayor and Council to include this in your new tax model and transportation planning initiatives and with lobbying with the Provincial Government. Contrary to popular belief, most condo owners are not rich people, often purchase condos because housing costs are too high, shifting the increase of these property taxes to vehicles and receive a portion of the gas tax could be possible options. That's all I have to say for today. I'm trying to keep everything brief. I had to condense my notes because everyone before me spoke too long.

Madam Speaker: Thank you for appearing today.

Constance Menzies: Okay, thank you for consideration.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next is Walter Kleinschmit representing the Old St. Boniface Residents Association. Welcome, sir.

Walter Kleinschmit: Good morning, Madam Speaker, Mr. Mayor, members of the Council. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of the Old St. Boniface Residents Association. The issue today that concerns us primarily is the Marion Street, Archibald budget provision which has disappeared. I have a presentation which I will give to the Council for the record, I would like to concentrate and apologize on one of the properties. I'd like to concentrate on these two points. On December 12, 2001, the City Council approved Plan Winnipeg 2020 vision. On that plan, there were five initiatives called major street additions. Four of those were done by now. One hasn't been done. The Marion Street improvement. So east Winnipeg was short changed and that's how we feel in east Winnipeg, in St. Boniface. On November 16th, 2011, the transportation master plan was adopted by Council. On that master plan, the administration that we criticized this morning from various speakers, did identify ten initiatives that they deemed important enough to be on the short-term budget plan that is to be completed by 2016 or in some cases, significantly initiated. Of those ten activities, two have not taken place, Marion Street grade separation improvements and the Louise Bridge. Again, eastern Winnipeg is suffering the consequences. Truck traffic from Regent/Nairn through Provencher Boulevard is a consequence of the Louise Bridge not being looked at and the Marion Street is being seriously handicapping us in terms of not being looked at as well. It was your City budget of 2012 and the City budget of 2013 and the City budget of 2014, and the 5.2 million was spent…to be spent in 2015 and your budget not only is out of the budget for 2015, it's not even in the provision from 2016 to 2021, the next five years. We are concerned. One point which I will raise about our concern of the few that I have listed. Had the Speedway fire taken place when a train was crossing Marion Street, the consequences would've been worthy of a horror movie. The Fire Department wouldn't have reached there on time. Additional wagons…train or cars would…could've exploded, may have exploded. As I wrote those words without a word of lie last evening, we had another train fire at Marion and Lagimodiere at 7:30 yesterday. That fire appears to have been limited, the Fire Department was there on time, but had a train been crossing on Marion Street, it would not have happened. We could have had another major catastrophe. Marion Street is a major, major artery. You've identified it in 2001 if not sooner. We don't want that to be forgotten and taken out of the budget. We need action on that right now. Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, sir. We'll move on to Robert Tetrault, President of Francophone Chamber of Commerce for St. Boniface. Welcome, sir.

Robert Tetrault: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Speaker and Worship Mayor Bowman, City Councillors. I'll be brief today. I have one single point that I'd like to make and today I'm wearing the hat

(Speaking French) Président de la Chambre de Commerce francophone de Saint-Boniface

Translation: President of the Chambre de commerce francophone de Saint-Boniface

and I will switch to French for those of you need the translation services

(Speaking French) Aujourd'hui je porte le chapeau de President de la Chambre de Commerce francophone de Saint-Boniface. Je pourrais aussi porté le chapeau des Résidents de Saint-Boniface. Je pourrais porté le chapeau de d'entrepreneur à Saint-Boniface. Je pourrais porté le chapeau d'organisateur du plus grand tournoi de hockey sur balle dans l'ouest canadien que se tient a Saint-Boniface. Puis je porte se chapeau là aujourd'hui, le Président de la Chambre je représente le 250 membres pour vous renforcez le point l'importance critique de l'intersection auquel on parle aujourd'hui auquel Walter a parlé, de coin de Marion and Archibald. C'est critique, c'est la seule, la place unique et majeure pour rentrer le traffic à à Saint-Boniface et puis nous autres on est un point isolé un peut, on est l'autre côté de la rivière, c'est plus difficile pour nous pour faire nos commerce parce que le monde qui vient de centre ville, vraiement, sa c'est un accès possible. Mais la plus grande voit d'accès sa vient de Marion et c'est pitouable, vraiement, comment qu'on l'état de se chemin, là. C'est mon seule point je veut faire aujourd'hui c'est importance de sa, je veut vous rappelez c'est plus mordiales pour les commerciants de Saint-Boniface que vous considerez et que vous faites un effort concerter pour s'assurer que sa va être améliorer.

Translation:
Robert Tetrault: Today I am wearing the hat of the President of the Chambre de commerce francophone de Saint-Boniface. But I could be wearing the hat of a resident of St. Boniface. I could also be wearing the hat of an entrepreneur in St. Boniface. I could even be wearing the hat of the organizer of the largest ball hockey tournament in Western Canada – an event that is held in St. Boniface. And so today I am wearing the hat of the President of the chamber of commerce, representing its 250 members, to reinforce the point that the intersection that we are talking about today, at the corner of Marion and Archibald, the one that Walter spoke to, is of critical importance. It's critical. It's the one and only major street directing traffic to St. Boniface, and we're a little isolated here on the other side of the River. It's harder for us to run our businesses because for the people coming from downtown, really, it's a possible access route. But the largest access route, it's from Marion, and it's pathetic really, how we – the state of that street. That is the only point I want to make today – to underline its importance. I want to remind you that for the business owners of St. Boniface, it is essential that you consider this and that you – that you make a concerted effort to ensure that it will be improved.

Robert Tetrault: They say in English, since we're talking about movies early today. They say in English "if you build it, they will come". Well, we have built St. Boniface. It's a pearl. It's a phenomenal, phenomenal, beautiful place on the other side of the bridge. You guys visit it, a lot of tourists, it's booming I would say with respect to the projects and developments that have happened. Please, I ask you the same, build it and they will come. Build what? Build the improvements to that Marion/Archibald intersection and they will come to St. Boniface and you guys and us as Winnipeggers will reward, will benefit from that based on the tax dollars. It's a straight business case I think. Thank you so much, guys.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next, we will hear from Elaine Sauer, resident of City of Winnipeg. Welcome.

Elaine Sauer: Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today. I live in the southwest corner of Winnipeg. I live in the Lindenwoods, Waverley area, one block east of Sterling Lyon on Wilkes Avenue. This morning I came to speak in favour of the restoration of funding for the Archibald Marion Road upgrades. I know that sounds rather strange coming from the southwest corner. I was under the impression that this Council would have to through its budget process, make some decisions about which one to do and so I think that some of my previously prepared arguments don't exactly fit the conversation this morning, but I wanted to continue to speak in favour of the Archibald Marion Upgrades. On Friday, I took that route. It took me 17 minutes to get through the Archibald Marion area, this morning at 8:40 at the same time, it took me three minutes. That's not an easy comparison and I know that it means that some days are better than others. But I do want to say that I applaud the decision to get the Marion/Archibald Road Upgrades back on the master transportation plan. I'm also not very comfortable about adding another underpass to our own neighbourhood, but I do understand that those needs have to be met as well. But I'm happy to hear that the work will proceed in the Archibald Marion area. My work takes me to various parts of the City and to routes out to our rural areas. And in most areas of the city, that's not a hardship. Having lived in over a dozen communities in my life time in my experience in terms of road upgrades, this City has done a very good job and has a very good record of honouring older neighbourhoods while addressing the needs of new and developing neighbourhoods. The Marion/Archibald upgrade is an urgent need for our city. This area does not have alternative routes which could assist with the traffic congestions that you can find in the southwest corridor through Kenaston and the Pembina Highway. It lacks alternative solutions that exist elsewhere. It's pretty hard for a Sauer to be short and sweet, but that's what I'm going to do today. I unfortunately see the work of Council, only through the eyes of media, but today, I'll receive the different perspective and I want to say

thank you for the work that you do and for the time that you give to ordinary citizens to be able to speak to issues and concerns and share their view points. So thank you for your work. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next, we will hear from Dave Sauer representing the Winnipeg Labour Council.

Dave Sauer: Thank you very much for having me here today. Before I actually give my official remarks, I just want to point something out. This is the first time I've actually had to come and speak to either a committee or the Council itself, so I mean, as opposed to the previous administration where the workload was just over and over and got so encumbersome, so it's actually nice, I mean, the workload got so bad, I…not to quote another Jack Nicholson movie, but I was often finding myself sitting at home writing down over and over again, all work and no play make Dave a dull boy. So thank you very much for…you know, it seems like it is a much different atmosphere down here at City Council. So I'm really glad to see that. However, if I'm here then there is an issue. And one of the issues that the Labour Council is having right now is this the way that this budget has been laid out so I'll just proceed with my official remarks and wanted to thank everyone for having the opportunity to come down here and addressing Council today. The operating budget is very difficult to put forward. Budgets are difficult and I know Councillor Morantz and Mayor Bowman and all the other members of the Council have been working hard to try to get their issues brought to the forefront. So the Council itself, we represent 45,000 workers from approximately 75 affiliated unions. We've been around since 1854 and many of the services that Winnipeggers actually receive come from Winnipeg Labour Council affiliates like CUPE 500, the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1505, United Firefighters of Winnipeg Local 867 and MGEU Local 911. Our greatest desire though is to see these public services provided by our members maintained and where necessary enhanced. We have a number of concerns with the current budget. We believe the budget continues with trends towards paying more and receiving less and that is not something I believe that the citizens of Winnipeg want to see. The greatest concern we have is the vacancy management. Approximately $18 million, give or take of it in change which are basically a service cut and that means we are not fulfilling these positions or we're letting them, you know, disappear with through attrition and those services are being cut in addition to the cuts that are often proposed with these budgets that come every year. And I don't think it's a sustainable model. We cannot continue to just offer up more and more vacancy management because we're just kicking the ball down the line to the next year and the year after that and so on and so forth. So vacancy management, I don't think it should be a budget line. I don't think it's consistently something that we always have to be citing there. So we need to start working somehow whether it is through different tax increases or different models. I'd be curious to find out a little bit more from the Chamber about what their ideas are. You know, we're open for anything. But I really think we have to get a hold of this idea that just leaving things vacant and not actually filling because we are basically then making it more difficult for the citizens in this city to access services. I was going to cite some of the pool issues and pool closures. I know that that has actually…I've been told that there is some sort of back room stuff that's being worked on that or there's some tweaks that have been made to that and that's good to hear. I'd like to see the recreation services maintained the way they are and as I said, enhanced. I think recreation services are one of the best things that we provide here for citizens of Winnipeg because if we give opportunity for Winnipeggers to be healthy and to be active in their community, then we're not paying those costs later down the line when health care issues become a problem. You know there is only one taxpayer, but you know, we can always have preventative medicine in effect, and I think actually having good recreation services is necessary so I'm pleased to see some of that. The street cleaning. I mean I don't know how we can have a beautiful city when we're going to be hosting the Women's World Cup events here and everybody is driving around on broken roads that are dirty. So I think we have to really look at that as well in the budget and what we're going to be doing with the street cleaning. Business tax, another reduction in the business tax and again that's revenue that we're losing and I don't think that's something we want to be doing. I mean we are offloading it so much on to home owners here in this city that eventually you're all going to have to respond to that. There's going to be something that the public is going to look at and say, okay, why is it that consistently for the last 30 years more of the tax faction burden in this country seems to be offloaded from businesses and onto the general public. So these are some hard issues that we have to take a look at as I said, it's difficult put together a budget. I think you do deserve some commendation on actually getting something put forward but I think there are tweaks that need to be made and I'm looking forward to seeing the debate around the table here today and figuring out whether or not those tweaks can actually go forward or if we're going to continue on this path of paying more and receiving less. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: That brings our delegations to a close. We'll now move on to reports. Councillor Gillingham to introduce the Winnipeg Police Board's submission on Police Services.

REPORT OF THE WINNIPEG POLICE BOARD
DATED MARCH 6, 2015

Item 1 - 2015 Operating Budget and Financial Plan for 2016 and 2017 and 2015 Capital Budget and 2016 - 2020 Five Year Forecast

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today on behalf the Winnipeg Police Board. I'm honoured to be able to present the Winnipeg Police Services budget on behalf of the board. We have a strong and diverse group of individuals serving diligently to provide civilian governance of the Winnipeg Police Service and many of us on Council are new and so permit me to offer just a couple of statements by way of context. Manitoba Police Services Act states that every municipality that operates police service must establish and maintain a Police Board. That Board provides civilian governance over law enforcement and in Winnipeg, of course, that body is the Winnipeg Police Board. While we are a governance body and operate as such our board is committed to working with Chief Clunis and the members of the Winnipeg Police Service. I believe a strong and mutually respectful relationship, one that acknowledges one another's respected roles is critical to ensuring the citizens of Winnipeg are provided with a police service that is delivered in accordance with community needs, values and expectations. I know the Chief Clunis and his members share that view and are likewise committed. In accordance with the Winnipeg Police Board By-Law and the Police Services Act, the Winnipeg Police Board is mandated to submit an operating capital estimates to Council that will show the amounts that will be required to maintain the Winnipeg Police Service and to provide it with equipment and facilities. The members of the Police Board and I are fully aware that the rate at which policing costs have risen in the last several years is not sustainable for the taxpayers of Winnipeg. I can assure you as I've stated before that we are committed to getting a handle on this situation, this reality and seek to make changes necessary through a long term strategy. So I want to take just a couple of moments today to provide some highlights of the report regarding the Winnipeg Police Services 2015 Operating Budget and Financial Plan for 2016 and 17 and the 2015 Capital Budget and 2016-2020, Five Year Forecast. The 2015 operating budget for the Winnipeg Police Service calls for a 1.8 percent increase over last year's mill rate support. That translates into an increase of expenses totaling 4.9 million over 2014. Salaries and benefits are up $9.6 million in accordance with the collective agreement and that increase is somewhat offset by a savings in municipal accommodation expenses this year due to the delays moving into the new police headquarters. Also photo radar revenues are expected to be up in 2015 by 3.5 million over 2014 due to the fact that many more school zones have now come on line this year. One other item, equipment costs are going down by just under a million dollars in 2015 compared to 2014. As 2014, saw a one-time replacement of Tasers and Glocks, the officers' handguns, 2015 will see regular equipment purchases. The 2015 capital budget and 2016-2020 five year forecast totals 58.2 million and you've had all these numbers provided to you beforehand and so I want to acknowledge the work of our Police Board and staff, Chief Devon Clunis and the members of the Winnipeg Police Service and the work of the Corporate Finance folks as well for the collective effort put into crafting the operating and capital budgets and the forecast that you have before you. The operating and capital budgets of the Police Service are included in the global budget will be voted on in the next agenda item today. So Madam Speaker, I would move that this report be received as information.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Anyone like to speak on this item? Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Just briefly, Madam Speaker, I want to commend Councillor Gillingham for his work on this and also it's worth noting, we sometimes get people saying you're spending a lot of money on helicopters and on hardware and on more officers and it is worth pointing out that the crime prevention full time equivalent continue to rise. They've risen certainly each year I've been here I think from trying to find it in the old Hansard notes, but Councillor Gillingham tragically didn't speak long enough to allow me to find that, but I think it's gone from 264 up to two 95 in the last three or four budges, now going up to 296. Now that's projected to possibly go down as we start getting some staff deficiencies. But it's worth noting we have even if it goes down in the future years by a few positions, we've really substantially increased the number of full time equivalent that are on crime prevention. That's something I hear a lot about in my ward, people are willing to pay more if they're assured their tax dollars are being put toward the right causes and I think this is one of them where we do have more and more people. I think it's 30 additional crime prevention positions added in over the last few budgets so I'm pleased to see we are continuing that momentum under Councillor Gillingham. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I, too, want to commend Councillor Gillingham for his leadership and efforts. You know, he hasn't been in the role very long, but he's shown a level of respect and diligence that I think all Winnipeggers should reach out and thank him for his efforts. I'd also like to thank the members of the Police Board and members of the Winnipeg Police Service for their efforts in this budget process. I'm very pleased to hear Councillor Gillingham acknowledge that the rate of increase has been significantly slowed with this budget. The rising costs of policing is something that I think many members of Council and myself included have recognized is not sustainable. And

what I'm very pleased to see in this budget process is a very healthy working recognition with members of the Police Service through the Police Board on that very fact and the rate of increase being significantly slowed is a recognition that we need to…we need to really make sure that we are valuing the tax dollars that come here, and prioritize them accordingly while also ensuring that the men and women who put their lives on the line, on our behalf, keeping our community safe, are getting the support that they need from the City Council. And I believe that this…the proposed budget does exactly just that. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. It was actually quite an experience and I will start off by acknowledging Councillor Gillingham as well, being a new Councillor, being introduced at a police budget and I think that was…if you were behind the scenes and you realized all the work and the back and forth and all the discussions that go on, you have to really give that Councillor Gillingham has put in many, many hours to help make…get…make things happen. And yes, we have found a way to reduce this budget. I mean, it still is growing, and I wanted to speak to that actually because, you know, in the past, political campaigns would continue to perpetuate the need to actually put more police on the street. And that happened in a few Provincial elections as well as in some Civic elections. And so, the Police Service can always use more resources. Crime is down. I noted a few years ago. They had really great results related to the bike gangs were about to start a war and the Police Service was right in there immediately. They got in there and they resolved it to keep people safe on the street. So it's not that they're not utilizing all these officers, but what I wanted to note that is interesting today and was part of my campaign and I think we all acknowledge, we have a new chief, Chief Clunis, although I think the previous chief had seen the need to go in a direction that Chief Clunis is taking us, taking the Winnipeg Police Service. But really, it's not necessarily how many police officers you have out on the street are working in any one area, it's about how do you conduct policing? How do you incorporate actual, like…we heard from Councillor Mayes mentioned that their, these community policing initiatives and so on. But our chief, and I read him speak at our last graduating class. He talked about what is excellence of a police officer and the excellence is what are police officers doing when they are not responding to very difficult situations? What they are doing is and our chief has taken us or our police board has taken this direction, we have a strategic plan coming that will kind of drive…I think drive what is our need in terms of officers, but I have to say accepting this budget as information is good. It's a dollar thing, but really, it doesn't really tell you what's really happening with our Winnipeg Police Service. And I'm very, very hopeful the direction we are taking and that direction also includes and they, the Police Service are looking at utilizing the resources to work on the missing and murdered women's issues, very essential things that we need to do to move forward, to bring the whole community, the respect and trust of the people of Winnipeg and our Winnipeg Police Service. And so this budget is a budget, but there is way more that you can't see that's happening and I think Winnipeggers are going to like where we are going. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I as well, like the rest of Council would like to commend Councillor Gillingham for his diligence and in his few months as a councillor and his new role as Chair of the Police Board. Councillor Mayes and the Mayor Bowman mentioned the slow increase in budge despite the fact that we've increased in hardware and placements of officers over the last number of years in the City of Winnipeg, I do want to mention it's important because it's something that we as a council need to note and to deal with in the short term and the long term as well as the Police Board. We should take into consideration that when it comes to this extra hardware, the helicopter, these extra placements of police officers, notable number of police officers over the last number of years, that a lot of that has to do with a notable contribution from the Provincial Government and we need to take that into consideration as we move forward and due diligence in terms of working with the Provincial Government when it comes to public safety and the budgetary allocations. Chief Devon Clunis is the only person that I quoted in my campaign material. I quoted no one else. He is a leader, he is insightful, he is wise and he has mentioned a few things, as I condone the cooperation of the Provincial Government and commend the cooperation of the Provincial Government with the City of Winnipeg regarding allocation of financial and resources to the Winnipeg Police Department. I'd also like to say, I'd also like to challenge the Provincial Government, Chief Devon Clunis made the point that we waste the…our resources. We don't optimize the resources of our police officers when they are obliged to take on calls that are not necessarily directly crime related, that could be related more to mental health and that the Provincial Government has a role to work with us, the City of Winnipeg, in trying to identify where we can best optimize, what type of professional can come in step into these matters that happen at home, with families and to optimize the resources of both levels of government. I want to state that because it has been stated by the Chief Devon Clunis himself and something that Councillor Gillingham and the Winnipeg Police Board will have to deal with and I think this just might be the term that we can do this. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Are there any further speakers? Okay, seeing none. Councillor Gillingham to close.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you, I'd like to say thank you for all the kind words from my colleagues to day and I want to take a moment to echo Councillor Eadie's comments and acknowledgment that the board, Police Board really does support Chief Clunis' vision and that vision, a lot of it along with the Board's vision will be fleshed out in a strategic plan which is one of the biggest tasks the Board in the service has tackled together. We're nearing completion…it's taking longer than wanted, but we're nearing completion of that plan and intend to make it public in the coming weeks. And I site that plan because beyond setting out Police Service initiatives and targets, the strategic plan will also help inform future budgets and so we're looking forward to that. That's all, Madam Speaker. I again, I move this report for information.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. I'll call the question. All in favour of receiving this report as information? Contrary? Carried. Just one moment.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED FEBRUARY 18, 2015

Madam Speaker: Okay, we'll now move on to the 2015 Operating and Capital budgets. As past practice, we speak to the Operating and Capital budgets as well as the motions concurrently. You see that there's several motions in front of you. We will need a…

Councillor Wyatt: Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Wyatt: I'd like to move suspension of the rules in light of the fact that we vote on both budgets separately that members of Council be allowed to speak separately to both, the Capital or the Operating first and then the Capital in light of the fact that we vote separately as well.

Madam Speaker: Okay. We'll get to that in a moment. First of all, we have six motions in front of us and generally there's only two on the floor at one time so we need a suspension of the rules to deal with all of the motions concurrently. Now, in light of your…what you mentioned, Councillor Wyatt, would we be separating these motions, Mr. Clerk? Right, but Councillor Wyatt is just mentioning that we speak to them separately. Motions? Okay. So do we have a motion to entertain the six motions that are in front of us on the floor today?

Councillor Pagtakhan: Deal with the motions, Madam Speaker?

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Yes.

Councillor Eadie: …it's voted to speak to the Operating and Capital as separate.

Madam Speaker: We haven't done that yet. I was just going to ask the will of Council to deal…to speak to the Operating and Capital budgets separately. Is that the will of Council? That would need a two-thirds suspension of the rules. So I'm going to ask that you rise. We'd normally speak to both of them together, but if you would like to speak to them separately as Councillor Wyatt has suggested, please rise. Yes. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillor Eadie, Schreyer and Wyatt

Nays

His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Dobson, Gerbasi, Gillingham, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Morantz, Orlikow, Pagtakhan and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Madam Speaker: Okay. Thank you, Madam Clerk. We will speak to the Operating, Capital budgets and all of the motions in front of us concurrently. I will now ask the Mayor to introduce the budget.

Item 1 - 2015 Operating Budget and Financial Plan for 2016 and 2017 and 2015 Capital Budget and 2016 - 2020 Five Year Forecast

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to defer my time at this juncture to our Finance Chair, Councillor Morantz.

Madam Speaker: Excellent. Thank you. Councillor Morantz.

Councillor Morantz: Madam Speaker, Your Worship Mayor Bowman, Council colleagues, thank you. I want to thank you for all the work and time that brings us to where we are today. Given the timing of the election, we had to start this budget process later than usual. This is added to the challenge of the task at hand, but we were not deterred. I believe that proposed budget before you today is a good financial starting point for the rest of this Council's term. Some decisions in this budget were difficult. The City faces a structural operating deficit. Current revenue streams are not enough to cover operating expenditures and much needed investments and service. The proposed budget takes positive steps to move the city forward, but we need a long term growth-based revenue plan to meet future financial challenges. It is hard to believe that for those of us who are newly elected, we've only been here at City Hall for just over four months. I think I can speak for all of us when I say the learning curve has been steep, but the trip along that curve has been a great experience. While learning about how the City finances operate has been an incredible experience. Being able to see how the budget can be used to enrich the lives of all Winnipeggers is what really counts. In many ways, a budget is a values document and what we as a council decide to put in it, we hope mirrors what all Winnipeggers value. And so we will support important social causes including the work by incredible organizations such as the Broadway and Neighbourhood Centre and your initiative, Mr. Mayor to end homelessness and important cultural ideas such as our museums which guard our rich and storied heritage. Since my arrival at City Hall in November, it has been a whirlwind and putting together a budget for the City has been an extraordinary challenge. I want to take a moment to thank the Public Service for the countless hours of work. They've also put into this budget and for their kind support and patience, and they were patient. Mr. Mayor, your leadership throughout this process has already helped Winnipeg in so many ways. When we come or when we came to office, we said it would be a very difficult budget and recognizing that we voted to reduce our salaries in order to set an example for our City's Public Service and, Mr. Mayor, the Public Service continues to respond admirably. This budget is a balanced document which found savings through efficiencies and yes, more revenues as well. For those here in the Council Chamber, the gallery and watching on live stream, it is important to understand our City has a serious budgetary imbalance, a structural deficit resulting from 14 years of tax freezes and cuts. Madam Speaker, I recently came across a notice published in 1947 in the newspaper and I will paraphrase of course. But it said, "Winnipeg's budget for 1947 was made to appear balanced by including special and non-recurring revenue." Councillor John Bloomberg in that same notice was quoted as saying, "Unless there is a terrific change in the structure between the Province and the City, there will be a five or ten mill rate in two years." And the Clerk pointed out to me actually, Mr. Lemoine, that five or ten mill rates in two years at that time was between 12 and a half and a 25 percent tax increase. Ironically this is exactly the circumstance we face today. Future budgets will be even more challenging if we fail to resolve the structural deficit. We're relying on one time sources of revenue is no longer sustainable. A truly balanced budget is one where recurring revenues and expenses meet. Madam Speaker, I think we would all agree that it would feel sad and wrong to hear that a Winnipeg family might have to sell its silver or other precious items to balance their family budget. Well, Madam Speaker, that is exactly how the City has been balancing its budgets for many years. It is wrong and it must stop now. I ask all members of this council and this community to deal with this issue head on and work together to resolve it for all of our sakes. We must be advocating for new long term growth revenues and I know, Mr. Mayor, you have been working hard towards that goal. The way cities are funded today given the wide range of services demanded is no longer sufficient. Now, I wish to add, Madam Speaker that at the end of the day, we are all here to do good things to help each Winnipegger realize their potential and to give individuals a leg up when they need it and to further the goals of social justice and to act in the public interest. Madam Speaker, I firmly believe that this budget meets and exceeds that goal. It is a budget that all Winnipeggers will want to support and one that I believe all councillors should support. Even though there may be specific items in the budget that individual councillors do not prefer, I urge you not to judge the document by one issue or two but rather as a whole. And ask yourself, does it do good things? Does it further the cause of social justice? Is it in the public interest? And I believe any reasonable assessment of this budget is that it resoundingly further these goals. From the perspective of the social good to enhancing services to keeping property taxes low and to lowering the business tax, this budget is exceptionally crafted. And even though we have an antiquated budget process that we can all agree could be far better, far more inclusive and open, I'm asking you to take into account the newness of many of us, the short time we had and the magnitude of the task at hand, indulge us in this difficult effort and give us an opportunity to address the issues of process in the next budget cycle and vote for this budget and all the good things that contains. The Mayor has been crystal clear that the process must change. For those of you that may argue that this budget is just same old, same old, I agree. It is something we all want to change going forward. And let me talk of those good things and ask those councillors who may wish to vote against the budget. What is it you wish to vote against? Is it the restoration of the cuts to the museums that only two short years ago? Many of you fought against. Is it bus rapid transit that many of you have

lobbied and advocated for your entire careers? And here it is in front of you to support. Is it the new U-Pass program that is so important for our students and universities or the $270,000 we are investing to protect inner city youth at risk of the Broadway Neighbourhood Centre or the $150,000 a year, five year plan to end homelessness through the United Way? Are you going to vote against the $1,750,000 for our Aboriginal Youth Strategy at a time when this program is so sorely needed? Is it the $250,000 for Take Pride Winnipeg that does such incredible work in our community? Or over the $12 million we are spending on aquatics programs? Is it the record 103.3 million we will invest in this budget to fix our streets, a record amount in the history of our city? Will you vote against the new transportation management centre that you may wish to vote down or the innovation capital fund? Is it the increase in funding to the Winnipeg Arts Council to seven dollars per capita you wish to vote against? Or the Winnipeg Police Service budget that Councillor Gillingham so eloquently talked about a few moment ago, $264 million is a record amount in the history of the City for those who put their lives in danger every day and whose work we value so much? Or the 178.3 million for our firefighters? Do you want to vote against the $11 million operating grant for Assiniboine Park that does such amazing work for our City? Or the $5 million in grants to community centres or how about the 100 percent biological mosquito larviciding program making us a leader in Canada environmental responsibility? Is it the record amount of support for Winnipeg Transit in the amount of $47.4 million in an operating fund as well as the 152 million for the bus replacement program over six years, do you want to vote against that? Will you vote against the new active transportations facility's capital allocation? So many of you believe in active transportation and this is the most significant investment in that program the City has ever made or perhaps you want to vote against the $7.8 million capital program for the new urban forest enhancement program. Madam Speaker, I could go on and on and on. There are so many good things in this budget and I believe most Winnipeggers will want us to pass this budget. If this budget does not pass today, it's important to know that none of these measures. I've spoken of will be secure to the public or guaranteed to be funded. When writing my remarks, I was reminded of the old adage about the glass being half full and as I'm an optimist by nature. I view the world in this way and if I was to apply that very same analogy to this budget. It would mean that the glass is 99.9 percent full and deserves unanimous support. Mr. Mayor, you have shown outstanding leadership and I'm almost done, Madam Speaker, just a few more seconds. You've shown outstanding leaderships since arriving at City Hall and I thank you for giving of your time and strength of character to this high office and this great city we all love. And now I ask you, each of you to vote for this budget. Let's do what the citizens who elected us expect of us. Let's pass this budget and make Winnipeg a City that truly works. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Morantz. We now have six motions in front of us. Each mover will have an opportunity to speak and introduce the motion. Motion 1 is by Mayor Bowman, seconded by Councillor Gerbasi. Mr. Mayor, and you will have an opportunity to speak to the budget at another time as well during the debate.

Motion No. 1
Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,
Seconded by Councillor Gerbasi,

WHEREAS the Downtown and Image Route Flower Planting and patios contribute to the vibrancy of Winnipeg;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2015 Preliminary Operating Budget be amended by restoring the reduction of $177,290 for Downtown and Image Route Flower Planting in 2015, and deleting the Legal Services Outdoor Patio/Leave and License Agreements Fee;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the funding source for Downtown and Image Route Flower Planting be the Expenditure Management account;

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I just like to thank a number of the delegations who appeared over the last week here, as well as the…as well as many of the comments that have been made by our Council colleagues including Councillor Gerbasi who made a very eloquent argument for the restoration of the reduction of the downtown in image route, flower planting for 2015 as well as the arguments that have been made for deletion of the Legal Services for outdoor patio. We listened. We collaborated and I move and urge all Councillors to accept this motion. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Motion No. 2 moved by Councillor Pagtakhan, seconded by Councillor Wyatt. Councillor Pagtakhan to introduce.

Motion No. 2
Moved by Councillor Pagtakhan,
Seconded by Councillor Wyatt,

WHEREAS the East Winnipeg Sports Association – John Buhler Recreation Park has 200,000 visitors per year and services a range of school children in addition to neighbouring daycare children;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2015 Preliminary Operating Budget be amended to include a one-year extension to provide a $60,000 grant in 2015 for the East Winnipeg Sports Association – John Buhler Recreation Park;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the funding source for the East Winnipeg Sports Association – John Buhler Recreation Park Grant be the Expenditure Management account;

Councillor Pagtakhan: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. It's my pleasure to move this motion and I'll want to thank Councillor Wyatt. I'll read that therefore be it resolved…therefore be it resolved that the 2015 preliminary operating budget be amended to include a one year extension to provide a $60,000 grant in 2015 for the East Winnipeg Sports Association John Buhler Recreation Park, be it further resolved that the funding source for the East Winnipeg Sports Association John Buhler Recreation Park Grant be the Expenditure Management account. I want to thank Councillor Wyatt for the incredible advocacy that he does for the John Buhler Recreation Park. Back when we were first elected back in 2002, Madam Speaker, this is a project that was very near and dear to Councillor Wyatt's heart. He worked really hard to make this project happen, a huge community consultation, he fought for both…within the budgets here at the City of Winnipeg through then Mayor Glen Murray and realized through I think I believe Mayor Sam Katz later on and Councillor Wyatt has been an astonishing advocate of this particular park. There's incredible activities that happen at this particular facility and Councillor Wyatt promised me to take me there this summer for a hot dog perhaps or a burger and to enjoy the vistas or barbecue or a beer…the vistas of this wonderful park in Transcona in eastern part of our city. So with that, I'd be happy to move this motion and congratulate Councillor Wyatt.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Pagtakhan. Motion No. 3 before us moved by Councillor Browaty, seconded by Councillor Eadie, dealing with pool services.

Motion No. 3
Moved by Councillor Browaty,
Seconded by Councillor Eadie,

WHEREAS pool services are a valued resource to the citizens of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS awareness of services associated with aquatic facilities is seen as a key factor in utilization of pool services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2015 Preliminary Operating Budget be amended by restoring $50,000 of the reduction for pool service realignments in 2015, and directing $50,000 to the marketing and promotion of pool services, for a total of $100,000;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the funding source for POOL SERVICES be the Expenditure Management account;

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll read the therefore be it resolved as well. Therefore be it resolved that the 2015 Preliminary Operating Budget be amended by restoring $50,000 of the reduction for pool service realignments in 2015, and directing $50,000 to the marketing and promotion of pool services, for a total of $100,000; that the 2015 preliminary operating budget be amended by restoring $50,000 of the reduction for pool service realignments in 2015 and directed $50,000 to pool services for $100,000. The City of Winnipeg has made over the years massive capital investments in our aquatic facilities. It's come to our attention from our public service that there are times when these services aren't being used as well as they could be. I think we've got a great opportunity right now. We have the Sherbrook Pool coming back on stream later this year. The Elmwood-Kildonan Pool for…also known as the Concordia Pool where I grew up. It's going to be coming back on stream this year after more renovations than expected, but that's definitely good news and coming up soon, we'll have some very exciting work going on at Seven Oaks Pool. We need to make sure we are using our aquatic facilities to their best use. This gives us an opportunity this year to do some additional promotion and keep hours I think fairly consistent. Again, in terms of the scope of the whole scope of the budget, salaries, temporary and full time are almost $7 million when it comes to the pools. The dollars here are relatively small, but again, I think this…we're going to restore this or we could give our pools a very good opportunity to prosper.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Browaty. Motion No. 4 before us, Councillor Mayes. Moved by Councillor Mayes and seconded by Councillor Morantz.

Motion No. 4
Moved by Councillor Mayes,
Seconded by Councillor Morantz,

WHEREAS the St Vital outdoor pool's re-opening will be delayed until early August resulting in cost savings to the Water & Waste Utilities;

AND WHEREAS the St Vital outdoor pool receives water from the Water and Waste utilities at no charge to the tax-supported budget pursuant to the 2014 budget;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT in light of the cost savings to the said Water & Waste utilities due to the delayed re-opening, that Variety Heritage Water Park located at the Forks receive water at no charge for 2015 only, up to a maximum of $35,000.

Councillor Mayes: Yes, Madam Speaker. There is a corrected version to Motion 4 which we're now having Motion 6 if I can have a concurrence of Councillor Morantz as a seconder, I don't know if you wish to speak…me to speak to that after No. 5 that might...

Madam Speaker: Do we need to ask for a motion to withdraw? Yeah. So we'll have a…I'll call the question to withdraw Motion No. 4 and Councillor Mayes would like to replace it with Motion No. 6 that is quite similar. There were just some details that needed to be re-jigged there. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Councillor Mayes, go ahead and introduce Motion 6 at this time.

Motion No. 6
Moved by Councillor Mayes,
Seconded by Councillor Morantz,

WHEREAS the St Vital outdoor pool's re-opening will be delayed until early August resulting in cost savings to the Water & Waste Utilities;

AND WHEREAS the St Vital outdoor pool receives water from the Water and Waste utilities at no charge to the tax-supported budget pursuant to the 2014 budget;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in light of the cost savings to the said Water & Waste utilities due to the delayed re-opening, that Variety, The Children's Charity of Manitoba, Inc. on behalf of Variety Heritage Water Park located at the Forks receive a grant in 2015 in an amount equal to such cost savings up to a maximum of $35,000 from the Water & Waste utilities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City enter into a grant agreement with Variety, The Children's Charity of Manitoba, Inc. and that the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of such grant agreement in accordance with the foregoing and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

Councillor Mayes: Motion 6 pertains to the…and we're still tinkering with some wording as Legal has I think suggested one further revision, but in essence the motion is to…in light of…there's an outdoor pool in my ward that's being much improved and unfortunately that reopening of the St. Vital outdoor pool is going to take a month longer than we thought so it's going to open on the August long weekend. As you know, pursuant to Councillor Browaty's motion last year, part of 2014 budget, Recommendation J, there was a change in our policy that City arenas and pools, pools being broadly redefined to include splash pads. About 100 different facilities no longer are charged for their water bills, they don't have to pay through the mill rates supported side. Instead, the City Water Utility absorbs the cost. Okay, so we have a bunch of City run facilities, water parks, splash parks that aren't paying as the speaker here at EPC pointed out. St. Norbert, St. Vital, other parts of the city, the water parks don't have to pay for the water. So the request was that variety which runs a water park in one of the more needy areas runs a water park at the Forks that services a lot of kids in Point Douglas and nearby that they be granted free water. At the time, that didn't seem possible due to budget constraints but, we've since learned that the City Water Utility will not have to bear the cost for water, not talking staff, cost here, just water alone for the reopen St. Vital pool which will be a great amenity, Madam Speaker. I'll talk to you about it some other time, but in any event, the water savings are there. They're real, so we have brought forward this motion with the concurrent in support of…Councillor Morantz who's drafted the budget to have a grant from the Water Utility for this year alone to variety to help defray cost of running that park, which they operate for free. It's open to children from all backgrounds and it's a great benefit to downtown.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. We'll now move onto Motion 5. Moved by Councillor Eadie and seconded by Councillor Wyatt regarding the frontage levy. Councillor Eadie, you have the floor.

Motion No. 5
Moved by Councillor Eadie,
Seconded by Councillor Wyatt,

WHEREAS the proposed 60 cent frontage levy is not dedicated within the local or regional road renewal plan to fix Winnipeg's roads, nor has it been identified as a net increase to the maintenance budget for roads within the Public Works department;

AND WHEREAS the $6.7 million from the frontage levy increase is the equivalent of a 1.37% property tax increase, but yet, is a hidden and unopen way of balancing the City's operating budget;

AND WHEREAS the proposed 60 cent frontage levy is also equivalent to a greater than 5% property tax increase on the lowest valued homes;

AND WHEREAS the frontage levy increase, by its nature, is an inequitable and unfair method to raise tax revenue;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the $6.7 million, 60 cent frontage levy increase be removed and allocated to the mill rate for 2015's property taxes.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Actually, I'm sure you are all familiar with this motion. It's one in which, relates to what I talk to, to people out on the street and that is trying to have tax fairness in an environment in which, a really we have a really no choice, but to raise taxes to ensure that the services that we do deliver, continue to be delivered and that we actually fix our streets and renew our streets. And I know over the last number of years, that's been difficult, but this motion is basically…won't read the therefore be it resolved, but it's really saying the frontage levy…. There's two really solid reasons not to and I think that my seconder, Councillor Wyatt…thanks for seconding it…can more eloquently explain the second reason which is related to what is it paying for and how should it be handled. But what I'm saying here is basically, this motion is the lowest valued homes, which everybody knows, the families can only buy homes in which their income affords them to purchase. And so what happens is frontage levy doesn't really acknowledge that. It's a basic flat tax based on how much frontage feet you have and your frontage feet don't necessarily correlate to the value of your home. But, essentially, this frontage fee of 60 cents is really equivalent to what would be a 1.73 percent property tax increase which is more progressive. But really, when I look at this, I really look…I look at the assessment roll and residential one properties which are mostly your single family. There's duplexes in some cases and stuff, but houses that are under $300,000. There is like a 127,000 of those properties. For the most part of those numbers, those people will actually be seeing an equivalent raise to their property taxes more than 1.37 percent. As a matter of fact, some of the lowest valued homes are looking anywhere from five to six percent as an equivalent property tax increase, so you know that their families would be much better off if it was a 1.37 percent property tax increase. But anyway, I'll leave it out there. It's about fairness. The reality is though, is…and I understand how difficult it has been to bring in a balanced budget, Councillor Morantz, a lot of work, but so I present this motion…is presented to try to bring some fairness although we all know that a tax is a tax and people will be paying for it, but and I'll leave it out there. You can also consider it as, Councillors, in terms of providing fairness. I'll leave it up to you and I'll leave the argument about, if we are doing a frontage levy how should that actually be implemented. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. We will now open up the floor for debate, keeping in mind the time. We will break at 12:00 noon for lunch. So we won't have a chance to get through all the speakers. First up is Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support of the Operating budget and Capital budget for 2015. I'd like to also indicate that the motions before us, for amending the budget, I will be supporting, I seconded the motion from Councillor Eadie and as Voltaire once said, "I may not believe in what you say, but I shall defend to the death your right to say it." And therefore, I will…I've seconded to get the debate and the discussion on the floor, but I won't be supporting that motion, but I welcome the debate on the item and will speak to it now. I just want to first of all thank members of the Executive Committee and the Mayor for bringing forward this budget. I know it's extremely difficult in such short order to be able to bring forward a budget and to literally come right out of the election gate. To get sworn in, to be on the floor and to actually now be presenting a budget is extremely difficult in such a short period of time. Not one budgets, budgets but two before us. And extremely significant in terms of the involvement of the Public Service to write the budget; to bring everybody be together to be able to answer the questions and the challenges that the City is facing and to bring forward a document which really gives us an outline for the next year of what we can and can't do in terms of funding City services. The challenges we face, no doubt, are enormous. The structural deficit as it's been termed is

significant. When it was tabled last year, the two-year structural deficit over the next, projected over the next two years and that would've been 15 and 16, was $188 million in total. The structural deficit is very persistent and temperamental, like some members of Council, but it…it unfortunately has not moved. If you look at the document to date, the structural deficit projected for 16 and 17 now is still 188 million. We only have so many levers available to us and I'm sure that's been made very clear now to members of the EPC and the new Mayor in terms of what tools we have and what can we actually choose to pull in terms of the levers of balancing the budget and making things work. We really have options with regards to raising new revenues and raising existing revenues through tax increases, through levy increases, through fee increases. And then the other option is to cut spending and to cut your expenses. This is the challenge that is faced by this council. And as been rightfully pointed out, in terms of the options of revenue increases, in terms of the levers that are available, there's very few and indeed, now, limited to a certain extent in terms of the decision made by previous council and the decision being put forward in this budget by this council, which is the regional street renewal reserve and the local street renewal reserve. Very welcome. I want to thank the Mayor and members of EPC for bringing this forward and to keep and for keeping this alive, this was a crucial policy initiative led towards the end of the last term. And it's something which really, we needed to do because of the fact we knew infrastructure was a huge issue for facing our city the renewal of our existing infrastructure. I'm sure you all heard it on the door stepping the last campaign and we know we have very few tools to address that. Unfortunately, property taxes are the main source of funding, was seen as a way to identify that source of revenue to identify funding that shortfall. Unfortunately, what it does is it actually takes away what we can actually fund in terms of helping balance our operating budget. Because now, two points, one point to regional and one point to local in terms of the tax increase of the 2.33 is actually going into that dedicated source of funding of increasing funding of our streets, regional and local. And so it actually makes it even more difficult to balance the operating budget in the long run. Speaking then to the need to be able to address funding from other levels of government especially the Province of Manitoba, but I want to thank the Mayor and EPC again for keeping that alive by doing this and by saying that you know what, we're going to go down this, we're going to keep these programs going and now offers the opportunity for us to enter into, hopefully, in the near future a multi-year capital budget, at least two years possibly, being adopted by Council. That would allow us to get tenders out sooner and to hopefully derive better pricing from the private sector in terms of work. Right now, because of the fact we came out of the election, because of the delay in terms of the budgeting process, the private sector is now apparently, from what I gather is at 50 to 60 percent capacity already, many firms in terms of the bids they have made and obtained. A lot of it being driven by the levels of government, being driven by the strength of the private sector and development taking place in the city. And so now, as we go out to put our tenders out, we are at a real disadvantage where we can actually potentially see real construction inflation again, unfortunately. And so that's why it's so important if we can somehow get out the door sooner, prior to others and get good pricing. But it's also I think important to note, I had to send a message to the private sector that we will be watching how they bid on our contracts and there is nothing preventing us from, as a council, delaying work for a year if we see contracts coming back with outrageous construction inflation as it was done last June or July when we put bids out and prices came back 15 percent above the pricing that we have put forward. I wanted to speak briefly because I'm running out of time, to recreation. That's something which is near and dear as was mentioned by Councillor Pagtakhan into my heart and always has been. I see recreation as a…and parks and recreation as being something which makes a city and a community healthy and strong. If something which I think prevents crime. It gives an outlet for young people to be involved and to have a healthy outlook on life in terms of sports and sportsmanship and sports conduct. It's something which brings communities together, makes communities stronger. I want to thank members of EPC and for the Mayor for the support of the Buhler Recreation Park, hosting this year, the National Aboriginal Fastball Tournament which will bring to the City of Winnipeg anywhere from nine to $10 million of investment, 5,000 Aboriginal Canadians coming to Winnipeg this August long weekend, over a thousand hotel rooms booked. This is the type of thing these facilities can do for our City when we invest in them. I'm glad that the budget book refers to a deferral with regards to the YM-YWCAs. We did as a Council pass a motion last year through our budget calling on an agreement with the YM-YWCA. I would urge our Public Service to get that agreement done and bring it to Council because I can tell you the Ys are extremely interested. We have fallen behind as a City with regard to investment in new strategic, regional recreation. If you want to look at what other cities have done across Canada whether it be Calgary or Edmonton or Regina, we are far behind. And now, you don't even have to look that far. You can go into rural Manitoba. You can go to Winkler. You can go to Swan River. You can go to Steinbach. You can go to community after community have built beautiful recreational facilities that would put a lot of ours to shame and these are the types of things that makes a community strong and healthy if we are…

Madam Speaker: …moves an extension of one minute.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Wyatt: Again, I would reiterate what I've said before which is, it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy if you undermine and you reduce the hours. If you don't market properly, I would challenge you to…members of Council will

encourage you, not challenge you, when you have an opportunity to look at your Leisure Guides whether it be the summer, the winter or the spring and then none of them by the way will contain the hours of the pools. Why? Because they are so complicated. One of the best things we can probably do is to simplify the hours in terms of the use of the pools or when they're available. You need to go online. And it's like, you know, reading in the Book of Revelations. You know, it's like all…times are so different from one to the next. That's for your benefit, Councillor. And you know, and it's something which really could be simplified and marketed better, based on the type of pool that it is whether it be a local community, a neighbourhood or regional. Really, you know, it's all over the map and we want to know why our numbers are dropping recreation facilities. That has a lot to do with it. So, and I thank the fact that there is a motion put forward today to address that in terms of the marketing and the alignment of the pools and the pool hours. So, again, Madam Speaker, I just want to sum up, I would encourage all members of Council to support the budgets here today. Yes, it's not an ideal process, the time was very short, but I can tell you and attest that I think in the last week and even in the last 48 hours that members of the Executive Committee led by the Mayor, and I want to thank the Mayor for his hard work on this because it's a tough job in terms of getting this and bringing people together and I would encourage everyone, the last time I think we supported an unanimous budget, was in 2006, and it was done, it was at that time, it was called the clean and green budget because we're adding a whole bunch of clean and green stuff into the budget in terms of flowers and clean the streets and everything else and it was unanimous. And you know what, it would be great because of the fact that the Executive Committee has made the strides and I want to…and I think all member of Council should take that in consideration today. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. We will have one more speaker before we adjourn and that is Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Since we're speaking both to the motion and to the budget as a whole, I first want to thank Councillor Morantz who worked tirelessly and I also want to commend the Mayor. There's certainly some things in here and I've been saying this to people. There are some things in here that I didn't necessarily support. I've stood on this floor before and said we should get more revenue from the business tax, not less. But I'll say this the Mayor appears very much committed to doing what he ran on and I think you can't fault that and I've said that to people who have agreed with me. I'd like to think there's some things I ran on that are in this budget too, but I'll be coming back to that. One of the items that Councillor Eadie has pointed out and he is right, he is, is that the frontage task is less progressive than the property tax as a whole. That's correct. That's mathematically unarguable I think. And we do need to look at that issue. We have the irony though that we have Councillor Eadie saying correctly, "Well, this is a more regressive tax and we should be moving toward more progressive property tax." And we have the Mayor and others saying, "Well, property taxes are regressive." So we're using…using that term in two different senses. I think regressive in terms of outdated is what some other speakers have been saying and we do need to look at a new model. There's clearly an inequity if you look at the frontage levy regardless of the wealth or value of your property, you'll be paying more so I do think we can't solve that today. The property tax is more progressive means of taxing, than the frontage levy. We're not going to solve that today, but I think as we go forward, we need to look at this whole issue of property taxes, frontage levy, business tax, the revenue side of how we operate. Most of my remarks will not be on the revenue side though, they'll be on the expenditure side. I've touched briefly on the variety grant that were seeking to get here for the first time. That would be a benefit I think particularly in Point Douglas and surrounding area. I also want to speak, Madam Speaker, we're sometimes accused of doing only things for our own wards. So I wanted to commend you, Madam Speaker. There's a park, Little Mountain Park assigned to no Councillor, one of these historical oddities. Over time, if somebody said, "You and I seem to become the adoptive parents of the orphan park. We had a public meeting last year and I'm very pleased to see, for the first time that I'm aware of, $350,000 in this budget for Little Mountain Park to enhance their building. We haven't had the Windog folks here today, but we're are putting more money into Kilcona Park, biggest off-leash and putting, I put more money into Maple Grove over the past year, second biggest off-leash, third biggest off-leash, Little Mountain Park as you know and we're putting a substantial grant in there so I think we're really doing some good things there and to your credit, Madam Speaker. You've been working on that one which is closer to your ward. In terms of the process, we will want a more open process in the future. I know this time, back in the spring, I had an open house, Councillor Pagtakhan had one, Councillor Gerbasi had one. We've got to keep moving forward. I had another one recently. My thanks to Councillor Morantz. For that, we can do more of that I think in the future and do a better public engagement process. There are a number of things I'd like to support in this budget that I ran on and there's one really historical thing and that's the BRT funding that we're going to extend the funding. We've been waiting 30 years for this project and we're finally going to do it. And we've identified a funding mechanism that's certainly more progressive than what was being talked about when I ran on a pledge three years ago talking about no transit hikes. We've shaved that down from 25 cents to 5 cents for a ride. Most of it's going to fall on the property taxpayers. That's I think commendable in terms of balancing those communities' interest. I also want to commend the move to unfreeze the budget for the Winnipeg Art Council, something I've ran on, taking historical steps there as been, as been set $103 million for road repair, something we probably all ran on. That's up from 30 million, just three years ago. I think that's historic that we're moving forward on the roads. Safety continues to be an important issue and again, we've maintained Police, Fire, Ambulance, was 44 percent of the operating budget and remains 44 percent of the operating budget, so we aren't cutting back on Police, Fire and Ambulance. Community centre is something I ran on

money in here for Greendale. And in two days, Councillor Luke and I will be talking about great project that's coming on the boundary of our two wards, Jonathan Toews Community Centre Field House Project, will be coming to that on Wednesday. Something no one's mentioned, Water. If you look at page two of six, two of seven of the capital budget, more money for dealing with brown water, more money for dealing with frozen pipes. Some very good work by Diane Sacher's group there trying to move us forward on those two big issues. I would be remiss if I didn't talk about a couple of things in St. Vital Ward. There's more money here for great project, St. Vital Library, 50 year old heritage structure that we're refurbishing, more money for St. Vital Park in 2018 and 19 for new buildings there. For the time, my term of office here is done in 2018 between Councillor Steeves and myself will have replaced a every building in St. Vital Park. We're about an eight year period now. I'm very proud of that, very proud of that, Madam Speaker. And if I can attempt a few words in French, Madam Speaker, there are some other items for my ward…

(Speaking French) ruelle en gravier

Translation: Gravel lanes

So I'm just saying that funds for Save Our Seine, funds for a new pathway beside the Seine River that's important contribution to Métis and francophone heritage, the

(Speaking French) Il y aura un million de dollars en 2018 pour le programme de asphalt pour les ruelles en gravier. Un programme important pour conseiller Allard and moi même, aussi il y aura l'année dernière nous avons donné un octroi, nous avons donné un octroi à Sauvons Notre Seine, un organisation très important pour le quartier Saint-Vital et pour le quarter Saint-Boniface et pour toute la ville, un organization qui travaille avec la ville de Winnipeg au sujet de la rivière Seine. Et finalement, il y a un octroi ici pour le Sentier Gabriel-Dufault, une pathway, un sentier près de la rivière Seine, la rive de la rivière Seine, un projet important pour l'histoire, pour la patrimoine de quartier Saint-Vital, l'histoire métis et l'histoire francophone. Donc, projet très important, sentier Gabriel-Dufault et je pense que le travail commence ce printemps.

Translation:
Councillor Mayes: In 2018, there will be one million dollars for the granular lane improvement program. It's an important program for both Councillor Allard and myself. There will also be – last year we gave a grant — we gave a grant to Save Our Seine, an important organization for both St. Vital and St. Boniface wards, and for the entire city. It's an organization that works with the City of Winnipeg on matters pertaining to the Seine River. Lastly, there will be a grant for the Gabriel Dufault Pathway, a pathway located near the Seine River. This is an important project for the history, the heritage of the St. Vital Ward, as well as for the history of the francophone and Métis communities. And so, the Gabriel Dufault Pathway is an important project, and I believe that construction starts this spring.

Councillor Mayes: Finally, Madam Speaker, I'm ahead of pace here, Madam Speaker, perhaps for the first time ever. The project I would like to talk about particularly, it's knows as talked about…I've seen Councillor Pagtakhan get very passionate in here about some grants for his ward. I've seen Councillor get very passionate. I get passionate about a new grant that's in this budget, the talks about youth service, Youth Service Winnipeg, a grant to the Downtown Biz through a feasibility study and I really want to thank the Mayor and his Chief of Staff for working with me and their support on this item. We're going to take a look at…you may have seen me carrying this around the last four years here to send a message. City Year is a program in the United States, England and South Africa that promotes an urban peace core idea for the youth there. Calgary is working toward it. I hope we get there first ahead of Calgary. We're going to have a feasibility study. It may not look exactly like the City Year program, Madam Speaker, which in the schools in the U.S., but I think we have an opportunity here to do something really innovative in the City of Winnipeg to work with labour and I want to emphasize that. I've got rather strongly criticized last year in the media for bringing up some folks from City here to talk about the youth program and we did involve labour and we're going to do that again this time. We're going to involve labour, business, foundations and the young people of this city. This is a great program where we have a chance I think to try to assemble the funding. This is a feasibility study, not just a discussion paper. We're going to see if we can make this work, the idea of an urban peace core in Winnipeg. It will be historic. We're going to try to deal with the private sector with foundations. Other levels of government to see if we can…try to make this work in Winnipeg, the idea of a youth service core that would…I think I'm going to need an extension here, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gillingham moves an extension of two minutes. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Mayes: An idea of new youth service core, thank you, Madam Speaker, that would work on public projects in the community centres in the North End, be it Siloam Mission, be it other charitable works in the City of Winnipeg, not taking away people's jobs, but doing some desperately needed work in the core and in the North End. It's a historic opportunity. I've spoken about it many times. There's a lot of interest out there in community. I look forward to working with the Downtown Biz and seeing if we can make this happen and again, I want to thank the Mayor for his support on

this item. And hopefully, hopefully Madam Speaker, we can be there at an opening and with a bunch of young keen people in the fall of 2016 or 2017 getting to work on some of the problems around the City of Winnipeg. That would be historic, Madam Speaker. So in conclusion, I'm happy to support the budget. I think obviously there is some work we need to do on a revenue side to look at the revenue model, but I think there's been a great deal of work that's been done. We've heard quotes from everyone from Tom Cruise to the Book of Revelations to Voltaire. I will just say this, about this program that's very near and dear to my heart, the City youth program, the youth service program. There's a great biblical quotation about creating something that neither moth nor rust can destroy and thanks to Councillor Gillingham who identified that as the Sermon on the Mount for me, when I needed the source. Neither moth nor rust can destroy and that's what I think this youth program can try and do, change attitudes, trained people's future, give people an exposure to be other side of the track, people who might come from my ward and never get to see the Arlington Bridge, never get to see some of the North End. I think it's an opportunity, Madam Speaker, and I look forward to working with all of the Councillors, the Mayor and the groups I've identified, trying to make that youth program a reality. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: I've had a few requests to keep going with the debate. Can we have a motion to suspend the rules and continue at this time instead of adjourning for lunch? Okay. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Next speaker, Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you, everyone. I'm going to speak first on the budget on some of the big picture kind of issues. It's kind of interesting because Councillor Morantz and I strangely think alike and he actually stole a bit of my thunder on some of the things I was going to say, which I wasn't expecting. But not too long after the election, Councillor Morantz and the Mayor and I think many people who looked at the budget realized that Winnipeg is in a really tough spot, tougher than they probably imagined. And I mean, everyone knew we had an infrastructure deficit. They knew there was a massive need to fix existing infrastructures as well as build new, but it's also clear to everyone that we're at this financial wall that's been talked about. The gas tax money that was so excellently achieved through FCM and national advocacy has been assigned to projects and accounted for. We're pushing against the limits of our debt ceiling and there is a limit to how much further we can go. We aren't going to be able to afford the projects that everyone wants, yet the expectation remains that every project on the list should get funded. On the operating side, there is a structural deficit in revenue to go towards basic operations of the City. The years and years of tax freezes has let us to this wall. And unfortunately, if only there had been a small increase every year, we may have been able to address all these service delivery costs. It isn't politically sexy to admit that we need increased revenue simply to operate basic services, but once you take a close look at the books, you see that the belts have been pretty tight in our core departments for a long time and there aren't a lot of notches left on the belt. And because we have to balance our budget under law, the problem has been solved each year by pulling a proverbial rabbit out of the hat and the rabbit has appeared each year, for many years and this year is no exception. Through measures such as raiding reserves, one time money being used for year to year operations, various user fees going up, vacancy management, creation of new fees. And vacancy management can be a useful tool, but when it is used too extensively and goes too far, means unfulfilled jobs, morale, service levels being affected and a lot of the solutions have…that being used are not attractive, but the budget has to be balanced and this isn't new. It has been going on what, for what…feels like forever. So the…what we need to do is make some real change. It's agreed that we need a new and fair deal for municipal government from other levels of government. We need to be given the tools from the Province and the Feds to have long term sustainable funding, a bigger share of the pie. We need to have broad based…a broad based community campaign that includes all stakeholders and advocates for our city. We must stand together and push this conversation into the lime light and consciousness and make something happen. It's my understanding, I'm hearing that, but that's what we're going to do with the Mayor's leadership. And I'm happy to help whoever I can and I'm sure all of Council is happy to help with that effort. Another change that needs to happen is we must start basing all of our infrastructure decisions strategically based on cost benefit rather than politics and colloquialism. It will not be an easy task to change that culture, but we have to try. Part of the new deal must include as well measures that ensure growth pays for the cost of growth. We're getting hammered on both the operating and capital side for the…from the current equation which adds up to increasing costs of servicing our sprawling city without the corresponding revenue to pay for it. Waverley West is a prime example, higher than expected capital cost for road works, parks having now the responsibility of our existing over stretched staff compliment, a massive pressure for new facilities and expanded transportation needs. I also agree with the position of the Green Action Centre that has implored us to structure our fees and create a system that makes it more attractive to choose, sustainable transportation options. We have…we need to have less subsidy and more cost for using environmental cost free modes such as the single use automobile. I think everyone agrees that the budget process that has…was inherited by this new Mayor and Council was seriously flawed and I'm heartened to have heard a clear commitment from the Mayor to transform this. I really look forward to a better budget process in the coming years, one that allows more participation and input from citizens and all members of Council. On the specifics of the budget, I agree with raising the ceiling on small business tax to give a relief to our smallest businesses. I support targeting relief to those highest in need, and those I've said before, I don't believe we're in the position to reduce the business tax rate overall for every business. We're essentially giving up over $1 million in revenue that revenue could've been used to lessen the

impact of some of the tough choices that we've been had to make here. Of course, it's understandable the Mayor is bringing forward the campaign promises he committed to this one, we have to agree to disagree. I'd also briefly want to refer to the motion on the frontage levy. One thing I haven't heard anyone comment on and I realize that nobody wants to pay more. There's different types of inequities and different fees we have to choose from, but one thing about the frontage levy is that it does charge more for losing up…using land. So there is an environmental component to charging more first for using up more land. Condo owners, people who live in smaller space, it costs less to service them for City services. And so there is some fairness in that. There is some incentive in that to use less land and to increase the densification of our City, which will make things more financially sustainable. So I think that's a part of this discussion I haven't heard too much. Marty made a long list of some of the positive things in this budget and I have to speak to a few. Biological larviciding is something I stood up every year for how long and it's nice to see it here today and an environmental choice we should've made. Committing funding for the strategy to end homelessness, we need to be part of the solution along with our community and government partners and we're taking an important step here. Obviously, the asset management and capital project management is an important investment. The creation of the traffic management centre as recommended by the Public Works review, significant investments in local and regional streets and sidewalks. Funding plan for rapid transit. Finally, the commitment and funding plan is clear, we're moving ahead to complete this transit way after Winnipeg has waffled on this for over 30 years. I have to say I'm not thrilled with the five cent charge to riders, but on balance, the funding plan falls primarily on all citizens to contribute to our mass transit system which is how it should be done, as all of us spend a foot from those of who use public transit through reduced congestion and environmental and social benefit. The U-Pass funding, this budget includes what is needed to implement this program, another long awaited best practice that Winnipeg is now achieving a great boom for increased ridership and affordability for students. I will speak more to that on Wednesday at the Council meeting. Two point five million in 2016 for rapid transit planning. We must have shovel-ready projects to move ahead with the vision of a modern city with the true mass transit network. We are doing that planning and I again thank the Mayor for his long term vision and courage which is what it takes in Winnipeg to advocate for rapid transit. There's an old labour song that goes, "Give us bread, but give us roses too." Increased funding for the arts and museums, a great city can't just be about pipes, police and pavement. Our cultural investments make Winnipeg great and pay off in employment and economic benefits as well. Speaking of roses, I'm delighted that the Mayor has listened to the concerns raised by a number of us and agreed to reverse the propose to cut beautification in the downtown and on the image routes. Clearly, it makes sense to keep our downtown in image routes looking their best at a time when we are hosting major international events such as FIFA, two minutes please, somebody, and many others over the next few years.

Madam Speaker: …moves suspension of the rules to add two minutes, thank you. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Gerbasi: We have an opportunity right now and momentum to raise up Winnipeg's image. Finally, further…oh, where is my last page? One second. Further, there will be no new fee for those needing a legal agreement to start up a new patio. Putting out a few chairs and creating vibrancy and activity in the downtown or on a neighbourhood, Main Street can be a complicated and costly endeavour especially for smaller businesses and an additional new fee would've made it much more challenging, not only downtown, but areas like Corydon, Sherbrook Avenue, and Osborne Village will continue to be more and more fabulous. And I'm glad we won't be standing in the way of these small enterprises who are trying to contribute to that success. And I would like to thank all of those who raised those issues including Councillor Eadie. We don't want him on the median planting the flowers, himself with his Biz members. The Downtown Biz and other Biz Zone members, I'm grateful to have been heard on these concerns and I hope the motion to address this will be supported, and there is my last page. I was very impressed with the Mayor's comments in closing at his State of the City speech last week about his long term vision of a city we can all be proud of. In the shorter term and over the next four years, I see a lot of opportunity for this Council in spite of our challenges to change things for the better, and to get closer to the dreams we hope to realize for our good love to Winnipeg. Thank you very much, everyone. I will be supporting the budget.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Yes, Madam Speaker. In light of the fact that there are so many things in this budget to speak to, important and positive, I'd like to move that we go into Committee of the Whole.

Madam Speaker: We require a suspension of the rules for that and I do want you to know that means the speakers, the speakers we've already heard from, they could speak again.

Councillor Gerbasi: Point of order, Madam Speaker, there may be Councillors who aren't familiar with what that means.

Madam Speaker: I am trying to explain that.

Councillor Gerbasi: Okay, sorry.

Madam Speaker: Yes. So what Committee as a Whole means that there would be no time limit of ten minutes on the clock, so you could go for as long as you like and also those members that have already spoken could speak again. So a two-thirds vote is required for suspension of the rules. The question…Councillor Wyatt has made the request. So all in favour of going into committee of the whole, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Dobson, Eadie, Schreyer and Wyatt.

Nays

His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Gerbasi, Gillingham, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Morantz, Orlikow, Pagtakhan and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Madam Clerk. We shall continue with the debate. Next on my list is Councillor Pagtakhan.

Councillor Pagtakhan: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I'm happy to speak in favour of both the Operating and Capital budgets. I want to thank Councillor Morantz, the Chair of Finance for the incredible work that he's done along with the Mayor, EPC and Council in general, in terms of the discussion here at the City Hall today. It's an incredible…it's been an incredible journey and, you know, I also want to thank members of our administration, our CFO, Mr. Mike Ruta, Betty Holsten Boyer, Howard and Liza and of course our Acting CAO, Mr. Michael Jack. There's many things I could speak on the budget, Madam Speaker, but I'm going to select a few of them. One in particular I'm proud of is our commitment here in this budget to support over five year term, $150,000 commitment to the United Way of Winnipeg to end…to end homelessness. Some daunting statistics, Madam Speaker, on any given night in our city, 350 people stay in any of the City's homeless shelters and 700 to 1,000 people stay in single room occupancy hotels. Those are daunting figures. Madam Speaker, this strategy, that's going to be led by United Way, is going to be helping move the homelessness to ending it, sorry…helping move from managing homelessness to ending it. The plan sets out some short term performance targets that will include reducing the amount of shelter users and people living on streets by 20 percent. That's a very ambitious goal and I sure hope that they can reach that within the five year period. Also, what's very notable, Madam Speaker, is that we are…this funding is not contingent on any other level of government or any other partner. We're showing leadership here by providing the funding conditionally to United Way for this particular strategy. Also, Madam Speaker, I know that Councillor Mayes is a real staunch supporter of this as well as Councillor Eadie and others and Councillor Gilroy is also on the Winnipeg Arts Council Committee. I really want to commend Councillor Morantz for…and the Mayor for increasing the funding to the Winnipeg Arts Council by $250,000. Madam Speaker, for every municipal dollar that the City offers, the Winnipeg Arts Council can leverage according to their "ticket to the future" document, 18.23 dollars, that's an incredible amount of leveraging. Given the calculation that equals to about $4.5 million investment into arts within our City because of our municipal funding share and that's a huge achievement and I wanted Council to note that and, you know, the Winnipeg Arts Council does incredible work. In 2010, the Winnipeg Arts Council applied for grant and Winnipeg was selected to be the cultural capital of Canada back in 2010. Nationally, Winnipeg is known as the "cultural cradle" of Canada. And funding for the arts, Madam Speaker, is a huge economic health benefit for our city and employs many, many people. So I just wanted to commend Council, Councillor Morantz and the Mayor and others here who are staunch supporters of the Winnipeg Arts Council for their support on that particular item. I want to thank Councillor Lukes for her incredible advocacy relative to active transportation is a huge victory. And you know what, what's even more important, Madam Speaker, is that active transportation really is overlooked and undervalued in terms of the economic benefactors to any city when analysis is done. And so what's important, I really want to point this out here and I want to thank Councillor Morantz for allowing me to put it in is a notation, Madam Speaker, in the document that says for the active transportation and for the recreational bike paths that we are…the Public Works is actually going to be doing a cycling and pedestrian monitoring strategy. That is incredibly important so that we can actually honour and provide some positive cost benefit analysis when we're looking at planning for active transportation now and it's the years ahead to make our city even better. So that's an important piece I didn't want to get missed and to really touch upon that. Something that's really cool that I think and it's relatively small program, Madam Speaker, but I think it goes a long way in terms of, you know, taking kids off the streets and providing a very viable alternative to drugs and gangs and it's the development to our community services in conjunction with the Pan Am Boxing Club and other service providers of a sort of a afterschool boxing program. And what that's going to do, Madam Speaker, is it's going to create very positive social environment for youth within the inner city, the North End and to deal with peer pressure in a positive environment. There's going to be coaching and mentoring other than the obvious benefits of health and wellness. So that's something that's really important and

something that I wanted to thank Councillor Morantz for as well. I wanted to also commend my councillor colleagues, Councillor Gerbasi and Councillor Eadie for the work that they've done with regards to the Cornish…to the Carnegie Library both at Cornish Library and St. Johns Library which are going to be realizing their 100th anniversary, this year in 2015. Both Councillor Gerbasi and Councillor Eadie have been staunch advocates of ensuring, Madam Speaker, that funding is allocated here within the City of Winnipeg budget for the refurbishment of both. The St. Johns Library in the North End and the Cornish Library in, is it Armstrong Point Neighbourhood and that's going to include a very huge renovation that's going to see an elevator, accessible washrooms, accessible programming areas and just general technological upgrades as well. So both those Councillors need to be commended for that, and further I also wanted to congratulate Councillor Eadie for the work that he's done on the Merchants Corner and his advocacy for the Selkirk Avenue. Selkirk Avenue is a very historical street, Madam Speaker, within our city and it was really the beginnings of commerce and trade within our city outside of the Exchange District historically. And Councillor Eadie has been a…also a, you know, through his…I believe he is the President of the Selkirk Avenue Biz or the chairman of the Selkirk Avenue Biz. He's done an incredible work and he's advocated, Madam Speaker, for the refurbishment of Selkirk Avenue between Salter to McGregor and from McGregor to Arlington and that's a huge thing because there is a lot of businesses there that are struggling, a lot of historical gems architecturally that are there. And this rejuvenate or this rehabilitation and rejuvenation of Selkirk Avenue is going to be a tremendous benefit for that area. Right now, it's like driving through a war zone and I know that Councillor Eadie has done incredible work in terms of loving that for the last number of years and we're going to see a huge investment on Selkirk Avenue. Also, I wanted to mention, you know, I was glad to hear Councillor Mayes made some references to their Arlington Bridge and I wanted to mention that, you know, I'm glad to see in the capital budget here that we're allocating $2 million, Madam Speaker, to do a clash 3 estimate. Right now, the City of Winnipeg, we've allocated previous budgets, 1.5 million and we're just doing a public consultation, but now looking forward, Madam Speaker, in this budge, we have $2 million coming out in 2016 and that's an important feature, and I just want to explain why that's important here for our city because the Arlington Bridge, Madam Speaker, engineering reports are saying that even though it's safe right now, at some point in the future, it's going to have to be decommissioned and come down. So we're looking at positive options I had the pleasure of attending one this weekend and I'm glad to hear that a lot of people in the community that uses the Arlington Bridge and neighbouring areas, that people that live in neighbouring areas, both in the Wolseley neighbourhood and your neighbourhood, Garden City Amber Trails who are also there, Madam Speaker, they always said the importance of that bridge and that connection, that specific connection on Arlington being an extremely well-used bridge that functions currently to move people both north and south and that huge connectivity in our city and, you know, is also really heartened to see both the Mayor and Councillor Lukes, Councillor Mayes and Councillor Gillingham and Eadie also come on with me for a tour of the Arlington Bridge as well. So it was nice to see that. And in terms of the motions.

Madam Speaker: Extension, two minutes. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Pagtakhan: I think that was the first extension I've ever had. Okay. So, just on the motions, Madam Speaker, I just want to thank the Mayor for his leadership in terms of finding some additional funding for the flowers. You know, the flowers in our downtown, they create incredible vibrancy and they bring the street to life and to see that, to congratulate Councillor Gerbasi for the advocacy and her work on the Downtown Biz. This is going to benefit the entire City of Winnipeg, Madam Speaker. I just want to thank Councillor Gerbasi for that. In terms of Councillor Wyatt's motion here, you know, it's great…again huge kudos to Councillor Wyatt for creating that's John Buhler Recreation Park. It is a tremendous asset within our city. And I'm happy to be supporting this and I hope that Council will support it as well and, Madam Speaker, with regards to the Variety water park at the Forks. I want to thank Councillor Mayes for the work that he's done and pointing out a possible savings offset here from a park that's occurring in his neighbourhood being slightly delayed and using those savings to help the Variety Club of the Forks. It is going to benefit many, many children in our downtown, Point Douglas, Mynarski and Elmwood areas and, you know, this is a great, great motion to see. I want to thank him for that and his leadership and Councillor Morantz for seconding it. Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next, Mr. Mayor, you have the floor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will be supporting the budgets, of course. I know it surprises many of you. I will also be supporting Motions 1, 2, 3 and 6. I would urge all Councillors to also support these motions which I think demonstrate the collaboration and the healthy discussions that we and…that we've had together, but also that we've had from delegates who've taken the time to come speak with us over the last week or two. I will not be supporting Motion No. 5. The 2015 budget builds on the City's long term plan to grow a modern thriving city with quality life improvements for all Winnipeggers including infrastructure, renewal and a focus on creating a safe and vibrant community, we're all proud to call home. Winnipeggers spoke decisively and said improving our infrastructure is a priority. And this budget definitely takes that into account. In this budget environment, our challenge is to be able to dedicate record levels of funding to key priorities like street renewal while keeping tax increases just as low as possible. This year's budget will maintain in increase spending priority areas despite revenue challenges which many of my Council colleagues have addressed, despite revenue challenges resulting from the legacy of 14 years of property tax

cuts and freezes. We believe this proposed plan offers Winnipeggers the certainty of knowing exactly where their tax dollars are flowing which is to projects and initiatives that rank at the very top of their list of priorities. The 2.3 percent property tax increase represents 10 cents a day on the average home. Two percent of the property tax will be entirely dedicated to the local and regional street renewal capital program for a pair of maintenance of regional and local streets, back lanes and sidewalks. The property tax increase will allow the City to triple its 2012 investment in street renewal with a record $103.3 million in 2015 alone. This is an increase in 19.1 million more than in 2014. The frontage levy which is being discussed this morning, which hasn't been raised since 2011 and is increasing 60 cents per foot helps pay for upgrades, repairs and maintenance for streets and sidewalks. For example, if a person owns a home with a 50 foot frontage, the increase will be $30. Most importantly, Winnipeggers will still have some of the lowest residential municipal property taxes in the entire country. The transportation management centre will be a game changer when it becomes operational in 2016. It'll smooth traffic flows and respond in real time to traffic snarls. And I want to point out the environmental benefits. Less idling, getting people moving along is good not only for reducing road rage, but it's good for the environment. That's something we should all be working towards. The traffic management centre will become the primary source of traffic information through the use of social media, smart phones and traveler information boards. It'll coordinate with the Winnipeg Police Service, Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Services and Winnipeg Transit, not to mention benefit active transportation. The TMC will all be funded by 3.5 million annually in the operating budget and 3 million in 2015, 16 from the capital budget. The business community and the small business community is the engine that fuels our economy. The proposed budget decreases from the City's business tax rate from 5.7 to 5.6 is a worthy goal. This will enhance the small business tax credit program to provide 6,000 in 25 or nearly half of all Winnipeg businesses with a full rebate when they have an annual rental value of $30,000 or less, and this is up from 5,147 just last year. I also want to talk about rapid transit. The 2015 budget provides a sustainable, multi-year funding plan for the next phases…next phase of the construction of the new southwest rapid transit Stage 2 and the Pembina Highway underpass. The funding plan in…as you know, includes a 0.33 percent property tax increase beginning in 2016. In each of the 10 years, and a one-time 5 cent transit fare increase in 2016 over and above regular transit fare increases. These measures will ensure the City has the required funding available when rapid transit is complete and allows us to construct a modern public transportation network that will drive our economy and serve our growing thriving city. With the provincial funding commitment of 225 million, at the federal commitment of 137.3 million from Triple P Canada, the City's expected cost for the integrated project is 225 million. These amounts plus annual maintenance will be paid annually to the P3 proponent at approximately 22.05 million beginning in 2020 which is included in the capital forecast. I want to thank our federal and provincial partners for supporting this priority project for Winnipeg. The 2015 budget also supports public safety with the proposed increase of $4.9 million to the Winnipeg Police Service budget for total allocation of $264 million. The Fire Paramedic Service budget will also increase by 10.5 million 178.3 million. The WPS and Winnipeg Fire Paramedics budgets comprise 4.5 percent of the total tax supported budget. We're also supporting our community because investing in our community is the best way to build a stronger, more vibrant Winnipeg. Increased arts funding was one of my campaign commitments and I'm very proud to have found a way to balance the budget and invest more in the arts. 2015 budget includes investments to help produce homelessness, increases to the civic museums and arts finding maintain the Aboriginal Youth Strategy, funding for 100 percent biological larvacide to manage mosquito populations, a commitment to a downtown dog park and financial support for the Assiniboine Park. The United Way's plan to end homelessness in Winnipeg was one of my campaign commitments as you know, and I'm very proud that Council unanimously voted to support this cause. Solving homelessness is a priority for the City of Winnipeg and it makes so much sense, not just economically, but from a compassionate stand point. The $150,000 per year grant is really an investment aimed at strengthening Winnipeg as a community. Quality of life improvements for all Winnipeggers will help grow our city and thrive. Our ongoing financial challenges also which has been noted will only be met if everyone at the City of Winnipeg seeks out new and innovative approaches to delivering priority services, the proposed budget includes a $1 million innovation capital fund to provide investment for the best ideas for improved efficiencies, services, delivery and responsiveness in City operations. With regarding to the Build Canada Fund, I want to thank Councillor Allard for his advocacy for the Marion Street Project. To be clear, the line item 2-15 in the capital budget allocating the $5.2 million towards the Building Canada Fund priority projects does not increase or does not create an either or situation between very important and worthy infrastructure projects needed in Winnipeg. Rather, it does the opposite, if, for example only, Council selects Waverley as a top priority to receive Building Canada Funds and receives that funding, we can put this 5.2 million towards the Marion Project or if both Waverley and Marion are selected by Council as our priorities and they both receive funding through the Building Canada Fund then we can allocate it toward the next priority project.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer moves extension, two minutes. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you. Then we can allocate it and put it towards the next projects such as Kenaston or the Chief Peguis Trail extension and I want to thank those delegates who have come forward to speak about the Marian Project. It's a very important project for our City as is many the others which we're going to be discussing in the Council seminar tomorrow and ultimately voting to prioritize Wednesday. In closing, it's been a very difficult budget process. And I truly believe that Councillor Morantz and EPC did an outstanding job of balancing the budget. Council is committed to

meeting the goals of Winnipeggers and I'm pleased to announce that last Friday at my inaugural State of the City speech, the new participatory budget, planning activities will involve Winnipeggers in a grass roots approach to the budget planning in 2016. A centralized 2016 budget task force will also be implemented under the leadership of my office in partnership with the Finance Department. I really look forward to working with my Council colleagues on projects that are important to Winnipeggers and strengthening our future partnerships. So we can keep moving the city that we all love forward over the next four years. Winnipeg's best days have yet to come and this budget moves us in the right direction. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. The next speaker is Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today to express my support, albeit at places cautious support, for this budget. I offer the following comments that highlight the reasons for my caution, but then ultimately for my support for this budget. Review of the proposed operation or operating budget leaves me concerned that we're dropping the floor of the financial stabilization reserve fund from eight percent to six percent of tax supported expenditures. My fear is that s, event or expenses that may result in a funding shortfall. And I believe we need to have the discussion in future budget deliberations around to approve this raise in the floor once again. Fall clean up, I represent an older ward, St. James-Brooklands-Weston with many mature trees and I would prefer that a few hundred thousand dollars go towards the cost of reinstating the fall street clean up, to be frank, rather than if I had to choose between building a dog park downtown now to be clear, my family and I have a dog, and we love our dog. I'm not anti-canine, I'm pro-canine. I prefer, you know, if I'm really honest, dogs over cats, but that's something different. I know. I'm sorry, Councillor Gerbasi. I'm sympathetic though to the needs of pet owners and I'm sympathetic to the needs of dog owners. I'm not anti-dog park by any means, yet I believe that a few hundred thousand dollars would be better spent invested in the fall city-wide street cleaning as it benefits all of Winnipeg rather than invested in the project that serves comparatively slow and numbers of residents of the downtown. However, this matter is not a budget deal breaker for me and as I see it, if the citizens of Winnipeg will fully participate in the fall clean-up of their own yards and maximize the composting program that are in place, it would go a long way to mitigate any potential concerns associated with eliminating the fall street clean up and ultimately I trust that this decision will be reviewed at the end of 2015 or early in 2016. And, if need be, that the fall cleaning program will be reinstated in future years. I support this budget wholeheartedly. As I support the budgets and initiatives and seek to help small businesses. Our local small business owners and entrepreneurs employ thousands of Winnipeggers. I believe we can help the small businesses succeed, then the entire city benefits as employers and employees reinvest in their incomes in local economy and employers are inspired to expand their businesses. To me, the highlight of this budget is $103.3 million for local and regional street renewal. I campaigned, as many I know did, on a priority to see the crumbling streets in our respective wards fixed. The number one message that I heard from taxpayers at the door in St. James-Brooklands-Weston was their desired that the City focuses on its infrastructure deficit. With an increase of 19.1 million from 2014 for street renewal, this budget addresses what the residents in my ward and no doubt in many wards have told me should be the City's top priority. When it comes to the capital budget, I'm pleased to see a new investment of $1 million for an innovation fund given the reality of present and future budget constraints, we must always be striving for efficiencies and improvements and the delivery of our services. And as a member of the Alternate Service, as a present member of the Alternate Service Delivery Committee, I look forward to the innovation, innovative ideas that I trust will be brought forward for consideration. One other item I do want to mention, I do strongly support the investment to end homelessness and the initiative to work…ongoing work with United Way around that end. That can be really, maybe no more worthwhile project that we could invest ourselves into as representatives of our great city. I can make other comments, but allure my comments to those elements of the budget. I want to acknowledge the diligent work of the Mayor, members of EPC and especially Councillor Morantz for your work in this budget and I close by restating my support for this budget. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. Councillor Sharma.

Councillor Sharma: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. This is the first budget we're bringing in as a new council. The process that brought us to this point has been frantic to say the least, a process which is less than ideal. The Mayor has said that he's committed to creating a more engaging and thoughtful process, a process in which we can dialogue with citizens through online web tools, social media, public open houses and other such ways of engagement. I look forward to this new process to work on our city budget. This decision making for our budget, Madam Deputy Speaker, must absolutely happen year around through a collaborative process. I was happy to hear the Mayor say during his State of City Address, this is exactly what he said and I believe that he is committed to having this process start tomorrow in fact. We need to be working on the budget year around. Our budget is a critical document in how we move our city forward. I realize in the short time frame especially after the election, it was difficult to bring about any major consultation process. However, going forward, it is essential we make the time to plan a better process or every member of Council has a seat at the table and community engagement is maximized. Having said that, we do need to bring in a budget and I see many things that are good and I want to thank the administration, the Mayor and all of my colleagues,

in particular, Councillor Morantz as Chair of Finance for his tireless efforts in trying to bring this budget together. The budget continues, Madam Deputy Speaker, to invest in public safety and important service area which now represents 44.5 percent of the City's tax afforded budget. It is important to support the services of Police and Fire and to ensure the ongoing safety of Winnipeggers. I am pleased that we're continuing the previous Council's commitment to local streets and regional streets. We have increased the funding this budget cycle by additional 19.1 million. This, Madam Deputy Speaker, I believe is a sustainable funding formula for infrastructure. Winnipeggers want better streets and the public will see results from this investment. I am also very happy to see the commitment to non-regional sidewalks in this year's budget, a new line item. There are many examples where local improvement process does not work well and this new line item helps address concerns of safety and enhance active transportation. The U-Pass is something I'm happy to see in this budget. Successful students referendums took place at U of M and U of W late last fall. This paved the way for introducing the U-Pass in the fall of 2016. A student pass like this has been successful in other cities. And I think it's great that we too will be offering this in Winnipeg. It will help development the transit habits of young people and they will be more likely to continue to be transit users after graduation. The benefits of the U-Pass are many. It results in lower infrastructure costs for all residents, less traffic congestion and lower greenhouse gas emissions. I want to commend the students who were front and centre on this file and for their hard work today. The conversations of the U-Pass started last Council term, and I know you, Councillor Gerbasi, Councillor Mayes and others in this chamber advocated for this as well. I'm also happy, Madam Speaker, to see that Kildonan Park and the Peguis Pavilion will have significant dollars in 2015 for landscaping improvements as well as work to the entry plaza drop off area and patio repairs. I know Councillor Eadie and Councillor Pagtakhan would agree with me that it's the second busiest park in the city, Kildonan Park plays an integral role for recreation and outdoor enjoyment for Winnipeggers. In this budget, we are continuing our work on the Seven Oaks Pool renewal plan. We will be addressing issues of accessibility in the change rooms and improving the overall customer experience for children and families. The Seven Oaks Pool is currently a well-used facility and with these upgrades, it will provide affordable quality, family recreation which will be enjoyed for many years to come. This budget includes much needed traffic signals at the corner of Adsum and Jefferson in the heart of the Maples, Madam Deputy Speaker. This works towards improving pedestrian and vehicle safety at this very busy intersection in my ward. Also, funds had been allocated for a downtown dog park, something the Mayor has shined a light on. I am pleased to see this in the budget along with the funds to draft a master plan which will lay the framework for the establishment and management for off leash areas in the City of Winnipeg. I want to thank Donna Henry, Jordon Loeb and others at Windog for raising the awareness of the issues around dog parks over the last few years. I'm also very pleased that a new annual grant of $150,000 for five years is going towards the United Way's "Plan to end homelessness". I agree with the Mayor when he says he is proud to support this investment as part of our contribution toward our program that makes so much sense economically and also from a compassionate stand point. I see a few motions on the floor today, Madam Deputy Speaker, and I see those motions as compromises that my colleagues are looking for. I have also heard similar input from citizens around these items and I will be supporting the motions before us. I agree with Councillor Mayes that Motion No. 5 on the frontage levy requires further conversation and we could not solve these issues today. The Mayor is committed to having an improved budget process going forward and I certainly look forward to that. I don't point blame on anyone for the process we just went through. I place blame on the clock. Time was not on our side and I think the future process will be one that is more collaborative and more engaging. We all know, Madam Deputy Speaker, there is no level of government that is closer to its constituents. The front line services we deliver and then everyone counts on matter to Winnipeggers. I look forward to a longer and more engaging budget process for citizens that will enable us to make the best decisions for our City. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Madam Speaker Deputy Sharma…Councillor Sharma. Not used to sitting up here. Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. The budget process is always going to be a complicated one. No matter how much consultation and work you do collaboratively, there's going to be people who disagree at the end of the day. I know we quoted Voltaire and all sorts of other wise-sage people here today. I'm going to quote one of the…smartest woman every, my mother, "If you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything at all." So I'm going to look at some of the wonderful things that are happening in today's budget here. Over $100 million for the first time in street renewal, fantastic. Going door to door last year, I think all of you would've heard, the number one priority of our residents is finally reinvesting in our infrastructure. The infrastructure we see first up is our streets and sidewalks over a hundred million dollars is a huge step in the right direction; a 22.7 percent increase this year, tripled the 2012 spending. This is I think a really good indication and I think we can go to our constituents and say, "sure there may be some additional taxes", I mean I can…I credit former Finance Chair Councillor Wyatt for starting the reserves for doing both local and regional streets, but this is proof positive that things are getting done. I remember my early years on Council and, you know, working with Public Works and identifying priority street projects. You got tiny little pieces done. We're getting big sections now done every year in our wards and people are noticing and taking note. So this is wonderful. The transportation management centre. It's going to I think vastly over time improve traffic flows throughout the city. They'll be able to adapt to changing circumstances due to collisions, due to icy road conditions like this morning. There'll be opportunities to define, tune and adjustments on the fly as well as provide better service, enhance services

for our emergency services, perhaps even for snow clearing if you can close down an intersection for two minutes while the snow plow is going there, will speed things up and make things safer for everybody. So I'm quite excited about the transportation management centre. We've actually listened to the audits from a couple of years ago that identified that our…our traffic signals branch was under resourced. This is now going to be done properly and I think it's a very positive step forward. Public safety, again, I'd like to credit Councillor Gillingham and the Police Board for their budget. Safety and…feeling safe in your community is a huge item of concern for all residents and our continued investment and that is very important and I know you guys do great work over there. And one piece that was…that's in the capital budget recommendations at the front of the documents is a direction to the Public Service for preparing next year's budget documents to program in $2.35 million towards the start of the adoption of the master plan at Kilcona Park. We've heard today about all the wonderful stuff going on throughout our park network. Assiniboine Park is certainly the gem…it's becoming again the gem that once used to be. You can go to the zoo. You can go to the Nature Park. Things are starting to really turn around at Assiniboine Park. We know St. Vital Park has their beautiful new Duck Pond Pavilion in those facilities. And over at Kildonan Park, you've the new aquatic facility; you have investments this year I believe in Peguis Pavilion and next year, investments in the Rainbow Stage facility there. The one park that has been neglected in my mind and forgotten, the largest of our four quadrant parks is actually Kilcona Park. Some people like to say that it was built on a former dump. It's actually…I prefer landfill. But it is actually a really good amenity up in northeast Winnipeg, but again, since it's grand master plan in the '80s, things have fallen into disrepair. It's now a good opportunity for us to go and actually start listening to the collaborative, very involved community process that went on. I spent a really good, I mean, there were a number of sessions, but one of the best was just showing up at the mall on a Saturday just to get people who happen to be out and not really necessarily engaged. This was a way to engage people, they might not have come out to a session that had their own special interests in something other than a park. So that was a good thing and I thank our public service for that. Again, we are moving forward with Bus Rapid Transit Phase 2, the whole capital integration project. Again, I question that it's not necessarily where I would spend my next $590 million, but I think the funding formula that came up with funding it is about as good as we're going to find so I support that. The U-Pass program, I'm not sure that we need to further subsidize this program for students, but again, that's part of the budget maybe that I…my mother is probably listening so I should stop, right? Anyways, so again, there is a lot of good things in this budget. We are moving forward reinvesting in our streets and roads, and again, just advice and reminder for everybody going forward just because you have people coming out that are getting involved in the collaborative budget process, try to encourage and bring in absolutely everybody. The people that don't necessarily get involved, not the interest groups that show up for these types of things because again, my experience has shown that it tends to be the special interest groups that tend to, in some case hijack these types of sessions. So thank you very much and I will be supporting both the capital and operating budgets today.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next is Councillor Lukes followed by Councillor Dobson.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm still not as experienced as many members here so I'm using notes. So since 2007, I've been involved in the budget process. I've come forward many times which I guess is about eight years I followed it and engaged in this process to help change the face of Our Winnipeg. Today, I'm very pleased to say that this is a great privilege to now be in integral part of creating this year's budget and in my opinion a fair and balanced budget. And I admit it has been difficult a difficult experience. How the…actual existing process that financial challenges and the learning curve for so many, but as the Mayor has made very clear this process will change going forward. And I'd like to thank Finance Chair, Councillor Morantz and the Public Service for much heavy lifting in both learning, helping us learn and move us forward in this process. The reality is our current revenue streams were designed at the turn of the century and they are restricting our growth and as a Council, we must work together to be seeking new and innovative growth and revenue streams. And while I agree this sounds rhetorical over and over from Council's past back to I believe 1947, probably prior. We really have no choice as the financial challenges the City faces in the coming years are astronomical. And it was quite overwhelming to peel back some of the layers and to see what was in the budget. In this year's budget, we've heard many positive items included and I'm actually pleased that we've all collaborated very well. For south Winnipeg specifically, I'm pleased to see forward progress on the development of a recreational campus in the Waverley West area with funding set aside for public consultations and preliminary design. And I want to specifically note about Waverly West, as a personal goal for the remainder of my term, I'll be bringing forward a new understanding of Waverley West and how the community is making a very positive and significant contribution to our City and one that we should be proud of. And of course, I'm very pleased about the diverse and balanced investments in transportation. And I'd like to offer a few comments specifically on transportation. Since the dawn of time, Winnipeg has been a transportation hub for trade and commerce. Transportation was our economic engine and today continues to be a key enabler in growing our revenue base and this budget supports improving our transportation infrastructure on all fronts in a balanced manner. Road improvements, unprecedented investments to improving our roads enabling trade and movement of vehicles in our city while keeping the one percent in place. Our transportation managements centre building on existing investments and using technology to move people and goods more efficiently. And transit, unprecedented focus on sustainable transportation with inclusion of rapid transit and the U-Pass which will work to change and encourage life style habits and to reduce congestion on our roadways and the inclusion of funding to

investigate forward expansion of rapid transit routes. My personal focus next year will also be the inclusion of more frequency of buses because I do feel that we are…we're focusing on roads, we need to focus on the inclusion of more frequency of buses. And of course personal favourite of mine, active transportation with an unprecedented focus on sustainable transportation that enables equality and contributes to a healthy and vibrant city. Going forward, I think the real test of the this Council is twofold. It's our ability to work together to find new revenue streams and it's our ability to work together to prioritize how we will continue to develop our transportation network in the coming years to enable us to regain our place as a transportation and trade hub and ultimately enabling us new revenue streams that we still desperately need to support the growth of a vibrant and prosperous City. I want to thank the Mayor for outstanding leadership in these past months and some challenging but opportune times also. And I would like to thank all members of Council for working what I think has been a very collaborative manner all things considered. I'm proud to give my support to this budget and I'm…I'm so looking forward to the new participatory budget process. I will be supporting it. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Dobson followed by Councillor Allard.

Councillor Dobson: Thank you, Madam Speaker. If Councillor Lukes was new, I'm a little bit more new than that for speaking, so I've got notes here. I would like to thank the EPC Councillors and the Mayor for the time that they have put in on this budget. Roads are major concern to residents in the City and this budget goes a long way to addressing, for that, I thank you. Unfortunately, I feel that this budget has missed the mark. We're looking for a new revenue formula, but it's not here yet. This budget relies on too many one-time transfers and increases, which will not be available or viable in the future. We can stay on this path, which will lead us to ever increasing difficulties in balancing budgets in the coming years with massive tax increases or we can choose a different path. Number one, freeze hiring in all departments. All necessary new hires will need the approval of the CAO or Council. Number two, all capital improvements in all departments are to be put on hold. Number three, stop all discretionary spending, renovations, office upgrades et cetera. Number four, all new community developments need to cover all of our infrastructure and service costs relating to these projects before granting approval. Urban sprawl at the City's expense cannot continue. Number five, stop BRT. We can't afford it. The cost to build and service as well as the burden of the additional infrastructure are too much for the City at this time. The draft budget…we need to make some changes. Presently, we have 15 elected members of Council of which the Mayor appoints 6 to be on his Executive Policy Committee. This committee along with the Mayor have meetings with various departments in the month preceding the draft budget. In the end, it is the Mayor and his 6 appointed Councillors who ultimately decide what is in or out of the draft budget. Moving forward, we need to engage in some strategic thinking and include the other nine members of Council, so that they are involved in these meetings and have meaningful input so that when it is time to vote on the draft budget, they will be making an informed choice. Only and in this way, can the budget process be considered open and transparent. Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Dobson. Next is Councillor Allard followed by Councillor Gilroy and then Councillor Orlikow.

Councillor Allard: I'd like to give everyone the French warning for the ear pieces. So, probably begin my speech, I have a few items to table for the agenda if I could just give it to the Clerks. They're…essentially they're…they're items in support of the Marion Street upgrades so I have an e-mail from Rick Stephanchew who's got some business interest in the area.

Councillor Orlikow: Ruling from the Chair. We've never really done that before. If I knew that today, I probably would've brought 2000 other letters.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard, that is something we're discussing tomorrow. Could you speak to the budget today? I'm looking for some direction from the Clerk as well on that.

Councillor Allard: I had talked about this prior with the Clerk so I understood this was okay considering my primary concern on the budget has been Marion Street upgrades from…. And I appreciate Councillor Orlikow had a bit of a head start on…on collecting materials.

Madam Speaker: So Councillor Allard, you may put them on file with the Clerk, but today, you need to speak with…to the budget specifically, and not the items that you're filing.

Councillor Allard: Okay. Well, on the budgets, I have Rick Stephanchew who I'd like to file…or a person with business interest in the Marion Street upgrades to file with the Clerk. I owe it to these people. They weren't able to attend in person, so I just want to make sure to get their items on the record. I also have an e-mail from Marian Shore, she's a resident, a letter in support of the Marion Street upgrades. A letter from the Norwood Biz, Jennifer Mathieson who is talking about the need for the project on behalf of the membership. I have here a petition.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard, you really need to get on to your budget speech. Did you want to hand those over to the Clerk?

Councillor Allard: Is…if you…are you ruling me out of order? Because I think that this is…my understanding is it's related to my budget submission.

Madam Speaker: I've never seen this before on the floor of Council. Again, Mr. Clerk…

Councillor Allard: Well, would you be able to refer to a precedent or a ruling disallowing this type of submission? And again, I had checked earlier today to ensure this was appropriate. So I have here comments from persons who have signed a petition asking to restore the funding to the Marion Street upgrades. And I think this is the final document, just a list of persons who would like…who had expressed that they would like to see the funding restored to the project. I believe those are my items. All right. And for the…for my main speech on the budget, thank you to the Mayor and EPC for your work on this budget.

(Speaking French) Merci au Maire Bowman et son cabinet du maire pour leur travail sur son budget. Comme vous le savez la semaine passé je me suis exprimer par a par au coupure d'un projet capital de rue à St. Boniface.

Translation:
Thank you to Mayor Bowman and the Mayor's Office for their work on his budget. As you know, last week I spoke about the cuts to the capital street project in St. Boniface.

In particular, last week many of you know I posed a cut to an important St. Boniface project in the capital budget. I was concerned about process. I was worried about St. Boniface and the future of southeast Winnipeg.

(Speaking French) J'ai été préoccupé par a par du future de Saint-Boniface et du sud-est de Winnipeg.

Translation: I was concerned about the future of St. Boniface and South-East Winnipeg.

I was elected in part on a promise to pursue the Marion/Archibald project.

(Speaking French) J'ai été élu en parti sur une promesse de poursuivre le projet Marion/Archibald.

Translation: I was elected in part based on a promise to continue the Marion/Archibald project.

Over the weekend, I spoke to Mr….to His Worship Mr. Brian Bowman and thank you, Mr. Bowman on clarifying the process on the New Building Canada Fund. I received assurances from His Worship that since the projects that are prioritized to the New Building Canada Fund, it will likely have to be financed, the $5.2 million envelope will be used for projects that are prioritized by Council at Wednesday's meeting, but that are not successful for funding under the New Building Canada Fund program. In the case of the Marion project, if it is prioritized by Council for the New Building Canada Fund, but not successful for funding in a new program, there's a very good chance that it will receive all or half of the 5.2 million in 2015.

(Speaking French) Alors, dans le cas du projet Marion/Archibald si le projet n'est pas priorizer par le Conseil pour le fond du chantier Nouveau Canada, il y a quand meme une très bonne chance que le projet soit financer soit la moitier ou pour le plein 5.2 millions. Essentiellement, il y a la place pour les deux projets.

Translation:
So, in the case of the Marion/Archibald project, if it is not prioritized by Council for the New Building Canada Fund, the project stands a very good chance of being funded, either for half the cost or for the full 5.2 million. Essentially, there is room for both projects.

Essentially, there seems to be room for two projects in the New Building Canada Fund envelope. Just now, Mayor Bowman outlined the process for the New Building Canada Fund prioritized projects.

(Speaking French) uste avant ma présentation le maire Bowman a souligné le processus pour accèder les fonds pour le projet chantier des ponts du Gouvernement du Canada

Translation:
Just before my presentation, Mayor Bowman explained the process for obtaining funding from the Government of Canada's New Building Canada Fund.

Having a budget allocation does not guarantee the project moves forward. Just in the past, there have been many examples of budget allocations in the Capital budgets that don't…that don't see the light of day which is part of my…part of my rationale in supporting the budget today. So I stand before this Council today and say that I trust that Mayor Bowman in his outlining the process for the New Building Canada Fund. I also trust and hope that this Council recognizes the cut of funding to a short term transportation master plan priority was my primary objection to this budget. This has been on the books in Plan Winnipeg since 2001. And I hope to have support of this Council on this priority. I'm hopeful that the Mayor, EPC and this Council gives this project the priority that it deserves. The Mayor reaching out to me over the weekend restored my hope and I've seen today many examples of collaboration of the Mayor and EPC in addressing many of the concerns that were raised in the coming weeks after the tabling of the preliminary budget. I understand this is a tough fiscal year and the City needs to keep moving forward and I think like Councillor Morantz was mentioning, there are many good things to support in this budget. For St. Boniface specifically, there's money for the Lyndale Drive riverbank stabilization. The St. Boniface Museum which has been hit hard past cuts of previous administrations has seen its funding restored. This one deserves a shout out in French.

(Speaking French) Le musée de Saint Boniface qui avait été affecté grandement par des confessions budgetaire par des administrations dans le passé a vue son allocation budgetaire restoré dans ce budget.

Translation:
The St. Boniface Museum, which was greatly impacted by budget cuts made by previous administrations, saw its budget allocation restored in this budget.

There will be free outdoor unheated pools in St. Boniface this summer.

(Speaking French) Comme il la indiquer Conseiller Mayes, il y aura des nouveaux, des nouvelles argents pour le programme des améliorations locales des ruelles, et puis, cela va aller loin a restorer nos ruelles a Saint-Boniface, a Saint-Vital et a Winnipeg en général.

Translation:
As Councillor Mayes indicated, there will be new money for the granular lane improvement program, and that will go far to improve our lanes in St. Boniface, St. Vital, and throughout Winnipeg.

So new money for asphalting back lanes, thank you very much to this…to the Mayor, EPC and this Council for including this in the budget. There's also some work happening on Fermor for the Seine River Bridge. Also I'd like to commend this Mayor and Council for endorsing the homelessness strategy with a unanimous vote. I know I ran on addressing the issue of homelessness in St. Boniface and this is a step in the right direction. It was inspiring to see the collaboration at work today.

(Speaking French) ça été inspirant de voir la collaboration aujourd'hui a cette réunion de conseil.

Translation: It has been inspiring to see such cooperation at today's Council meeting.

I'd just like to end by saying that I will be supporting this…this both the Operating and Capital budgets and thanks again to the Mayor and EPC and all of Council for the lively debates that we've had coming to…coming forward to this day where we need to adopt Capital and Operating budgets and thank you for your time.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next is Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: I rise in support of the Operating and Capital budgets. What we all share is a passion to make our City strong and vibrant and we can only accomplish this by working together so all of our different unique communities have a voice which each of us brings to the table. Although we all want a stronger and vibrant community, I recognize we may not all agree on how we get there. We all were elected to fulfill our mandates, however, looking at great leaders locally, nationally, globally, those that have accomplished the most work, not only on their own priorities, but those of others and that is the ability to give and take and because of this, in the end, the goal for us is to have many voices represented on how we move forward as a City. That is our roles as elected members of Council to make sure that our constituents' voices at the local level are heard. Through this process, I've been clear on what is important for families, recreation, fixing our infrastructure, active and rapid transportation. We have had one of the toughest budgets and we have more to come. I've seen the compromises for the business community and today, we have also seen the compromises for families. I want to congratulate the Mayor, Mr. Morantz and all members of Council for working together. I'm so proud of what we accomplished here today. In our standing committees, EPC and through e-mails and phone calls, we've heard from our seniors and some calls from families on the importance of maintaining aquatic services. And we are looking for ways for families to take part in our services. We have known that. We have line-ups for

our services and we're looking at ways of improving those line-ups and making sure that we have aquatic services for everybody. And in some of our communities, poverty is very much a barrier. We're ensuring that they have access to these programs. So I wanted to thank you very much for that. There are so many wonderful things in the budget and I know many people have talked about those today. You know, I wish we were doing something more regarding our sweeping, but also if I'm going to quote, one of my family members, my dad, he told me that "Politics is about addition and not subtraction." What he didn't meant necessarily the numbers, but he meant, what he meant was being able to work with people and being able to get something done is the ability to work with people and that's what I've seen with the Mayor and Mr. Morantz here today and I really, really appreciate that. And I think that's what our citizens want. I think they want a more collaborative Council. I think they want more people working together beyond their ideologies and I really feel that we've accomplished that here today and I'm hoping that that sets a high standard. So I just want to congratulate everybody on a well…on doing a great job on the budget and thank you for working with me on that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Orlikow followed by Councillor Schreyer and then Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Orlikow: I will be supporting this budget, the first one since 2009. And again, a part of that is for a number of the issues that we have addressed in this budget. I was always concerned, shocked that we had BRT in our budget, but we had just an asterisk beside it saying, we're not sure how we're going to pay for it, but it's in our budget. To me, that was just poor fiscal management. We had to figure out how we do it. And today, we actually, I think that we found a very equitable way to do that. So I can support them. Of course, on the issue we talk about much today about the lack of engagement for all people, yeah, this wasn't that well…well, you'd done very well with the time we had. I still believe and I'm not going to get into it, even with this time frame, we had…include going out with the poor idea of closing down pools. We went out to Councillors with that, We showed you ahead of time. Get some input back. I don't recall that ever being done before. The seminar, that was usually done with another seminar and then number of conversations we had, but again, my lens is little skewed because I was there for those hours upon hours upon hours with…you know, special thanks out to Councillor Morantz who I got to know and quite enjoy his company over this period, his dry wit helped make some of these meetings go by a little bit faster, but again, his commitment to Winnipeg and not being an idealog; really looking for the best solutions possible no matter if it came from the left or the right or from the Moon. Councillor Morantz would look at it and would go out at it. He wouldn't even say yes or no. He would go back and actually and analyze it. So I give him solid kudos for that. You know, the Mayor and I have had disagreements on some parts of this budget, but overall, it was very refreshing. I was able to…to tell the Mayor "these are some of where I feel strong" and he always said, "go find the money" or "go find some way of finding the money". And I'd go do that and some I was successful, some I wasn't so successful, which I'll get into. So again, Councillor Lukes, Councillor Morantz, the rest of…Councillor Pagtakhan, the rest of the EPC members, it has been a pleasure and a heartache which I do look forward to sharing this opportunity with all of Council in the next year as it…you see some of the challenges which we have more and it gives us that all that narrative that we need to be going forward. Why should we cut anything? Why should we cut anything at all? Why should we do rationalization of services? Let's just keep spending more. Well, if you don't have the narrative about that structural deficit and not including the Capital deficit, of course, why wouldn't you say that? So I understand that and this narrative will come through as we go through the budget process. I'm not as keen to starting tomorrow. I'd like to have maybe two weeks before we start this process, but again, the will of Council is supreme. So this budget including all of the taxes and I am one of those proponents, anything that comes out of someone's pockets are tax, property tax, frontage levy, water diversion fee, water. All these ones will…this year will be for an average property of about $263,000 with a 50 foot frontage lot, we're going to be asking people to pay about $112 more. And so, where are they going to get for that? Well, they're going to get a record of investment in new roads and regional roads and sidewalks, infrastructure and highway. We're also going to be taking…one thing I do really appreciate the Mayor has done and has been difficult was taking, trying to get the politics out of the budget as much as possible. It did have some cause or concerns for our Councillor Allard regarding the Building Canada budget. However, as we remark today, that budget line is still there. I had some link with him with this because in my day, the Waverley underpass money just disappeared, end of budget line, all disappeared. So that was a cut. There was nothing there and had a fight three years to get it back on. However, in Councillor Allard's case, there was a re-titling to make it to the Building Canada Fund. So whatever project was remaining at the end, would still have this fund to get us up to Class 3 estimate. However, that money now we know if either and I hope both projects are actually chosen, goes forward again, this is the first time ever that I know of that the choice of whatever building project was coming forward for Building Canada wasn't done on a napkin, wasn't done by some political jerry-rigging, as we're going to do a cost benefit analysis with Council. You're going to get…I never got that for the transportation. That' your plan. I just got a plan so that means take it. I didn't vote for it on purpose because I didn't know how they got to that matrix. We will be showing Council the matrix that was used by administration, non-political. Here you go. We asked for it. They did it in an incredible record amount of time, less than two weeks. And again, they'll be given some priority list. That priority list wasn't our choice. This was told to us by the Province and the Federal Government that this year they want to make it a priority and have a priority list. But we all know as this morning, we have the Arlington Bridge. We got Councillor Allard and myself. It is a very political process so it has been difficult to step back on that, however, I haven't totally stepped back on it. But I'm very excited to see tomorrow, we'll have a cost benefit analysis. The matrix will be shared with everybody and Council will see it as a whole

and that to me, is a first time that's ever happened. I again, I would like to table just to follow up on Councillor Allard not to be out-shopped by him, I'll table a document since the last week because we did have the head start on Councillor Allard. Since last week, we had over 500 more people sign up to our petition and those are some of the comments that people have said why they believe the project is important. Again, representing the political nature and why I hope we as Council will pull away from that politicization of this process and let the administration come forward with their report. So again, trying in general to take out the politics from the budget, to me is an incredible step and I'm very proud of…to be part of that. The active transportation, you know, we've increased that to a total of $2.4 million. Again, when I first got elected, active transportation was the bane of my existence. I had the "Orlikow circles", they're calling them. Again, that's the way it is, but again, we have seen the benefit of active transportation and if anybody goes down the Harrow bike boulevard, especially even now, you'll see enormous number of bikers coming up and down there all day. Getting off Stafford, which is a very dangerous street. So I'm very happy to see that. The traffic management centre, again, this is fantastic, it'll hopefully help us get our traffic going, Arts Council funding: fantastic; the civic museum fund: fantastic. The downtown dog park, if we want people to live downtown and go downtown, we have to give them more of a reason. I think that's fantastic. I do want to continue fighting for the Art Gallery. I think that's a really big project that we need to do, and this one, before I run out of time, I just really quickly want to talk about Dutch Elm Disease. Again, very little funding is going to Dutch Elm Disease because it's always tagged with Provincial money. This year, the money is untagged, $600,000 going to Dutch Elm Disease control which we're losing right now. We're losing the Dutch Elm Disease battle. Recreational opportunities, the Grant Park master plan is coming by for the new library, the Charles Barbour and do new partnership with schools: fantastic. The biological: fantastic. So overall, yes, there are some parts of it, budget where I had some concerns about. Councillor Gillingham and I have shared some of the angst over dropping some of our reserves, especially fiscal stabilization reserve cause me, causing me grief. I understand the Councillor Eadie's comments regarding the frontage levy and I share that as well. I'm glad we're going to have that discussion. However, overall, this budget to me is a very balanced budget. It's incredible what we have done in the short period of time. And my concluding comments are to Councillors that don't wish to support it for whatever reasons there are, you know, And I…

Madam Speaker: The Councillor Allard moves extension, two minutes. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Orlikow: And I give Councillor Dobson…Councillor Dobson who's made his comments and I congratulate him on that. We are in a new Council moment, people. This is a new Council. We all know the last Council was very divisive and hard. I don't believe we served the public well, but having these battles, but what the politics is. But politics doesn't have to be that. I think the Mayor said that. Change is not easy. There will be some who will fight back on change. But we know where we were and where we need to go. It requires all to be changing. So have a little trust. We want to work together. We won't be able to solve everybody's problems or deal with all the issues that are coming forward. But we as a Council need to be showing Winnipeggers that we are united, we're there for them and we want to make the City go forward. So I plead with you, everybody to support this budget so that we can show a good sign to Winnipeggers that we are here together. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Chair. I must say that I do feel very much a part and parcel of the spirit of this new Council. I'm a new Councillor in a new Council and a new spirit for the new Mayor and half of us are new and it's a new era at City Hall. And I feel very much part and parcel of that. I feel very much a part of the collaborative effort of this Council. I feel very much a part and parcel of the positive repore despite the hard decisions, the hard issues that we have to deal with. And I'm very pleased to do so with the sense of offering balance and in the sense of equitability in everything I do and everything I stay, everything I say and I hold myself to that if anyone ever questions whether I come to Council without a sense of balance, please let me know. I'm willing to be challenge myself. I'm willing to be challenged, I need to be. There's so much I need to learn and I'm…it's possible for me to change my mind. It happens to be that I'm willing to challenge any level of government and every Councillor here. That's my job in order to be truly representative of a quality, positive representative of my ward of Elmwood - East Kildonan as we all must. We work in unity, we work in harmony, and yet, Council cannot work if we do not challenge each other. Council cannot work if we cannot brain our honest point of use to this circle, and that is my duties and that is what I'm doing right now, Madam Speaker. Despite headlines, I've never said that I was outraged with this budget process. In fact, I've said I'm not surprised given the time limitations, and I guess given some of the limitations the fact that half of us are new including the Mayor and myself, and I had to cope with that. Despite that, I've had some frustrations likely all have. But I must say that I'm actually rather impressed with, you know, to the extent that we have been able to get to this point with this budget. I'm pleased to say that I was involved in the last minute negotiations to bring about a budget that became even more supportable by more City Councillors, the City Councillors, and to make it a better budget in the last few days. And why wouldn't I want to do that? That's my job. That's my duty. That's what's expected of me. I'm pleased to be doing that. I was very pleased to offer to either move or second the motion to restore the downtown image and flower planting. I'm glad Mayor Bowman came on board on that at the last moment. It's a wonderful indication of what can happen here

at City Hall. Also, when it came to restoring the budget for pool services, again, I was willing to move or second that motion. And I'm pleased again that this, at the last minute, looks like this just might pass as a positive amendment for this budget, and I'm pleased to have been there of actually from the right beginning I think on the issue of funding for pools. Again, Councillor Allard's concern over the deprioritization of Marion Avenue in this year's budget, pleased to be there for Councillor Allard, again. Of course, last minute to negotiations and more people have come on board and I'm pleased to have been part of that process to make a better budget, because that's what we do here at City Hall. Now, it happens to be…I'm going to say it this way, I wish, Madam Speaker, I could vote for this budget and if it wasn't primarily for one issue, I believe I would. Happens to be, in my case and representing my ward of Elmwood – East Kildonan, throughout this year, throughout last year and I've seen no indication otherwise in the recent couple of months as we approach the budget. It is due to the bus rapid transit issue which is to be intended, which is to be the largest financial allocation for any single project of the City of Winnipeg in our lifetime and possibly in my children's life time and I believe in my life time. I hope it's not an exaggeration. If it is, please give me an example of how that might be an inaccurate statement. We're talking about something that is going to be costing us…we're not…we're not haggling here over $100,000 or a few million. We're not haggling over tens of millions. We're not haggling over hundreds of millions. We are talking about billions that will be affecting the financing and budgeting of this City and I dare say possibly our taxes through other levels of government, for decades. That's a fact. It will be affecting us for a generation and it happens to be that at this time, I am simply not prepared to go along with this plan. I do want to say, however, that I understand and I will state this for the record to anyone who is even in an agreement with me, bear in mind that what we're talking about now is one phase to complete a line that goes from the two most popular…popular destinations of the city from downtown Winnipeg to the University of Manitoba. I understand that, but I also understand that we're talking about $100 million a mile is what it comes down to in its net cost and this is something to me that is part and parcel of something greater and I'm not in a position to support this. It could be that I change my mind and I certainly hope I don't look like I'm contradicting myself if it happens to be that, in a case of another part of the city we're voting on now. When it comes to an area, my part of the city, and I've seen the light, well, I doubt that's going to happen, but I certainly don't hope, hope I'm not looked at by members of this Council as being contradictory. It's simply that at this time. It's at this time that we're doing Phase 2 in another part of the city, and at this time I'm not prepared to support this. Having said that, I'm not here being merely pessimistic. This has been a rather impressive process despite its limitations and there's aspects of this budget that I just think are wonderful and I say again, probably be willing to support this budget for…if not for BRT. So, of course, I want you…I think it's obvious, I'm not critical against any individual or any process here. It happens to be this one issue in which I truly feel I'm representing my ward of Elmwood – East Kildonan as well as many, and of course, citizens of my ward are in sync with other people too, and people have their concerns. I believe they…they deserve to have them, their concerns addressed. And I believe over the next year, we'll be having greater conversation. It happens to be that during this budget process, wonderful…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Pagtakhan moves extension. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Schreyer: Wonderful information as, thank you, wonderful information as being brought to the force, brought to the for in terms of insights and alternatives, which makes me even more comfortable in my position on this at this time. Functional Transit Winnipeg as brought….as presented by Jarrett Walker and others of this group including Joseph Kornelesen brought forward some wonderful insights in terms of what makes our transit system functional. Other engineers, Mr. Grant, who presented to the Riel Community Committee as an example, explaining how our integrated traffic system can actually optimize our existing…existing transit lines. My concern is, by the way, that we're not addressing the issue of our complete transit system. We need more buses. My concern is that our transit system which we still need to enhance will be compromised as well as many other things. We've talked about, I don't see this pessimistically because some wonderful things have happened, our…the strategy to end homelessness. My very first day here, I realized I was in the right place at the right time if we're going to…if we're going to deal with things like this, but I would like to consider the…this sort of magnitudinal comparison. A hundred fifty thousand dollars towards the project to eradicate homelessness over a five year period. Well, I think this is one of those issues which is an indication that, when it comes to these challenges that Winnipeg has to deal with now and for the next generation, that we will be forgoing a generation of opportunities for our City if we do not optimize our budgetary allocation. So many more things to say. I'm actually impressed with this budget process and I hope no Councillor takes it personally that despite how well we did as a Council, and that I take credit amongst you in terms of bringing forward a better budget happens to be that I cannot vote for it given the incredible budgetary outlay for the bus rapid transit.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. Next is Councillor Eadie. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: I'm sorry. I was the bad kid in class, Madam Speaker, sorry about that. There is a quote here I wanted to read out because everybody is using quotes here. So this is one that comes from a wonderful couple by the name of Chris and Sel Burrows. They're the people on watch in North Point Douglas who…who know that making the streets look like there's a place where there is lots of respect and people care is a place that is much better. And that's those two people, but this I think is an appropriate quote from Albert Einstein, "Insanity, doing the same thing over and

over again and expecting different results." We are kind of in that process. It's…we're doing the same thing. I know it's going to change and I appreciate that our new Council with all our new members, we'll be able to participate in a better budget process and the budget process, make no mistake though, it will still be a very difficult process, but the future does look better. And just to look in the past a bit, I just wanted to mention there's some legacy things that are moving along here but I…you know, I look at this budget and I had some concerns about bleakness and so on, but I know in past budgets, there has been a lot of effort in what people call soft infrastructure. There was a lot of investment in part, a lot of investment in a lot of different things in times were difficult as well, so I don't want to paint a picture that somehow things have totally changed or that we will be better or worse than the past Council because, you know, I think it was Councillor Morantz brought up 1947. You know what was probably happening in that budget, that's probably when they were paving all the streets of Winnipeg, 1947 or whatever because I know that some of the streets in the North End, they're 50 years older and older, so it costs a lot of money to do things especially if you, we do need to a…a former mayor called a…we need a new deal, various mayors have tried and we need to work with other levels of government to try to achieve the good things for the citizens of Winnipeg and we know that they care and, you know, we can play politics as some people are said, but when it comes right down to at the people of Winnipeg want to see continuous improvement. So I started off this whole budget process and I said, "This is not the worst I've seen since I became a city councillor in 2010." But I had a lot of experience at the City 1991 and on and I'm really happy to see that in this budget, our new Finance Chair, person responsible for organizing getting the budget together along with Mayor Bowman and all of EPC. I know it's not an easy job that we kept the local street renewal plan and that we kept the regional road programs because those are essential. In 1991, they were talking about how bad the streets of Winnipeg were and what we were going to do to fix those. So it was the Council at 20…well, I think we passed in December that year, but for 2013, we saw our first long term plan to resolve the streets issues. But I wanted to talk about…it's not just a renewal streets, you know, we had a presenter who talked about a road doesn't mean anything to people who are struggling, people raising families trying to keep their kids out of gangs, trying to get them involved in recreation, get them out there so that they don't get involved, and I have to say something. I learned this as a School Board Trustee when I attended a safe school session. What we found this is that kids have no respect for our school that looks like crap and it's falling apart. And what you get is people that disrespect is all about why should we care when nobody else cares. So when we go and do a local road, Councillor Pagtakhan referred to Selkirk Avenue. I really appreciated seeing that come up in this Capital budget because I have pushed for it. We want to see it. The sidewalks are awful, you trip. I know the Mayor spent some time walking down Selkirk Avenue. The Minister Responsible from the Province has his office on Selkirk Avenue where you can trip through this, like it's unbelievable how bad that street is. So we need to help. There's a lot of things happening on Selkirk Avenue, but through the local street renewal program, Powers from Selkirk to Burrows, a street that has heaving like it's just unbelievable how bad it looks. When we improve that, and I've encountered gangs right around there, but they have no respect; the kids on the street no respect when things are in disrepair. There's a lot more respect when things look new and things look hopeful. So I appreciate that Councillor Morantz and the Mayor, we work this out along with Councillor Gerbasi. I'm not going to go have to plant flowers on the median on Main Street, and but, I want to say something though. It's not just about FIFA and about tourists coming. It's about the people on the street. You don't…when we did those planters, people said those…well, I'll say, those drunks and addicts are just going to kick them over and wreck them. And I have to say something. Those people who are struggling through life who live around on the streets on Main Street. They love those flowers. They didn't do nothing to them because that gives them at least to know and a hope they can see that somebody cares and they do it. And the people in a neighbourhood cared about it and I, you know, it's not just for one year. You need to keep the images of our streets hopeful because if you want hope to exist and things to improve, you need to make sure that you have a beautiful city. And this city I love greatly and what I do as well, is because I grew up on those streets, I spent time on those streets. And I know what it's like to be poor and I know what it's like to try to make, pay the bills, spent a lot of time, so I spent my time watching out for fairness. That's why I brought it. I put a little pressure. I admit it, but you know, the thing is, is that's what I learned in my experience, in my life is that if you want to keep things going and you want to see continuous improvement, you also have to talk about fairness, you have to show the people that when they're paying their money, they're getting something for it. And so, I brought the fairness, a motion, it's there. It would be, you know, if you don't vote for that motion, that's fine, but I'll point out that it would've been better to have it as part of either our local road renewal plan where it's totally dedicated only to what we call improvements like renewal is an improvement. Frontage levies were developed for improvements to neighbourhoods. It was originally established I believe because they have a water and a sewer part component to it. It was there so that I believe we could bring in water and sewers. That's a local improvement to fix them. I can see that. So it is there. That's what's implemented for but just to seal a little fairness, I'd like to see that go. I just wanted to speak, you know, there's so much in this budget, but I really appreciate this isn't the same old thing. It isn't insanity because we as Council, we worked on it. We have some new councillors who are learning and I want to really give my kudos to Cindy Gilroy and to Shawn Dobson and to all the new colleagues because it is very difficult, but we've managed to come up with something that I think we can all vote for and I just want to leave you with a quote from a man I dearly love, and it's been my motto actually since I lost my eyesight, "Don't let them tell you it can't be done because it can." So I will be voting for both of the budgets today, both Operating and Capital for the first time as a City Councillor, but no matter whether that Motion 5 passes or not I'll be voting for it because we've compromise to keep services that are very important to the people of Winnipeg. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. We're now done with our speakers list. We're going to move on to the Motions. Councillor Mayes, you may close on Motion 6.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I was remising not thanking the Public Service for their work on this motion and previously throughout on the budget. They have asked me to clarify some wording in this motion, talks about variety receiving grant equal to certain cost savings. The intent here and I should put this on the record, the intent is not at somehow, whatever was going to be spent that the St. Vital Pool will measure drop for drop and that's how much you get over a variety. The idea is it will monitor how much usage variety has of water and they can receive a grant of up to 35,000 to reimburse them for their actual cost not instead of notional cost, so it's an actual cost for reimbursement. They presented to us saying they spent about 35,000 a year on water. Our staff say they're not a hundred percent sure, it's that much, but in any event, the cap is 35,000. I would hope everyone can support, Councillor Morantz indicated his support and as is the Mayor, I want to thank Councillor Pagtakhan who's always a champion for Point Douglas neighbourhood who's trying to be a supporter of this. It's a…it's a creative way, it's an innovative way of trying to get some funding to this group who is doing some good work running that…a free splash pad that's a benefit to kids throughout the city of, disabled kids, other kids from the surrounding neighbourhoods and from the suburbs. So I think it's a great initiative trying to be a bit creative here and I think the Clerk has been shovelling back and forth with me all afternoon here. I thank Mr. Lemoine for trying to get clarity on the intent. Intent is not somehow we figured out exactly what might have been spent that another pool. It's…we reimburse them up to certain cap for their actual usage at this pool. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. I will call the question on Motion 6. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Motion 5, Councillor Eadie, would you like to close on that?

Councillor Eadie: …speak to it in my speech, but this is about fairness, and fairness, there's a lot of people who live in my ward. They have disabilities as well and they're going to be paying money and they want to see some improvements too when they're paying out money and for some of them, it'll be a…this is more than…for some of them, it's actually five percent or more property tax increase, but nevertheless, so this motion is purely about fairness and there were some things we didn't do in this budget actually that…they're not necessarily fair. We didn't increase the fund to…for fixing our inaccessible facilities that we do have, that's what we'll look to in the future, but anyway, this is about fairness so I hope you'll consider voting for it. I know that it doesn't meet election promises, but I didn't say anything about frontage levy in my thing. I did warn people that we were going to see a property tax increase because we need the money to do it and there you have it, but thanks. That's my close.

Madam Speaker: I'll call the question on Motion 5. All in favour? Contrary? Carried, or lost, pardon me. Motion is lost. I am gearing up for the next motions. I'm gearing up for the next ones here. Okay, so Motion 4 was withdrawn. We're onto Motion 3, Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you Madam Speaker. One of the core services the City of Winnipeg offers is our "Learn to Swim" program. Winnipeg and Manitoba were blessed for having a beautiful fresh water lake, just a hour north of us. Aquatic programs are definitely very important, not just for recreation but even for life safety skills. I think you'll…to the new Councillors that are here, one of the frustrations you'll hear from parents is being able to get in for swimming classes. We need to look and make sure that we're all offering enough programming and making sure that our facilities are being well used. I know this year again, we have the Sherbrook Pool coming back on stream and Elmwood East Kildonan Pool, hopefully we can make an announcement on its reopening date very soon. And we've seen some exciting new updates being planned of course for Seven Oaks Pool. So again, reinstating this money and dedicating a small piece of it to go towards promotion and better using our pools off-hours I think is very important, so I'd encourage everybody support this motion.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. I'll call the question on Motion 3. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Motion 2. Councillor Pagtakhan.

Councillor Pagtakhan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. A good program here, just want to get…again, I want to thank Councillor Wyatt for this and all the activities that are happening here. There's a National tournament, aboriginal softball coming here this year and this is a good program. It's something that we can do. And I'll put it for the question.

Madam Speaker: Okay. All in favour of Motion 2? Contrary? Carried. Motion 1, Mayor Bowman.

Mayor Bowman: I'll just call the question. Thanks.

Madam Speaker: I think the motion speaks for itself. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Now, Councillor Wyatt, you had a request to vote on the Capital and Operating budget separately. Was that mentioned earlier today?

Councillor Wyatt: No, that was to speak separately.

Madam Speaker: Okay, just to speak…Yes. Yes, you will. I just wanted to clarify that about the vote. Okay, we'll get to that motion in a moment then. Okay, well, we'll vote on it now. Councillor Eadie, you're suggesting we vote on the…when we get to the item, vote on it separately.

Councillor Eadie: Yeah, I move for that.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Thank you, Councillor Eadie. I've been told that there is no vote required on that motion. Councillor Dobson. Yes.

Councillor Dobson: When we do vote…

Madam Speaker: When the time comes, yes.

Councillor Dobson: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Okay, Councillor Morantz to close.

Councillor Morantz: Well, I don't know what to say about all the accolades. I don't think I deserve them, but I will humbly accept them. And I can't believe we are here at this point. I really…I really can't…I, but there have been so many great things said already on all sides of the issue, so no budget is going to make every single person completely happy and so. I think the fact that everybody may be a little bit unhappy is probably a good sign. But…so I'll run with that, and so I want to instead of talking about this budget because I spent so much time in my opening comments really thinking about what I wanted to say, I really said what I wanted to say for the most part about the "in your" budget and to sort of dove-tailing off what former Councillor Steek said. I just want to say, yes, I can handle the truth and I want to say that the truth concerns me a great deal. And so when you look at the operating budget in the outer years in 2016, our projected deficit is $74 million, just under about $150 million in 2017. And so, and when I…when we arrived here, all of us could see that the deficit we were facing was $79 million so one might ask if we have these deficits, how do we bring a balanced budget. And the things that we had to do to bring a balanced budget? And the things that we had to do to bring a balanced budget this time are things that for the most part will not be available to us in the coming years. You know, one of the things I was talking about for example with the CFO recently was how we treat our land operating reserve. That's money that comes from the sale of city assets, our silver, our precious items. That we sell to balance our budget. Most other cities, that money is dedicated to the capital budget. In our city, we spend that the balance our operating budget. It's not right when we sell our real estate assets or other valuable assets, precious assets that are owned by the citizens of this city, that money should be reinvested in new assets and not, not used to balance the operating budget, but that's one other thing we did this year. We did find $6.5 million efficiencies in four months and I want to thank you, Mr. Mayor for your leadership on that. That is a very impressive accomplishment and we're going to keep pushing for more efficiencies. I guess the taxpayers deserve it. The reality is we have to balance our budget. In order to do that, we have to operate more efficiently. We brought in some service realignments and we know what they are and some of them, we've changed a little bit today. The frontage levy, there's been a lot of discussion about that. We had to increase the water utility dividend. We…the 2.3 percent property tax increase, we're…I was very glad as Councillor Wyatt pointed out that we are able to preserve that program to invest money in our streets to the point three that brought us $1.5 million that helped us bring into balance that $79 million deficit. The thing I…I think struggle the most with, Councillor Gillingham to your point, is the reduction in the stabilization reserve. These things are all signs that we have a very serious problem. And I can't say, well, firstly I want to also reiterate what Councillor Orlikow said, and with a greatest respect, Madam Speaker, I can't start on the budget for '16 tomorrow. I'd like about a week to two to…

Madam Speaker: We are through our Councillor seminar.

Councillor Morantz: …to wind down. But I think at this point really, in a way, I am kind of throwing down the gauntlet, to use a phrase and say, to all of Winnipeggers and to all this, the wonderful people that I've gotten to know on this Council and you are all as individuals amazing people with all very, very good ideas and I value them all so, so very much. We have to address this problem. The kinds of service realignments that we talked about in this budget, I think can only be more severe as we move forward and it worries me. It worries me a great, great deal and so speaking as the Finance Chair and I know we all worry about the future of this great City, we have to come up with solutions. I don't know standing here exactly what they are today, but I know that we must, as it is our obligation and duty to Winnipeggers to find a way to solve this problem so that recurring revenues and recurring expenditures meet and that we are not selling our treasures just to balance our budget in year. That cannot go on any more and so, I guess just to wind up, I want to firstly thank Councillor Eadie because I think the best compliment that I've had so far, "this is not the worst budget". And that heartens me, I have to say, and at the end of the day, I think I'll simply say that this budget was balanced at the end,

at final day of a…on flowers, pools and patios and I think that speaks to how we all feel about our community, so I want to thank you, Madam Speaker, all of Council for working with me and collaboratively, not divisively to come up with the best solutions that we can for the City that we love so much, so thank you. And with that, do I get to make the motion actually? That the…I recommend that the Executive Policy, the recommendations of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted as amended. Is that correct? And I so move.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. We will now vote on the operating budget as amended by Motions 1, 2, 3 and 6. All in favour? Recorded vote? All in favour, please stand.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Eadie, Gerbasi, Gillingham, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Morantz, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Wyatt and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Nays

Councillors Dobson and Schreyer

Deputy City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 14, Nays 2.

Madam Speaker: Okay, the Operating Budget as amended passes. Next is the Capital Budget. Recorded vote, again. There is a call for recorded vote. So all in favour of the Capital Budget, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Eadie, Gerbasi, Gillingham, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Morantz, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Wyatt and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Nays

Councillors Dobson and Schreyer

Deputy City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 14, Nays 2.

Madam Speaker: The Capital Budget passes. Thank you. We'll now move on to By-laws. By-laws for first reading only Mr. Mayor.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – 1ST READING ONLY

Mayor Bowman: I move By-law 5/2015 be read a first time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 5/2015.

Madam Speaker: We'll move on to By-laws for all three readings, Mr. Mayor.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mayor Bowman: I move that the following By-laws be read a first time, By-laws 35/2015, 36/2015, 37/2015 and 38/2015.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 35/2015, By-law No. 36/2015, By-law No. 37/2015 and By-law No. 38/2015.

Mayor Bowman: I move that By-laws numbered 35/2015 to 38/2015 both inclusive be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws numbered 35/2015 to 38/2015 both inclusive.

Mayor Bowman: I move that the rule be suspended and the By-laws numbered 35/2015 to 38/2015 both inclusive be read a third time and that same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Councillor Gilroy will move that Council adjourns. Roll Call, Madam Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Dobson, Eadie, Gerbasi, Gillingham, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Morantz, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Schreyer and Wyatt.

Council adjourned at 1:51 p.m.