COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Wednesday September 3, 2003

The Council met at 1:35 p.m.

The Clerk advised the Speaker that a quorum was present.

The Speaker called the meeting to order.

The opening prayer was read by Councillor Vandal.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Mr. Speaker Councillor O'Shaughnessy, His Worship Mayor Murray, Councillors Eadie, Angus, Clement, Gerbasi, Lubosch, Pagtakhan, Smith, Steek, Thomas, Vandal and Lazarenko.

Pursuant to Section 79(1) of The City of Winnipeg Charter, I am directed by His Worship Mayor Murray to arrange a Special Meeting of Council on ***Wednesday, September 3, 2003,*** *at 1:30 p.m., to consider the appointment of the Chief Administrative Officer.*

R. Kachur
City Clerk.

Mr. Speaker: I believe we have a special motion.

Motion
Moved by His Worship Mayor Murray,
Seconded by Councillor Eadie,

THAT Councillor Steeves hereby be granted a leave of absence from today's meeting due to being away on City business.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee of September 3, 2003.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED SEPTEMBER 3, 2003

Mayor Murray: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Thank you to Council. A very pleasant announcement today on behalf of the Search Committee to announce the new Chief Administrative Officer of the City of Winnipeg which is a little bit hollow announcement because as so often is the case, things sometimes get leaked around here.

Annitta Stenning is being recommended to Council by the Search Committee, and by the Executive Committee to be our new Chief Administrative Officer.

Annitta I think brings some profound experience to this job both in the public sector and in the private sector. I just want to highlight three things that I think are particularly noteworthy about her.

One that you may not know is that she grew up in Pinewood, Ontario as a Francophone in a community where her father was a cattle dealer and raised cattle. It's to me interesting in a city that is as multi-cultural and as multi-faith as ours, that to have someone who has the appreciative experience in her formative years of growing up in a minority, it's particularly interesting.

Probably more important and relevant to the immediate job however, is her experience with the City as a supervisor, manager of the Parks and Recreation Department. She saw over 500 employees and earned the stellar reputation for working with community, Councillors. I know many of you, Harvey Smith is nodding his head, very fond memories of her leadership, her inclusiveness, her competence and her skill sets, and her familiarity with city government.

She left us to go and work as the CEO of Ramboc, a very large agri-business firm based out of Winnipeg, actually head office in Headingley. Started as a vice-president administration, became the Vice-President of Finance and Operations. The senior financial person who went on to be the CEO. Led that corporation to be one of the Financial Post, 15 best managed companies in Canada. Was the only woman CEO in that industry and led that company's breakthrough expansion in Alberta.

She has a very very strong understanding of the corporate sector as an entrepreneur and a very successful business leader, what won great respect in that field, and then was hired with the wisdom of City Council to be the first CEO of CentreVenture when it was a very nascent organization. Worked very well I think with many of you. I know particularly with Councillor Gerbasi and Councillor Smith in the downtown, many of you developed very positive relationships with her. She brought that ability to get the private and public sector to work together in the renewal of our downtown, became an articulate spokesperson and advocate for our downtown, and I think brings huge credibility to the new job.

Gail Stephens who has left us to be the CEO of the B.C. pension fund, I think has left a very positive legacy of management. Annitta and Gail were good friends, are good friends, and have worked well together, and I think that there will be some real consistency in the direction of the Administration. Though Annitta will bring her own unique style to that.

These are always very difficult processes because we're dealing with the privacy of numbers of candidates, we had 43 qualifying candidates that met the criteria. The Committee interviewed five of them and intended to introduce six. There was a range of experience in private and public sector leadership, both from Canada and from abroad.

I want to particularly thank Bob Pruden for doing an outstanding job as the Acting CAO. I think he demonstrated the kind of calibre that we have in our management team and did the job more than adequately, I think he really shone in the job, and I think we're very pleased with the kind of leadership we've had through the transformation period.

I also don't want to single out everyone but Linda Black, his assistant who has worked with Gail has really helped us through this transition and she has been putting extra hours in doing that.

The Committee which Bob Pruden headed was quite an extraordinary group of people. I want to thank Barry MacBride, Ursula Stelman and Bob Pruden. It was the first time we had senior managers involved in the hiring of our CAO. That was an intense amount of time out of their busy schedules, and for them a new experience because we felt that really we have a strong management team and this person has to work well with management.

It would be wonderful to have a hiring committee of 16, we can't unfortunately do that. Councillor Pagtakhan I know worked very closely with you. A number of you came to see me, I know many of you worked very closely with Mike Pagtakhan, respected the confidentiality of the process. And I want to thank Mike for all of the time he put in making himself available to people in representing Council. I think Mike as a new member of Council brought a very exciting vision to the process and really challenged the entire committee to think about things that those of us who have sometimes been around here for a few years don't think about.

Councillor Eadie played a very critical role in the Committee, we always know he's the rule guy. He kept us on track and on process. He has an immense encyclopaedia of knowledge of knowing the City of Winnipeg Act but the history of the City and he was a very valuable member of the team.

Councillor Gerbasi went into it with a passion that she always went into things, and was up there early before every meeting, really gave her heart and sole to this and helped make this a much better process.

I think we have a spectacular City Council. I say this all the time, I brag about you across the country. I have the best city council in Canada. I think you're an extraordinary group of people. I think we have a strong management team.

I've got to tell you that we had four or five, it was a very difficult choice. Any number of short listed candidates would have done this job exceptionally well. I think Annitta shines in this job, and I think she

walks into it with our confidence and with a period of time with optimism in the City. And thanks to Gail Stephens and the previous administration. She walks into a city government that's well positioned financially, administratively and organizationally.

I want to thank you Mr. Speaker. I know this is really a fait accompli decision. This Is really one of those things where we really say to Council, you have to trust us in this process because it's such a difficult issue.

I want to thank Council for their confidence and for their patience in dealing with this rather complex process. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lazarenko.

Councillor Lazarenko: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Welcome back to the Chambers.

I'll move that the question be put.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Question on the clause. All in favour? Contrary? Carried unanimously. Deputy Mayor Thomas moves adjournment. Roll call.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Mr. Speaker Councillor O'Shaughnessy, His Worship Mayor Murray, Councillors Eadie, Angus, Clement, Gerbasi, Lubosch, Pagtakhan, Smith, Steek, Thomas, Vandal and Lazarenko.

COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 1:50 P.M.

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