STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON WATER AND WASTE, RIVERBANK MANAGEMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 253
Councillor Gillingham asked the Chair if there had been, or if there were plans to have discussions with the Province of Manitoba regarding adjusting deadlines for sewer treatment plant upgrades; to which Councillor Mayes replied there had been discussions, but deadlines were not part of them, as it was days before the Provincial election was called. Councillor Mayes stated that those discussions should happen soon after the April 19, 2016 election.

Councillor Eadie asked the Chair why he, along with Councillor Dobson and himself, voted to put off the rates until April 14, 2016, to which Councillor Mayes replied that he felt there was not enough time and also Councillor Gerbasi was not in attendance, therefore the Committee elected to put off discussion until their next meeting.

Councillor Eadie asked if the Chair would put out a call to his contacts and let the public know they could speak to these rates at the Standing Policy Committee meeting, to which Councillor Mayes replied that delegations could be heard at Council and at the Committee level, but that he would also use social media in hopes to increase turn out.

Councillor Eadie asked the Chair if he would engage the new communications people at The City to publicize that they were welcome to speak to water and waste rates at the next Standing Policy Committee on April 14th , to which Councillor Mayes replied he would communicate with Corporate Communications in this regard.

Councillor Allard asked the Chair why a vote was taken for three years of fees and why the vote could not be taken annually. Councillor Mayes replied that this was standard practice across other jurisdictions.

Councillor Allard asked if the Water and Waste Department actually needed the amount of money that they were asking for, to which Councillor Mayes replied in the affirmative

Councillor Wyatt asked if the Chair would move the April 14, 2016 Standing Policy Committee meeting to the evening to allow citizens to attend, to which Councillor Mayes replied he would check with the Clerk, but that he supported maintaining the meetings at 9:30 a.m. in order to not set a precedent whereby all meetings could be held in the evening.

Councillor Wyatt asked if the Chair was saying no to having an evening meeting to which Councillor Mayes reiterated he would discuss it with the Clerk.