COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Wednesday, October 28, 2015

The Council met at 9:37 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 Schreyer.

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 Councillor Wyatt.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Madam Speaker: I would like to introduce our Page for today's meeting. Joining us is Katrina Chanas of Miles McDonnell Collegiate who resides in the North Kildonan Ward. Thank you for being here today. I would also like to recognize some very special guests in the gallery. Welcome to Mayor Nabuto Hosaka, Councillors and others who are with us here today from Winnipeg's sister City of Setagaya, Japan. Welcome to Winnipeg and thank you for joining us during our Council meeting today.

Madam Speaker: I would also like to welcome in the gallery students from Argyle School along with their instructor, Keith Fulford. Thank you for being here today and for your interest in Civic Government.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor, I understand you have a few announcements to make.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you Madam Speaker and good morning, everyone. I, too, would like to welcome members of the Setagaya delegation, visiting from Setagaya, Tokyo, Japan and along with Mayor Nabuto Hosaka who will be speaking here shortly. Welcome to Winnipeg. Citizens in Setagaya have been advised that their Mayor will be speaking shortly and will be able to watch via live stream from Setagaya, where it's nearly midnight now, 14 hours ahead. Setagaya is one of Winnipeg's sister cities. In fact, it was the first one, I believe, established on October the 5th, 1970. The delegation that is joining us here today arrived on Sunday, the 25th. They will be our guests here in Winnipeg until Saturday, October 31st. I was very pleased to host their delegation on Monday evening for a sunset goose flight, or staging at Fort Whyte Alive. And I remind Council that the sister City reaffirmation ceremony luncheon will take place today in the foyer and I hope you will all join us to celebrate with us and welcome the delegation all to our great City of Winnipeg. I would like to take a moment to acknowledge that the first year of this 43rd City Council, the one year anniversary of our election as a new Council here and I would like us to take a moment to pause and reflect on how much this Council has accomplished so far. I think we are off to a very strong start. But as we all know, there is a lot of work ahead and much work still to do. The one thing that has been pointed out to me by many of our citizens that we serve is the appreciation for the record level investment into roads, $103.3 million of road repair in to 2015 equaling more than 130 kilometers of road construction. And put that into perspective that's from Winnipeg to the White Shell. And I think that's something that is a good start but we all know we have a lot more work to do. We have also taken unprecedented steps for greater openness and transparency here at City Hall, unprecedented access to information. My meeting schedule, for instance, is posted online. Now the proactive disclosure of disclosed FIPPA documents on the City's website along with monthly reporting of each and every Capital Project expenditure regardless of amount. There is a renewed sense of community pride locally, and I also point out on the national stage through our collective response to racism, our willingness to celebrate and host folks here in Winnipeg as we will be doing this next month with the Grey Cup and the Grey Cup Festival. And for having taken our rightful place among the Big City Mayors through FCM. I am proud of our collective efforts and I just want to take a moment to say I am honoured to serve with each and every one of you on this Council. On October 19th, almost a year to the day of our 2014 Civic election, the nation elected a new government to lead Canada. I'm looking forward to receiving details on significant infrastructure and transit commitments as well as a renewed commitment to matters relating to Indigenous opportunities. I would like to

take a moment to congratulate the Prime Minister- elect, Justin Trudeau on his success in the election. I would also like to take a moment to thank outgoing Prime Minister Harper for his and his family's service to all of Canada. I with like to congratulate all of the elected members of our new Parliament, and I would like to thank all outgoing members of Parliament for their service to Canada and for looking after the best interests of Winnipeg. Specifically, I with like to thank the Honourable Steven Fletcher for his service, Lawrence Toet, Joyce Smith, the Honourable Shelley Glover, who was our Regional Minister during this new Council and during my time as Mayor. Winnipeg Centre's Pat Martin, Kevin Lamoureux who has been reelected to serve in Winnipeg North, Rod Bruinooge and Joyce Bateman. And I hope Winnipegers will take an opportunity to thank them, each and every one of them, for their service to our community and to our country. I would also like to congratulate all the candidates who worked hard during the election to earn the opportunity to serve Canadians at this very important time in our history. As each of you will know, as members of this Council, it is a lot of work; it is taxing on one's family. And whether or not folks were successful or not, putting your name on the ballot takes courage and commitment. And I want to thank each and every person who had the courage to put their name on the ballot and to do their best to serve. On this day, October 28th, back in 1940, at the beginning of the great contribution to allied efforts during the Second World War, Oxi Day is recognized today to mark the democracy and freedom celebrated each year since by our Greek community. Winston Churchill summed this recognition eloquently, Madam Speaker, he said, "We used to say the Greeks fight like heroes and now we shall say heroes fight like the Greeks." On this very important day, the Greek flag flies high today at our City Hall in honour of this important day. And I would also like to note, Seniors and Elders Day was recognized in Winnipeg on October the second. I attended a large celebration at the RBC Convention Centre that recognized our community's builders and our founders and celebrated with the Canadian Association of Retired Persons or CARP, this past month, with a flag raising here as well. And on October the 6th we reopened a beloved Community Centre that was lost to a devastating fire in 2011, the East Elmwood Community Centre. I know the new dressing rooms and the skating change area will make getting ready for practice and free skating even easier and more comfortable for everyone. The City of Winnipeg contributed $3.2 million above and beyond the insurance claim and from the 2013 Recreation and Leisure Facility Infrastructure Program, a program with our Provincial partners as well as $225,000 from the 2015 Capital Budget. I am very excited that this important programming and service and facility are available again for the Elmwood residents and all Winnipegers. I would like to encourage all Councillors if you haven't had an opportunity to visit, to stop by, please do so. I would also like to conclude with an acknowledgment and a request for all Winnipegers to celebrate safely the Halloween that's coming up later this week. Please take extra time and attention to look out for younger citizens; for goblins on the street. Drive with extra caution, as you should always do and have a safe and enjoyable Halloween. Thank you Madam Speaker, merci, megwich.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor. I would like to also take this opportunity to recognize a community leader in the gallery, Mr. Art Miki, lovely to have you here today. You are a friend of many in this chamber. Mr. Miki is the former President of the National Association of Japanese Canadians and he is the current President of the Japanese Cultural Association. Welcome. Moving on, we have some remarks that Councillor Gillingham would like to make.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Following up really on the Mayor's comments on October 19th, the Federal Election results saw many seats change hands including two federal ridings that share geography with St. James-Brooklands-Weston Ward and I wanted to congratulate emergency room Dr. Doug Wilson who was elected in the Charleswood St. James Assiniboia Headingley riding. I also want to congratulate educator, Dr. Robert Falcon-Ouellette who becomes the new MP for Winnipeg Centre. And full disclosure, though both men are doctors, I will be favouring one over the other in case of a medical emergency. I look forward to working with both gentlemen as we serve the great citizens of our community in our respective roles and I would take this opportunity to thank Pat Martin, outgoing MP for Winnipeg Centre. Mr. Martin has represented the riding of Winnipeg Centre since 1997 and I wish him all the best in his future. I also wanted to express my gratitude to the Honourable Steven Fletcher, outgoing Member of Parliament for Charleswood St. James Assiniboia Headingley. Steven, as we all know, is a very unique man. His resolve and dedication propelled him to successful elections in 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2011. Steven has and remains an inspiration to all. His accomplishments are unprecedented. He was the first quadriplegic to be elected to the House of Commons and the first to serve in Cabinet. His combination of strong will, determination and smart wit has earned him the respect of people from across the political spectrum. And on a personal note, Steven is a friend and has been a great support to me as I've launched my political career. The grass does not have a chance to grow under Steven Fletcher's wheels and so I am confident that this election will only mean that Steven…election results will only mean that Steven will find a new way to serve his community and country and Madam Speaker, I am sure the Mayor and my fellow Councillors would join me in expressing our appreciation to all the outgoing MPs and congratulating all of the new elected members of Parliament.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. We will now move on to hear some remarks from Councillor Allard, followed by Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Allard: To echo some of my colleagues' comments today I would like to congratulate former Councillor…former City Councillor for St. Boniface Dan Vandal who was recently elected as our new MP in St. Boniface Ward. Dan served as a City Councillor for around 17 years I think, and has now moved on to a new adventure, serving as our St. Boniface MP. So I want to wish him all the best in his new adventure and wanted to echo some of my colleague's comments today.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further Speakers? Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: And we should also mention former City Councillor Terry Duguid was elected to the area that overlaps Councillor Lukes and myself. But what I actually wanted to touch on briefly, seeing Art Miki in the crowd, we have acknowledged this before, but if there is mention again, one of the stations that's going to be part of our new bus rapid transit system, the Plaza Station in Councillor Orlikow's Ward will commemorate the war time experience of Japanese-Canadians in the Province of Manitoba and in the City of Winnipeg. We are working on the design there. Many of them worked on the sugar beet farms. That Plaza Station's by the sugar beet lands in Winnipeg. I think that will be a very fitting and stirring commemoration Japanese-Canadian community. Not my idea, I want to give credit where it's due to Mr. Miki who came forward a couple of years ago, the 25th celebration of the Federal Government's recognition of the war time activities involving Japanese-Canadians. So I just want to make note of Mr. Miki's presence and say that we are working on that project and look forward to I'm sure an on time and on budget delivery of that project in 2019 and that station will be, I think, a great historical marker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Mayes. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you Madam Speaker. In my Ward of Elmwood-East Kildonan, in this Federal Election I would like to congratulate Daniel Blaikie in his successful campaign as the new Member of Parliament for Elmwood-Transcona. In my Ward I happen to overlap with a couple of blocks with the Federal riding of Kildonan-St. Paul, and on that basis I would like to congratulate Marion Mihychuk as the new Member of Parliament for Kildonan-St. Paul. Happens to be I've known Dan Blaikie and the Blaikies for a long time, basically all my life and all Daniel's life. I happen to have worked, ironically, with Marion Mihychuk when she was a Minister in our Provincial Government and I look forward to working with her in our new capacities. I congratulate and wish…give thanks to outgoing Members of Parliament, Lawrence Toet and as well Joyce Smith for the public service. It happens to be that Mr. Miki is in the audience today. Now I ran Federally in 1993 and so did Art Miki. The Liberals did very well in this election, including in the riding of Elmwood-Transcona. Perhaps if Mr. Miki had run in this election, he may very well would have been elected as well. Nice to see you Mr. Miki. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Schreyer. Councillor Morantz.

Councillor Morantz: Thank you Madam Speaker. I want to just say that in my Ward, Charleswood-Tuxedo-Whyteridge actually overlaps with three Federal Constituencies. St. James-Assiniboia which elected Dr. Doug Wilson. Winnipeg South Centre which elected a new Member of Parliament, Jim Carr and Winnipeg South which elected new Member of Parliament, Terry Duguid. All with the Liberal Party and all will now be part of a new Federal Government in Ottawa and so I just wanted to congratulate them and mention that I am looking forward to fruitful conversations with them to assist in the future development and investment in our City. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further Speakers at this time? It is my pleasure to call on Mayor Hosaka to now address our Council if you could come forward, Sir.

Mayor Hosaka: Hello, I'm Nabuto Hosaka, the Mayor of Setagaya City. It is a great pleasure to meet you all. Today, I would like to make an address for commemorating the 45th anniversary of our sister City relations. How wonderful we have such a long friendship! I, on behalf of Setagaya City wish to thank Mayor Bowman and the Winnipeg City council for setting up this special opportunity to celebrate together. I have heard that Japanese-Canadians played a major role in establishing the sister City agreement between our cities 45 years ago. As you know, World War II, some ethnic Japanese held in internment camps in the freezing Canadian Rockies were relocated as agricultural laborers to

Winnipeg. However, during their time here, the warmth of the people of Winnipeg moved them so deeply. I have one story, a couple by the name of the Nishideras that relocated to Setagaya from Winnipeg after the war, approached the Setagaya City Office many times to tell us about a wonderful City in Canada. They worked so hard to begin an exchange program between our two cities. Eventually, in 1960, our City officials agreed. They sent 398 drawings done by Setagaya elementary and junior high school students to Winnipeg. In return, Winnipeg sent 170 drawings done by its children to Setagaya. This was the first step in establishing the sister-City agreement we set up ten years later, in 1970. I was also told that members of the Japanese-Canadian association in Winnipeg made great efforts to bring about this initial exchange. I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank both those Japanese-Canadian citizens as well as the people of Winnipeg. The following year, the first Setagaya Junior High School Students Goodwill Mission visited Winnipeg. There were two 14-year-old students and one teacher. Those students were just two years younger than I was, so we are of the same generation. Going to school while doing a homestay in Canada must have been a surprising and amazing experience for them at that time. Three years later, in 1974, the first group of students from Winnipeg visited Setagaya. There were 22 of them. We can be easy to imagine how surprised their home stay life in Japan were. They might have many tales of cultural misunderstandings they can laugh about now, as the 41 years later. Since then, the exchanges of junior high school students have occurred once every two years. This September, Setagaya students visited Winnipeg for the 23rd time, and also visited Mayor Bowman. I would like to thank the Mayor for treating them to lunch and spending time with them. I have had the opportunity to meet Winnipeg junior high school students during two of their visits to Setagaya. I like to take time to communicate with them directly. I am always impressed with the straightforward questions they ask me. For example, “What exactly do you do as Mayor?” Or “Why do you work on Saturdays and Sundays?” and ”What do you usually do on your off days?” Some of their questions really make me think, but we always have a great time. I am really looking forward to meeting the next group of students next March. I believe that the Sister-City relationship with Winnipeg is quite important to Setagaya. As we reach our 45th anniversary, I hope we can continue to deepen our relationship with you, focusing on junior high school student exchanges.
I would also like to promote exchanges between our citizens related to the arts and culture as well as sports. In 2020, the 50th anniversary of our agreement, Tokyo will host the Olympic Games and the Paralympics. While Setagaya will be the site for horse riding events, I hope that athletes from Winnipeg will also be coming to Tokyo to represent Canada in other events. And if any Winnipeg resident is coming to Setagaya to support your athletes, we will gladly cheer on your athletes with them. In conclusion, I would once again like to thank you all for inviting us to your City and having us here today.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor and I know City Council looks forward to the ceremony this afternoon. We will now move on with our agenda. Councillor Pagtakhan will you move the minutes of the meeting held on September 30, 2015 to be taken as read and confirmed

MINUTES

Councillor Pagtakhan moves that the Minutes of the meeting held on September 30, 2015 be taken as read and confirmed.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Madam Speaker: We have no delegations on the list today. We will deal with the report of EPC dated October 14, 2015. Mr. Mayor

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED OCTOBER 14, 2015

Mayor Bowman: Thank you Madam Speaker, I introduce the report and move adoption of the consent agenda Item Nos. 1 to 5.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Moving on to the report of EPC dated October 21, 2015, Mr. Mayor

**REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED OCTOBER 21, 2015**

Mayor Bowman: Thank you Madam Speaker. I introduce the report and move adoption of the consent agenda Item Nos. 1 through 13.

Madam Speaker: Okay, great. I will call the question on Item No. 1, 2, 6, 10, 11, 12 and 13. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Mr. Clerk.

Item 3 –Hiring Committee – Director of Public Works

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor to introduce.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you Madam Speaker. I will hear from the Councillors first.

Madam Speaker: That was stood down by yourself Councillor Wyatt. You have the floor.

Councillor Wyatt: No, I don't want to speak; I just want to be able to vote on it.

Madam Speaker: Okay, any further Speakers on this Item? Mr. Mayor, do you wish to close, or we'll call the vote.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Item No 4 Mr. Clerk.

Item 4–Adjustment of the Major Capital Projects Reporting Threshold for Inflation to Implement Recommendation 4 of the Waverley West Arterial Roads Project Audit

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor, do you wish to introduce?

Mayor Bowman: I would like to first hear from Councillors, thank you.

Madam Speaker: This was stood down by Councillor Eadie. You have the floor, Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm going to start off by saying that I think that raising the accountability threshold for Capital projects is actually moving backwards, I think, even though there is construction inflation, I understand the Auditor's perspective on this. But just because a Chief Project Management Officer has been hired by the City and done to make sure we are staying on budget doesn't mean that accountability mechanisms such as capital expenditure thresholds of $10 million should be raised to 20 million. In fact, the Chief Project Management Officer has the responsibility to review the financial reports to ensure that our capital projects are on track and going well. Amongst other things as well, I noted today that our CAO has put somebody interim in place to look at how this Chief Project Management Officer would work and it's beyond the finance. But, in order to do their job, definitely there has to be some kind of financial reporting on capital projects to make sure they are staying on budget. We need a lower limit, if anything. During the budget problems of the fire hall, each of which was 10 million, and I know that the administration didn't look at it from the overall program costs which was over 10 million. But each individual one was under 10 million and there were some financial problems with at least two of these fire hall projects. So but the public demanded to know why City Council wasn't doing its job. Making sure that there were no cost overruns and unfair processes taking place in our capital projects. It was the same thing for the police headquarters and other development projects and so on that we need to stay on top of financially, and they are within the ten to $20 million range. For example, I think there are some problems happening with our new fare boxes on the buses as one of the Councillors has reminded me, it's within that range. And you know, we should have a financial report on that, going to Finance Committee so that City Council can stay on top of what's going on. Posting the financial records, Madam Speaker, is not…doesn't mean we are doing our job as City Councillors. How many people in the public are going to be taking time to analyze whether or not the finances are staying on budget and each individual Councillor, in terms of putting it all together, the City has a robust capital program. Much of it is under actually $10 million, so I don't understand why we have to raise the 10 million.

There is a lot of capital programs that can happen that won't be hampered by this kind of reporting structure. The Finance Committee needs the same financial reports that the Chief Project Management Officer gets, and those reports will be prepared. Why can't they be forwarded on, Speaker Sharma? The 2014 election was all about accountability at City Hall. I will not be voting for this Motion despite the Auditor's recommendation that we go to 20 million. And I would point out that if we were saying let's go to 30 million, that would be a negative response to our Auditor's recommendation. Staying at 10 million is not actually…it's …well I will call it, it's a conservative methodology to ensure that the finances of the City in relation to capital projects is ado. I will not be voting for this Motion, Speaker Sharma.

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

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you Madam Speaker, I too rise to speak against this Motion. While I respect the work of Waverley West Arterial Roads Auditor, I disagree with the recommendation and thus the Motion a year ago has been acknowledged. I along with many, probably everyone, in this Chamber was elected on a commitment to improve and increase transparency at City Hall and I want to recognize and commend the Mayor and my colleagues as I believe a lot of very good progress to that end has been made in the first year of office. However, the reporting threshold, raising the reporting threshold reduces Council's active scrutiny on major capital projects under $20 million. Capital projects between 10 and $20 million would no longer be required to report regularly to the Standing Policy Committee on Finance. And that Committee, of which I am privileged to serve on, is tasked with actively engaging the reports and asking questions that examine and monitor the progress, scope and expenditures of projects. Again, I commend the Mayor for instituting the new capital expenditures monthly report. If folks haven't had a chance to access it online, go to Winnipeg.ca it's the first thing you will see in the top centre of the website and also for creating the new position of Chief Project Management Officer which we just received information on this morning. However, the arguments that reporting the thresholds…that the reporting threshold be raised to 20 million because these measures of accountability have been set up, fails to value, I believe, the critical and engaged role Councillors should play specifically on the Standing Policy Committee on Finance. It's incumbent upon us who are elected to keep a close and active watch over expenditure of public funds as well as to have an appropriate level of oversight over the progress of capital projects. So my call is that we not remove the need for capital projects of $10 to $20 million to report because they are now online or because we now have a Chief Project Management Officer. It's not a matter of having one and therefore maybe we don't need the other mechanism of accountability but rather, having both. I challenge the argument further that the regular report to finance the project between 10 to 20 million means, and I quote, from the Auditor that, "The City will continue to expend additional oversight resources on projects with lesser relative project risk over time." Earlier this week I did a little exercise, I compared the automatic fare collection system capital project reports from December 2014, March 2015 and June 2015. What I found was that outside of a sentence or paragraph or two, updating the cost, scope or project status, there was very little change from one report to the next. I did the same comparison exercise with the Polo Park infrastructure improvements capital projects from the same respective months and the results were very similar. The point is, that once the Major Capital Project Steering Committee is set up and the first report written, relatively speaking, there is not a lot of "additional oversight resources necessary to provide the regular reports for capital projects ten to $20 million." Go to my 3rd point. All projects under $20 million still require thorough managing, reporting and accountability, so why not continue to report to Finance on those projects ten-$20 million? The work is being done anyways. How many additional oversight resources are required to prepare and present regular reports to Finance Committee for projects in that dollar amount frame? And further, how many projects fit within the 10 to $20 million window? That accounts from the capital expenditures monthly reports only 13 projects. Again on the grand scale of things I would argue that this does not constitute an over some burden of additional oversight resources. In fact, if you go to another audit, the police headquarters audit, which we just passed. Recommendation 1.7 says that, "Consideration should be given to the development of a standard major capital project report format for presentation. The reporting format can serve as the basis upon which to build. The revised standard report format should cover the basic information typically required for an oversight body and/or key stakeholders to understand the status of the project, including a baseline, scheduled progress to date", and on and on it goes. My point is, that a standardized format once put in place and right now the update says the work is being performed on that and they estimated to be implemented by the 3rd quarter of this year. Once that format is put in place it becomes quite easy, I would argue, for the reports to be brought forward to the Standing Policy Committee on Finance. Finally, the Auditor's report states that with the ongoing effects of inflation, national local construction indexes have increased since 1999, therefore, there is less…lesser relative project risk over time. I obviously acknowledge the construction indexes have increased since 99. The Public Service sites, this is a reason to increase the threshold, however, capital projects over $10 million and under $20 million still carry risk. A lot of risk and I believe it's enough risk that taxpayers would welcome the expenditure of oversight resources, whatever they may be, needed to provide regular reporting to Finance Committee. Therefore

Madam Speaker, I am asking my…the Mayor and members of Council to keep the capital projects reporting threshold at $10 million, thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further Speakers? We have Councillor Dobson, yes.

Councillor Dobson: Madam Speaker, Councillors Eadie and Gillingham have covered quite a bit of material so I'm going to keep it really short. Increasing the dollar value from 10 million to 20 million before reporting to the Finance Committee is absurd. I realize that there are additional costs involved in making these reports but until we restore the trust and accountability to the residents of this City we should not increase it. I will vote against this Item and I would like to have a recorded vote for that.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer you are next on the list.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My concern, basically, on this is the fact that we are giving in to construction inflation. Happens to be, Madam Speaker, that this is not the first time that I raised my concerns about construction inflation in this Chamber. I have spoken about this earlier this year, the springtime, I believe, I think in the May Council meeting. This is something that, as I said before, this is something; construction inflation is a serious matter. Of course we are not merely dealing with it here in Winnipeg or in Manitoba, it's continental wide. It expresses itself in different ways throughout the world. Having said that, let's compare it to the consumer price index. It seems to me that since the year 1999 or the year 2000 that the consumer price index has risen. Standard inflation rates as we know it has risen about 33 percent. So that means this is implied that construction inflation has doubled since 1999 that means it's tripled at the rate of the consumer price index. That's the nature of the construction inflation. So, I am one of those people, one of those many people, I believe, that is concerned that we are not really dealing with the issues of construction inflation. And this resolution merely gives in and says we don't have to deal with the issue of construction inflation. We don't have to sort of hunker down and research and debate and argue about it. And I can't accept that. What I am willing to do, Madam Speaker, if there is support for it on the floor, is to offer a compromise amendment so that instead of going by to where it says be approved from ten to 20 million to reflect construction inflation since 1999, that it be approved from 10 million to 13.5 million to reflect consumer price index inflation since 1999. That's what I would be willing to put forth, Madam Speaker, if there is support for that because I do understand that inflation is real. And on that basis it's something we have to contend with when we look in terms of the change in magnitudes of things. Consumer price index is a reasonable way of analyzing that. I do not believe that construction inflation is and I'm not going to give into it and on that basis I think we need more debate on what's going on behind the tripling of construction inflation compared to the consumer price index. Thank you Madam Speaker

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thanks, Madam Speaker. I think we all went through some difficult times in the last term of Council, and as you know, many of us fought very hard to get audits done on many projects. So this is obviously an issue, and the Mayor ran on accountability. Obviously, this is an issue that many of these, if not all of us in this chamber ran on the issue of accountability. So, I think everybody's on the same page there and that we are trying to do a better job with our capital projects. Now some of the…it was raised earlier about the fire halls. That should have been a larger project but it was inappropriately divided up into smaller projects by the previous administration and that was called out in the audit process and that shouldn't happen. I think the question we have here today is what is a major project? Obviously we are not going to have massive process set in place for a $1 million project. So we have to look at what is the appropriate level and that's what this report is about today. What is the appropriate level? Right now since the 90s it's been 10 million. There is a chart in here which shows clearly it's now the same project is now a $20 million project in dollars when you take into account inflation. And I guess the other thing is that this was a recommendation of the Auditor. This wasn't a political recommendation. This wasn't a recommendation…it was a recommendation of the Waverley West audit, the Finance Committee under Councillor Wyatt called for and that audit recommended this change. So I mean, we could say well, we want to be…we don't want to look like we are not accountable. This has being made into a political issue so we don't want to look like we're…I think it's more important what we actually do than what we look like we do. We have to look at what's right to do and that's what I'm going to base my decision on. So I mean we could ignore what the Auditor is saying but the reason that they're suggesting this change and they're also suggesting that going forward these things be indexed for inflation so that it automatically is the proper definition of a major capital project. Which is what we are talking about today. What should that be? Should it be ten? Should it be 20? It was ten in 1999, I believe. Now they are saying it should be 20. It's very easy to politically characterize this and

pretend we are still in the world we were in under the previous CAO and previous Mayor. It's depressing to think things don't change. I actually think things are changing. And objectively when you look at the changes that have taking place in our capital process, it's pretty good. And I think that we should recognize that. I don't…I can see the politics of looking like you are fighting for accountability. Believe me, I spent ten years fighting for that and it feels good to be on the side of good. But I think we are sort of pretending that we are being heroes here by keeping it at a lower level than what it actually is. If you look at the report the chart is very clear, it shows the numbers very clearly that it was 10 million in 1999 and now 20 million is the same basically size of project. So if it's about defining, you know as I already said, the size of the project, this is not a political recommendation that's coming from somebody who's trying to keep things secret. This is a recommendation from the Auditor, who we, at the previous Finance Chair asked for an audit on this project and they came back and said, among other things, you should do this. So, it seems to me that the Auditor who was an objective reviewer of our processes has come forward and said we should do this. We can try to make a political issue of it, try to make hay, try to pretend nothing has changed and everything is awful everyone is corrupt, and all this, but frankly, I have seen some real genuine efforts on behalf of the Finance Committee, the Mayor and this Council to put safe guards in place and the new CAO, the announcement today and other things. So, you know, I just think we should do what makes sense. The other thing is what is the reason for making this change? Why not just leave it at ten and we then we can all look good in spite of the political hay that's being made about this so we can all look like we're being held accountable. Because we are wasting administration's time. Because they are supposed to spend that amount of…it is more than just writing a report. I appreciate the analysis that Councillor Gillingham is very diligent on that Committee and he reads the reports and they seems like they don't take that much time but there is a whole other level of work that goes on behind that, before the report comes forward that is required of major projects. I think what we need to decide is what is the appropriate level of a major project. We have been given advice by our objective Auditor and the objective Auditor has said 20 million is appropriate. That's where this is coming from, it's not coming from any conspiracy or anything else. And I noticed that Councillor Schreyer, in his comments, said that he was willing to move that number around to 13 or 13.5 or a number which was a little bit random. We could do that. I'm not sure where it came from, maybe it does make sense, but the report in front of us says the number that makes sense is 20. All I'm trying to say that's the place that $20 million number is coming from. That's the definition of capital project that used to be ten in the 90s is now 20. That's all this is. It's not a conspiracy, it's not trying to have less accountability. We are all trying to have more accountability. I don't know one person who in this chamber say, "I came here to have less accountability." Like, what would that benefit any of us? We are here to try to do a good job and we don't want to waste our staff's time. We want them to focus on the higher risk projects and it says here, that they would be spending an extraordinary amount of effort on lower risk projects when they should be focusing on the ones that are more of a risk to the public. And that's what this is about, that's all this is about, it's been made into a much bigger issue than it needs to be and I think I stand on pretty solid ground as somebody who stands for accountability. I was the one who moved the Motion on the real estate audit and we should follow the recommendations of our Auditor it's very simple and I choose to be positive and forward looking and accept we are doing a better job on accountability. I see that. It's not perfect, there is more work to do but if we start making hay out of every little thing just to stir up the public's fear that it's like the old battle days, I don't know, I think it's better days and I think we are doing a better job. And all this is, it came forward from the administration to say, to EPC from what I see…it came forward and they said we got this recommendation from the Auditor and we are now bringing it forward. So, I don't see that this is that complicated. I think we should show a little bit of courage. Councillors who are feeling the pressure of, oh no! Someone in the public's going to think…let's be honest. Let's try to rebuild that trust by having the courage of our convictions and part of good public policy is following the Auditor's advice and I am not really comfortable ignoring the Auditor's advice. So thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Any other Speakers? Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise. I am not supporting the Motion. I understand there may be an amendment, I am not sure but we will have a look at that if there is. The clause I am not supporting it. I spoke at EPC last week on it and I am here to speak against it again. And it's not a question of implementing an audit report or not, this is a question of what powers we as a Council have delegated over the years to the public service. And that's something that I would encourage new members of Council to inquire on, if they haven't already, to ask, what are the delegated authorities? Because there is literally hundreds of them that we have delegated over the years to the public service and we have passed that on to the public service in trust that those authority, that power would be used appropriately. Our role and responsibility as a Council is to set budgets, set public policy, and as part of that process when we develop our policies and we implement them, and we develop budgets and implement them, we choose the projects that we are funding and we do that based on policy and based on what we can fund, based on advice, professional advice and we choose these projects and then we vote on them. We vote on it, sometimes usually through

our budget process, our capital budget process. But sometimes between the capital budgets we vote on budgets actually in this chamber by approving projects midterm. And we go forward on them. That's what we do. That's our role. That's our responsibility. And then we hire individuals through the public service, through the administration to administer those budgets. And that is the line of role and responsibility and we make it very clear we are not the managers of those projects. We hire the managers of that project. This Council operates as a Council, as a committee. It's the biggest committee and most important committee of all the committees we have and that direction that we give to the public service is direction which then they go forward and implement the projects. And the projects, by and large, as has been pointed out, the majority of projects are on time and on budget. It is, unfortunately, the few projects that are not on time, not on budget that are subject to attention. And, you have to ask yourself this question in terms of when you vote for this: why was this never an issue before? Why for years and years and years, Council choose to ignore this reporting? So years from the time of the Norwood Bridge audit, the recommendation that why we are debating this today was because of another audit called the Norwood Bridge audit when that went way over budget and so Council ordered an audit and one of the recommendations of that audit was that there should be regular reporting to, at that time, the Fiscal Issues Committee, Finance Committee, which is what it is called today, on capital projects $10 million and over. And it was a recommendation of an audit. But it was a recommendation that was never implemented until 2012. So for over a decade and a half, Council chose not to have that reporting. And why was that? You could say that it was because we didn't need it. Maybe. Or was it because there were projects that were running over budget and we knew that if those projects were being reported to the Finance Committee that these folks up here in the gallery would be reporting it right left and centre. Was that really the reason why, for a decade and a half? A recommendation, a key recommendation of the Norwood Bridge audit was never implemented until 2012. The Finance Chair, Mayor after Mayor, different Finance Chairs chose not to implement it. Administration never made an issue of it publicly. But finally in 2012 we implemented it. So we have only been doing this for the last three years. So why are we now changing this radically? It's been argued we are implementing a recommendation from an audit, and I understand that. And at face value it probably makes sense. However, I would argue right now, Madam Speaker that we are not out of the woods yet. We are not out of the woods yet. We have made great strides and I want to thank the Mayor for making great strides and the hiring of our new CAO who I think is extremely competent and working hard for the City and the staff that he is bringing on board and the changes that he is making I think are positive in terms of the hiring and the opportunity for new leadership which we are seeing now. And that really, Madam Speaker, speaks to the heart of the challenge that we have had. Whether it be the politicization of the public service or the direct pressure of power to bend, this has been the issue that we have been facing. So I would argue, Madam Speaker we are not out of the woods. We have to stay the course. Staying the course means getting these reports to us still, 10 million and over and frankly, maybe in a few years we can contemplate what is being contemplated here. But at this point I would prefer, Madam Speaker to be on the side of caution, to be on the side of just having some transparency with regards to this reporting. I don't think, based on the list you can see, it's not overly onerous on the public service but even if it were, to have that level of accountability and reporting, whether it's a hundred thousand or 200,000 or a million or 5 million over budget, we need to know. We need to know how those projects are going forward and the public needs to know that. And that pressure, Madam Speaker, that obligation on our part in terms of having that foresight and having that oversight on these projects, let me assure you Councillors, it keeps accountability through the whole system and that's the biggest part that scares me about this move is that that accountability, that pressure, our pressure, their pressure will be now off on so many projects. And believe it or not it's sometimes the small projects that can go sideways. The smaller projects that can go, for whatever reason. And we can learn from that. This doesn't mean that we should be making a big to do about each project when it goes sideways. There is reasons sometimes for it, there is good reasons why things happen and it can be explained. But the fear of having the political pressure on us. The fear of having the media attention on us should not be the reason we are doing this and that is what I think is driving this because we don't want to be embarrassed by a project going south or going over budget. That should not be the issue. That should not be the issue. We should be here for transparency and this, Madam Speaker, is something which moves us in the exact opposite direction. It takes the transparency away. It takes the accountability away. It takes the pressure off to ensure that we deliver projects on time and on budget. And, frankly, at this point, Madam Speaker, again, if we can…if this matter can be referred back and considered in a…in maybe even in a year or two so we can see how well the changes are being made within the public service in terms of project management. But to do it on the day we have just announced...

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

Councillor Wyatt: …the hiring of the new project manager, is very ironic. It's extremely ironic. And not in a good way. I understand that the steps are being made and we are going in the right direction but folks, please do not do this. This will…this is one of those decisions, let me assure you from past decisions in the past that could haunt this Chamber,

because you know, all you need is another project between the ten and 20 million going south and it will be known ultimately and they will be saying well if it was…only if it were reported that we would have had that accountability. Only if that project was reported maybe we could have prevented that. And that will be asked over and over again and the vote that is taking place today will be recalled over and over and over again. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. We have a Motion No. 3 on the floor, an amending Motion to this Item. Mr. Clerk can you read it into the record?

Clerk: Motion No. 3 moved by…

Unknown Speaker: I wanted to speak to the main Motion.

Madam Speaker: You will have an opportunity to do that at the same time. We have a Motion on the floor so we need to deal with that at this time, correct, Mr. Clerk.

Clerk: Moved by Councillor Schreyer and seconded by Councillor Dobson. The recommendation 1 of Item 4 of the report Executive Policy Committee dated October 21, 2015 be amended to change 20 million to 13.5 million to reflect CPI since Council originally adopted the policy in 1999.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer you may introduce your Motion and following that any Speakers on the amending Motion and the main Item before us and we will continue with that.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you. May I close speaking as well on the amendment?

Madam Speaker: Yes, you will have an opportunity to do that.

Motion No. 3
Moved by Councillor Schreyer,
Seconded by Councillor Dobson,

THAT Recommendation 1 of Item 4 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated October 21, 2015 be amended to change $20 million to $13.5 million to reflect CPI since council originally adopted their Policy in 1999.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you Madam Speaker. First off, I wish to explain that Item No. 1 of this is amended to say from 20 to 13.5 to reflect CPI. There will…if we vote on this now we will need to have for consistency, if we wish, I forgot to notice that on Item No. 2 it says automatically revised annually for construction inflation. For consistency, construction inflation there would have to be revised to CPI. So, this is the issue for me Madam Speaker in its essence. This is a modern dilemma. Construction inflation being so far out of whack in comparison to regular inflation has only been in the last generation. A generation ago, politicians have to deal with this. This is a modern dilemma and it's a dilemma that we don't see the end of. So we are dealing with the future right now and we're dealing with five years from now. We are dealing with ten years from now. Where does construction inflation end? What's the long term? What's the long gain here? What happens with construction inflation as opposed to regular inflation that's tripling in ten years. Where does that put it in another ten years? But that's what we are dealing with right now. Now let's face it we are on solid ground when it comes to having an amendment dealing with the consumer price index because everyone in this room, under stands where that comes from. We understand the consumer price index. You can go right now on our computer, each and every one of us, right now, and we can check out the consumer price index and it will tell us what it's based on. What are the derivations, what are the factors creating our consumer price index? You can check it right now. I mean in the next 30 seconds you can have that information at your fingertips. People up there can tweet it and there it is for you. Where is the information explaining to us where construction inflation is coming from? Is there anybody in this chamber that can quantify and qualify to the comfort of every Councillor here, the derivation of construction inflation? I dare say no. But, I admit we are dealing a systemic problem that's beyond Winnipeg, yes it's true. I have to admit. Having worked in the same department as our CAO, Doug McNeil when he was my Deputy Minister, as I served, technically, under him, I was in his department, the position being seconded to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transportation. Did I see construction inflation? Yes I did. Did I scratch my head? Maybe that's what made me bald. I'm not sure but the fact is, Madam Speaker that this is something that I could never quite get over. Now I understand when it comes to the administration's obligations to deal with plans, they deal with the reality at hand. We all do. There's construction

inflation, well you know what, it's our job to deal with this. It's our job to understand construction inflation vis-à-vis the consumer price index. The consumer price index is solid ground. It's there. We understand it. We can all talk about it and agree on it basically. Construction inflation, Madam Speaker, can anyone in this circle explain to me where it's coming from? I understand every industry has its own type of inflation given the resources at hand and yes, when it comes to construction inflation, issues like energy, just the magnitude of the equipment we use in construction and those types of industries, highly energy intensive. Having said that, on this basis would we say, given the price of oil in the last year, would we say that construction inflation has decreased? Well, there is a good question for us, because we can't answer that because we don't understand construction inflation and yet, we're going to say, "Well let's just double the point at which we are accountable, we're traditionally accountable." Good old accountability. Where, you know, Council receives reports. I do appreciate the fact that the Mayor has been working with staff, administration on dealing with the mechanism by which there is reporting on the internet for us all. My understanding is I don't want to be critical of this, it's good work but to me, maybe it's skeletal statistical information provided which is different from providing reports to City Councillors because we have to vote on this. We decide. We take the responsibility. This is bigger than us. I understand that. But, we are 16 independently elected representatives of this City. If we can't come to grips with this and at least admit that consumer price index is something we can work with because we can understand it and construction inflation, we have never hashed that out in this chamber, have we? I have mentioned it, I have warned about it and all of a sudden, here it is, six months later, it rears its head. Well, you know, don't mean to be the one to say I told you so, but here it is, just as I said last spring. Well, I didn't say it for nothing, Madam Speaker last spring. I didn't say it for nothing. It's because it's a very real issue and here it is so let's not ignore it, Madam Speaker. Let's not ignore this. Tripling of inflation, compared to a standard consumer price index which is quantifiable, understood, accessible, we can all debate it because the information is there. It seems to me, Madam Speaker, at this time, construction inflation is something that's ambiguous, nebulous, not understood and therefore since we have not debated construction inflation we are not in a position to make a decision and say, but that's what we're going to base our decision on. I don't think that's our role. I think we are leaders and in leadership, the buck stops here, thank you Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Yes, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I would like to ask our CAO to please speak to some of the matters being discussed for clarity including reflecting on CPI.

Madam Speaker: Certainly we can do that. Is there a specific question or just provide some clarity around that? Mr. CAO?

Chief Administrative Officer: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, Councillors. Construction inflation. So when you see the chart in the report today a simple way of looking at it is that something that cost $10 million in 1999 to build, costs $20 million today. We use the construction inflation index because it's very specific to engineering and construction. It takes all the inputs, whether it's labour, equipment operators, the purchase of the equipment, sometimes that's specialized equipment, fuel most certainly, into account in a region such as Winnipeg or Manitoba, to calculate what that inflation is. If you were to go to Alberta a few years ago, the construction inflation would be much higher than in Manitoba because the oil industry was booming. Now it's probably dropping off. In Manitoba we generally have a fairly slow rising inflation rate, due to a fairly steady, regular construction program. A few years ago when Alberta was booming and we were building the floodway and other things in Manitoba, that construction rate did rise because we're losing people and equipment to Alberta, and that drove up the price. In the last few years we have had more competition in Manitoba and that tends to bring down the rate of inflation related to construction. A lot of people refer to the consumer price index and the consumer price index, as I understand it, takes into all the things consumers might purchase and so in some cases things go down, like fuel recently, and other things go up. So it takes into account a lot more inputs than what construction takes into account. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Mr. McNeil and moving on with our speakers list. Next is Councillor Morantz.

Councillor Morantz: Thank you Madam Speaker. A lot of very good comments around the Council Chamber today on this issue. For me, the question of the day as Councillor Gerbasi said, what is a major Capital project in Winnipeg? Now, in 1999, Council decided by a vote, that it was to be defined as a project in excess of $10 million. Now, speaking of the consumer price index I thought I would just go look up what the average price of a home was in Winnipeg in 1999. In 1999 the average price of a home was $86,000 and today it's probably triple that. That just gives you an idea of what the effect of inflation is. Now the intent of the threshold was not to ensure Finance Committee oversight over every

single capital project. At the time, Council wanted to make sure that major projects had that oversight. And there is a distinction between the risk involved and the resources involved of Council and the public service when it comes to the oversight of major projects, the risk differential is far higher than with smaller projects. If the intent of the policy has changed somehow, it should not be left to arbitrary inflationary increases to decide how we address it. This is something that maybe we should come forward in a matter of a policy discussion but that's not what we are dealing with here today. We are dealing with the question of what is a major capital project. Now the report before us today, and I want to clarify this, this is not a unilateral recommendation of the public service. They didn't just decide we should do this. But rather, this is the recommendation of an audit and I remember when I was campaigning and there was a lot of discussion by Councillors about audits and how important they are and how we should be following them and I know, Mr. Mayor, that you through your Speaker have made a point of making sure that our Auditors are fulfilling...making sure that Council and Public Service are fulfilling the recommendations of the audit and we have regular reporting coming forward from our Auditor about recommendations that they make. This report is not brought forward by the public service in a vacuum. In the audit report itself asks for the public service to address this. And, I would just read from the audit, FM004 defined a major capital project with a budget in excess of $10 million. That was the threshold in 1999. It says "it is prudent to review the threshold periodically, to ensure continued relevance after considering the ongoing effects of inflation." National and local construction indices, by the way, have increased since 1999 and the threshold for defining a major project may no longer be current. For comparison the Province of Manitoba, Public Private Partnership Transparency and Accountability Act defines a major capital project specifically in that act as a public work or improvement to a public work in excess of $20 million. The Auditor recognizes the risk. He says if the threshold for requiring additional project overhead is not adjusted for inflation, the City will continue to expend additional oversight resources on projects with lesser relative project risk over time. We recommend that the Infrastructure and Planning Division, this is the recommendation of the Auditor, Madam Speaker, not a unilateral report from public service, as other Councillors have said. We recommend, the Auditor says, "That the Planning Division of Corporate Finance reassess the threshold defining a major capital project." So the public service is actually doing what our Auditors asked them to do, not something that they decided to do on their own, Madam Speaker. And it's important to ask the question why. Why in this audit did the Auditor think it was important to make this recommendation to increase the threshold? This is an audit about the project that took place before we were here around…over budget issues on the Waverley West Arterial Project. So why, someone might ask, why is it in this audit? And the reason is because the Auditor says that the threshold, as a risk is because of the concern that expending more and more resources over relatively low risk smaller projects could have an impact the ability of the public service to focus on larger potentially high risk projects. That's why it's there. Now, if we were to ignore this recommendation, Madam Speaker, we do so at our peril because the cornerstone of our Council must be respect for our Auditor's advice. If we ignore their recommendations or decide to pick and choose which ones we like or don't like, then what is the point of the audit in the first place? Why have it? How will public cynicism in how we conduct Council business be allayed if we just decide to unilaterally ignore what our Auditors are saying? I might add that this particular audit recommendation comes directly as a result of a Motion passed by SPC Finance in December of 2012 while Councillor Wyatt, Madam Speaker was the Chair of that Committee, he asked for this audit and in fact, although I don't think Councillor Wyatt was at the May meeting, Council meeting, Council unanimously supported the adoption of this audit of the people who stood up and are speaking against this today, with the exception of Councillor Wyatt, who I don't believe was at the meeting, actually voted for this recommendation, in fact. It's interesting that some who may choose today to stand up and vote against this recommendation, do so knowing that they voted for it before they voted against it. So, I find that fascinating, Madam Speaker. Now, while the major capital reporting is informative, it is quarterly in nature and often it's out of sync with the current project details. Because, by the time it gets to Finance, it's two months old. So it's not current information. And the information is important but hasn't given Council the kind of current, informative, proper information that proper oversight really demands. The reality is times have changed since 1999, Madam Speaker, and while I agree we need better oversight we can use our scarce resources far better by leveraging new and innovative technologies and modern processes. For example, as of September of this year, we have implemented new monthly capital expenditure reports. Never been done before, online, anyone who wants to look at them can see how much was budgeted, are we over budget, are we under budget, it's all there and anyone on Council can look at that report and say to the Finance Committee, we want you to have reporting on that. Also not part of the capital project process, the new Chief Project Management Officer. It's important, Madam Speaker, that we have this. It's a great initiative and it's been put in place to oversee all project management processes and to improve how we identify and manage schedule or budget issues before they become a risk to the project.

Councillor Schreyer: Are we dealing with the main Motion or with the amendment?

Madam Speaker: Both.

Councillor Schreyer: At the same time?

Madam Speaker: That's right.

Councillor Morantz: Now, I understand that as of today, just this morning, Mr. Barry McBride has been engaged in this new position by the CAO on an interim basis and I think that's a great initiative. Mr. McBride comes very well recommended and I am very excited that he has accepted this position on an interim basis.

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

Councillor Morantz: Now, what's interesting to me, Madam Speaker is that Councillor Wyatt has been very opposed to this…although he is opposed to this Motion, because he is advocating we should be more accountable and that leaving it at 10 million is a good idea because we'll have more oversight over these projects. Now I am advised that just this morning, Madam Speaker, Councillor Wyatt was offered an appointment by the Mayor to be Council's representative on project management. To work with Mr. McBride to accomplish the very things that he is now saying that we are not doing and that he declined this offer.

Councillor Wyatt: Point of order, Madam Speaker. Point of order. Personal attacks like that on the floor are not becoming of any member of Council. Point of order.

Councillor Morantz: It's just a statement of fact, Madam Speaker. It's not a personal attack. It's a statement of fact, something maybe Councillor Wyatt doesn't want to talk about that there are things that…

Councillor Wyatt: Absolutely, any time.

Councillor Morantz: Ok, well feel free…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Morantz, please continue.

Councillor Morantz: Thank you. I just thought given the Councillor's interest in this issue, he would have been happy to take this opportunity. Finally, I am pleased to note the Innovation Capital Fund approved in September, the capital financial reporting system dashboard project which will provide an integrated system to oversee schedule and financial tracking for all capital projects in real time. So with regard to the debate on the threshold for major capital projects, I would argue that we accept the audit recommendation that presents the change as restoring by applying construction inflation, the original intent of major Capital project thresholds, quarterly recording processes. But as I have stated, we have made great steps forward and will continue to make other process improvements that we will improve our oversight on all projects not just major Capital projects and we will do so, independent of the threshold for defining what a major Capital project is. It should also be noted that Council can add any project to the major Capital project process at any time regardless of the amount or cost of the project. So…and I just want to add as a final point, that all of the existing projects that we are currently reviewing at Finance will continue to be reviewed. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next speaker is Councillor Pagtakhan.

Councillor Pagtakhan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Sixteen years, Madam Speaker of construction and cost inflation, that's what this report is based on, Madam Speaker. And as the CAO stated, projects in 1999 that were valued at $10 million… in 2015 that is the equivalent of $20 million now, Madam Speaker. So this is about changing the times. Originally, when the report was done, Madam Speaker, when this new policy was in place to report on projects $10 million and above. I'm sure that the authors envisioned and knew that construction cost and inflation would play a role in here Madam Speaker and that in the future there would be a need to revisit that amount. And this is what's happening here, Madam Speaker. Sixteen years of construction cost inflation and this is what we are seeing now. We're trying to have…we want to make sure that we are not majoring the minors, Madam Speaker and that we are actually using our resources wisely. The report talks, Madam Speaker… the Auditor states here that the threshold…if the threshold for acquiring additional project oversights is not adjusted for inflation the City will continue to expend additional oversight resources on projects with lesser relative project risk over time. That's an important statement Madam Speaker. It's

about using our time and resources wisely but at the same time, Madam Speaker, any member of Council here has the ability to ask for a project status update on any capital project of any dollar value, Madam Speaker. In fact, Madam Speaker, members of Finance Committee at any time can also ask for that amount as well if they feel that there is any issues with a particular capital project. But I also want to note this morning that Doug McNeil, our CAO, announced the creation of a Chief Project Officer with the assist of the Mayor, and it's all about transparency and accountability, Madam Speaker. This position is going to create a vehicle and an avenue to ensure that the best practices, Madam Speaker, are adhered to. We're going to be consulting with the industry, with stakeholders around Council, with staff to make sure that capital projects that we take here at City Hall are done on time and on budget, Madam Speaker and that's a very important point. So really at the crux of the matter here, Madam Speaker, I also want to say that this is, in the report it states, that this is consistent, Madam Speaker, the $20 million threshold is consistent with the Manitoba…with the Manitoba…sorry, with the Public Private Partnership Transparency Accountability Act, Madam Speaker of Manitoba. Let me state that again, that's the Public Private Partnership Transparency and Accountability Act of Manitoba. So this $20 million threshold is consistent with that, Madam Speaker, it's built right into the report. 49.4 percent in terms of construction inflation, Madam Speaker over the course of 16 years brings us to this point where we need to adjust our value system here and again, Madam Speaker; every member of Council has the ability politically to ask the administration through the Finance Committee on any capital project of any particular dollar value. But what I think this thing does, Madam Speaker, in fact what it is going to do is it's going to create a more streamlined approach for us to report and to be efficient and consistent with the Auditors report. Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Before we move on, I'd like to draw your attention to Motion No. 4. And this is replacing Motion No. 3 that was originally circulated and it reflects Councillor Schreyer's introduction that he made during his speech. And I would like to also remind Council not to get into personalities during our debate. It's important that we stick to the agenda before us and speak to the Items in front of us. Thank you. Next speaker…yes?

Councillor Eadie: I don't know what the amending…

Madam Speaker: We will have it read in the record in just a moment. Mr. Clerk, Motion No. 4.

Motion No. 4
Moved by Councillor Schreyer,
Seconded by Councillor Dobson,

THAT Recommendation 1 of Item 4 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated October 21, 2015 be amended to change $20 million to $13.5 million;

AND THAT Recommendations 1 and 2 of Item 4 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated October 21, 2015 be amended to change the words "construction inflation" to "changes in the consumer price index"

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Moving on, Councillor Orlikow followed by Councillor Eadie and then Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you Madam Chair. I first want to state to all Councillors, I understand where Councillors are coming from, those in favour and opposed. It's not an issue of that. I do support the Motion. But just because I support it doesn't mean I haven't listened and understand what you are saying but again, I think that we are getting kind of lost trying to take the low fruit, which is a number and look at that! It went from 20 to ten so let's use some really powerful words that we know are out there; lack of accountability now, transparency. Let's use those words because we know they entice people, they may get these media play they may get the public engagement play, whatever reasons, I take those words very seriously. They are not words I banter around just because I feel they will give me political movement or, but again, if you believe that, I respect that. But here is why I don't agree with you on those two Motions. One, first of all, we had this before, we've had this budget oversight, the Fire Halls for example, were supposed to be in there. Then again, the people who are leading it aren't going to adhere to our policy and decide to divvy up projects, they're going to move that number around so they just do that so again it doesn't have 10 million, 20 million. Depends who's in charge of doing the deciding about where the programs are going or how they're bundled. Again, I wasn't privy to some of the decisions made at EPC before and I'm not sure what happened. But we know that the Fire Hall project was debundled to keep it under that threshold. Again, this now new process, that when it happens because I believe everybody on Council would say a project such as this we would request even if it's under 10 million or 1 million or under 20 million

would be something because it has a very high public interest in it would be in front of this major Capital review committee. So again, I could also go through now the list of all the capital programs which I never could before and look at the budgets that are over. Again, that to me is a bigger problem than an arbitrary number. Why are we over? Why are we 10 million over on a project or a million dollars over a project that's supposed only cost a hundred thousand dollars? Again, now, I and all of Council and all of the public can go look at that and say you know what, let's get some explanations on that. Again, it doesn't matter if it's 20 or 1 million. We have a duty to be accountable for the money we are spending no matter what it is. So I really do appreciate that and I look forward to that but in the end of the day what really does comes down to being accountable and transparent, is it starts with the budget and I think Councillor Wyatt mentioned as some other people that we'll start with the budget. It starts with our budget. If our budget is full of numbers that are kind of mystical and hopeful, don't actually have any funding beside them, they're just thrown in there politically somehow, they got into the budget and there is no funding with them, we hope the funding will come, well the project goes off rails when the funding doesn't show up. Again, we should know that. That's very important. Also, what happens when we put projects into our capital budget that have class five or less estimates in it? Guess what's going to happen? Such as the police headquarters and a number of other capital projects. The projects go off rails because it shouldn't be in the budget in the first place, it's not ready to be in the budget. So again, to Councillor Morantz' efforts and to all of Councils efforts I hope shortly, the fiscal discipline that we need to adhere to on the budget is where it all starts. That's where it all starts. So that I believe Council is coming together on that. I hope we will on making sure that what we put in the budget is in the budget. That will help a lot. And again, that to me is being accountable. Within our budget is actually what we are going to spend. Not just a make believe number so we can politically get some points later on. So again, it's a part of that process, it's not just looking at this one little piece and saying, "Oh we're going from 20 down to ten so therefore Council is no longer accountable." Well again, that to me is a little bit more than politicizing, that's actually really bad for everybody. When we started to attack each other we do a disservice to us all. We have to look at the package, we have to look at all the things that are going together and I am very confident that this Council is working towards that. We have made huge strides already in being more open, producing information that the public can decide how they want to use it, the Mayor has talked about that. We don't know what information the public wants or doesn't want. So let's make sure we give as much as we can out to there and they'll tell us and they'll start using that data and then informing us as well. That is again real transparency now looking forward going towards. The accountability, again, I can't stress it enough. This is a major capital project file. That's what we're talking about today, but it doesn't bar anybody looking at the smaller projects under 10 million. I personally thought and I'm still going to continue to fight where I believe when administration needs to come forward and inform us is when a project all of a sudden or is a high risk problem, a high risk project. We have a water retention pond in Parker neighbourhood that is a very high risk. It can be. We have to move the project along but if the administration says we're going to try this new pipe system out, that has to go through all these pipelines, this is a really risky project. We have never done something like this before. Those projects should be informed, even if it's $5 million. $5 million is a lot of money. That is a high risk project Council needs to stay on top of those things and I look forward to bringing those forward. Again, ones that go over budget, we should need to bring those forward. But again, do they all go to major capital work program project? I don't know. We heard some issues today about, well how hard could it being to do a pro forma report? Again, I talked to the administration and I listen to them and we are working on the BRT, Calrossie pond, the land development, the dog park, the everything else associated in this huge capital….the Pembina underpass and Waverley underpass. To me, very complicated, most complicated project we've ever done. And again I raise the concerns that we are working towards a model in which we can have even more oversights so Council knows how all these pieces are flying together and that would be in there as another form of accountability and helping our administration staff to be able to divert resources where they need to. And also, we in power then to where we can let them go. We can't micro manage all these factors and to say we should be and if they are not micro managing everything and therefore you are unaccountable well that's ridiculous. We have administration. We deal with the policies. This policy is accounting for inflation, fair enough. Everything else that falls underneath this also allows us to be more accountable in my opinion. So again, one piece of this, said the $20 million, I do respect that we do have the administration time, this budget period, you'll see staffing, is getting tighter and tighter every year, vacancy management and what not, so we have to respect that as well. While on the other side using numerous tools together which again I will stress, starts with the budget, that we have to be accountable for. In the total package of all these different things that we're doing and all the things that are going to be coming forward, I am very optimistic about the accountability looking forward, today especially from the past and the more so that's coming forward shortly. So I will be supporting it.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next is Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, Speaker Sharma. Speaking to the amendment only as I have already spoken to the overall report, Speaker Sharma. I just wanted to start off by saying, I rose originally, not on political, like, I don't know how this got blown out of the water, Speaker Sharma, I am just concerned that's all I am. I think that our current Mayor has done a great job to open up and make the City more accountable. That's not the issue at all today. This policy was for, Madam Speaker we are talking about inflation in this amendment. This 1999 policy was in place based on and was established based on what was going on regarding capital projects in 1999. Yes, it was trying to determine what was major and there was all these problems with cost overruns on certain projects, so…but over that time, over 16 years, we have had a lot of experience with the City and $10 million, Madam Speaker, is still a substantial project. If a $10 million project is going over, say, by $800,000, that's the money we could have used to clean our residential streets of leaves, Madam Speaker. So this Motion that looks to change what the construction inflation I think totally misses the whole point of this policy. The point of this policy being established originally was to make sure that we are staying on top of the projects. And I trust our administration. That's not why I stand opposed to this. I stand because there was a principle that was set in place when this policy was put in place. And that principle is still valid today. I am not saying even to go lower. $5 million project was mentioned can't…the risk related and the cost estimate but we are not talking about going ahead and evaluating every little block by block construction project in our local street renewal program nor are we talking about a block by block evaluation of our regional street renewal program here. How many projects are we talking about? It's not the inflation. Again, I don't think, the Winnipeg police services considering cameras. That was a Motion that was brought forward by former Councillor to talk about police having cameras and there is money for a pilot project in the capital program for a million dollars, but, you know, there is a great risk involved and that is absolutely correct, Speaker Sharma. It's not about the inflation it is about the risk and making sure that things are going along smoothly and keeping Council informed so we know. As was mentioned as well, most of our projects are on budget or under budget but the risk involved, for example, in those cameras, like it could escalate to five or who knows, $8 million a year to maintain a capital project for cameras for Winnipeg police officers. Like…like…and still under $10 million. So, I don't really understand why we have to make it political actually and I think what we need to do is I will be voting against this amendment because it really doesn't get to the crux of what I was trying to speak about. What I am trying to speak about is just an honest means to deal with accountability, and the public does expect it to us. I am not pandering to the people in my ward. I got reelected despite people saying that I wasn't doing my job, Speaker Sharma. That's not the issue. People are sensitive, I know about what happened in the past and I did use a past program and each one of those stations were under 10 million actually and so, a new station, if we are moving a Motion to build a new station now, and only one, technically if that's the price it comes under, then it's not even gonna see the $10 million scrutiny anyway. I don't understand why we have to change it. There is a principal, I understand there is construction inflation and maybe at some point, when it costs us $10 million to do one block of construction, then maybe it's time to look at it. But at this point in our history, with this policy, Madam Speaker, it's not about the inflation. It's just about what I think is prudent procedures. As another Councillor mentioned, prudence is always important. Thank you Speaker Sharma.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: A good job putting things online. We…we were doing a good job in our transparency. We are getting better at it every day. For me, what I heard clear is in the Auditor's statement is that it could free up time for our public administration to do other things and I know sitting on Public Works that we have constantly, constantly reviews coming through that we have to keep holding back because they are not done yet. I know in our own areas, each of us have areas of concerns whether it's a crosswalk that needs to be looked at and those reviews are pushed back. I also know we have the snow clearing review, that we are still waiting for and what I heard loud and clear from the Auditor is that our administration needs time to be able to do other things. And one of the things that…I took Jim Berezowsky out to look in my area to show him all the potholes I still have. Pothole filling season is over and I still have many, many potholes. I really think it's time we try to figure it out our time management so that we can make sure the administration is focusing on other things. We are doing a good job in our transparency, let's get them working on other areas we need to improve on. Thanks

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Gilroy. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: I will try to be brief. By and large I agree with everything that Councillor Morantz put forward with one caveat which is that the statement about " Well, the Auditor has recommended it and therefore we should agree with the audit". We are ultimately the decision making body here. And I always think of the example of, it was before I got here but the May, 2011 Council minutes; I have been checking the audit report from the American firm Golf Convergence that our audit department endorsed which called for, among other things, the sale of Wildwood Golf

Course for residential development and exempting Winnipeg golf courses from the employment standards code. Both of which I would describe as “out there” in terms of recommendations. So I disagreed with that when they later came forward in terms of discussion, most of Council did, I would suggest the current Mayor did not run on a platform of selling off golf courses, in fact, some of his opponents did. So…there are some limited exceptions, one can think of… we’ve got 27 holes at some places. But by and large, my point is we don't always agree with the Auditors, it’s not our job to always agree with the Auditors. Sometimes the Auditors bring forward recommendations which I think are very much not what the public would want to see. That's it in this instance and I very much agree with what Councillor Morantz had to say it terms of, it’s really a pretty simple mathematical, operational adjustment that reflects inflation since 1999 so I’m supportive.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I will be supporting this today. Prior to being elected, I did a lot of advocacy work following multiple files related to active transportation, and I admit I always followed the money because the money told the story and I was always challenged to find information regarding projects and it was very, very difficult. But, doing it over a period of years, I had a very solid record so I could go back to my records. Now, everything is online. I can access information from the capital reporting system; we now are hiring a Chief Project Management Officer. We can ask, if we want, to have a report followed, a capital project followed with a report. I am very supportive of this. I think we are doing a very good job, I’m very pleased to see the dynamics internally when I ask questions and I’m looking for information on finances. Just today now I was working on one from the capital reporting system looking for a discrepancy that I had questions on and I got the answer and it was completely satisfactory. So I am very supportive of this and I will be supporting it. Thank you

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Mayes, or, Councillor Allard, pardon me.

Councillor Allard: And for the record, Councillor Mayes is not my father. I clarified that in an earlier Council meeting, but just thought I’d clarify it for the record of Council. I just want to say I’ve struggled with this Motion. I’ve had a lot of conversations and I have taken the time to inform myself. There has also been a clarification today from our CAO that we will be hiring a Project Management Officer in an acting position and I struggled with the question because on the one hand we have a Mayor and EPC that are making great strides in terms of transparency and accountability and open government, which is yet another initiative that’s going to be on the Council agenda later today. I think ultimately I have decided to support this Motion, given the tools that are available to us as Councillors, given that I understand that we can at any time, ask for the City administration for an update on any Capital project no matter how small, either by Council motion or otherwise. So I appreciated everyone's thoughts this morning and I think everyone brought very valid points to the table but ultimately I think we are moving in the right direction in terms of transparency and accountability and in terms of changing this threshold, I believe we are following the best advice from our Auditor and that this is, in a sense, a housekeeping item. We are adjusting a figure based on construction inflation and we’re going to be freeing up administrative resources. And another point that I thought, well, that helped me in making my decision is it's not always the big projects that go south, so I think that's why it's important to have…I think that's part of why it’s going to be such a positive addition for the City of Winnipeg to have a Project Management Officer. Sometimes it's the smaller projects that can go over and they would not be reported in our current system but with this new Capital reporting system where anyone can check online, a member of the public, a member of the media or Councillors can now check-up personally to see where things are at on any projects. So I think in that sense, I think we are doing the right thing in terms of good governance, in terms of putting resources in the right places. It's not always big projects that have the risk. Sometimes it's the smaller ones and we’re developing the tools to look at, not just the bigger projects, but all projects throughout the City of Winnipeg and that's why I will ultimately be supporting this Motion. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Seeing no further Speakers, Councillor Schreyer you may close on Motion No. 4.

Councillor Schreyer: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. Concerns have been raised as to why we would politicize this issue. This isn't a political issue, this is an administrative issue. So, I need to go on record to say if that is the perception of those that have that concern, so those people, I say, then I am politicizing this issue. I am politicizing the issue of construction inflation. So there is no ambiguity about this, I go on the record. If you just to a look at the map, Madam Speaker, why shouldn't I politicize this issue? Why can I say if you take a look in terms of projecting for the next ten years is there’s a good chance that half of us could be here in ten years from now, so take a look at the last fifteen years and then the next ten years. Construction inflation has tripled compared to the consumer price index, add another ten

years and it's five times. At that point, Madam Speaker, you just go and finish that term, we're increasing construction inflation, compared to inflation. Not just compared to a standard point in the past. Compared to inflation which is reasonable, I understand that. It increases at what is called a magnitude. And why is that happening Madam Speaker? I am glad that His Worship has offered the CAO to give a preamble on explanation in terms of construction inflation. I consider this the opening discussion of this chamber in this term, because this issue is not going to go away. It's going to haunt us for this term. It's going to haunt us for a long time. But, it's up to us as to whether we're going to take a stand on this issue and recognize it as a problem. It's not an administrative issue and I'll tell you why I say that. I am not against what this Motion represents in terms of aspects of accountability to the open public accountability. That's fantastic. And I am not blaming the administration when they have to deal with construction inflation as they apply the directives of this Council. That's their job. It's not their fault there is construction inflation. I am not blaming any individual. But that doesn't mean it's not a problem, for goodness sakes and if it's anyone's responsibility to deal with it, it's ours. And we can't pass the buck to the administration, and say, well they're just doing their job, because they are doing their job! Because we direct them to do so. So, it's our responsibility, Madam Speaker. And, Councillor Morantz made an excellent point. He mentioned, which is a grave concern of mine as well, he mentioned if you take a look at consumer price index but look at housing, well yes, absolutely. So I say thank you, Councillor Morantz. Take a look at housing. Yes, it is quite a factor that offsets the CPI. And I would call it a problem, Madam Speaker. It's…but when it comes to issues of housing, well that's beyond our control. And, I am not saying, Madam Speaker, that we raise the budgets only to the rate of the CPI, that's not what I am saying. I am saying that we raise the threshold of reporting to the CPI. Because I'm saying, construction inflation…it's our job to politicize the issue of construction inflation. That's our job as far as I'm concerned. That's what I believe. And I believe that sincerely otherwise I wouldn't have mentioned it six months ago in the middle of nowhere just because it's such an important issue. And therefore, construction inflation, I believe, and what I want to do and I think this Council's obligation to draw the attention of the public about the realities of construction inflation, which we just began to discuss today for the very first time in this chamber and thank you for our CAO, Doug McNeil to give an introduction to the fact that inputs to construction inflation are different from inputs to the CPI, absolutely true. As I have mentioned before, every industry has its own specific inflation. Thus begineth the conversation for which I am grateful. But, having said that, that doesn't put us off the hook right now. We have an opportunity right now to make this a better and more reasonable, a more accountable resolution. Bearing in mind we have to give attention to the issues of construction inflation and let the public be aware of this. Does the public know that the rate of construction inflation is three times the CPI? Does the public know that? Why don't we raise the issue? Shouldn't they be in on this? After all, that's what this resolution is about is bringing more financial accountability to the people. Well let's do so. Let's bring a big whopping factor into this whole thing when it comes to accountability of our projects by stating in this and the essence of the same…by saying, by the way construction inflation is triple the rate of inflation and in another ten years it's going to be five times greater at the rate we are going. So, what can I say? I am in favour of the essence of this, overwhelmingly. My problem has been, as I stated before, I am just being consistent with last spring, construction inflation. Just because the administration deals with it on a day-to-day basis because that's their job doesn't mean it's our obligation to say that's okay, the status quo is all right. It's their job to deal with the budgets at hand. But it's our job to judge it and question it and bring that information to the people directly. And by the way, it's our job…our job to politicize these issues. I was elected to politicize the issues of openness and accountability, financial scrutiny, and I am doing so right now. And by having this amendment, which is so reasonable, we are able to accept the fact that inflation exists and bring in the question the issue of construction inflation, vis-a-vis other aspects of inflation so that the discussion can go forth from here because mark my words, construction inflation is continuing to get out of hand when you are dealing with…well, what can I say, three times over ten years, five times, what you are dealing with is a geometric scale. This is not a scale that is flat. It's a geometric scale which curves and that is what we are dealing with here and it's my job to put that forth to people. I believe that's the job of all Councillors regardless of our opinion. And on that basis...it's our job to deal with it not the administrators. Let's make a better resolution, let's enhance the spirit of accountability.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer could you wrap up, please.

Councillor Schreyer: That's it, Madam Speaker. Let's make this a better document and less division. More people can support this for good reasons. And if we go back to the constituents and say why.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor, do you wish to close.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you Madam Speaker and through you I would like to thank all members of Council for their comments today. You know, major capital projects reporting is informative. The issue we are debating here today is

really the threshold amount as recommended by the Auditor for reporting of major capital projects. Quarterly reporting in my view isn't good enough. It should continue. Current project details when reported to committee, you know, on a quarterly basis, are really the start and it should continue. While the information in these quarterly status updates is important, it's informative; it hasn't given Council the kind of current information that we began delivering to all our citizens this past September with the new monthly capital expenditure reporting which gives up-to-date monthly spending on all capital projects. No threshold amount, every capital project, every dollar, is reported for scrutiny by members of this Council, by members of the media and members of the public. And that's a good thing. That should raise concerns when something seems to cause concern for any member of this Council. Of course, there can be a request made to have quarterly reporting in addition to other steps which are being taken. I also note that not part of the major capital project process is the new Chief Project Management Officer which has been put in place and I want to thank our CAO for introducing this position and, as we learned this morning, filling the position on the interim basis to oversee all project management processes and really to work at improving how we identify and manage schedule and budget issues before they become a risk to the project. And finally, I am very pleased to note that the innovation capital fund that was put in the 2015 budget and a specific project which was approved this September, the Capital Financial Reporting System Dashboard Project, which will provide an integrated system to oversee schedule and financial tracking of all capital projects. I'm really looking forward to seeing that proceed in due course. So with regard to the debate on the threshold for major Capital projects I argue that we accept the audit recommendation that presents the change as restoring the original intent of major Capital project quarterly reporting processes but as I've stated, we've made great steps forward and will continue to make other process improvements that will improve our oversight on all projects not just major Capital projects and we'll do so independent of the threshold for defining what a major capital project is. It should also be noted that Council can add a project in the major Capital project at any time and the current matters which we are receiving quarterly updates will be grandfathered should Council approve of this Motion. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor. I will now call the question on the amending Motion No. 4. All in favour? …the amending Motion No. 4 that Councillor Schreyer put forward. Yes, there is a call for recorded vote. All in favour please rise. All in favour of the amending motion. Please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Schreyer, Dobson, Wyatt.

Nays

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

City Clerk: Yeas 3, nays 13.

Madam Speaker: The Motion is lost we will now move on to the vote on the main Item. All in favour? Recorded vote again. All in favour please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Nays

Councillors Dobson, Eadie, Gillingham, Schreyer and Councillor Wyatt.

Clerk: Yeas 11, nays 5.

Madam Speaker: Item No. 4 is carried. Mr. Clerk moving on to Item No. 5.

Item 5 – Debt Strategy

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor to introduce

Mayor Bowman: I will wait to hear from members of Council.

Madam Speaker: This was stood down by Councillor Eadie. You have the floor.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you Speaker Sharma, I rise, I will be supporting this debt strategy change to our financial management report. I had some concerns regarding the numbers and how things will proceed moving into the future and it's very clear, our administration will spend a lot of time helping Council when we're making capital decisions, helping us to manage within the numbers that are set forth. Overall debt strategy of 90 percent of I believe it's a total revenue, I think that's prudent and as I understand that 90 percent, it's something that…our bond rating agencies are okay with. I personally have a belief that you know, to help us deal with our Capital needs that we have in the City of Winnipeg that it should be a bit more but I don't want our lose our credit rating that's for sure because our credit rating is very important in terms of how much it's going to cost us to go into debt. And right now, I believe I heard our CAO on the radio the other day, or somewhere in the news, rightly saying that right now, the cost of borrowing is really advantageous for the City and to allow us do this still in this low interest rate period, because eventually, Speaker Sharma, interest rates are going to go up and so right now we have some capital needs and I think we are being prudent. I did have a little concern about our per capita amounts allowed in each category and overall but again, it's my belief that we have the adequate administration to assist the Council in making sure that we are quite prudent in our budgets. So I think that's good and really, you know, one of the things about, Speaker Sharma, about a debt strategy and the ability of this City to be able to provide the appropriate infrastructure that's needed, I know today it was announced in the Canadian Business Magazine that Winnipeg is the number one City in Canada to do business and that's probably because of the moves that we have been making to ensure that the infrastructure is here for business to do well. And so, moving ahead with this plan, yes, it does increase the amount we can go raise more debt. But the reality is, this City of Winnipeg won't continue to be the number one place to do business if our infrastructure continues to fail. So I am in total support of this, and I appreciate the administration getting back to me and giving me some answers about how we are proceeding and again, I think this is an important Motion that we need to do to help…actually it didn't matter…well, anyway, it's important for the City to move forward no matter who the Councillors are, or who Council is, this is essential for the City of Winnipeg to make it a better place in terms of our infrastructure and what we can provide for services to the citizens of Winnipeg and to businesses of Winnipeg. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further Speakers on the Item? Councillor Dobson.

Councillor Dobson: Madam Speaker, our credit rating was just recently downloaded by Moody's and now we want the ability to go in debt for 250 million more. Well, I understand the reasoning for the increase in borrowing, I am hesitant in handing out that ability until I have seen where exactly it's planned to be spent. Is this part of the 2016 budget to help pay for some of the capital projects? I'm pretty certain some of that's in there. I haven't seen the 2016 draft budget and I am sure I won't for a while. I am one of the non-EPC Councillors and I have not been involved in any of the 2016 budget deliberations to date, so I am kind of curious where all this money's going to be spent. But again, I do understand the increase. The reasoning for an increase in borrowing. We do need our roads to be fixed. That's it, thanks.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further Speakers? Seeing none…oh, Councillor Schreyer, sure.

Councillor Schreyer: Madam Speaker, this is an uncomfortable issue for me. I do appreciate the fact that there can be opportunities, unforeseen circumstances in which we need to increase our expenditures and to borrow and it does happen to be that at this particular era, this particular time, interest rates are so low that there has never been a more opportune time to borrow. That doesn't mean every time we do so it's for the best and my concerns are that this opportunity to raise our limit would not be put to good use. I am curious to know what we have in mind specifically, when we are asking to do this now. May I ask for clarification on that, Madam Speaker as a matter of fact? What is the motivation for this specifically? And whom would I ask?

Madam Speaker: You can make your remarks and hopefully in the closing some of your comments may be addressed.

Councillor Schreyer: That's what I hope for, Madam Speaker. There is good and bad to this. And I am…I await an explanation from Mayor and Council hopefully before I make my decision on this, thank you.

Madam Speaker: Next is Councillor Morantz.

Councillor Morantz: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The fact of the matter is that Winnipegers elected us to build and invest in the City. The debt strategy as it currently exists was set in 2011 and essentially, the major debt ratio was 60 percent of our revenues. In order for us to invest in Winnipeg and undertake the kinds of projects that people expect us to, to fix our roads and build one of my favourite projects, the Waverley underpass. We are going to have to create the tools that we need to make sure that these projects are undertaken. Now, this is not without restraints. In fact many cities and in fact many governments, in fact do not have a debt strategy. The fact we have a debt strategy is a very, very good thing. It means that we have to pay attention to these things. It's essentially our version of a debt ceiling and we should be having these conversations because of undertaking hundreds of millions of dollars in new capital investment through debt is a major decision that Council has to make. And those decisions come forth not willy-nilly but they come forth every year in the capital budget deliberations which every Councillor at some point in the process has a chance to deliberate upon. I am delighted to say that this year we were able for the first time to bring two non-EPC Councillors on to the budget working group and this has been really a fabulous experience. For me, I really have enjoyed the input that Councillors Gerbasi and Gillingham have brought forward and I think that their understanding of our fiscal position is far better now than it was earlier in the year when it was me standing up and telling everybody how horrible it was. But anyway, just to conclude, Madam Speaker, interest rates are at an all-time low and our debt is fixed. Now, I am never happy about a downgrade and I certainly hope and we all hope that it doesn't happen. But, when we borrow for our capital budget, the debt…the interest rates and the payments are fixed over a long period of time, 20 years, 25 years and sometimes 30 year debt and so, in the...unlikely or unfortunate event that we were downgraded and interest rates or the cost of borrowing went up that would only apply to future borrowings not to current borrowings and I that's important to understand. So, you know, with that I certainly am supporting this report. It will increase our debt ratio to 80 percent and it will give us the ability to invest in the City, make the investments that people expect of us. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor, do you wish to close?

Mayor Bowman: Thank you Madam Speaker. One thing I am not sure that a lot of Winnipegers know that we have a provincially mandated balance budget legislation. The Province requires the City of Winnipeg to balance its books. I agree with that and I think it served the City of Winnipeg and our citizens very well. As members of this Council will know, we did balance our budget last year. We're going to again after this Council considers the budget and has to make some very difficult decisions about where we are going to make investments and where debt may be incurred. I think one of the things that Councillor Morantz has noted is significant, and that's the fact that we do have a debt strategy. That isn't something that other levels of government, as far as I know, have. And so it allows for thoughtful discussion, analysis in terms of credit rating, in terms of our ability to pay and a whole host of other things that are contained in the report to be considered in advance of incurring additional debt. And so, that being said, as has been noted by many of my Council colleagues, there are fixed borrowing costs right now on record low interest rates. And Winnipegers do expect us to make investments in our infrastructure, there is a massive infrastructure deficit that we have only just begun to tackle. Fourteen years of property tax cuts and freezes has not left our roads in good shape and we have been working hard over this last year to realize on the investments that Winnipegers expect of us. Adjusting the debt strategy I think is prudent and if we are going to make investments in projects including the Waverley underpass, this is something that will assist us. But again, that will be up to this Council as a whole to make those decisions on a go forward basis in the course of this year's budget and future year's budget. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: The Mayor mentioned fourteen years of property tax cuts and tax freezes. I would like to mention…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer that is not a point of order.

Councillor Schreyer: Point of information?

Madam Speaker: No. Not at this time.

Councillor Schreyer: Not at this time? When is that allowed?

Madam Speaker: Question period.

Councillor Schreyer: Ok, Thank you. Clarification? Clarification on this issue?

Madam Speaker: I would like to move on to the vote at this time. We have had ample time for debate on this matter.

Councillor Schreyer: Not debate ma'am, it's specifically regarding the debt ratio that the Mayor mentioned and I would just like clarification.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer you had your opportunity to speak on the matter. I'd like to call to question now

Councillor Schreyer: Just a question ma'am…oh question period, okay.

Madam Speaker: I will call the question on Item No. 5 Debt Strategy. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Moving on…I am aware of the time here in front of us. What is the will of Council? Shall we move on to a few more items? Or break now? Council will now recess and we will reconvene at 1:30. Thank you.

Reconvened meeting of
Winnipeg City Council of
October 28, 2015, at 1:30 p.m.

Madam Speaker: Welcome back, Councillors. I would like to now reconvene our meeting. We left off at the report of EPC dated October 21, 2015 and we are on Item No. 7, Mr. Clerk.

Item 7 – Winnipeg Soccer Federation Inc. – Indoor Soccer Multiplex at Garden City Community Centre and Outdoor Soccer Pitch at Shaughnessy Park – Amendment to Loan Guarantee

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor to introduce the Item.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you Madam Speaker. I will wait to hear from my Council colleagues.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Wyatt I believe it was you that stood this down.

Councillor Wyatt: Yes, I stood it down, Speaker, only to just highlight the importance of this project and as well, the fact that the loan guarantee we are increasing it by 1.8 million and just to point out the fact that the City of Winnipeg, in terms of loan guarantees, we have increased the amount of loan guarantees in the last number of years with regards to different community clubs and groups and in this case, this is the Winnipeg Soccer Federation. And you know, just to point out the fact that we have made it very clear and prided ourselves on the fact that we have never had a loan guarantee fail on the City, in terms of the guarantees that we have made with not-for-profit groups by and large. And that's something that we should be proud of. And just so that we are clear and we should work to ensure that never does occur, I see that the municipal accommodations even though this is a project being managed by the Winnipeg Soccer Federation, having said that, the report indicates that municipal accommodations of the Planning Property And Development Department have assigned a Project Officer to the construction project to keep the public service informed of the project as the project progresses and this is something which is a concern that I am glad to see that, in light of the fact that it is basically public money, the City of Winnipeg at the table for $7 million, the Province of Manitoba at the table for 1.755 million now, they have increased their commitment by 600,000. And this has been driven by the fact that

the bids came in and the most…the bid that was being recommended to be selected is 2.4 million over the budget, which was estimated, unfortunately, in terms of the competitive bid process. And the 2.4 million, this is in terms of a project from a 20.4 million, $20.5 million project to a 20…to a $22.9 million project. And so, that increase is being split up, 600,000 more from the Province of Manitoba and 1.8 million more through the Winnipeg Soccer Federation which basically is increasing their loan from their bank. We are guaranteeing that. So we are now guaranteeing instead of 5.3 million, we are guaranteeing 7.1 million. And it is being recommended to do that, but I will point out that you know, we have to be cognizant and attentive to the fact…and the City needs to be very attentive in terms of municipal accommodations and as Project Manager, Project Officer as stated in the report, the viability…this is a 25 year amortization so at 2.85 percent interest, five year term, over with a 25 year amortization. And it is projected at this point that the Winnipeg Soccer Federation's annual projected surplus will decrease by nearly $25,000 a year. And it goes on to state that the viability of the business case and the ability of the Winnipeg Soccer Federation is served…to service the new level of debt remains similar. However, there is a risk associated with term financing if five year interest rates rise. So in other words, in five years time when they have to renegotiate their five year term, if interest rates change in five years there could be a concern here. And I just want to raise that so that we can do everything we can through the process of this project to reduce our costs wherever we can so that we can reduce that liability for the Winnipeg Soccer Federation. It's in their best interests but it's also in our best interests as a City, in terms of the fact that this debt increase is fairly substantial. So, I just want to point that out. Supporting the report, I just want to put those points on the record and just to drive home the point we need to be very cognizant of our borrowing and of the debt that we are taking on here, with a not-for-profit organization that as a business case, but as a business case which clearly from the report, the way I read between the lines of this report, it's tight. And so we have to do whatever we can to assist them and ensure that the project comes in on time, on budget and ideally, maybe a bit below what we are planning on spending. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers on the Item? Mr. Mayor to close.

Mayor Bowman: I thank the…through you, Madam Speaker, thank the Councillor for his comments.

Madam Speaker: I will call the question. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Item No. 8, Mr. Clerk.

Item 8 – Open Government Initiatives

Madam Speaker: Okay. Mr. Mayor to introduce.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll wait to hear from my Council colleagues.

Madam Speaker: I'm not sure who stood this down. Councillor Allard?

Councillor Allard: Yeah. I just wanted to thank EPC for bringing this forward. Open data is a new frontier in terms of transparency and collaboration with the public. I was reading a few stories that are existing…success stories abound with open data. The concept is, and I just want to define…give a definition of open data; so open data is a practice that makes machine readable data freely available, easy to access and most importantly, simple to reuse and I just wanted to pull this Item and to say certainly the right direction if we want to further engage the public and any organization interested in our data, to find innovative ways to make our City better. One of the lessons on open data is you don't really know what kind of innovations are going to come once you make these data sets available but often times, there is new solutions to problems, there are things we may not have thought were possible once you make that information publicly available, so I just want to commend the Mayor and EPC for bringing this forward.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, any further Speakers? Mr. Mayor to close.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you Madam Speaker and through you I would like to thank members of Council for their support on the ongoing open data as well as open government initiatives. This particular Motion will allow us to work with the Clerk's Office and the Clerk's Department to review other leading open government initiatives in other jurisdictions as well as seek recommendations for implementing open government practices here at the City of Winnipeg. Thank you madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. I will call the question. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Item No. 9, Mr. Clerk.

Item 9-Amendments to The City Organization By-law No. 7100/97

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor. Councillor Dobson?

Mayor Bowman: I will wait to hear from my Council colleagues.

Madam Speaker: And there are also two amending Motions before us. Is that correct, Mr. Clerk? I will draw your attention to Motion Nos. 1 and 2. So the movers will have an opportunity to introduce the Motions and we will have…speak to them concurrently. Mr. Mayor to introduce Motion No. 1

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

WHEREAS meetings have been scheduled for the Appeal Committee on October 29, the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management on November 2 and the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works on November 3 which will precede the Organizational Meeting of Council on November 4;

AND WHEREAS the coming into force of By-law 106/2015, A By-law of THE CITY OF WINNIPEG to amend the City Organization By-law, the Development Procedures By-law and other by-laws to reflect changes to the organizational structure of Standing Policy Committees of Council immediately upon enactment could affect the agendas of said meetings by altering the jurisdiction of said committees;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that proposed By-law 106/2015, A By-law of THE CITY OF WINNIPEG to amend the City Organization By-law, the Development Procedures By-law and other by-laws to reflect changes to the organizational structure of Standing Policy Committees of Council, come into force on November 4, 2015.

Mayor Bowman: The first Motion and I apologize. Yes, thank you. This amendment essentially deals with the fact that ongoing work is continuing with the City of Winnipeg and through standing committees. If supported by this Council Madam Speaker, there will be a change to IRPW. IRPW in particular has a planned meeting on November 3, I believe, and the formal Organizational meeting for this Council is November 4. So it's a simply to account for the schedule. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Motion No. 2, Councillor Gerbasi to introduce.

Motion No. 2
Moved by Councillor Gerbasi,
Seconded by Councillor Eadie,

WHEREAS the former Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management had the responsibility to deal with matters related to real property located with the area covered by The Downtown Winnipeg Zoning By-law;

AND WHEREAS the responsibility for real property matters in the Downtown will now be assigned to the new Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development;

AND WHEREAS the membership of the former Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management included at least one Councillor from one of the three Downtown wards that are covered at least partially by the Downtown Winnipeg Zoning By-law, namely the Point Douglas, Daniel McIntyre and Fort Rouge – East Fort Garry Wards;

AND WHEREAS the Downtown area is a unique and very important part of Winnipeg, having unique real property matters that should be addressed at the committee stage by at least one Councillor whose ward makes up part of the Downtown;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Recommendation 1.C. of Item 9 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated October 21, 2015 be amended to include the following at the end of the current wording:

"and that membership of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development be required to include at least one Councillor from one of the three Downtown wards, namely the Point Douglas, Daniel McIntyre and Fort Rouge – East Fort Garry Wards."

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Madam Speaker and I thank Councillor Eadie for seconding the Motion. This is asking that we ensure that in the membership of the new standing committee that's proposed which would include Property Development, Heritage and Downtown, that one of the three Council members would be a member of one of the three downtown wards, namely, Point Douglas, Daniel McIntyre and Fort Rouge and Fort Garry. The way the previous Downtown Standing Committee was set up there was included one downtown Councillor from one of those three wards in the By-law itself that was set out that one of the members would rep be from one of the downtown wards and part of the reason for that is that at the time the committee was created, some of the committee hearings that would have been heard at community committee, moved up to be heard only at the standing committee level and away from the local Councillors further, so I guess the idea was that there would be some kind of local voice or representation on that committee, regardless. So I think when the new Motion…the new committee structure is brought forward, this could simply be added in as a simple amendment so you would have the Chair of the committee, whoever it is, and then three Councillors, one of whom would be from one of those three wards. So I think it's pretty straightforward and I hope that Council will support it. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie. Just a moment. I would like to move on to Councillor Wyatt first, you did pull the Item did you not, Councillor Wyatt? Okay. Who pulled the Item? Okay. A long time ago this morning. Councillor Eadie you have the floor. Go ahead.

Councillor Eadie: Yes. Actually I didn't step it down I believe it was stepped down because of the amending Motions, but citing past practice Speaker Sharma using that terminology, the…I wanted to just applaud the Mayor for rationalizing and determining better ways of the City standing committees interfacing with our City administration, with the new committee, the Water and Waste, adding the environment and actually giving it an actual formal standing rather than an advisory committee. As we know, it is actually at the city level in which the environment is really dealt with in the best ways. That's all the reading I have done, it really comes down to cities and cities also do need the support of higher level government, but I think that overall, this is good. It does present six standing committees now instead of five. So I know that a number of us Councillors will pick up a little extra work but I just wanted to say I will be voting for the amendments and for the Motion itself as I think that it reflects and it really streamlines and makes things easier to deal with. I'm not going to speak about the innovation, the Mayor has been very clear about that since before and after he's elected. I'll leave it at that, Speaker Sharma, that I will be in support of these Motions and I applaud the Mayor for bringing it forward.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further Speakers? Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you Madam Speaker. I stand by what I said at EPC which is this is a big deal and it is and I want to commend the Mayor's office and the Mayor for listening to some concerns that have been raised about the need to modernize the structures. I know the stats were that Councillor Lukes' committee and Councillor Orlikow's committee averaged over a four or five month period 20 items per agenda. The committee I was chairing had a total of 20 Items over the four or five months. They're grown up to be a real inequity between the different committees. Councillor Lukes had the roads, snow clearing, water, waste, garbage, transit, a number of files I remember sitting on that Infrastructure Committee as a member a few years ago and it would be 4:00 in the afternoon when the budget and you get to water and waste budget and people would be exhausted and now you get into the tens and hundreds of millions. Very good move I think to move water and waste to be more the star of a different committee and to increase the oversight there. And these amendments are also well thought through. I would have to say, I think there is still more discussion to be had. There is sort of a historical anomaly that we have only three members on Finance instead of four and I think that's worth discussing. I know Councillor Morantz has said the more help the better, or words to that effect so I think we can look at that. And had I known this was coming I might have brought in a Motion to say the River Banks Committee should certainly have somebody from a ward which stretches from the Red to the Assiniboine. It was probably hard to come up with a committee of four here that wouldn't have somebody touching on the Red or the Assiniboine. So, maybe

we will need to look at that down the line but I do just want to say these are important changes, it shows a willingness to listen, I think and a willingness to act so I'm very pleased to see this come forward.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further Speakers? Seeing none…yes. Councillor Gerbasi you have a Motion too?

Councillor Gerbasi: I'll close on the Motion but I didn't really make any comments on the changes and just really briefly, I am also very pleased with what's come forward. I think one other thing to note that is quite new is that there is the word 'environment' now appears in the title of one of our standing committees. That's pretty significant. That elevates that issue to be part of our governing structure and I think that's a significant message in itself that this is now an item on the standing committee. The way it came together with water and waste and river banks you know, makes some sense. We are talking about water, waste minimization among other things, but, there are many environmental concerns such as climate change and other things that we need to be dealing with and so I think this is a really forward-looking structural change that is really, really good. And on the downtown, I mean I'm pleased that the downtown is still in the title again, these words are important that it's in the title of the Standing Committee with Property and Development and Heritage. Those things often go hand-in-hand and it will be a very busy committee as well as the Water and Waste Committee. But that's important work to be done and I think there are some synergies with those and then on the Innovation Committee, I prefer the name to innovation to alternative service delivery, I think it's a little broader. You know, it's not only about unloading services from the City but about doing things that are innovative and delivering better services in a better way. I support that and I hope you'll all support the amendment as well. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor to close.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to start by thanking members much this Council whom these changes resulted from ongoing discussions with a number of members of Winnipeg City Council. I want to thank my Council colleagues for their input about this change. This is about finding improved alignment and a more focused oversight on important issues, including water and waste, innovation, parks and the environment, all very important initiatives. I do note the Alternative Service Delivery Committee is being reformed and elevated to a full standing committee. Innovation is a more accurate description this is a committee that I expect will be very active over the next year. There is an ongoing need for us to continue our efforts to be more innovative with the processes and with the dollars that are sent here by Winnipeg taxpayers and it is also about trying to apportion the workload for the committees as well and I think when you look at water and waste in particular, there is a natural connection to river bank management as well as to the environment, especially some of the issues that we anticipate dealing with before the City Council over the coming years. And really, what this change does is it tries to position us for the ongoing needs of a growing, thriving City. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I'll call the question on Motion No. 2 first. All in favour of Motion No. 2, the amending Motion? Contrary? Carried.. All in favour of Motion No. 1? Contrary? Carried. And I will call the question on Item No. 9 as amended…or pardon me…yes, as amended. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Moving on to By-laws for EPC, Mr. Mayor.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that the following be read for the first time, By-law No. 105/2015 and By-law No. 106/2015 as amended.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 105/2015 and By-law No. 106/2015 as amended.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you Madam Speaker. I move that By-law Nos. 105/2015 and 106/2015 as amended be read a 2nd time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law Nos.105/2015 and 106/2015 as amended.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I move that the rule be suspended and that By-law Nos. 105/2015 and 106/2015 be…as amended be read a 3rd time and same be passed in order to be signed and sealed.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
QUESTION PERIOD

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. We'll now move on to question period for the Mayor. Are there any questions for the Mayor today? Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you, Madam Chair. I was very pleased to be able to attend the Small Business Summit that the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce held this past week, and was very pleased to hear at it that the Mayor announced that he is going to be doing a review of services, how services are delivered, how the public thinks of city services, and just service in general. So I was wondering if the Mayor could elaborate on that a little further, customer service and such?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and through you thanks Councillor for the question. I would agree the Small Business Summit was the first time that this happened and I want to thank the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce for their partnership on hosting the inaugural Small Business Summit. It was an excellent opportunity for the small business community to meet with senior administrators here at the City of Winnipeg and in that respect, I do want to thank our Senior Management Team, led by our CAO Doug McNeil, Michael Jack, Mike Ruta, and many other Directors that were there, and were very well received, I might add, by members of the small business community. The announcement that I made was that I would be introducing efforts, it will be by way of a motion at an upcoming EPC meeting to ask the Public Service to provide us with an assessment of the customer service-related training that occurs or doesn't occur in respective departments. Customer service ultimately is obviously a fundamental task and something that I think we need to increase our focus on delivering better customer service and so, I know for instance 311 operators and others receive training on customer service. Can it be improved? Are there areas of front line service delivery to our citizens where we can do a better job of customer service? Let's do an assessment and then we can make decisions as a Council about what we can do to improve the service level for, not just the small business community, but for all citizens. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Wyatt, you have the floor.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just want to ask the Mayor, through you to the Mayor, Madam Speaker. In the last general election, you campaigned and made a commitment in terms of electing members of the Executive Policy Committee and I wanted to follow up on that in light of the fact we're on the eve of our Organizational Meeting next week and the other pre-org meeting as it's called, and just to inquire into whether or not you tend to live up to that promise with regards to EPC members being elected by their, voted in by their peers and appointed as such?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and through you thanks Councillor for the question. As I indicated this past June after we initially came in to office we did ask the Clerk's and Legal to take a look at this to see what was permitted under the rules. The campaign commitment that the Councillor is referring to was part of an overall package to increase collaboration by this Council. I think we've come a long way when you take a look at the previous Council that

was here prior to the last election and the dynamic that citizens used to observe in this chamber. I think we've made a good collective headway to build a more collaborative City Council. The steps that I've taken have included, not just ongoing meetings and collaboration with members of Council, but efforts including the two hiring committees that we've had, both hiring the CAO Doug McNeil, included members non-EPC members of Council. We are currently undertaking the process to hire an Auditor, and again I want to thank Councillor Wyatt and Councillor Gilroy for her participation in that ongoing committee; and we're going to continue to find ways that we can try to provide as many opportunities as possible for members, every member of Council to participate to the fullest and to meet their passions, and that is the commitment that I made and it's an ongoing commitment that I make to you, Madam Speaker as well as each member of this Council, that we'll continue to do what I can on my part to increase the collaboration by members of Council.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Wyatt, second question.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you. This is kind of a more of are you aware question. The Charter does state that you have the power to appoint members of EPC. However, you are you aware that it is silent on how you arrive at your decision on those appointments?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Bowman: I am aware of the Charter. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Last question.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Would you then keep your election promise in terms of appointing EPC based on being advised of an election of it's peers?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I believe I have addressed that and I will remind the Councillor that collaboration is something that's up to all of us and I will continue to find ways to collaborate with members of Council; and I would ask all of us to do the same. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Moving on to Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Speaker Sharma. I'm wondering if Mayor Bowman, I think the Charter I believe is [inaudible] on a pre or informal organizational meeting, I believe it talks about us electing each other onto the standing committees and such. We have our process, so Speaker Sharma, I'm wondering if the Mayor is willing to allow us to set more rules informal organization meeting to elect the chairs of EPC?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Bowman: Madam Speaker, this Council that is next week there will be organizational meeting where this Council will determine, in a formal capacity, the selection of committee members as the Councillor is alluding to. Any informal meeting, which I understand will be taking place, I don't tend to attend, I leave it to members of this Council to have those discussions before the formal meeting next week.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Anything further, Councillor Eadie? Second question.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, Speaker Sharma. I'm wondering if Mayor Bowman would tell us in terms of cooperation and Council working better together, I'm wondering if the Mayor would be able to tell, if Mayor Bowman will be able to tell us who let Councillor Morantz know that Councillor Wyatt was being considered for a new position to liaison?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Bowman: Madam Speaker, I have had numerous with a number of Councillors in recent weeks, in recent days, regarding opportunities for Councillors to serve. I will continue to look for opportunities that I could support members of

Council to make meaningful contribution in constructive work on behalf of this Council, and I will leave those discussions that I've had with each respective member of this Council.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Final question, Councillor Eadie?

Councillor Eadie: I'm wondering if the Mayor would be able to answer whether or not he believes that we can trust in having confidential meetings and discussions, if we can trust the process?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Bowman: Madam Speaker, like I said, it's up to every member of this Council to conduct themselves accordingly. I think I've demonstrated much greater openness and transparency with members of this Council, greater collaboration, and I'll continue to do so as we go forward.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Schreyer, you have the floor.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just before we ended this morning's session, His Worship mentioned the problems created by a, I believe he said, that we have a 14 year property tax freeze and I do want to bring to our attention that as Councillor Eadie's recent research has shown as that despite an overall City-wide property tax freeze, income from property taxes. The fact is, Madam Speaker, that in wards such as mine of Elmwood-East Kildonan and throughout parts of this City that middle-income and lower-income residents, they have a property tax increases by 20, over 30 percent, and I would like to know if the Mayor will acknowledge that as well?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Bowman: I look forward to seeing those numbers from the Councillor, if he wished to provide them at a later time, I'd be happy to look at them.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Anything further, Councillor Schreyer?

Councillor Schreyer: I would be happy to do so, thank you.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Any further questions for the Mayor? Councillor Wyatt?

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and through you to the Mayor in the spirit of collaboration and cooperation amongst all members of Council, and knowing what other Councils do across the country, cities of our size, in terms of leading, in terms of development a strategic plan that can be implemented with a top, with a number of priorities. Would this Council expect in the near future, the Mayor to lead us in terms of proceeding with a strategic planning session, which all members of Council participate and place ideas on the table to be able to determine what our top priorities would be, that we can at least work towards over the next three years?

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Well first, currently all Council is guided by, in their decision making at City Hall, by the City's 25 year blueprint, OurWinnipeg. It's my understanding that when it was developed this, the Councillor was here and may recall extensive public consultations such as SpeakUp Winnipeg occurred. It included participation from community stakeholders beyond elected officials, which I think is very important. I know my office has been in contact with the Councillor and other Councillors on this matter to discuss his participation in a previous attempt when he was a member of EPC, on the previous Council for strategic plan for EPC, which we understand from the Councillor never materialized. I'm happy to work with the Councillor, all members of this Council to discuss those efforts that were conducted through a consultant and see if there's any merit to adding that voice to the guidance we received from OurWinnipeg. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Second question, Councillor Wyatt?

Councillor Wyatt: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. Is the Mayor aware that every Councillor on the previous Council attempted to pull together to try to bring that strategic plan to fruition but unfortunately, at the end of the day, the Mayor is the one who needs to spearhead that and that did not happen for various reasons outside of the Councillor's control, different Councillor's control? Are you aware of that?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Bowman: Yes. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Final question.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Are you aware that OurWinnipeg is required to be reviewed or provide a new OurWinnipeg is required to be initiated no later than next year, in 2016, and that the department has indicated, the public service is indicating informally that they will conducting only a review of OurWinnipeg versus a actual in-depth, new OurWinnipeg?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Bowman: I can certainly look into the Councillor's statements, but I am pleased to continue to support OurWinnipeg. It is something that, I know many members of this Council undertook to support OurWinnipeg during the election campaign last year, and have continued to support it. It's a good planning document. What I particularly like about it is the fact that it engaged the public and it wasn't simply a matter of politicians getting together behind closed doors. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Moving on to Councillor Orlikow.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you. Mr. Mayor, I just wanted to make sure you're aware or are you aware, that our previous attempt to do a strategic plan that certain members of Council went away on a retreat to devise a strategic plan before they came to general, to Council?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Bowman: It's my understanding that that's true, but given that I wasn't a member of this Council, I can't confirm that. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie?

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thank you, Speaker Sharma. This is a do you remember, Mayor Bowman, when last year I presented an in-depth research study of the assessment role over the last six, three, six, I believe it was six years, in which it showed the trend of neighbourhoods such as, real estate neighbourhoods such as the inner city, Old St. Boniface, Old St. Vital, various older neighbourhoods in which their share of the property tax pie has been increasing much faster than even the growing suburbs, such as in St. Norbert with Waverley West, the New St. Vital, the New St. Boniface, that the share of the property tax is high, which means we're paying more in these older neighbourhoods where the, well there are some older neighbourhoods that are wealthy, but that in general it shows that the medium to lower-income housing was sharing much bigger in property taxes and that it also demonstrated that actually the business share of the property tax pie has actually shrunk by two percent over the same period of time. Does the Mayor remember that report that I sent out to all Councillors and many others, put out the media, talked extensively about last year?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Bowman: Off the top of my head, no, but I will certainly, I will certainly look it up and refresh my memory. And I do want to thank Councillor Eadie, through you, Madam Speaker, for ongoing dialogue on that important issue.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie, second question?

Councillor Eadie: Yeah, second and just final question not related to the first part. Is the Mayor, does Mayor Bowman, quite cognizant of all of the things that the city, that people of the City of Winnipeg want us to do in OurWinnipeg and he's aware that we can't do it all at once and it does require some kind of a strategic plan?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Bowman: Madam Speaker, I am aware of the contents of OurWinnipeg.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Dobson?

Councillor Dobson: Yes, Chair, Mr. Mayor. The standing committees were recently approved, the changes. It's my understanding that you had some dialogue with some of the Councillors on the changes. Is there any reason why all of the Councillors, seeing it such an important issue, such a big issue, that all the Councillors weren't involved in making these changes?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Bowman: Madam Speaker, in this Chamber, shortly ago, all members of Council were involved in making decisions on the restructuring of the committees. There is ongoing dialogue that I have on an informal basis with each member of this Council. I request meetings, at least on a monthly basis with each members of Council, I'll continue to do so, and I would encourage any member of this Council that wants to have increase dialogue with me, I would welcome it, including the member of this Council who raised this question, and I would strongly encourage it. But we did just, we did just have a say on it. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Okay, seeing none, we will move on to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services. Councillor Browaty?

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
DATED OCTOBER 9, 2015

Councillor Browaty: I would like to introduce the report of October 9, 2015 and move as consent agenda Item No. 1.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. We have no Motions and no By-laws. Question period for the Chair. Any questions? We will move on to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works. The report dated October 6, 2015. Councillor Lukes.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
DATED OCTOBER 6, 2015

Councillor Lukes: Thank you Madam Chair. I would like to introduce the report on infrastructure renewal and public works dated October 6 and move adoption of the consent agenda Item No. 1 through 7.

Madam Speaker: I will call the question on Item Nos. 2 through 7. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Mr. Clerk, Item No. 1.

Item 1 – Enactment of New Water By-Law to Replace Water Works By-Law No. 504/73

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes to introduce the Item.

Councillor Lukes: I would like to hear the Councillor's question first please.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thank you, Speaker Sharma. I rise, I should start off by saying that Water and Waste, did a lot of consultation…or the department did a lot of consultation on this new water By-law and I have to say there is a lot of good clarification here, there's a lot of good modernization of this particular legislation By-law to deal with our water system, and I am not even going to go through, like, there's many, many changes that are very important. However, I think there is a real essential difficulty in this particular By-law that is going to cause me not to be able to vote for it. And I'm going to speak to that right now. It happens under part ten. And we do want to ensure that people are accountable for the water that they use, paying the bills or any cost associated with making sure that our water is well, and that includes how we don't want water backing up and if there is costs associated with making sure that people's properties are dealing with our water system in an appropriate way, paying for all those fees, it's very, very important and I agree. I agree especially that it's the customer and in part ten, section 55 (1) it talks about all these costs and how essential it is that people pay for it and we talk about you know like…we could maybe cut your water off after 30 days. Section 55 (2), however, is very disconcerting for me because in the first 55 (1) we are talking about the customer property owner at the time. The owner of the property where the water is being utilized. That is a critical thing, Speaker Sharma, to consider. That is, I in my own home where I pay the water bill am responsible for any water consumption and fees and I should pay for it in an appropriate manner and after 30 days I should expect some sort of problems to arise. Now, that's because I consumed it. I own it, I consume it. The problem with…before I go on a bit more, it does cite the Charter and a particular clause in the City of Winnipeg Charter where it talks about the ability of the City of Winnipeg to put any outstanding customer, property owner costs created or fees related to my use or my property, my real property, to put it on your property taxes. But that's on my property taxes. It's moot on who owns the home but it is very clear, Speaker Sharma, to everybody, that they do understand and I am sure the vast majority of the people of Winnipeg understand that it is the owner of the property at the time that the expenses have been deemed to be accrued to, it is that owner who is responsible and it is that owner, owning the title of that real property at that time who should have it put on their property taxes bill and then if they can't pay the property tax bill, eventually they will lose the house in a tax sale. That is fine. 55 (2) in our By-law is also moot though about who owns their…it says they can put these fees, these accrued costs on any title holder of that particular property, even though they may have purchased the house, taken possession, and there is no way that their lawyer could find out if there was some kind of outstanding water bill on this property, so due diligence cannot be done because there is no evidence. There is nothing in here that protects a person from being stuck with a water bill, accrued costs for the water system related to that particular property, to protect actually somebody who in no way could find out anywhere that there was this bill, and what this clause, 55 (2) is not clear. It should say that they can put it on the property taxes of the owner who incurred, who created the fees, the costs associated at the time. It should not apply to some new holder who has no way of finding out. If you follow the practice in 55 (2), it is quite clear that when you go to purchase a house if the water bill is being tacked on to a property tax bill, it is very clear on the record so that when I go to purchase the title, my lawyer, if I am the purchaser, can find out oh, there is outstanding water bills on here. I am not buying the house on condition…then say I purchase the house as long as you pay off all the debt. That is the way it is done. That is the way that we protect people in purchasing real property. 55 (2), again, is moot on who is responsible and again, I will point out that if nobody knows until somebody sends in a water reading, on possession date sends in a water reading and all of a sudden we find out Water and Waste wasn't able to determine the proper costs, fees and so on associated with that property in the past, there is nothing in here that protects that new person there, but they will find out that, oh, the previous owner owes it and then, because it's moot on which title holder, which owner of the property's real property taxes can be increased for the cost of that water. So I am not voting for this By-law and I hope that they either the Chairperson or somebody sees fit to send this back to our legal, to ensure that the proper description is in 55 (2) to protect innocent people who have not incurred water costs, fees, services that may have accrued. And who knows, maybe the person I bought the house off of has been stealing water and then the City finds out later. Why should I, the innocent new purchaser, be charged with that? So I say send this back, get some proper description in 55 (2) to make sure that any new homeowner that is not able to determine what kind of bills are owed on that house, because there is no record of it; that they are protected because it's totally unfair for that person because they won't be able to sell their house and maybe they paid a lot of money and they're going to get stuck with an extra big bill that they can't afford. So I will leave it at that. I'm voting against.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you. I've had the opportunity to caucus with the ex-real estate lawyer caucus, myself and Councillor Morantz to talk about this issue. I think Councillor Eadie is right in that there is a certain inequity here but it's

not unique to Winnipeg it's not something new here as far as I know, certainly speaking from experience in doing it, certainly when my wife and I bought our first house in Brandon; the vendor had not paid the water bill, I eventually had to call up the other lawyer who had acted for them and who had dispersed the proceeds and the lawyer had to basically pay up the bill themselves because they should have held the money in trust a bit longer to verify that there was an unpaid water bill. So, usually an offer to purchase should catch that kind of thing. I also had a case when I was a lawyer where I had a purchaser vendor had been running some sort of commercial operation, or rooming house, left a very large unpaid water bill and the title insurance covered that. If it's unequal I tend to agree with Councillor Eadie but certainly at least in Manitoba and I can be corrected here by Councillor Morantz who probably did more real estate law than I did but water runs with the title, water runs with the property unlike certain other debts you might incur as a property owner. I don't argue the inequity of it but it's frankly nothing new and there are some safe guards in terms of an offer to purchase or title insurance that can help out the new property owner so that like myself and my wife when we bought our house we weren't suddenly getting a hit on our property tax bill that it did rebound back to the vendor.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: When I first heard about the story, a true story happened to real people and I am just trying to think of how traumatic this can be for an extra $65,000 to hit anybody. My concern is that hire process, ambiguity of process which led to this. I am just uncertain. I think this is horrible that this can happen to people, that it must, in all cases, be dealt with through legal channels, also can take up tens of thousands of dollars and on that basis, I just want to see that due diligence is shown by this Council and administration to minimize these types things. I'm very worried about this, this can happen to anybody and it just shouldn't happen to the extent that the City has responsibility to mitigate this. That's what I am in favour of.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further Speakers? Councillor Lukes to close.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much for the comments. This revised, simplified information took four years for the department to work on. They consulted with many different folks in relation to all of these aspects of it. One point that is new is that this does give them the ability to go into a home if they haven't got a reading on a meter, so that they do have the ability to go in a home and get more accurate readings in a more timely manner to notify people on the cost of the bill. In relation to Councillor Eadie's point, my understanding is this is nothing new. This has been the way the City has operated in the past and it is…you know, it's a buyer beware, you have your real estate agent and your lawyer and you look into this and as Councillor Mayes has noted, it's important to do due diligence.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. I will call the question on Item No. 1. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Moving to By-laws for Public Works, Councillor Lukes.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Councillor Lukes: I'd like to move that the following By-laws be read a first time. By-law Nos. 99/2015 and 107/2015.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 99/2015 and By-law No. 107/2015.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Okay. I would like to read By-law Nos. 99/2015 and 107/2015 a 2nd time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law Nos. 99/2015 and 107/2015.

Councillor Lukes: I move the rule be suspended and By-law Nos. 99/2015 and 107/2015 be read a 3rd time and that same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
QUESTION PERIOD

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. We'll have question period now for the Chair. Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, section six of the Transportation Master Plan dated October 20, pardon me, October 2011, states that and I quote, "increasing demands in global trade and transportation efficiencies… will create a number of challenges to accommodate goods movement trips through and within Winnipeg." One of the strategies called for in the Transportation Master Plan, number eight, is to continue to build on strategic partnerships with higher levels of government, key freight, rail and air agencies, and industry stakeholders. In a recent communication to Councillor Lukes, Councillor Pagtakhan and myself, Terry Shaw, Executive Director of the Manitoba Trucking Association expressed concern and frustration that, to his knowledge, this strategy has not yet been implemented. And so my question, Madam Speaker, to the Councillor, at the risk of being too prescriptive is, given this strategic direction called for in the Transportation Master Plan coupled with anticipated development of the Interpol [inaudible] CentrePort as well as the fact that Transportation Master Plan is to be reviewed every five years, if we're asking Canada Working Group made up of Public Works representatives, key stakeholders including representatives from the trucking industry, rail and air industries be established to review the Transportation Master Plan goods movement section including map eight, the existing and future truck routes, indeed can this group be tasked with suggested policies, processes, communications required requirements that will enhance how trucks routes are designated, how they're reviewed and how they're re-designated? And that's how I'll leave my question there at this point forward, Councillor.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham, through Madam Chair. Yes, we have had discussions with the Manitoba Trucking Association who have been bringing forward some interesting points and one of the points has been that they would like to have a more formal method of communicating their thoughts and ideas to the Public Works Department. Some in conversation with the Public Works Department, we're going to sit down and look at, you know, what types of, how we can do that in a better format than we have been doing in the past, in light of the fact that we are moving to becoming a multi-global transportation hub and in light of the fact that the Transportation Master Plan is going to be undergoing a review within the next year or so, I think the timing is very timely. So I will take Councillor Gillingham's comments and consideration and look forward to working with the department on that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Browaty?

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Last month, the Chairwoman provided us Councillors with a very good update on the current status of Winnipeg Transit, the number of buses that are not in service. I was wondering if the Chairwoman could perhaps has information on where they're at right now and whether or not they anticipate being able to get back to a full schedule when they revise their schedule in December?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes?

Councillor Lukes: Thank you. Yes, the update from Transit has been they're still dealing with the situation that they are with the engines, and really nothing much has changed other than the fact that they're continuing to work on engines and getting them out and repaired. And that in January they're hoping, they will be revising the schedule but at this point, we still don't have any information on how it will be. But obviously their goal is to get as many buses as they can on the roads. So that's the update I have as of yesterday.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Second question.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you. It was recently learned that Transit was requesting additional funding as they're going over budget but there not internal savings from operating less hours, and I've heard through the media that there's also going to be the inter-manufacturer's going to be providing credit or covering the majority of the costs of the repairs.

Councillor Lukes: With the scheduling, Madam Chair, of Transit there is a lot of overtime that is included when all the buses are running and currently there isn't as much overtime. We don't have any financial report on the savings, we're expecting it to be nominal because there is an additional cost for the repair and although comings it has offered to do some subsidy to that. At this point in time I don't have an answer back from the department, but I will update Councillor Browaty when I have that information.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Mayes?

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, the Councillor Gillingham raises a point and the response led to a question mine, which is a session or go ago we adopted the Community Trends document and on page 175, it listed a number of projects with the Transportation Master Plan, one of which [inaudible] I should have caught it then, but I caught it now of the fact, one of which was the St. Vital Bridge that's actually not in the Transportation Master Plan, and when I looked into this, I was told well's a flexible document and it did evolve and I just wanted to, I don't need an answer today, but I'd just like confirmation that if there's any amendments to be made, that's going to be made by the elected body of Council, and I'm unaware of any other draft or plan or evolution of this document. I have the one that was passed before I got here in 2011. So I wonder if we can just get some clarity that the Transportation Master Plan is un-amended at this point and there are amendments to be made, they will be made by the elected officials here?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes?

Councillor Lukes: Madam Chair. Yes, absolutely that was the process prior and that to my understanding is what the process will be going forward, my understanding is there will be some conversations around this and that there are puzzling new items to consider, so there absolutely if there are any amendments will be brought forward to Council.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gilroy?

Councillor Gilroy: Through you, Madam Chair, I've had many calls on the loss of the Fall street cleaning program, many constituents have called regarding concerns over slippery streets, the snow is about to fall, and we've got massive amounts of leaves on our streets, and we're having water drainage problems. And I was just wondering, in my discussions with some of the administration staff, it has been unclear to me if we have a discretionary cleaning? I know that we're lost the whole Fall street program, but if there's been any discretionary cleaning, discussions that I've been having to deal with some of the problems in regards to drainage and other problems that arise from not cleaning the streets.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes?

Councillor Lukes: Thank you, Madam Chair, for Councillor Gilroy's question. So the public service has mechanisms in place to monitor any issues that may compromise infrastructure including, for example drainage concerns that may be associated with changes in service. Yes, the street sweeping budget eliminated and interestingly enough historically, in doing a bit of research of this, at a period in time, I believe from 2009 prior, only certain areas of the city receives street cleaning for leaves in the fall, because of all the canopy and the foliage that was in those areas. So at this point in time, I encourage, if there challenges, that if you're seeing challenges, any Councillors are seeing challenges or hearing of challenges, to contact 311 on that. We're been, I've been working with the Water and Waste Department, we've updated the website with more current information. At any point in time, residents can take, free of charge, any yard waste materials to the landfill, there's no tipping fees at all throughout the entire year. I think a lot of folks weren't familiar with that, but that is the case, and the Public Works Department will be monitoring that, because obviously the infrastructure's very important and we don't want to do any further damage to it.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gilroy, second question.

Councillor Gilroy: So on that, I just want to know is there going to be any discretionary cleaning then, if there is, if the need is arise, if we do have a staff that go out and sees that there's a drain that is clogged and needs clearing or you know, there might conditions around schools where there might be really slippery spots, is there going to be discretionary cleaning available?

Councillor Lukes: Well, as I mentioned before, the department, no different than if there's a car accident and if there's glass and broken material all over, the department does have funding to go out and deal with issues like that. So if there are severe issues, yes, the department will be able to deal with it.

Madam Speaker: Any further questions for the Chair? Seeing none, we will move on... Councillor Wyatt?

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you. Just my question was along the lines of the street sweeping as well actually. So that's why I put my hand up there. But on the street sweeping, is there any way that we could have that provided? Because I'm hearing from a lot of residents as well, they're quite concerned about the fact that the leaves aren't getting swept and they're concerned about the drain, concerned about the next year, and in terms of freezing and whether or not the water and snow will flow and all that sort of thing. So in terms of that, is there anything that can be considered at this time? Like the calls and the emails that we're receiving from residents.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you. If you recall, the bulk of us, at Council voted last year, to eliminate the street cleaning program. So at this point in time, there is not funding to do a completely cleaning program, as mentioned before, if there are any issues that are very serious in nature that will compromise our infrastructure, we will deal with them. Thank you.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
QUESTION PERIOD

Madam Speaker: Anything further? We will move on to Standing Policy Committee on Finance. There's no report, no motions, no by-laws. Question period for the Chair. Councillor Gillingham?

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Earlier today we passed a new debt strategy and I'm just wondering if the Councillor can offer any comments, Madam Speaker, regarding current debt the City has and will retiring in the next few years?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Morantz?

Councillor Morantz: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I want to my colleague for the question. It basically our current debt in the end of 2014, our actual debt was $961 million; of that $745,680,000 is Sinking Fund debt. There are, give me a second, roughly 12 separate issues, so for example, the first issue that comes in was one that was looked at in 1995 and it's to actually this year for it's $88 million, so it was issued back in 1995 at 9.125%, so that was the deal back in 1995, today it's you could probably get the same loan for about 3.6 or 3.7% in the sinking fund. There's another one coming to 2017 and will be paid off, that was booked in 1997 for $30 million; and the rate back in '97 was 6.25. So the rest are all long-term, the next one it is for sure is 2036, so on and so forth; and if other Councillors would like this information, I'd be happy to give them a copy. All the sinking fund debt and the other is $145 million, then we also have some P3 debt as well, so those are the major two blocks of debt that comprise our current debt position. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Councillor Wyatt?

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Can the Chair tell us when we could expect to see the Capital and Operating Budget?

Councillor Morantz: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I thank my colleague for the question. We have been working diligently since June, through the, initially through the Budget Working Group, and now through EPC and we're going through budget deliberations. We don't have a set date as to when they will be tabled. But I can advise Council that, just give me one second, Dialogue Partners, whom Council and the public know from last year, have been scheduled for the end of November to oversee public engagement from the budget. At that time, I look forward to further discussions with all Councillors, and of course I will welcome input from all Councillors, and I did recently ask my assistant to start emailing everyone so that we can sit down and have a chat about where we are in the process and what's on everybody's minds in terms of budgetary concerns. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Second question.

Councillor Wyatt: So would we expect it before the end of the year, or would it be a New Year budget?

Councillor Morantz: Thank you for the question, Madam Speaker. We are still going through our deliberations and no final decision making has been made with respect to the budget, and we just simply don't have a time frame at this point where we can say it's going to be tabled in November, December, January. I know from a statutory perspective we have until the end of March to pass, at least our Operating Budget, although we did pass together the Operating and Capital [inaudible]. But as soon as we're in position to announce when tabling will take place, we will, of course, be doing that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Final question.

Councillor Wyatt: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the budget be a combined budget as we've done in the past, where we bring the two Capital and Operating Budget concurrently together to be debated and discussed?

Councillor Morantz: Thank you for the question. You know, it's interesting for me, cause I never seen both budgets passed separately. It's my second go around, so for me, it's kind of a normal process. But I understand that in the past, they've been passed separately. But that is the current practice, is to bring them together, and that I certainly what we intend to do.

Madam Speaker: Any other questions for the Chair? Councillor Schreyer?

Councillor Schreyer: Madam Speaker, maybe this has been clarified but I wish to clarify it again, Councillor Morantz is aware that at the vote we did separate the two budgets in the last budget vote?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Morantz?

Councillor Morantz: Thank you for clarifying that. I still, I guess it's just part of a bit of a, still one year and do this up the process. I think of them being passed together, but I stand corrected that they were voted one, each budget was voted on separately. You are correct on that.

Madam Speaker: Councillor from Mynarski has a question?

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Speaker Sharma. To Councillor Morantz, in the past, my first year here in 2010 as yourself, Speaker Sharma, we voted on the Capital Budget way before we voted on an Operating Budget, that was the practice of the past, which is a bad practice actually. It's better to vote on both, on the same day. Yes, the vote is split but it passed is being where the Capital was passed months before the Operating and bringing them together is an important thing and the earlier you can get them out, the better so that our Capital programs can move ahead and get better prices. Madam Speaker, would that be the opinion of Councillor Morantz?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Morantz?

Councillor Morantz: Thank you, that's a very good question. And you know, I am aware of the issue that there's this time sensitive issue around departments wanting to get their tenders done. And certainly, the goal should always be trying to get the capital budget passed as early as possible, and I certainly agree with that goal, very much so. It's just the process itself is very important, but it's issue by issue, day by day, and we don't want to rush it, we want to make sure that we get it right. And so, this is the process that doesn't have a set time frame, other than the fact that we know we have to pass it before the end of March. I can tell you my preference would be to get it passed as Councillor Eadie suggests, as early as possible, particularly with the Capital so that our public service can have some certainty around what funding they have available for in your capital projects.

Madam Speaker: Moving on to Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you. Just a second follow up question; arising from Councillor Eadie's question, which I think was a good question. In the past, in order to assist the Department of Public Works, in order to get the projects moving and to have tend reading as soon as possible, what has been done is you have a report that's issued as early as November and knowing that we are going to spending a certain amount on roads already, based on the Local Roads

Improvement Funds that we have in place, both regional and local now, is there been any contemplation or thought or maybe more of as a are you aware question, that you the potential is there for bringing a report forward for November or December, that does not pre-empt the budget but at least gets some funding out the door that would allow the department to start doing the tendering process to ensure that is competitive and the work gets done.

Councillor Morantz: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I believe what the Councillor referring to is the "first call process", is that, that's correct. You know, I remember this happening last year, when I first got here and asking what's the first call, but anyway, I haven't seen any of those calls come forward at this point, from the public service. I, you know, I'm going to take that question under advisement to see if the departments are working on that, to see, just to make sure, because that's a very good point that we get our tendering as quickly as possible, so if it's alright Madam Speaker, I will investigate that question and see if there are going to be asks for early capital calls prior to Council formal budget.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND RIVERBANK MANAGEMENT QUESTION PERIOD

Madam Speaker: Thank you, anything further? Any further questions for the Chair? Seeing none, we will move on to the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management. There's no reports, no motions today, and no by-laws. Question period for the Chair. Councillor Lukes?

Councillor Lukes: I would like to ask the Chair to, maybe to give us a little update the Seine River 25th Anniversary and if there's anything that he has planned for is doing for recognition of this amazing accomplishment? These volunteers have worked, and they're all volunteers that have worked for 25 years to preserve the Seine River and the greenway; and with the resources that the City has, the City could never do the job that these volunteers have had and they are celebrating their 25th anniversary of working together over the years, many different folks coming on board and departing, saving pieces of beautiful forest and walkways in the heart of South Winnipeg, right through St. Boniface all the way up, so to the Red. So I'm just wondering if the Chair has any comments or information he could share with us on if he's doing anything in recognition or if the City will be.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you for the question. I know it comes from the heart, Councillor Lukes, I was actually at an event last night celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Save Our Seine, during which they thanked Councillor Lukes, Councillor Allard was part of the slideshow that they had, I was there in the slideshow and they thanked formal Councillor Vandal, they thanked Councillor Lukes' assistant, Bev Sawchuk, was the former president of Save Our Seine, but more importantly the Premier was there last night. The Premier was there throughout the meeting and the Province yesterday had a whole proclamation about Save Our Seine, and commending them and celebrating it as Save Our Seine Day, standing ovation from all the party members in the Legislature, so certainly take a look into what we might be able to do over the next month or so, come back with something, it's a year-long celebration. I should also say the Premier announced $25,000 grant for Save Our Seine last night, which is not quite as generous as our $30,000 grant that Councillor Vandal and I championed a few years ago, in which we used in our budget, but it's terrific for that organization, they were very appreciative of the efforts of this City and of the Province and it's a bilingual organization so, I should say a few words in French.

Translation of French spoken:
Councillor Mayes: I would like to thank the Premier who announced last night a $25,000 grant to Save Our Seine. The City of Winnipeg works with Save Our Seine on several projects such as pathways like the Gabrielle Roy Trail and the new Gabriel Dufault Trail, benches for pedestrians, as well as riverbank stabilization...

Councillor Mayes: A number of projects, the riverbanks stabilizations, pathways, we do a lot of work, Councillor Lukes is absolutely right, the work of Save Our Seine has been a great saving for the City and really it's been great for that waterway, and the story I told last night was somebody got to appear at Council and said, "we all know it's the second longest river way within the City of Winnipeg" and I said "you all know that because I keep repeating it", so it is the second longest, longer than the Assiniboine, it is an important river way. So we'll certainly see what we can do in terms of commemorating the work of Save Our Seine. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions for the Chair? Seeing none, moving on to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development. Councillor Orlikow, on the report dated October 13th.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
DATED OCTOBER 13, 2015

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you Madam Chair. I wish to introduce the report and move adoption of consent agenda Item Nos. 1 to 6.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. By-laws, Councillor Orlikow.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you Madam Chair. I wish the following By-laws be read a first time. By-law Nos. 101, 102, 103, 104, 108, 109 and 110/2015.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 101/2015, By-law No. 102/2015, By-law No. 103/2105, By-law No. 104/2015, 108/2015, By-law No. 109/2015 and By-law No. 110/2015.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Orlikow.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you. I wish to move that By-law No. 101/2015 to 104/2015 both inclusive and 108/2015 to 110/2015 both inclusive be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried

Clerk: By-law Nos. 101/2015 to 104/2015 both inclusive and 108/2015 to 110/2015 both inclusive.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Orlikow.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you Madam Chair. I move the rules be suspended and By-law No. 101/2015 to 104/2015 both inclusive and 108/2015 to 110/2015 both inclusive be read a third time and the same be passed in order to be signed and sealed.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
QUESTION PERIOD

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. We'll now have question period for the Chair. Any questions? Councillor Schreyer?

Councillor Schreyer: Madam Speaker. It happens to be an opportunity for us, for the City of Winnipeg, to work again with the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation amongst other wonderful agencies and citizen organizations that work locally and I think globally, having been in the past on the Board of Directors of UNICEF Canada Communications, former Chair for UNICEF Manitoba Communications, with whom I worked with Helen Norrie; she was the Chairperson at UNICEF Manitoba, whom we had lunch with today. Happens to be that this Spring, the Fair Trade Initiative was being promoted here at City Hall, at Grace Café. I happened to be there, wonderful to hook up again with the MCICN, excellent organizations, I then working with Councillor Orlikow and his office, his office being Georgina

Sabesky, developed a motion for the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee that was passed unanimously with the support of Councillors Browaty and Wyatt, and it then went to EPC, then through EPC directed by the CAO I believe, back to Councillor Orlikow and the Property and Development Committee for this to continue working with the administration on implementation of feasibility by which the City of Winnipeg can participate and facilitate Fair Trade Mission, to make the City of Winnipeg a Fair Trade City, which is a national, in fact international movement for fair trade throughout the world and this case, to be specific, Madam Speaker, to just explain it briefly, to make sure the threshold number of venues, restaurants and stores in particular that offer a fair trade option, that will be concentrated basically right now on sugar, chocolate, tea, coffee and we will be progressing from there. It happens to be that Winnipeg will be hosting the National Fair Trade Conference in February. So I'm asking the Chair of Property and Development, if he will continue to work with me and the administration and show due diligence in that we may have this development ratified by the National Fair Trade Conference being held in Winnipeg in February?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Orlikow?

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to first state that Councillor Schreyer has been incredibly helpful and incredibly positive on this file and I continue to look forward to working with him on this file. I super appreciate when people who have a passion for a file engage with it and how I can support them as they engage with that file. So the quick answer is yes, we need to follow up a little bit more on it, the few where that is, get some timelines in place, so we can have a good presence. So I thank him for the question and look forward to continue working with him.

Madam Speaker: Any further questions for the Chair? Seeing none, we'll now move on to the Governance Committee of Council. Councillor Gerbasi, you will be moving the report on my behalf. The report dated October 15th, 2015.

REPORT OF THE
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
DATED OCTOBER 15, 2015

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Madam Speaker. I would like to move the report dated October 15th, 2015 Item Nos. 1 and 2 as consent.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Call the question on Item 1. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Item No. 2.

Item 2 – Council Policy – Council Summer Prorogue

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi

Councillor Gerbasi: I will wait to hear what Councillors have to say.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie

Councillor Eadie: Thank you Speaker Sharma. Councillor Wyatt and I moved a Motion concerned about prorogue being too long and I've had a number of concerns about having a bunch of stuff crammed down the pipe. Really fast, we all, all us Councillors and the Mayor, yourself, Speaker Sharma, are very busy people and what was frustrating for the prorogue period this year and yeah, I did vote for it. So now I will always be very cognizant in trying to ensure that we are doing our due diligence and make sure that one, that a month is basically enough time for a prorogue period. It's a substantial amount of time that…to not have to deal with formal meetings and formal processes that we are all responsible for. And having the July meeting in terms of how prorogue worked last year, the second week of July, with all our standing committee meetings, community committee meetings, advisory committee meetings and so on all happening really close to one another and trying to stay on top of all the work and all the reports that we should do our due diligence and read and try to understand what's going on. So for me a month is good and so in terms of a prorogue period, I think it's important that basically it begins at the end of July which I think is being proposed for 2016 however when we are doing and looking at a prorogue period for the month of August, and it is important, I think, and I believe that we should be considering having a July meeting in the third or even the last week of July like we normally do with

most months and I will be bringing my concerns with the new draft calendar that we will be voting on coming up I think in some time and have some concerns about the timing of these meetings and trying to pack everything in and do what I believe is…well for myself, to be able to do my job in the best way that I can. This report here, I know what's being proposed for next year, so the prorogue period is ok you say July 30th and it comes back on the Tuesday after the Labour Day, which is good. However, when we are setting our prorogue, if there is no formal meetings hardly or anything after mid-July, technically you might as well have a longer prorogue period. I don't get that. So for me, we should be working right to the end of July. To the last day would be the last Wednesday of the month for a Council meeting. So, I will leave that there. I will actually be voting against this particular report.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Wyatt? Councillor Mayes?

Councillor Mayes: Yes. To repeat a point I made at EPC, two things, I tend to agree with Councillor Wyatt that I think the intent is to have the July meeting go to the third Wednesday which is the tradition. We have it right here in front of us, you can start scrolling back several years, July sixteenth, 18, 19, 20, it's generally around the 3rd Wednesday in July.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Mayes, the Item before us and Councillor Eadie, I gave you some leeway but the Item before us is the prorogue period not our calendar. That will be discussed at a future date.

Councillor Mayes: The two inter-relate. My point being that to then word a Motion saying that up until over the last four years we've gone from a four week break to an eight week or seven week break and just factually inaccurate. The clerks did a lot of work on this to verify this and you don't need that, you can just look at it in front of you here. Go to 2008-2009 the breaks there were from July 16th, 18th to the first meetings are September 8, 12, very similar to what we have now. So I have had people wrote in to say, well in your four year watch the breaks have gone from four weeks to eight weeks that's just simply factual inaccuracy in the Motion. It hasn't. The distance between the last Council meeting has…and coming back in September, Councillor Wyatt's right, that seems to have crept maybe a week earlier but to suggest that 2009 we went right to the end of July and got right back at it September 1. That's just not factually accurate, the dates don't support that. I think you have to call that out and say, look, there wasn't a four week break that's expanded now. That said, I think it is accurate to say the July meeting and Madam Speaker, I know you have reasons for that, I know Councillor Orlikow has spoken about this, to my mind, the July meeting seems to have crept a week earlier, I think Councillor Eadie and Councillor Wyatt have a point on that, frankly but that the premise that we have gone from a four week to eight week break is simply factually inaccurate.

Madam Speaker: Any further speakers? Seeing none, Councillor Gerbasi to close.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think the specific "resolved" in the Motion speaks to changing the prorogue day to the August long weekend and the reality is, and maybe there was some misunderstanding, but the actual prorogue date is July 30th which means that meetings could continue. So we are sort of the two issues of the schedule for the year and the prorogue period itself have kind of been a little bit mixed up here. It's a decision of Council, the schedule is put forward and we'll have to decide whether we want to have the meeting the second, third or fourth week of July for the July meeting. It's also my understanding that this year they were looking at scheduling it a little bit earlier because of the move that Councillors will be making over the summer, but that may have something to do with the consideration of why it was put forward a little bit earlier this year, but I think the issue…and I also think…I would like to point out that a lot of this is simply when we schedule meetings or when meetings can be held which is right till the end of July. A lot of us spend some time over the summer working pretty hard, like we don't take off for eight weeks and I wouldn't want the public to think that just because we aren't in a Council session, we're not working. Many of us were here working very hard, for a lot of the summer. We did take a little bit of a holiday which I think people are entitled to but I don't think anybody around this table is slacking off, certainly not to my knowledge. So I wouldn't want that impression to be given and we already have a prorogue period till July 30 which is what this Motion is about which as I believe why it was received for information because we pretty much are in alignment with what the Motion would be asking for which is almost the long weekend, it's just a couple of days different. So, I hope that explains matters. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. I will call the question on Item 2. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Councillor Wyatt will you move adjournment? All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Roll call Mr. 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 Councillor Wyatt.

Council adjourned at 3:12 p.m.