EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 246
Councillor Gillingham asked His Worship Mayor Bowman about By-law No. 53/2016 and why there were different rates for the various Business Improvement Zones. His Worship Mayor Bowman responded that the administrative report provided the detailed information on the 2016 Business Improvement Zone levy rates and that the Business Improvement Zones set the rates, the City collects and returns the funds to the various zones as outlined in Schedule B of the report.

Councillor Eadie asked what His Worship Mayor Bowman meant when he told CBC Radio that some Councillors did not vote for Freedom Road. His Worship Mayor Bowman replied that he believed all members of Council, in principle, support Freedom Road and that in the lead-up to the vote on our budget yesterday, he was very clear and took the unprecedented step of letting Winnipeggers know that he would be supporting the item and he would be encouraging my Council colleagues to support it as well. Furthermore, when Council voted on the budget and the Freedom Road item, there were a number of Councillors who chose to vote against that, and he was stating that for the record today with CBC.

Councillor Eadie asked His Worship Mayor Bowman if he supported covering one-third of the costs from Band 40 all the way to the road that it was going to connect to, to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied that The City of Winnipeg's position had been to support one-third of the $30 million estimate and that the City was still waiting for a detailed design and additional information on any possible increases, and that Council would work collaboratively as we have done already to continue to support the initiative, but that Council needed to wait for that information in due course.

Councillor Eadie asked if His Worship Mayor Bowman if he had or had not been contacted prior to the budget discussions about the newest estimates in terms of what it was going to cost to build the whole road, to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied and reminded the Councillor that the Federal Government had been working off the $30 million estimate for some time and once more detailed information was available, the City would play a supportive and collaborative role.

Councillor Schreyer asked His Worship Mayor Bowman if he made the point in his comments to the media this morning that Councillor Gilroy voted against Freedom Road, to which the Mayor responded that his comments were clear and that there were a number of Councillors who voted against the budget and he was disappointed in that.

Councillor Schreyer asked His Worship Mayor Bowman if he believed that those people that heard him on the radio this morning would be surprised to hear of Councillor Gilroy's motion on Freedom Road yesterday based on his comments to which the Speaker, Councillor Sharma advised the question was asked and answered.

Councillor Schreyer asked if the communications resources of the Chief Administrative Office and of the Mayor's Office, would be availed to Councillor Gilroy at the least to explain what happened yesterday regarding Freedom Road, to which the Speaker Councillor Sharma advise we don't have those resources in place.

Councillor Schreyer asked that if they were available, would they be availed, to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied that the question should be directed to the Chief Administrative Officer.

Councillor Allard asked His Worship Mayor Bowman, with regards to his comments on CBC, did he indicate that he voted against cancelling the service reductions that were being proposed by a number of Councillors and did he mention that he voted against putting more money into roads, to which His Worship Mayor Bowman suggested the Councillor listen to CBC to hear the full interview.

Councillor Allard asked if His Worship Mayor Bowman had any concrete ideas of how to include other Councillors in the budget process, to which the Mayor replied that the Let's Talk initiative sought input from all Winnipeggers, including members of Council, and that two non-EPC were included in the budget working group. He looked forward to working with members of Council on how to continue to make improvements.

Councillor Mayes asked if His Worship Mayor Bowman could clear up the misunderstanding about how the budget vote worked and clarify that if someone had voted in opposition to the budget, then they're duly recorded as having voted in opposition to the package that was presented, to which His Worship Mayor Bowman responded that each Councillor was accountable for voting for or against each of the items in the budget, and we all stand on our record of what we vote for or against.

Councillor Eadie asked His Worship Mayor Bowman if it was correct that when voting for the budget, he voted against Vacancy Management, to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied he believed Councillor Eadie voted against the budget.

Councillor Eadie asked His Worship Mayor Bowman if he was aware that the Business Improvement Zones were not an entity of the Province to which the Mayor replied in the affirmative.

Councillor Eadie asked His Worship Mayor Bowman if he knew that each levy was set within Business Improvement Zones based on their annual rental value and their consideration of the ability for those businesses to pay, to which the Mayor replied in the affirmative.

Councillor Schreyer reiterated his question to His Worship Mayor Bowman regarding a conversation on the radio, about comments made that Councillor Gilroy voted for Freedom Road yesterday by virtue of her motion, to which the Speaker Councillor Sharma advised that line of questioning had already been heard.

Councillor Mayes asked His Worship Mayor Bowman if he was aware that Councillor Eadie voted for the frontage levy increase last year to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied in the affirmative.