COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Wednesday, March 23, 2016

The Council met at 9:33 a.m.

The Clerk advised the Speaker that a quorum was present.

The Speaker called the meeting to order.

The opening prayer was read by Councillor Gillingham.

ROLL CALL

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

MOTIONS

Madam Speaker: Mr. Clerk, will you read the leave of absence motion for Councillor John Orlikow into the record please?

Moved by Councillor Gerbasi,
Seconded by Councillor Gilroy,

That Councillor Orlikow be granted a leave of absence from today's meeting due to a personal family matter.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Madam Speaker: I would like to introduce our page for today's meeting. Again, joining us is Katrina Chanas of Miles Macdonnell Collegiate. Thank you so much for being here today. I would like to acknowledge in our gallery today, from 311, Sheri Thompson, Lee Parker, Breanne Hoover, Laura Collier, along with 21 new 311 graduates, all here today to learn about Winnipeg City Council. Thank you so much for being here. Mr. Mayor, I understand you have a few announcements this morning.

Mayor Bowman: Yes, thank you Madam Speaker and good morning to everyone who may be viewing online or in the gallery today. I do want to start by recognizing that we are on Treaty 1 Land and the traditional homeland of the Métis Nation. And I want to begin my remarks by acknowledging the passing at the end of February of former City of Winnipeg Councillor David Brown and the passing of former City Councillor, Eldon Ross who passed away in March. Mr. Brown was first elected to City Council in 1984 and was a dedicated advocate for Fort Garry residents and for our city until 1992. He worked tirelessly to better the community through his work as a councillor, as well as Deputy Mayor. Mr. Ross was first elected as a councillor the year I was born in 1971 and served in many different capacities until he retired from Council in 1980. Mr. Ross served in the Royal Winnipeg Rifles Reserve and in 1952 enlisted in the RCAF serving in Germany and French Morocco with the 427 Squadron. Mr. Ross believes strongly in giving back to community and was actively involved in many aspects of community life and our thoughts and our prayers go out to the countless friends, relatives and colleagues who were touched by all of the work undertaken by Mr. Brown and Mr. Ross for our community. We also learned yesterday of the passing of the former Mayor of Toronto, Robert Ford and we extend our deepest condolences to his friends, family and the people and our friends in Toronto. This past Monday marked the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and I was very pleased to participate in a multi-faith gathering at the West Broadway Community Ministry to mark this day. It was heartwarming to participate with so many different members of our community who work hard each day to build social equity and address the challenges of racism. All of their work helps encourage and build reconciliation. The Winnipeg Public Library is hosting a series of talks in March and April on truth, legacy and reconciliation in partnership with the Truth and Reconciliation Centre. And partnering with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation is a very important way for us to honour the truth by educating and engaging with the public. The three part series will introduce the mandate of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation which is to preserve the memory of Canada's Residential School System and its legacy. The National Centre is the permanent home for all statements, documents and other materials gathered by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and I would encourage all members of Council, in fact, all members of the public,

to attend one of these sessions if not all of them, if they can find the time. In early March, I had the opportunity to meet with a remarkable young woman named Brianna Jonnie. Many of you will recognize Brianna as the high school student who very power…send a very powerful letter to our Chief of Police, Devon Clunis, in which she shared some of her own personal fears, growing up as a young Indigenous woman. But she also shared her aspirations for hope and for the future. I was very pleased to have met with Brianna as well as have her meet with our Indigenous Advisory Circle where she was also able to meet and get some reassurance from Justice Murray Sinclair, our soon to be appointed Senator for Manitoba. Yesterday, we voted and passed the 2016 budget and as all of you know, preparing a budget is no easy task. Every budget decision is difficult and I want to thank everyone in this chamber for their passion and their input into this year's budget. I do believe that we have in place this year a budget that takes a responsible and disciplined approach for the coming year. It's balanced and it continues to build Winnipeg for the future. I want to note that the provincial election campaign is in full swing. Together with 137 other mayors across our province, I continue my efforts to promote the need for municipalities to receive a fair share and a fair say in how infrastructure dollars are spent in our communities. If provincial candidates knock on your door, consider asking them their vision for municipal infrastructure partnerships and what they plan to do to provide municipalities including Winnipeg, with a fair share and a fair say. Yesterday, the new Federal Government tabled its first budget and the Government of Canada's earlier commitment to prioritize municipal infrastructure spending and to make funding more flexible to the requirements of municipalities are steps in the right direction which we should absolutely applaud. As well, the renewed relationship that the Government of Canada is forging with municipalities reflects the increasingly important role that cities are playing within the federation. It's also a recognition of how connected mayors and municipal leaders are to their residents and will continue to review the federal budget to better understand what it means for Winnipeg. March is recognized as poetry month and March 21st is recognized by UNESCO's World Poetry Day. The Mayor's Poetry Challenge is a national celebration of World Poetry Day and in recognition of the role that poetry plays in enriching the culture of our community and our country. I have recently been challenged by my colleague, Mayor Nenshi from Calgary and I accepted that challenge. Since 2012, the Mayor's Poetry Challenge is an annual initiative through which municipal councils across Canada open their council meetings with a reading from a local poet and I am very pleased that we were able to participate this year. I am also very pleased to have Ms Patricia Robertson with us here today who will be reading a poem called, 'The Death of Ice'. Patricia Robertson is the 2015-16 Writer-in-Residence at the Winnipeg Public Library and has served as Writer-in-Residence at libraries and universities across our great country. Her first collection of fiction, 'City of Orphans', was short listed for the BC Book Prizes for Fiction. Her fiction and essays have appeared in Best Canadian Stories and Best Canadian Essays and have been nominated for the Journey Prize, the CBC Literary Awards, the Pushcart Prize and the National Magazine Awards. Ms Robertson, welcome to you here today and I would ask that you please come forward at this time. Thanks very much, merci and megwich.

Patricia Robertson: Thank you for inviting me here this morning. Poetry doesn't exist to make the reader feel comfortable. It exists to make the reader come alive, to challenge, to bear witness, to invite conversation and contemplation, to unsettle and to try to make sense of the world. In 2016, it feels to me as though poetry has a big job to do but often finds itself out of work. That quote is from a movement in the United Kingdom called the Dark Mountain Project. The Dark Mountain Project believes that we need new stories and myths and poems that, in some way, address this unprecedented time of planetary emergency in which we find ourselves. They publish twice yearly anthologies and this year, they're providing that work, that employment to poetry by dedicating an entire anthology to poeMs The poem I'm going to read, I hope, is in that spirit, that poetry has a big job to do. Like all literature of our time, it's being called on to take on its ancient and sacred role of truth telling and prophecy and vision questing. The Death of Ice. One. Sikuliaq, Sari, Tuvak. So the Inupiat said when it lived. They carved it. They slept in it. Dreamed of an afterworld cold as a frost-bitten cheek. They killed on its flows. Young ice. Pack ice. Land locked ice. Its death was foretold in their legends. Overhead the Aurora singing through space. Two. It was blue, we tell them. It spoke. It was many feet thick or shattered like glass. Candle ice. Frazzle ice. Pancake ice. It turned ponds into mirrors. We wore blades on our feet. We flew, we danced. The water held us. A commonplace miracle. Three. Erratics on the flat velt. They melt in the noon day sun. Among them, pronghorns and springbok casting shadows. Thorn bush and fever tree. The children laugh at the stories. Ice fog. Icicles. What marvelous lies. We will place them, the last ones, in deep cold in museuMs Sikuliaq, Sari, Tuvak. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Ms Robertson. What a beautiful start to our day. Thank you for joining us.

Patricia Robertson: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard do you have an announcement for today?

Councillor Allard: Yes, I just think there is nothing more wonderful sounding than the death of ice right now so, thank you very for that. I wanted to recognize the great work by our interpreter who not everybody sees, who is with us and who translates for members of Council who choose to speak in French including Brian Mayes and I am still waiting for

Jason Schreyer to throw in a few words. So Juliette Ruiz-Héral is going to be moving to French Polynesia and she has been serving us with our interpretations,

Translation of French Spoken: Thank you very much, Juliette, for your hard work. I wish you all the best. What Winnipeg will be losing, French Polynesia will be gaining. Once again, thank you for your service in Winnipeg.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Allard. Yes?

Councillor Schreyer: If I may speak to that?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, you have the floor. Go ahead.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you. On that basis, I will take the invitation from Councillor Allard to say a few words.

Translation of French Spoken: I will take the invitation from Councillor Allard to say a few words) in the language of Molière or, as one would say in Winnipeg, in the language of Molgat. One might say that? So, Madam Speaker, I would like to mention that this is my first time speaking French in this Chamber. I would like to thank Louise for the work she accomplished here for the City of Winnipeg before leaving for the world and for French Polynesia. I didn't take the opportunity over the course of the last year to use the language of Molgat, but I've spoken with Louise over the past months. She not only speaks French, but Spanish as well. I hope that she will continue with her work, her disciplines, and that she will continue to represent the City of Winnipeg around the world. Thank you."

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to...I think the Mayor mentioned it yesterday and made several comments but I think it's appropriate today as well just to acknowledge the terrible incidents in Brussels yesterday and to just take a moment to say that our hearts go out to Europe and the people of Brussels and the whole situation. So I just wanted to take a moment for that.

Madam Speaker: Absolutely. Thank you. Moving along, some of you may have noticed that one of our regular Council staff, Fred Young, who co-ordinates our audio visual needs has not been at Council for the last little while. I know Fred is watching today, so he is contending with some health issues so just on behalf of City Council, I would like to wish Fred our best in terms of a speedy recovery. Thank you. We have two condolence motions before us, one is for former Councillor Dave Brown. Mr. Clerk, would you read that into the record please?

MOTIONS

Moved by Councillor Gerbasi,
Seconded by Councillor Lukes,

THAT Council place on record its profound sorrow at the death of former Councillor Dave Brown, which occurred on February 24, 2016.

Dave Brown served the citizens of Winnipeg as Councillor for the Pembina and Waverley Wards, in the Assiniboine Park - Fort Garry Community, from 1984 to 1992.

This Council extends to his wife Marsha Kay and family, its deepest sympathy and condolences in their bereavement.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Would all those on the floor in the gallery please rise for a moment of silence?

(Moment of Silence)

Madam Speaker: Thank you, please be seated. Mr. Clerk, we have a second motion before us for Councillor Eldon Ross, if you could please read that into the record.

Moved by Councillor Gillingham,
Seconded by Councillor Dobson,

THAT Council place on record its profound sorrow at the death of former Councillor Eldon Ross, which occurred on March 14, 2016.

Eldon Ross served the citizens of Winnipeg as Councillor for the King Edward and Deer Lodge Wards, in the St. James - Assiniboia Community, from 1971 to 1980.

This Council extends to his wife Carol and family, its deepest sympathy and condolences in their bereavement.

Madam Speaker: Please rise for a moment of silence.

(Moment of Silence)

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gillingham, you wish to say a few words regarding Councillor Eldon Ross?

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My comments will be brief. I want to thank the Mayor for his comments about former Councillor Eldon Ross and I want to thank Councillor Dobson for seconding this motion of condolence. Councillor...former Councillor Ross did serve the St. James - Assiniboia Community from 1971-1980 and so I just want to rise and express my personal condolences and condolences on behalf of the community of St. James - Assiniboia to Mr. Ross' wife, Carol, and the entire Ross family. And just a bit of a personal comment, I have run two campaigns in the St. James area and I will fondly recall knocking on Mr. Ross' door and though his health was failing, he would always invite me in and we would have to…we get to sit in the living room and talk politics and I can tell you though his health battles were very real and at times he was very weak, he always wanted to sit and discuss politics. His spirit was strong. And so my appreciation for Mr. Ross will endure, and I, like probably my colleagues here have deeper appreciation for what it means to be a councillor in our city and the hard but rewarding work that it is. So I think it is very fitting that we express motions of condolence when a former colleague or a former council member or mayor passes and just acknowledge the great work that each has done to better our city. So thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank, Councillor Gillingham. Councillor Gerbasi, will you move the minutes of the meeting held February 24th, 2016, to be taken as read and confirmed? All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

MINUTES

Councillor Gerbasi moves that the Minutes of the meeting held on February 24, 2016 be taken as read and confirmed.

DELEGATIONS

Madam Speaker: We will now move on to delegations. We have two delegations that are registered this morning, both in opposition to the notice of motion from Councillor Eadie and Councillor Wyatt regarding the organics program. Jennifer Feschuk and next we will hear from Molly McCracken, if you could please come forward. Good morning Ms Feschuk, you will have ten minutes to address Council today. Our page will take the material from you and distribute it.

Jennifer Feschuk: Okay. Thank you. Good morning. I feel very privileged to be here today to speak on behalf of Green Action Centre. Green Action Centre is an environmental, non-governmental organization with over 30 years of experience supporting Manitobans in living green and living well initiatives. With the level of media coverage and engagement and from what I have heard is happening in your offices, the topic of composting has struck a chord with many Winnipeggers. As an optimistic and hopeful environmentalist, I like to think of this as a good thing. The fact that the citizens of Winnipeg are bringing their heads and hearts to the table on the topic of composting, to me, says that we are in the wave of transition and change. A vision of Winnipeg as a sustainable city is not far off and I know with all my heart that we can get there. We have to get there. As a Composting Project Coordinator, I regularly deliver presentations in classrooms and community centres all over Winnipeg. We focus on training individuals to successfully compost on their own. This is an integral part of a strong waste diversion program. Our view is that both community based composting programs and curbside pickup are necessary in order to succeed in diverting a large amount of waste. Waste is everybody's business. We all make garbage and we have to find a way to deal with it responsibly and sustainably. The first step is understanding that organics don't actually belong in the garbage at all. Your banana peel is

a resource, not waste. This is the only way forward. Over the last two weeks, I have had a chance to talk to a number of you and I understand your concerns as you navigate the calls and e-mails and I am aware that there has been quite a loud opposition to the composting curbside pickup program that's been proposed. This is to be expected when people don't have all the critical information and they hear about proposed fees before the consultation planning and process has been completed. But there is in fact a lot of support for this program. Many residents of Winnipeg are excited and desperate to see this happen for Winnipeg. I would like to read just a few of the comments that we have received from our...on our end and to note that we have a signed petition with over 530 people of Winnipeg that support the curbside program pickup in Winnipeg. For example, Jonathan Ventura writes on our petition, "I have been told by City Councillors that organic pickup service is not a priority because residents have just not demanded it. Well, here I am." Thomas Williams is concerned about Winnipeg's reputation and he says, "We all want to live in a city that we are proud of. Let's lose the label of Canada's most wasteful city." As well Lisa Debeston wrote, "It's time for Winnipeg to get with the times. This is an embarrassment." These are strong comments, bold statements but it shows that there is an ever growing group of folks that have an understanding of the very real, tangible and attainable impacts that composting has on the overall picture. It is clear to me, that composting is not only in our future, but that its time is now. Now we know that everyone in this room believes in composting as part of a sustainable Winnipeg. We know that you are all composting in your backyards right now or perhaps taking your organics to a community compost site. Right, well we all know that we agree that composting is the low hanging fruit when it comes to action and climate change and that having a real positive impact on the environment. There is no question as to whether or not composting is a good idea or not. We know it is the right thing to do. But the issue that's brought to the table today is not about why we need to make this happen but how. The justifications for residential organics curbside collection program have been made clear. We already know that this is absolutely necessary. We know this because when you recycle and compost you can divert up to 80 percent of your waste from the landfill. The Brady Landfill is the second largest greenhouse gas emitter in the province and that 74 percent of the organics from that landfill are from the residential sector whereas commercial waste goes primarily to private landfills. The emissions generated from the organic material decomposing in the landfill is called methane and that gas has a warming potential greater than 25 times that of CO_2 coming out of your car. But we already know all these things. These are the facts. Proper waste management is a municipal responsibility and today as city councillors, you have the opportunity to provide innovative and opportunistic services for city residents giving us all a safe and healthy place to live. I would like to remind City Council of the commitment that was already made for waste minimization. The Comprehensive Integrated Waste Management Plan adopted by Council in 2011 and developed in consultation with the public stated, "That Winnipeg needs to switch from waste disposal to waste diversion". Cities across Canada have already moved in a similar direction. Halifax started collecting municipal organics in the 90s. Edmonton began in 2000 and Brandon started in 2010. Further, our statistics are showing that only 23 percent of the residents in this city are backyard composting. And many of these composters are stopping for the winter months. So other than a small, sporadic amount of community composting sites, that means that 77 percent of city residents have no option but to throw their organics in the garbage. If you say that this 23 percent are the ones calling your office to say they already compost, I think that Council should find out what the other 77 percent of city residents think. We know that Councillor Eadie's motion attempts to look ahead at some of the related issues such as, proper waste management of the other streams, backyard composting, education initiatives and the diversion of commercial and industrial food industry. These are all very important pieces of the puzzle as we move forward. But a curbside program must come first. Analysis, discussion and consultation on the program must continue. We strongly urge you to oppose this motion because of the statements in point B which proposes to immediately suspend the implementation of the program and cancel all plans for public consultation. Citizens respond better to change when they are asked to weigh in on what's happening. We see the motion as an attempt to stifle the public consultations and only cause delays. Should this motion be approved, the Residential Green Program will be halted. The bulk of our residential organic waste will be continued to halt…continued to be hauled to the dump adding more greenhouse gas emissions from Brady Landfill to our air and putting Winnipeg even further behind other progressive cities in Canada. Winnipeg already has one of the lowest diversion rates in Canada, less than 30 percent of our residential waste was diverted in 2014. To quote my friend Lisa from the petition, "This is an embarrassment. I know we can do better." As a response to the motion tabled, Green Action Centre has prepared a recommended resolution that could be adopted by this council. This document was circulated to your offices at the beginning of the week and I trust that you have had a look. Proper and equitable financing of the program is essential. We don't want Winnipeggers to feel burdened by the fees of waste diversion. We feel it's important to look at various financing models. Now, sure, increased funding and composting initiatives and subsidized bin programs, great idea, let's keep doing it. That keeps me having a job so I want it to happen for sure. But, we need a curbside municipal program to make the necessary impacts. Our recommendations include a polluter pays model as well as equitable distribution of project costs. A model referred to as "Pay as you Throw" is seen as a fair choice and rewards responsible waste behaviours in support of collective environmental goals. Funding of the program costs was also addressed in the 2011 master plan where a combination of property tax and user fees were proposed to offset the cost. The report also indicated that the property tax would support diversion programs and the user fee would balance the garbage collection cost. We believe that by returning to this earlier resolution and philosophy, Winnipeg can reduce the sticker shock of organics collection and emphasize a collective responsibility for sound waste management solutions. Finally, the frequency of garbage pickup is an important point as well. Not only for the potential cost savings,

but also for the minimization of greenhouse gas emissions from the circulation of trucks on our city streets. Cities that are diverting most of their waste to recycling and organics like Toronto, for example, are able to reduce the frequency of garbage pickup to every other week. Winnipeg could do the same. Shifting culture and behaviour is a job for the many and Green Action Centre will be there to help with the education challenges. But, your time in office, no doubt, as most things do in life, will fly by. When you look back on the legacy that you've left behind for Winnipeg, what do you want to be remembered for? We all agree that this is the right thing to do. We all want this to happen. We cannot turn our backs on the truth of this for the future of Winnipeg, for my own two kids, for your kids and your kids' kids. I have studied the environmental movement from a communications, an education and a business perspective and there is no doubt in my mind that the shift towards an eco-centric generation is happening right now. This is your chance to leave a positive legacy, to be recognized by our future leaders as the Council that led us on a path towards a sustainable future. Hold true to your promise. The promise that was stated in our Our Winnipeg report is living and caring because we plan on staying. We have heard you. I urge you to reject the motion. We have spent enough time feeding into the frenzy and negative perception of the green bin program. Instead, step up, work together and create a strong vision.

Madam Speaker: Ms Feschuk, you have to wrap up. Thank you.

Jennifer Feschuk: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: I don't know if we do that for...Mr. Clerk, do we...

Clerk: Sometimes we can suspend the rules.

Madam Speaker: Okay, so we can suspend the rules. Councillor Eadie, no? Are you wrapping up?

Jennifer Feschuk: I have one sentence.

Madam Speaker: Okay, let's do it. One more sentence.

Jennifer Feschuk: One more sentence. We believe in a strong vision and we can work together. Winnipeg are caring and passionate folks. We all want to do the right thing so we need you as our government to remain transparent and engaged. Lead us down the path and we will follow you. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. If you could just stand down on the bench, we'll take the next speaker and then we'll hear questions at that time. Molly McCracken, on behalf of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, also in opposition to the notice of motion on organics. Good morning.

Molly McCracken: Good morning, thank you for having me. It was fitting to hear a poem about the death of ice as we talk about the impact of organic waste diversion on climate change and I am here to speak in favour of action to prevent climate change by moving forward on curbside organic waste pick up. There are aspects of this motion that we support, advancing organic business waste diversion and community involvement. Councillors Eadie and Wyatt raise important concerns about the impact of flat fees on low income homeowners. However, we do not support spending public consultation on curbside composting and stopping the process approved by City Council in the 2011 Waste Diversion Plan. Residential waste pickup is a service the city delivers and you can deliver on residential organics. This is already in place in many cities across Canada. In 2014, our office published, 'Taking Back the City, Alternative Municipal Budget Winnipeg with City Watch', and this report recommended household curbside organic pickup following the city's own Waste Diversion Plan. I'm here to tell you four reasons to move forward on household organic waste pick up. Number one, city leadership is needed on climate change. You have the power as municipal leaders to take action to reduce methane emissions that cause greenhouse gases and climate change. The Brady Landfill is the second largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Manitoba. We commend Mayor Brian Bowman's recent creation of the Climate Change Working Group. The connection between climate change and organic waste diversion is clear. The opportunity cost of not investing in curbside organics is that Winnipeg household organics are not diverted from Brady and continue to cause climate change. Backyard composting is not enough to divert organic waste from the landfill. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities recommends residential waste pickup. The time to act is now and residential waste collection contracts are up for renewal so that this activity can be built into the new contracts. Number two, there is a cost of doing nothing for Winnipeg. The benefits of strong, early action on climate change considerably outweigh the costs. The costs of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to a safe level is 1 percent of global GDP compared to 20 percent if we do nothing. We need to prevent climate change as it causes destructive, extreme weather. We all remember the cold winter of 2014 which resulted in frozen pipes in over 2,000 homes. In summers, scientists predict climate change left unchecked on the prairies will result in extreme heat. In Winnipeg, this means more days above 30, up to 40. This heat gets trapped in the urban heat island effect and we also know that climate change leads to the risk of flooding. The impact of extreme weather will be hardest on our vulnerable and low income citizens. People with disabilities struggled

particularly to deal with the frozen pipes and in the summer those who can't go to a cottage or afford air conditioners have no choice but to suffer prolonged heat which will impact health and can even result in death. Number three; we must act now to prevent exponentially worsening impacts of climate change. The impacts of climate change are not gradual. If climate change continues resulting changes cause tipping points that would create run away effects, exponentially increasing the cost of dealing with climate change tenfold. Psychologically it can be hard for some to accept climate change. The temptation is to think everything will be okay, everything will remain the same, but the science is irrefutable. We have run out of time to procrastinate. The United Nation has named climate change as one of the greatest threats to human security. Councillors and Mayor, it is time to demonstrate Winnipeg can lead by example on the climate change file. Our collective future depends on the actions you take today. Number four, we can't take action through waste diversion structure to drive change. The Toronto 'Pay as you Throw' program has free unlimited waste diversion and households pay for garbage collection. Garbage is picked up once every two weeks and organics every week. The first day of the introduction of the program had over 90 percent participation. A recent survey found 80 percent of Winnipeggers support organic waste pickup. Public education on financing options available is needed as it has been framed negatively as an increased cost. It can be framed positively. Households doing their part to prevent climate change and divert waste using an incentive model like the PAYT model. We are in favour of the Green Action Centre's proposed resolution to move forward on the public consultations, provide information on financing alternatives that incent households in waste reduction and do not place disproportionate financial burden on lower income homeowners. When considering the full cost of garbage and waste diversion together, the decreased frequency of garbage pickup results in cost savings.

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

Molly McCracken: Thank you, one more sentence. Another option is to take advantage of low interest rates to borrow to finance the new organic composting facility thereby reducing the need to finance the facility from the fee. Thank you for your time and I just want to highlight a slogan from the streets of Paris at the COP 21, "We are not defending nature. We are nature defending itself". And I invite you all to attend a talk by Naomi Cline, leading intellectual and activist, at Knox United Church on April 8th to talk more about what we can do to impact climate change and reduce its effects on our community. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. This time we will take questions. Councillor Eadie, you have a question for?

Councillor Eadie: The usual three questions, right?

Madam Speaker: Yes. There's two delegates here, so, Ms Feschuk and Ms McCracken.

Councillor Eadie: I'll just…I will direct the questions to both, actually. Either one of them can answer them. Speaker Sharma, I start off by saying I know that all of this city council is quite concerned about climate change and there are a number of issues though about how we proceed to fulfill our obligations and as you've recognized in your speeches. So, actually, my first question, you compared Winnipeg to other cities. Toronto seems like an interesting model. Do you know who pays for the organic and recycle pickup in Toronto?

Jennifer Feschuk: I believe it has been integrated into the property taxes, which is something that the master plan here in 2011 proposed to do as well.

Councillor Eadie: That's interesting. We'll have to find out some research. My second question is, there is a discussion about Brady Landfill being the number two greenhouse gas emitter and we know that in Winnipeg, there is organic waste going to the progressive wastes landfill over in Rosser. So, can you tell me...it's a two part...do you know how much industrial grocery store, restaurant, hotel, et cetera, organic waste is put into both the Brady and Rosser Landfills?

Jennifer Feschuk: I don't have that number with me but I do know that 74 percent of the organic material from Brady is from the residential sector. So a lot of the organic material that's from the commercial and restaurant sector is going to other places like private landfills.

Councillor Eadie: That's interesting. I don't know how you can calculate the percentage if you don't know the business waste going in. But my last question at this point is, would you agree that at this point, maybe it's the beginnings of a discussion about how to proceed to pay and that sort of thing might start at our Standing Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and Environment? I know there is a climate change group together, one of our committee members is actually on that. But, would you agree that maybe initial public discussions could start at the Standing Committee on Water and Waste?

Jennifer Feschuk: Yes, I think public discussions is definitely needed. I mean, the original plan was to put forth this idea and to discuss with the public and have consultations on the best way to finance this, on what we want to do and how we want the collection to happen. This is what we are pushing for, for sure.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Schreyer followed by Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you Madam Speaker. I am so pleased you are here. This is a very serious issue for us as we move forward. I personally was raised on composting. That's how we gardened. And I do know when this came about, I...basically, people have made a point, more than on most...I would have to say more than on most issues coming up to me to voice their opinion on this. And on that basis, because of what people have been telling me, I am looking at this with prudence. And, I do know that the issue that is being raised, the issue of looking at the industrial sector that has been put forth is what I consider to be a rather wise look in terms of how to begin this program in the city. Would you think it would be prudent for us to look at prioritizing the industrial sector first in terms of research, given the fact...unless...unless, of course, we know that other cities have done industrial first and they have information from that. I would like it see where Winnipeg can provide leadership. We have statistics from other cities on home composting prograMs Would you like to see information on industrial? And the City of Winnipeg could lead....

Molly McCracken: Well certainly we need action on industrial that the City runs a Waste Management Program so it's easiest for the City to act on residential. That's been in the plan since 2011. So, what we are saying is by all means let's look at business and institutional organic diversion. But right now, we have an opportunity and in fact, it's been four years in the making where it hasn't been implemented yet, to do the residential. So let's move on that right now and by all means, look at the institutional as well. But, institutional waste is managed in a completely different way. The City runs garbage and recycling, adding organics is not as big of a step as starting with a sector that...we need much more research and information. Residential is within your control right now.

Jennifer Feschuk: I also would just like to add that the Tomorrow Now document that was put out by the Provincial Government stated that there is an intention to have an organics landfill ban by 2020. So, municipally we will have to do something eventually. We have an opportunity to work on it now. It's within our reach. We already have a collection program that's under way in the City of Winnipeg so we can add to that and actually have an impact before the gun of the organics landfill ban when we have no choice.

Councillor Schreyer: Fair enough.

Madam Speaker: Second question, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you. Now, these points are well taken. Points being made to me on this as people volunteer to provide the information also include...well in fact, based on information from our administration is that the program to change it would involve a whole new fleet and renovation of the program by changing the whole capital infrastructure of transportation, of the vehicles. So, it's an undertaking that I am worried about in terms of how we move forward. I believe we will be. But, my concern is that, as you just said, we don't have as much information on industrial sector recycling.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, your question?

Councillor Schreyer: Given that, is that not a reasonable priority for Winnipeggers?

Jennifer Feschuk: I'm not really sure what the question is, but essentially, I think that yes, it is going to require some undertaking and some new facilities, we have to build a compost facility. But that's not a reason not to do it. The proposal to have reduced garbage pickup will reduce on some of the costs for the collection and the trucks. There is all different kinds of technologies out there to have combination or split trucks where you can pick up both recycling and organics; both recycling and garbage at the same time. There is technologies out there because everybody else is doing it.

Molly McCracken: Yeah, I mean...there is no reason to pause on residential while industrial is studied. We need to do the residential now and understand how to do the industrial. The point of my talk is to say we have no more time to procrastinate on action on this. We need to move forward on all fronts and we are looking to you for leadership on residential and industrial.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you so much for your presentation, I don't even think I need to make a speech now, I think you have completely made the case as to why we should proceed with something. So thank you very much for doing my work for me today. I think that...I guess my question is just to get a clear sense of how you would like to see us proceed, I think there were concerns, things were launched in a way…they weren't really launched, they just happened without, sort of, a proper report coming forward, without information the public could really look at and I think that's part of the problem is it kind of went sideways before all the information has been shared by the public. So from what I'm taking from your position is that you would like to see us have that public discussion, have that information come forward, maybe even broader...in a broader way than what was originally going to…may have come forward so that could be the silver lining in all of this kerfuffle. But I guess the main concern I am hearing from you is that we have a contract that is going to be renewed in a relatively short time. And if we lock into a new contract without adding that third stream of organics, you know, how many years is it going to be until we start getting our diversion rate up to the levels we committed to in 2011. Is that kind of the…your main thing that you want to have the consultation and you want to have us get this into our upcoming contracts in a way that makes sense?

Jennifer Feschuk: Yeah, I mean, for sure. This has been on the table since 2011. It was even put in the budget in 2014 to have a pilot program. So, it has to happen. We have to move forward.

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

Jennifer Feschuk: So I think having some public consultations, talking to the city residents and asking them about how they think that we should pay for this. If 80 percent of Winnipeggers are saying they want it, they're going to weigh in on what's the best way to do it, you know, whether you integrate it to property tax, user polluter pay fees, pay as you throw. There's lots of models out there. I think it's important to remember that we're not reinventing the wheel. It's been done in many different places with all kinds of variables. Winnipeg has its own variables, that's true, but that doesn't mean that we can't adopt the different models and take from what the other people are doing and learn and do it the best way for Winnipeg.

Councillor Gerbasi: So, if at this point in time, we have the motion in front of us, but I have heard some rumblings that that could be referred back to the standing policy committee. And if that were to happen, that's really the place where the policy should be discussed, the public can appear and so on, does that seem like at this point in time, a solution you would support in the meantime, just to keep the discussion going? As opposed to cancelling the public consultation all together which is what the motion states?

Jennifer Feschuk: Yes, and I will be there, again.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Next speaker is Councillor Lukes. We only have 50 seconds left, there are no further extensions.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much. I will ask one quick question, I guess; if you could maybe just comment or give a perspective on the odour that would be reduced or what you feel would be reduced by taking organics out of the Brady Landfill. As you know I am the councillor and the proud owner of the Brady Landfill in south Winnipeg. So it's very relevant to the residents that possibly there could be an odour reduction.

Jennifer Feschuk: Very legit especially when you think about those encroaching residential areas that are being developed right now. When you compost and you have large amounts of compost, proper aeration and the integration of carbon materials such as dried leaves and wood products will reduce the odour. It acts as a carbon filter and so proper management of a composting facility will reduce the odours. Especially from what's happening right now in a landfill.

Madam Speaker: Thank you very much. That concludes our question period for today. Thank you for appearing, ladies. Moving on to the committee reports. First we have the report from Executive Policy Committee, dated March 9th, 2016, Mr. Mayor.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED MARCH 9, 2016

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I introduce the report and move adoption of the Consent Agenda Items 1 through 4.

Councillor Eadie: One and two, please.

Madam Speaker: Call the question on three and four. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Mr. Clerk, Item 1.

Item 1 – Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone – Boundary Expansion

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor to introduce the item.

Mayor Bowman: I'll wait to hear from council colleagues, please.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie, you have the floor.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. My…I'm actually not opposed. Being blind, the boundaries are changing without textual description of where the boundaries are on this report and there is the Exchange District. I don't know if they are swapping areas or what's going on. So, Madam Speaker, really, I stepped them down because I just want to understand what the boundary changes are as the map says, it's the grey area, but I'm not seeing the grey area. So maybe in closing, somebody might want to describe where the actual changes are happening with this Downtown Biz and as well with the Exchange Biz when that comes up. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Madam Speaker, just quickly, as a member of the Downtown Biz Board I am aware that, I believe the expansion simply has to do with the area where the Canada Goose Factory is that makes those amazing down jackets right here in Winnipeg. And they wanted to be part of the Biz and the Biz is expanding. It's really on one block and it's stretching out really just to encompass that business as far as I understand. I don't have…yeah, I mean I don't have those exact details on my fingertips, but I just…to reassure if there is any concern, I mean, it's a positive move in that they want to be part of the Downtown Biz and they would be a contributor to the work of the Downtown Biz. It's really…they have a lot of employees as well that are making these jackets in Winnipeg. So, there was…everyone was happy about it and all the proper processes were followed in the expansion. So I don't…I can't explain the map, I'm sorry, and perhaps someone could do that later for Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: (Inaudible) Madam Speaker, just a point of privilege.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Councillor Eadie: Just a point of privilege. Like I am not against it. I just…I don't want to vote on something, Madam Speaker, this is...I don't want to vote on something if I don't know what the change is.

Madam Speaker: We heard your question, thank you Councillor Eadie. Are there any further speakers on this item? Councillor Browaty?

Councillor Browaty: I will do my best and sort of read the map to Councillor Eadie. It's between William and Bannatyne from around Dagmar through to almost Gertie.

Madam Speaker: Thank you for the clarification.

Councillor Eadie: I know where those streets are. Thank you, councillor.

Madam Speaker: Any further speakers? No. Mr. Mayor, do you wish to close or I can call the question?

Mayor Bowman: I have nothing further to add.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Mr. Mayor, on the report of Executive Policy Committee dated…

Clerk: Item two?

Madam Speaker: Moving ahead quite fast today, yes, Item 2, Mr. Clerk. Thank you.

Item 2 – Exchange District Business Improvement Zone – Boundary Expansion

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.
Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Joe and Lily's Coffee Shop and Impark are currently located outside of the Biz boundary and would like to be included and they have filed the appropriate paper work with no opposition to expand the boundary to include the business within the Exchange District zone area.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you. I am not quite sure where that is. What street is...Madam Speaker, I am just trying to figure out what street is being added so that that particular business can join the Exchange District? Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Any further speakers? Councillor Browaty to clarify.

Councillor Browaty: I'll try it again. This is the property immediately to the south of the credit union at Disraeli and Lily. I believe it would include...the coffee shop, I think, is in the Sport Manitoba building and then the property immediately to the west. So if you're going northbound on Main Street and you are yielding or turning on to Disraeli, it's that first property on the right and the property next to that goes up to Lily. Again, property south of the credit union, which is already in, and then all the properties to the south of this little piece are also included in the Centennial Centre, the Concert Hall and all that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, any further speakers? I can call the question Mr. Mayor, unless you'd like to close? All in favour? Contrary? Carried. We will now move on to the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 16th, 2016. Mr. Mayor. Four has been pulled, yeah?

**REPORT "A" OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED MARCH 16, 2016**

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move...introduce the report and move adoption of the Consent Agenda Items 1 through 4. You said four has been pulled and I will also pull one.

Madam Speaker: Excellent. All in favour on Item 2 and 3? Two and three. Four has been pulled, Councillor Wyatt, thank you. I will call the question on Item 2 and 3. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Mr. Clerk.

Item 1 – Funding the Establishment of a Municipal Infrastructure Chair at the University of Manitoba

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. As members of Council will know, years of tax freezes and cuts by previous councils have left our infrastructure in dire shape. City of Winnipeg along with many other municipalities is facing a major infrastructure deficit. Locally it's been estimated that the City of Winnipeg is facing a $7 billion infrastructure deficit. On Council, we are attempting to address that deficit against the backdrop of rising costs. That's why the creation of the Municipal Infrastructure Chair at the University of Manitoba is such an important step towards innovation and finding efficiencies. During my election campaign, I committed to the creation of this and with the University of Manitoba, because the U of M has really been on the leading edge of research and technology developments for many years. As it relates to Winnipeg I continue to believe that an investment in the research of new technologies, techniques and materials is an investment in our future of our city. I am proud we have been able to commit $50,000 in annual funding over five years for a total of $250,000. This funding will help realize more efficient, cost effective solutions aimed at repurposing materials, the redevelopment of existing infrastructure, working collaboratively with other levels of government, the private sector and the academic world provides our best opportunity at producing outcomes that embrace…that are embraced by all. So, I look forward to building on the many years of research, partnerships with the University of Manitoba in our quest for concrete solutions that will benefit our city's infrastructure. As we move forward towards a growing, a more modern City of Winnipeg, any advances we make now will help shape how things are done in the future. And while the challenges we face are great, I take great pride in being on the ground floor of helping build Winnipeg's infrastructure to reflect our city's great people. Thank you.

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

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just rise to…I will be supporting this motion, I commend the Mayor for this initiative. The technology that Winnipeg...the technology and techniques that Winnipeg needs to solve Winnipeg's infrastructure problems can be and should be developed here in Winnipeg by Winnipeggers. In fact, our community could come up with the...and I use the word...the Mayor used only…mine is more punish, concrete solutions to these problems to address the infrastructure needs. In fact, of cities throughout...and municipalities throughout the northern climates, I believe that what we may discover here in Winnipeg and the technologies we may come up here through this investment will really serve to...serve municipalities across Canada. In fact, perhaps in all of the northern part of the world as each municipality and city struggles with similar issues of their infrastructure. And so an investment in the partnerships with industry, with academics, with researchers, with municipalities is a good investment that I believe will pay dividends for the long haul and so I am glad to support this motion today.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next speaker is Councillor Mayes followed by Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. One of the good things of the Mayor's platform was the pledge to try and increase the civic engagement and work with our universities. This is part of that platform, I'm pleased to see it. For those who missed my half hour long ramble yesterday about the new youth program at the University of Winnipeg, that's another part of it. I think we are trying to work with both U of M, U of Winnipeg, hopefully the other institutions in the coming years. Université de Saint Boniface and others will become part of that. But, I think, it's a very good initiative to try and focus on the infrastructure part and what we talked about yesterday at U of Winnipeg talks on more of a social policy level. So, maybe this is a part of fulfilling an election pledge by the Mayor, pleased to see it to increase the City's work to engage with the universities in the city.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. Next, we will hear from Councillor Wyatt followed by Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I like to rise in support of the clause. I want to thank the Mayor for announcing this and bringing this forward. There is definitely a need for better research and best practices. One of the things that, thanks to the 14 years of tax freezes or cuts, one of the things, that, of course, that disappeared and really hasn't been restored, but it was one of the first things that I think previous councils had cut, was funding...and I think this even goes back to the 80s, funding to research best practices. When we did the 2009, at the time, three major reports were brought to Council; one on the infrastructure deficit existing, one on the infrastructure deficit new...new strategic infrastructure and one on funding options for the infrastructure deficits. And 2009, the estimate at that time of the combined infrastructure deficits was 7.4 billion. And, well with the 740 million over ten years, a ten year number, the departments all worked together diligently to pull all that data together, a lot of work was done by Corporate Finance, and their team, and we were, for the first time, able to actually put a number around it in terms of the actual state of the infrastructure and the deficit we are facing, not just the existing, but the fact that we are a growing city and we are facing this huge challenge with the building new strategic infrastructure that's coming at us like a freight train. And, one of the things that we learned through this process, what we struggled with, was the fact that the best practices...just even to pull together this raw data was difficult because of the fact that the work and the research and the knowledge sector of the city had been depleted in terms of that type of work. Just having those professionals who were able to do that research and produce the kind of analysis and reports to bring about changes in terms of best practices, has been lost. And so, this is very welcome, I think this is an extremely positive thing. I look forward to the work by the university and the fact that this…we are having this excellent collaboration between the U of M and the City of Winnipeg is tremendous and I think it's exciting. You know, we live in the, they've said...I don't know if this is true or not statistically, but I like the statistic because it sounds interesting, we live in the largest, coldest city in the world in terms of population. We are very exotic in that sense as a city in a very positive way. You know, this is something we should be proud of, the fact that we are a winter city and celebrate that but, as you know, it creates huge challenges for our infrastructure. And you combine that with the soil structure of the City of Winnipeg being clay, that we don't have the bedrock that other jurisdictions can enjoy and take advantage of, that we have a clay substructure with tons of clay and tons of silt in some places, thanks to Lake Agassiz, has caused huge challenges for our infrastructure. And in some ways, it's actually good because in some parts you can actually go and you see the videos, if you are interested in this sort of thing, the Water and Waste Department has done where they put a camera down a pipe and it's actually the pipe has gone but the old Manitoba Red River gumbo is holding in the actual remaining portions of it and allowing the system to still work. So, you know, we have this huge challenge…these challenges that are unique and if we can develop new technologies or new practices or both, I think it would be tremendous and a real opportunity for us to be able to market…potentially market ideas and products around the world in the long run, if we keep at this. So, it's something which is really unique and innovative and I want to thank the Mayor for his announcement at the state of the city, which I was at, for this excellent program. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Wyatt. Next is Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am rising in support of this motion. I have had many experiences over the years working with various professors and students at the U. of M. who have done a lot of work with the City in the departments. Exactly similar to what Councillor Wyatt has said, researching and supporting initiatives that the departments here in the city, the Public Works Department has worked on and notably in bridge areas and in the active transportation realm. So I'm really pleased to see this position come forward and formalize to a longer term, the opportunities that we can have to leverage the students and professors at the U. of M.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, any further speakers on the item? Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just think this is an excellent opportunity for us to do further research on those issues that we share with other municipalities. I believe that is the intent of this motion. I guess Winnipeg will be taking some leadership on that as we move forward. We are talking about infrastructure deficits and the specific problems that we have in Manitoba and dealing with our infrastructure. Just like to correct, a friendly correction, to Councillor Wyatt's statement on large and cold cities. I happen to have travelled quite a bit and visited cities like Novosibirsk…which has a…Novosibirsk is in the middle of Siberia, meets New Siberia and has a…it's twice the size of Winnipeg, and I think 2° colder. But in terms of...just so you know…there are others as well, Chelyabinsk and things like that. But the point is that one could argue that Winnipeg is the coldest, fully advanced, industrial and democratic city in the world, is how I put it, and on that basis these points are well taken. Given the future that municipalities have to deal with, Madam Speaker, in terms of infrastructure and the challenges, what I'm grateful for is this gives us an opportunity as we forecast into the future something, Madam Speaker, that is a long train running and cannot be ignored. And that is the issue of, Madam Speaker, construction inflation. It is going to tear at the budgetary seams of our cities of all levels of governments independent of whatever taxation models we have. And I look forward to the contributions that this can make in terms of forecasting the challenges of construction inflation, Madam Speaker, which is a rate of inflation, at this point triple the rate of regular inflation, triple the rate of the consumer price index and it is larger than any other budgetary increases of any collective agreements or anything like that that we have dealt with on Council in yesterday's budget, Madam Speaker. And on that basis, it cannot be ignored and I am just looking forward to this. Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. Councillor Allard followed by Councillor Pagtakhan.

Councillor Allard: Yes, I just want to commend Mayor Bowman for this excellent initiative. I also want to thank him for helping me deliver on one of my campaign commitments which is to really put this...give the public the confidence that we are doing absolutely the best that we can with our road materials in particular, so I hope that question can be answered. I know it was questioned during the municipal campaign where one of the mayoral candidates said, oh well, we should just do things like they do in other municipalities and that was a campaign commitment. Well it turns out, we already do things likes like that municipality. So I am really looking forward to the results of this. I know that this is definitely an issue in the public's mind that the public would like some clear answers on and will, once we get those answers, will give the public that added insurance that yes, we are doing a good job with our tax dollars, we are building roads in the best possible way that we can, even considering all the issues that we have with the weather and with the particular issues that we have in Winnipeg as a municipality. So, merci beaucoup, Brian Bowman. This is also done in a way that is cost shared so we're getting great bang for our buck here. Merci beaucoup.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Pagtakhan.

Councillor Pagtakhan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thanks Councillor Schreyer for bringing up Novosibirsk, but do they know that Winnipeg has the higher wind chill? So we probably have the…we're probably still number one in terms of the coldest winter cities in the world, Madam Speaker. I just want to thank the Mayor, Madam Speaker, for this huge initiative, it's a hallmark initiative...sorry, I'm just catching my breath here. But I wanted to read out some of the research priorities which I think are worthy of mentioning; number one, some of the priorities are to look at the smoothness, specification for pavements. Number two, concrete aggregate quality, strength and testing. Number three, partial depth concrete repairs, is this the most effective repair option? Number four, implementation plan for asphalt verses concrete pavement design, and lastly, fair and objective product evaluation that minimize HD risk. These are huge things I am really looking forward to seeing some the results moving forward along with our staff and the students and the University of Manitoba. Great collaboration, great initiative and this is going to be cutting edge stuff that I think other cities across the world will be looking to Winnipeg as a leader in this respect for infrastructure. So again, thanks to the Mayor for this huge initiative and looking forward to supporting this today.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, any further speakers? Seeing none, I will call the question on Item No. 1, Funding the Establishment of a Municipal Infrastructure Chair at the University of Manitoba. Just before we do that I'll give you an opportunity, Mr. Mayor, to close.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you. I know everybody worked really hard yesterday, earlier meeting today. You know, I appreciate the words of support for this initiative. This was something that came up during the campaign and fulfills a campaign commitment of that I made. It really is about value for money. Yesterday's budget, we approved record spending for road repairs, over $105 million, and in addition to a number of other steps that we have taken over the last year, steps that I think are significant, positive change whether it's the new Council Liaison for Project Management or Chief Project Management Officer, it really is about making sure that we're respecting taxpayers dollars and we are getting as much value for the hard earned tax dollars that Winnipeggers send here for us to in turn spend, on their behalf, on fixing out roads. And so, among other infrastructure priorities, University of Manitoba is among a number of other excellent post-secondary institutions we have in our city, they are doing incredible work and we really want to just be able to tap into the brain trust at the University of Manitoba, cost share and collaborate with other funding partners and ensure to not just this council but to Winnipeggers that we are...when we build a road, we are building it in the most cost effective and responsible way in terms of value for money. So I appreciate the support for this. Thanks.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Call the question on Item 1. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Mr. Clerk, Item 4.

Item 4 – 2016 Mill Rates for the Education Support Levy and Special Levy

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor to introduce the item.

Mayor Bowman: I will wait to hear from colleagues.

Madam Speaker: Okay. This was stood down by yourself, Councillor Mayes, you have the floor.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Traditionally at City Council, this item would come up every March and there would be a bit of theatre where people would get up and denounce the School Boards but I think we are moving beyond that, I think it's a sign of a maybe a new attitude at Winnipeg City Council. Last November, the Mayor named me as the first City Liaison for School Boards and Youth Opportunity and that's been something I really wanted to do and it's been very fulfilling. And just to highlight some of what's been going on to date I have met with the chairs and vice chairs of the Winnipeg...the boards that have Winnipeg schools. We circulated to those boards…there were some issues regarding the complexity of moving portable classrooms, they were running into problems with the city. We had the Hastings to Howden problem where they couldn't move a portable for about a year to a school that needed it because of various issues. So Randy Dueck and John Kiernan, the people in our Planning Department, put together a whole protocol for what is to be followed and we've circulated that to the various Winnipeg based school boards. I know all of the trustees here do work with the school boards. I know people like Councillor Orlikow donated his entire years' worth of community incentive grants to help Kelvin and their field house project. Sorry, I won't go into each councillor, I forgot Councillor Orlikow last year when I was doing a list and it always bothered me, so there, I have righted that oversight. I'm sure all the councillors work with the various schools and school boards in their wards. Recently, there was the Manitoba School Board Association elections where they've got a new Executive. I have committed to sitting down and meeting with them post-provincial election to start talking about some of the issues that are on the table. When the Mayor tasked me with being the liaison, we talked about three things; infrastructure, safety and citizenship. So, looking at those three things in terms of safety, we're going to talk about parking enforcement, speeding enforcement near schools. I have talked to our Parking Authority who are very committed to this, very interested to have a whole program, trying to talk to the Winnipeg School Division and other school divisions about what could be done in terms of traffic issues and parking issues near schools. Something I'm sure you are familiar with as a parent of a young child, Madam Speaker. Often some of the older schools there were no drive...there were no laneways created to allow people to drop off and you've got people parking on sidewalks, in crosswalks, that kind of thing and we do need to do a better job of enforcing. In terms of infrastructure, the Provincial Government has introduced some thoughts about greater accessibility requirements for all play structures in the City of Winnipeg. So there is an opportunity here to work with the school boards. My ward, there is an aging play structure in Riel Park across the street. There's a play structure at Vick Wyatt School. Doesn't seem to make much sense to replace them both at $100,000 each if we can maybe co-operate and create an accessible play structure to deal with the requirements for both, if we can do some co-operative planning with the school districts there. In terms of citizenship, the Mayor just today put out a press release talking about a scholarship fund that his office is creating, fulfilling an election pledge. I was pleased to provide $500 in funding to help students attend an event that's coming up on April 29th at the Burton Cummings Theatre with…in conjunction with the Manitoba…Take Pride Winnipeg in conjunction with the Manitoba Conservation District's Association, bit of a mouthful there, but the Conservation Districts and Take Pride with some help from the City are putting on an event to talk about conservation districts and I expect a full house of students from across Winnipeg to attend that, happy to support that. Obviously the citizenship initiative, I like to think, was furthered by our announcement yesterday about the youth program at U of Winnipeg. And additionally, there are some other areas where I think we can co-operate with the school boards. The…Councillor Orlikow's assistant, Georgina, suggested to me that we used to do garbage and recycling pickup at Winnipeg School Division Number One and that contract has ended. We are headed toward a whole new

garbage and recycling request for proposals. Is there some way we can tie in with the school boards on that? Is that a way we could increase the amount of material that's being recycled, being diverted from our system? It's a great idea. So that's something I want to talk to the School Boards about. We have to get at it quickly because our RFP for a new garbage and recycling process should go out later this year, later this summer so that's another issue where we could co-operate, I think better, with the various school boards. The chart in front of you does not include one Winnipeg…and a very important school division with schools in Winnipeg and that is the Division Scolaire Franco-Manitobaine, the DSFM, in honour of our translator I should say a few words en français in honour of DSFM. And that is…

Translation of French Spoken: The Division scolaire franco-manitobaine school trustees want to build a new school in Transcona. I am working with Councillor Wyatt, the councillor for the Transcona Ward. I am working with him on this subject; he is looking for a site for the new school. This is an important project for the expansion of the Division scolaire franco-manitobaine. I would like to work with Councillor Wyatt as well as with the Division scolaire franco-manitobaine school trustees.

Councillor Mayes: DFSM is a growing division, they are looking for some school sites they…largely are based in the southeast now, I know they are looking to expand up into Transcona and that area so happy to...Councillor Wyatt's been very co-operative in talking to me about that. I want to end by saying there was an article in the Free Press in August of 2014 that had the line, "Perhaps Councillor Mayes hasn't been at Council long enough to understand the depth of animosity that councillors feel towards school boards". And when I got named to the new position last year by the Mayor, I said, well maybe I hadn't been around long enough then to understand the depth of animosity but I now have been around long enough to do something about it and I am happy to be named to this position, happy to be trying to work with the various school boards, it is local democracy. Some people think we should collapse all the school boards or eliminate them. I tend to take a different view. I think it's local democracy, I think they are the voice of their communities. I think they are looking for dare we say, a fair say and a fair share of tax revenues to do their work, so happy to continue the work. I mean, their budget decisions are not ours. We passed this as a legal matter. Perhaps the tax rates are not something we would agree with but that's democracy. They are democratically chosen and if people want to change that they will have the opportunity to support or question their school trustees at the next election. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. Any further speakers? Councillor Wyatt followed by Councillor Morantz.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise...this is a matter which every year we have the honour of adopting these rates to be incorporated in the tax bills which are sent to our citizens June and as you can see, the Schedule A before you, the rates from the various divisions that have come in vary anywhere from about 6.4...6.5 percent to a high of 12.6 percent with an average change of 7.3 percent in terms of last year to this year, 15 to 16. This is...just to let members of Council know, the City of Winnipeg policy on this, when it comes to education taxes, is a position that calls on the Provincial Government to remove education taxes from property. That is the City of Winnipeg policy adopted by this chamber a number of years ago. So, until the policy changes, that's what it is and I believe when it was adopted and moved by Councillor Pagtakhan and supported by Council, that there definitely, it hit a chord with citizens because of the fact that education, we are one of the last provinces to fund education so predominantly from property. I thank Councillor Mayes for his kind words and for the good work that he is doing on the school division file. And I want to say very emphatically and clearly that my words today are not in any way shape or form a critique of the school boards or the school divisions. I think the school divisions have been handed, in many ways, a poisoned chalice that they have to deal with year after year. They are restricted by provincial legislation in terms of what they are able to do, in many ways, their challenges are very similar to us in terms of what we can do or can't do with revenues or expenses. Their greatest challenge is their pay roll. Their pay roll represents, you know, 80 or 90 percent or more, of a division's costs and when it comes to that, the pay roll, as you know, Madam Speaker, is largely the teachers and, of course, they have collective agreements, which we all know about, when it comes to our world. And they are also...do not have the right to strike, they have the right to arbitration, both sides in the event that they can't settle. And so there has been arbitrated decisions over the years and several decisions which have driven a lot of the property taxes, it's just simply passed on to the consumer, to the home owners of our city. This is...I'm not going to get into the politics of that. That's a provincial matter and there is a provincial election going on and I hope the parties somehow start to address the issue and the leaders there. But the fact of the matter is, when it comes back to us and our world, it really marginalizes the ability of the city, it takes tax room away from us to be able to do anything. If you look at what we actually did yesterday, voting...Council voted in favour...when it comes to the property, not the frontage levy but the property tax change, 2.33 percent, 2.33 percent compared to an average here of 7.3 percent. So, what's happened over the years is that the portion of the property tax which is related to actually paying for the services that you know are related to property, municipal services, has been slowly and slowly eked off, pushed to the side or become less of a portion of the entire bill. And now school divisions are over 50 percent and growing at this rate. It's a concern. The school taxes is a concern. And I really think that we have to...the Province has to address this issue. The Province has to address this issue because, it can't continue. This is truly unsustainable to the home owners of the city. This tax burden that's going to keep increasing and increasing and we all know how important education is, nobody is saying it's not. Nobody's saying

education is not important. Nobody's saying that our schools are not important. Nobody is saying the good work the trustees are doing is not good work, they are doing good work. But the challenge we are faced with is this tax burden that's being placed on home owners is growing and growing and growing when it comes to the education taxes. And we know the Province has announced they're started a partial phase in of people 65 and over and when it comes to the education taxes being taken off the rolls, that's great. But in many ways that just simply transfers more of the burden to everybody else. Because they have to...the school divisions have to get the money some way somehow. And so, this is a real challenge and so families which are struggling to make their bills, to make their payments, to make their mortgage payments and all these things and this is on top of it. So, you know, every year councillors, I have voted against this even though this is one of these weird reports that we can't technically vote against. It's really a technicality that it's here on our agenda and that we actually have a vote. Because if...apparently, if we don't vote for this the joke has always been, you're going to go to jail and somebody offers to bail me out or…somebody's not going to bail me out, maybe this time after yesterday, I don't know. But anyways, so you know…but you know, it's one of those things, right? But I have often challenged councillors, you know join...you know, send a message. Because, you know, if we would have to call a special meeting the next day, I'm afraid, Mr. Mayor, not that we haven't done that. But we would have to call a special meeting. But it would send a message and it would make this an issue at a time, right now, during a provincial election when it should be an issue. Because, education…you know, we get the provincial elections seem to be always about health care and these sort…education, to me, is a hugely important issue. We have a young boy and the future of…the quality of education and exactly how it's going forward is so important and I think that's what the debate should be around and how we fund it, and how we fund it. And other provinces have different formulas and different mechanisMs I just want to note, Councillor Browaty's our rep at the AMM, I don't think the position has changed but he could elaborate or correct me if I am wrong, but proposition is to change the portioning to 80/20 on the tax bill. That's been the AMM position for years to get the property portion of the education tax back down to 20 percent with the municipal representing 80. Our opposition is to remove it completely. And this has come up many times at the AMM. Our other municipal officials I can tell you from other municipalities are faced with the same challenges. You have here just because of boundaries, Interlake and you can see the Interlake increase. It's the highest, 12.6 percent. All those municipalities up there are going to be…are having a vote to pass this along and collect those taxes. So, you know, it's a challenge and I want to state again emphatically, Madam Speaker, that I am not being critical of the school boards, I'm not being critical of the school trustees, I am being critical of the Provincial Governments…the Provincial Government for, you know…and whether it's been the Conservatives in power or the NDP, I'm not pointing at other parties

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

Councillor Wyatt: Because either party has not risen up to face this challenge. And the Liberals haven't been in power since the 1950s so we can't really mention anything there. So, you know, the two parties that have been in power for the last number of decades have not addressed this issue. The time has come to address this issue. And a provincial election is on now. I challenge the leaders of the parties to start to address education taxes. It has to come up as an issue on the doorstep and it has...and leaders have to start speaking about it because this is something that cannot be sustainable, Madam Speaker. A 7.3 percent increase, three times, more than three times the rate of inflation, almost four times the rate of inflation is outrageous. Could you imagine here yesterday if we had proposed 7.4 percent what the headlines would be? But the school divisions do it and you don't hear anything. You know, and so, you know...other than here and now and when you get your tax bill in the mail. And then they phone you, because you're the one who sent the tax bill, councillors. Not the school divisions, the City. So be prepared for some phone calls. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Our next speaker is Councillor Morantz followed by Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Morantz: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I do have to say, I find myself substantially in concurrence with my colleague from Transcona on this issue. The reality is...I guess the point that I really want to make, Madam Speaker is...not to reiterate what he has already so eloquently stated but also to point out that there is a great deal of confusion in the minds of the public when they receive their property tax bills from the City. And as most…as we all do, we open the envelope and what we are interested in is actually how much we're going to have to pay and so everyone's eyes just seem to just go right to the bottom line and look at the number. And many times people are upset when they see the number and they don't realize because it's all on the bill that really, in many cases, more than half of the bill really is a municipal tax. And so, I just wanted to highlight that point for the public's edification that when you do get your property tax bill, it's important to understand that the school tax, although we are required by law to collect it, we do not get to keep it, we simply pass it on to the Province or the School Boards and that is in part how schools are funded in this province. I do agree with my colleague from Transcona that this is a practice, really, that should not exist. I do recall in the 2014 campaign going door to door that this was a major issue. It's always been a major issue for people. It does take up taxation room for the City, which makes it more difficult to make decisions around revenue. And there does seem to be a disparity in the scrutiny that my colleague pointed out in terms of when we bring a tax increase and the school board brings a tax increase. For some reason, there is not a lot of scrutiny that's brought to bear with respect to the decisions made around the school tax increases. And we seem to bear the brunt of all of it. So I just wanted to point that

out for the public's edification. Next time you open your tax bill when it arrives, just remember that maybe less than half of the bill is actually municipal tax which is what we run the City on. The rest goes back out to the schools. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Morantz. Next, we will hear from Councillor Gilroy…Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: I think I'd be able to make a point of order on a factual matter, Madam Speaker. And it's just, there was a statement made a while ago about the average increase being 7. something, that's actually...compared to our 2.33, that's a bit of an apples to oranges. This includes…the percentage you see is total revenue growth so for example Louis Riel School Division's average tax bill per household is 4.9 percent, not 7.5 percent. So the number…there's a bit of a mix here. If you're comparing it to our number, it's not...I don't have the average for all seven or eight school divisions, but it's not as high as seven.

Madam Speaker: Thank you for that. Councillor Gilroy, you have the floor.

Councillor Gilroy: Yeah, you know, and I am really glad that the Mayor actually did a liaison between the School Boards and the City. I think that that's a really, really good strong step and this is something that I know Councillor Mayes can really talk about and look at with the different school divisions. You know, because I have been on the other side of things and for me, they share the same circumstances as we are asking for a fair share, so our school boards…you know, the Province is asking for a fair share from the Federal Government and on and on and on. And overall, it's the same taxpayer. My concern is I want to make sure that instead of creating a new bureaucracy, where I mean at the end of the day, if we don't collect the taxes, they've got to create a new bureaucracy to do that, and I want to make sure that the education dollars get into the hands of the students, that really need it the most. I mean, I know that that was the talk in the past but at the end of the day, if we can find a way to make sure that our taxpayers know who is taxing, I think that' that's great. Maybe that's something that Councillor Mayes can do but creating a new bureaucracy in order to collect it just so that, you know, we can feel better about what, you know…at our end, I want to make sure the dollars get to the people that need it the most. I just want to caution people on that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie followed by Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker, sorry. Well, my sixth traditional debate on the education mill rate changes. Madam Speaker, I think Councillor Mayes did make a point but I noticed there are two different taxations on properties. While the Interlake's was going up increasing the amount of property actually in the City of Winnipeg for the Interlake is a minimal amount as one could read in the table. And I would note that it has a 8 percent…8. something percent reduction in the special levy, Madam Speaker. The Seven Oaks School Division on the special levy which goes directly to the Province, not to the school divisions, it actually went down 1.7 percent. While it's not the biggest portion, it should be noted that some things are going down and that's as a result of more properties being built in the area, I'm sure, Madam Speaker. I, having been a former Trustee of the Seven Oaks School Division...one of the things people need to understand about the school divisions and what they have been doing over as many years and longer than Councillor Wyatt has been on Council, is that they are focused in on they have...and accept the charge that they need to educate our children of Winnipeg and they do that. They don't cut services. What they do is they make sure that their kids get an appropriate education. And, there is a long debate about how things are done, but, we as the City, you talk about tax roof, the issue there is, is we, the City of Winnipeg cut services. It's happening all the time. We're cutting services. The last budget we passed yesterday and confirmed with the by-laws today, factual information the budget doesn't stand unless you pass your by-laws so it was actually this morning that, really, the budget moved forward. The...they are not cutting services. They are serving the kids. The Seven Oaks School Division is actually growing like crazy. The number of kids they…they're having to build schools, Madam Speaker. Build schools. Now here is the thing about property and schools. When you build a neighbourhood and you have kids, you have to build the school, a direct relationship, direct relationship to the property that's there. I heard in the speeches today that somehow the school division's education system has no relationship to property. That's not true. That's not true at all. The thing is you have to build a school, Madam Speaker, and then you have to maintain that school. And it's always been my position, and I like to speak to it again, is that, we're going to pass...and I'm going to vote for these mill rates because I know they are not cutting services to our kids. But really, if you think about property, and I tried to explain this back when I was a School Board Trustee to the Winnipeg...to our Trustees Association as well as to the Province and tried to get those messages across, but really, and nobody has done this evaluation. To maintain that building, the cost to build that building and those sorts of things, have a direct relationship to that property. I have always insisted that that is that part. The actual education and teaching of the kids is a bigger societal issue, not related to property, but related to the City's ability...the better educated the kids and we know this. Education is a great way to keep youth out of crime. We have a Winnipeg Police Service that's dealing with people, and, you know, often young people who don't have success through school end up sort of moving through life in a different way. And we need to catch and bring those people, these kids, and there's all kinds of efforts. So I just wanted people to understand relationships between the City and the schools and the

education of our kids. But really, it is my position that the actual education of those kids should be fully paid, the teachers, and costs related to teaching them, the books and so on, that shouldn't be really funded on property tax. So, you know, I give you that. Nobody has done a study, but it's probably 80 percent the school division costs are related to teaching kids, 20 percent is related to the property, the direct relation. You have to have a school...you have to have a school. You do. So...I mean that's just the reality. There is...actually, you know, they could take it off property. An excellent superintendent that manages the Seven Oaks School Division actually explained to me how Councillor Wyatt, one could actually take off the property taxes total. Like, the Province has so many different…it just needs to restructure the programs it has and you could still have separate school divisions. You know, Saskatchewan, well they don't tax the property tax. Saskatchewan does have school divisions. They don't have one big conglomerate thing like they did in Toronto which is totally so heavily bureaucratic, it's crazy. The bureaucracy needed in the Winnipeg School Division is huge. Seven Oaks, you've got a level thing there, they have had to manage to try to keep tax down. What they did is they've got a very...it's not a big hierarchy. They keep costs down by having a small middle management. Small middle management. Most of the stuff they put in goes directly to the kids. So, these are things that are there...but I want to point out something. There...you know, read your tax bill. You know, I don't agree that people don't get it. You know, they do get it. They get their tax bill and there is the City tax amount, there's the school division's tax amount, but right where the school division tax amount is there, it says you get an offsetting credit of over $700, Madam Speaker, over $700, Madam Speaker. So, to say, you know, that that cost is there, there is an offsetting credit. We all get it if we live in our property and we get our tax bill we get that credit. If you are a landlord, well, that doesn't happen, right? That's just the way it goes. But it's there, and it's there by the Province to offset the property taxes that are charged. So let's be clear about this, people. And when you want to talk about tax room, like, is our Chair of Finance saying, Madam Speaker, that get rid of the school division so we can jack up property taxes by 15 percent? I don't know. Is that what he is saying, give us some tax room? And yes, we do have a problem, Madam Speaker. I did speak yesterday that our property tax increases don't deal with operating inflation. So, Madam Speaker, I'll just leave it there. I will be voting for this report. It's definitely something we need to do.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Councillor Gillingham followed by Councillor Allard.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will be supporting this report but I do want to thank Councillor Mayes for his work as Liaison with the school boards, I believe that position is…will be very helpful to us in informing us now and in the future as well. I dare say that a kind of legendary hero status perhaps the like of Duff Roblin awaits the Manitoban who can successfully remove education tax from the municipal property tax bill. I am glad to hear from Councillor Wyatt that previous council received and passed a motion...maybe Councillor Pagtakhan, to...that the City has taken…Council has taken a position whereby we want to see education taxes removed from the municipal bill. And I concur also with, I believe it was Councillor Morantz who was calling on residents to just be reminded that when they do get their bill, that there are two separate sets of taxes. And with all due respect to Councillor Eadie, I did receive calls already complaining about how the City of Winnipeg, you councillors, you are raising the education tax on us. And I tried to communicate clearly the difference between the two and that these were senior gentlemen who, with all due respect, by now, having lived in Winnipeg for several years, I would hope would really understand that there is a difference but yet, the misunderstanding, it does persists year after year. I, frankly, look forward to working on this matter and to finding a better way. And echo the call that provincial parties pay attention to this, this is an ongoing, annual concern and reality that municipalities face and councillors, not only in the City of Winnipeg, but in all municipalities throughout the province, no doubt, face as well in trying to find a way that the community clearly understands the difference between the two sets of taxes. And so, I would welcome, in fact, if a committee, from this council was struck, to try to find a way and continue to communicate to the Province, to find a way to have the two not only separated...itemized on the municipal bill but in fact removed from the municipal bill. I'm not saying we defund or that education shouldn't be funded, of course it should be funded. Education is critical to the success of our children in the future. But, if there is a way to remove the two completely from one another and the education portion of the tax be communicated or sent out in some way to residents in another way, I would certainly welcome that. Thank you.

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

Councillor Allard: Thank you. So, I won't be voting against this report, off the bat, but I do want to raise this as an issue that's important for residents. I want to substantiate that with a hand out that I am giving out to my Council colleagues and which I have published on my website. So as I mentioned yesterday, I hosted a community consultation on the municipal budget and to do that we sent thousands of robo-calls, hundreds of e-mails, thousands of Facebook messages. So we had a decent turnout at this budget consultation event and hosted what I learned...a brainstorming exercise that I learned how to do when I was President of the Old St. Boniface Residents Association and it's called "Dotmocracy". So, the idea is, everybody gets to vote…everybody get to generate ideas that they think are a good idea to consider for the municipal budget and...I'll let my colleague Browaty comment, if ever he wants to comment on some of the issues raised on the document. But so the idea is everybody...there is no bad idea, everybody puts their idea on a wall, everybody gets…in this case, we had eight stickers for every stake holder or resident who decided to come to the

meeting. And I wanted to raise this report that I have published on my website on behalf of the community of St. Boniface Ward who had some concerns on a variety of issues but this is definitely something that the public cares about and would like to see some action on. So I don't know that voting against this report would serve that particular purpose but this move education property tax off the municipal bill and fund schools from provincial tax rates is definitely something that is alive and well in the public. So on behalf of my constituents who took the time to come to this budget consultation which I'm proud to say was a wide open budget consultation. I made a presentation, saying what I thought about the budget. I distributed the City of Winnipeg info graphics on the budgets to...I wanted to have a balanced presentation and these ideas really did come from residents and so this is coming directly from the residents of St. Boniface ward. So, I don't know that I'll...I won't be joining my colleague, Councillor Wyatt in voting against this motion not because I fear imprisonment but, because I don't think that would necessarily move the issue forward in a way that...well, that would be...that would have a concrete change in the very near future. Though, if I can second his idea to challenge our provincial leaders to take a position on this, this is certainly something the public cares about. And in terms of our own taxation powers as a municipality, I wonder how much room has been taken up by the Provincial Government in education tax that is resulting from our chronic freezing of property taxes. So, I wonder if residents are, in fact, getting a defacto reduction in municipal services with our $7 billion infrastructure deficit because municipal leaders have chosen to not raise municipal taxes, freeze them, cut them or not raise them enough. So, I…on behalf of the residents of St. Boniface Ward, I present to you this selection of the report from the community consultation, and if the folks are listening in the provincial campaigns, this is definitely something that people care about. So, if you want to make a popular policy announcement, tell us what you're going to do about this. Thank you very much for everyone's attention.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm certainly pleased to see what Councillor Allard had done in terms of dotmocracy, is that the right term? And we have employed this as well on Henderson Highway, the River East Neighbourhood Network has also applied this in various aspects. I am pleased to see in terms of this one, that Councillor Allard has brought forth...look, this is consistent, Madam Speaker, with what I get when I go door to door in my ward. I might continue to go door to door. And in listening to people, basically I get the same results as this dotmocracy. Madam Speaker, according to this I'm batting over 900 in terms of residents' concerns that I suspect most Winnipeggers do, regardless of where they live in the city. Thank you to Councillor Allard for bringing forth this type of consultation.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Seeing no further speakers, Mr. Mayor to close on Item 4. No? I will call the question. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
NOTICE OF MOTION

Madam Speaker: Next, we will be dealing with the notice of motion from our February 24th meeting of Council. This is the notice of motion that was moved by Councillors Wyatt and Dobson regarding the strategic plan. Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Eadie: Do we move referral with that motion?

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Okay. Would you want to introduce the item or shall we defer to the referral?

Councillor Wyatt: No, a referral motion takes precedent. So I'll introduce first and then a motion to refer. Oh, I understand.

Madam Speaker: It's a motion with no instructions.

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Dobson,

WHEREAS the 2014 civic election saw a large turnover in Council with eight new members elected to City Council;

AND WHEREAS with new members comes new ideas and platforms that require implementation;

AND WHEREAS every member of council runs separately as an independent and not as one political coalition or party;

AND WHEREAS in Winnipeg Civic Elections, for all intents and purposes, 16 independent members of Council are elected, including the Mayor, all with differing and similar platforms;

AND WHEREAS in every other major city in Canada which successfully plan for the future, it does so by facilitating a Council led strategic planning initiative in order to ensure a prioritization of Council priorities and to assist with giving clear direction to the Public Service in the implementation of those priorities, both in terms of public policy and City budgets;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT via the Governance Committee of Council, that the City of Winnipeg Council immediately undertake amongst its members, and inclusive of the Mayor, the writing of a Strategic Plan which will provide leadership and direction on setting public policy priorities between now and the next general election of 2018;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council delegate authority via the Governance Committee to request from the Public Service any discretion funds required to facilitate the writing of the Strategic Plan, including all public consultations;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the first draft of the Strategic Plan be submitted for city-wide public input and review by the citizens of the Winnipeg within the next 60-120 days and prior to the submission of the final Strategic Plan to Winnipeg city Council for council approval and Adoption required no later than 150 days.

Councillor Wyatt: Can I move a motion to refer? Oh, okay. He really wants to move that motion. Okay. No, I hear what you are saying. I would first of all, like to thank my seconder, Councillor Dobson, for seconding the motion. And I had a chance prior to the start of the meeting to chat with the Mayor about this and I want to thank the Mayor for his thoughts. And I think the idea of having this sent forward to Executive Committee where it would go, would…to allow for a co-operative collaboration in terms of planning. I understand Our Winnipeg is apparently, we are required to do a renewal of Our Winnipeg, so maybe there is a way we can kill two birds with one stone and cooperatively work on a strategic plan in terms of that and the required legislative requirement on the Our Winnipeg initiative which the Mayor suggested which makes...I think it would make sense and it would allow us to all work together and hopefully, the key thing here, Madam Speaker, is the fact that you know, other councils do this and they pull together and they do a strategic plan and typically, they try to do it at least after their election cycle, after the general election, the new council comes together and ideally does this, because this really would help us if we had a strategic plan as a council. When it comes to writing our budgets, when it comes to bringing forth policy initiatives, when it comes…all the major, important things that we want to accomplish over four years. It would give us clarity and I think it would be of a huge assistance to the Mayor and to EPC and to all members of Council. The fact we don't have one, we attempted, it was talked about before, we attempted to have one, didn't work. Really, at the end of the day the Mayor is the defacto Chair of Council in a sense, and as the Chair of Council, you know, it needs to lead this and lead the charge to bring us together and to make something like this happen. And you know, the irony is that we would find out, you know, through a process of writing a strategic plan like most organizations do, whether they be not for profits or corporations or huge agencies, that we actually have more in common than we realize in terms of our issues that we are concerned about. You know, there is no doubt there will be differences, that we will have differing opinions on different iteMs There's no doubt about that. We all have our own political points of view, our own backgrounds, where we come from, and you know, we will have different points of view and that's part of the nature of politics. But, we will have a lot in common and the process, I believe, would require us all to come to the table equally and indeed, you know, some of our issues, we're going to have to put a little bit water in our wine so to speak. That we'd have to compromise to build a common consensus of what a strategic plan would look like for all of us going forward. I mean we all ran on different…we all ran on our own platforMs And many of our platforms are similar and some are different. But, there are 16 of us here who are elected and we all got elected here, you know, on our own. We all ran as independents. There is not really a slate or party system of any kind. Everybody got here on their own steam, so to speak and with the support of their constituents and the issues that they are raising. And you know, I think there is an opportunity for us though, once we get here, we really need to come together at least to come up with a plan for the next four years that we can all work together and pull and push together and you know, we're going to have disagreements as we go along, there's no doubt. But if we can do that, not only does it make our four years or the time we have here more productive, it assists the public service, it gives clear direction to the public service in terms of where we want to go. And I know we have an Executive Committee and the Executive Committee chaired by the Mayor, you know, has a certain policy directions and historically, that's what's driven policy here in the last decade or so. But I don't think it's been that successful in many ways. I think there has been some real challenges with that system. And the idea of all of us kind of working together to build a strategic plan, you know, the previous term we tried where EPC got together, drafted something and it was a draft, the document was a draft. And then went with the that idea bringing everybody else together around the idea and making changes to it, but unfortunately, it didn't go forward. Unfortunately again, the Chair of Council, the Mayor has to really be willing to take that forward and make it happen and bring it to a conclusion with a report that we can support or adopt or not adopt. And that's really what it comes down to. And I think this is something which, you know, other councils do. Other successful councils do this. Large cities come

together. I mean, I remember talking one time when I was at FCM Conference talking to a councillor from Calgary, he says, “Don't mention the term strategic planning.” He says, “We do that to death. All we do is strategic planning.” He said, you know, whether it be in their committees that they are members, the committee’s strategic plan, the sub-committee strategic plan and council’s strategic plan, that's all we're doing is either going to strategic planning sessions but if you think about it, it makes sense, we are a board of directors. We are a board of directors. And if the board of directors can't pull this in...and you know, I know the Mayor has a strong platform and I know he is passionate about it and I think that's great because he got a mandate on it, and you know, I admire the fact that he really...like a dog with a bone wants to get that platform implemented. And I think we all have those platforms, you know. We all have certain things we want to get done and achieve that we knocked on doors and we talked to people about and folks said, “Yah, you know what, we support you on this because we like what you are saying”. You know, well now you get here and now you’re trying to implement it. Well if we all work together and work together, we can actually do it. And I know it's like holding hands and singing kumbaya and everything else, but I am being frank that this is something that other organizations do. And it wouldn’t be easiest, it's not easy to write a strategic plan. It's tough. It’s hard. I mean, you duke it out, you have it…but to engage the public and get us at the table, I think would be really healthy. And so, I really hope this motion doesn't die. And I know there is a motion to refer, and I am open to that, I think, you know…I’d really like to keep this alive. I think you know, ideas, we should not be a fearful of ideas. Ideas are the essence of our western civilization. And they have driven us to be really one of the most successful societies in the history of human beings. It's ideas and the open debate of ideas and the discussion. And that's the essence of our system that we live in a democracy and the essence of Council...you know, the parties have their systeMs You know, they develop policy at a party level and the parliamentary systems, but we have a council, and the council system is really an old system going back to England and our history of the British Isles and how that developed. And the idea…it is a council. The reason why this chamber is round is for a reason. The reason why we're not sitting across from each other, you know, in the parliament whereas they say you sit across based on a swords'…a distance of a sword length, you know, in the House of Commons, you know on either side. We don't have that here. We are a circle for a reason, because we are supposed to be a round table. You know that whole concept…you know you’ve heard those wonderful stories of, you know, Galahad and King Arthur and everything. It's a round table for a reason, guys. This was done for a reason. And something we really should...we should really strive towards. This is something which can bring us together and I know our new mayor has…he has great capability, he has great leadership qualities, and I want...and I want us to be able to go forward. We have two more years...over two more years, councillors, over two more years, but trust me, those two years and a half are going to go by fast. Think about how fast the last year and a half went by. And before you know it, we’re going to be at election time. We still have time to do this is what I’m saying and it's not too late. It's not too late to do the right thing. And it’s not going to be easy, but I am prepared. I for one, Madam Speaker, am prepared to come to the table and to say my bit and to be part of this process as an equal. And I would encourage this resolution to go forward and to be successful. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
MOTIONS

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie, you had a motion refer to EPC, so it’s a motion to refer. We will vote on that now. Motion to refer...item…the motion before us. Motion No. 1 on to Executive...pardon me, it’s a notice of motion that we are now voting to send over to the Executive Policy Committee and that was a notice of motion to…for Council to engage in the strategic plan. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Thank you. I’ll draw your attention now to Motion No. 1 moved by Councillor Allard and seconded by Mayor Bowman. And it's regarding...doing performance reviews of the statutory officers and it’s an automatic referral to EPC. Okay, Motion No. 2 before us, it's a notice of motion. Moved by Councillor Schreyer and seconded by Councillor Wyatt. It’s referring sewer rates to the Public Utilities Board. That will be on our next regularly scheduled Council meeting in April. Yes?

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

WHEREAS March 25, 2015, our Chief Administrative Doug McNeil who is a statutory officer of the City of Winnipeg will have been appointed unanimously by Council for the period of one year

AND WHEREAS City Council is responsible for the hiring of four statutory officers including the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), the City Clerk, the Chief Financial Officer and the City Auditor

AND WHEREAS in November 2014, EPC received a motion from the Riel Community Committee calling for annual evaluations of the CAO and later referred this to the Mayor’s office for advice at the January 14, 2015 meeting of EPC

AND WHEREAS it is a recognized best practice and standard Human Ressources and City of Winnipeg Human Resources Practice to include evaluation clauses in employment agreements

AND WHEREAS this Council was elected to improve accountability at City Hall, and that confirmation of annual evaluation of statutory officers will reassure council and the public with concrete actions that our statutory officers are offering excellent service to Council and the public

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Public Service be requested to report back within 120 days to Council with recommendations for a process and implementation plan to implement annual evaluations of City Council's four statutory officers with the maximum authority under the existing Charter, which report shall include;

(i) a review of best practices in other jurisdictions;
(ii) human resource and labour relations implications;
(iii) budgetary implications;
(iv) egal implications; and
(v) all other relevant considerations.

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

WHEREAS the City's sewage treatment system has allowed millions of litres of raw sewage to enter into Winnipeg's rivers in recent years;

AND WHEREAS the City acknowledges that the Province has ordered the City to upgrade the North End Water Control Centre, along with other city wide upgrades to the water and waste systems;

AND WHEREAS the increase in water rates has been justified by City officials due to the necessity of the City to upgrade its North End sewage plant and to implement its entire Capital Program;

AND WHEREAS the City's water utility is proposing a substantial increase its water rates over the next three years;

AND WHEREAS the percentage rebate/dividend that is paid to the City of Winnipeg by the Water and Waste Utility of City was increased from 8 percent to 12 percent in 2015;

AND WHEREAS it is projected that $32 million, a historic high amount, will be paid to the City of Winnipeg by the City's Water and Waste Utility and their customers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Winnipeg request the Province of Manitoba to refer to the Public Utilities Board (PUB)and call public hearings on the following:

A) The proposed Water and Sewer Rate Increases of 2016, 2017, and 2018;

B) The approved 'dividend' from the Water and Waste Department to the Operating/Capital Budget of the City of Winnipeg;

C) The Capital Budget Program of Water and Waste, both 2016 Capital Budget and the 5 Year Forecast 2017 to 2021;

D) The environmental regulatory obligations on the City of Winnipeg in regard to its Water and Waste systems;

E) The Business Plans and all Capital project strategies/plans of the Water and Waste Department;

F) Options for Provincial and Federal Funding of the regulatory capital program requirements.

Councillor Schreyer: Just for clarification, in terms of the relationship between the motion and the Public Utilities Board; is to call on the Public Utilities Board to call hearings.

Madam Speaker: Okay, thank you. Next, we'll move on to by-laws under Executive Policy Committee, Mr. Mayor.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that the following by-laws be read a first time; By-law 46 to 54/2016 inclusive.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Eadie: Recorded vote to 54/2016, please.

Madam Speaker: So noted, thank you.

Clerk: By-law No. 46/2016, 47/2016, 48/2016, 49/2016, 50/2016, 51/2016, 52/2016, 53/2016 and 54/2016.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor on the second reading.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you. I move that By-laws numbered 46/2016 to 54/2016 both inclusive be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Eadie: Recorded vote for 54/2016.

Madam Speaker: So noted, thank you.

Clerk: By-law Nos. 46/2016 to 54/2016 both inclusive.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor on the third reading.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that the rules be suspended and By-laws numbered 46/2016 to 54/2016 both inclusive be read a third time and that same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary?

Councillor Allard: Opposition to the 54 as well.

Madam Speaker: So noted, thank you. We'll now have Question Period for the Mayor. Can you set the clock please? Thank you. Councillor Gillingham.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you Madam Speaker. Through you to the Mayor, I'm just wondering, as I look at By-law 53 in regards to…By-law 53/2016 regards to the Business Improvement Zone levies, I'm just wondering if the Mayor could assist me in understanding…or assist us in understanding…perhaps most of Council knows this, I don't though…why the differing rates per zone. Just as I look at the different Business Improvement Zones, I'm just wondering why the variance in the rates that are applied. Thank you.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, through you Madam Speaker, thank the Councillor for the first question. The administrative report provides the detailed information on the setting of the 2016 Business Improvement Zone levy rates. The report addresses the 2016 budget levy requirements based on the budget submissions from the 16 respective Business Improvement Zones. The relationship between the City and the BIZ zones is similar to that, that the City has with school boards, as we've just had a lengthy discussion on. The BIZ zones set the rates, the City collects and returns the funds to the various zones as outlined in Schedule B of the report. Three of the 16 zones, their rates are remaining unchanged. Seven of 16 zone rates are decreasing. The highest decrease is 16.9 percent in Old St. Vital and the remainder are increasing, the highest increase of which is 8.7 in St. Norbert.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions for the Mayor? Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Speaker Sharma. Yesterday's debates Speaker Sharma, there was an amendment motion put forward that had Freedom Road in it and six of us voted for Freedom Road in there to increase the amount in the budget, and Speaker Sharma, today I was listening to CBC Radio and I would just like to know from the Mayor what did he mean by "some Councillors didn't vote for Freedom Road."?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Sure, thank you, through you Madam Speaker, for the question. I appreciate the fact that I believe all members of Council, in principle, support Freedom Road and the City of Winnipeg's participation. I think that's the right position. I believe Winnipeggers support us as well as a whole. In the lead-up to the vote on our budget yesterday, I was very clear and took the unprecedented step of letting Winnipeggers know that there would be the remaining $6 million of our $10 commitment in the budget, that I would be supporting it and I would be encouraging my Council colleagues to support it as well. When we voted yesterday on the budget and the $6 million, there were a number of Councillors who chose to vote against that, and I was stating that for the record today with CBC. I know that we will be having ongoing discussions with regards to possible increases to the budget and the requirements and we'll work collaboratively as we have done in a leadership capacity at the City of Winnipeg with our respective partners, with the Province of Manitoba and the Federal Government to continue to play a collaborative and supporting role on ensuring that Freedom Road gets completed.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor. Second question Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: I voted for Freedom Road, and an amendment that recognized what is the estimate to build the whole road from Band 40 all the way to wherever it's going to connect, so my question to the Mayor is, do you support covering one-third of the cost from Band 40 all the way to the road that it's going to connect to?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor

Mayor Bowman: The Federal Government and the City of Winnipeg's position has been to support one-third of the $30 million estimate. That is the number that we are working off of. We are still waiting detailed design and additional information on any possible increases, and I've also taken steps to pro-actively reach out to counterparts including the Federal Government. I had a conversation as late as Friday of last week with the Federal Infrastructure Minister. I've also spoken with the Prime Minister, I've spoken with the Premier and all three party leaders in the Provincial election to urge them to continue to support this important initiative, and when we do receive more detailed information on possible increases, we'll obviously consider that and this Council will consider it. Based on the discussion we've had yesterday, I'm optimistic that this council will work collaboratively as we have done already to continue to support it, but we'll need to wait for that information in due course.

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

Councillor Eadie: Yes, Madam Speaker. The Mayor is our liaison to the…is the direct communication to the other levels of government. My question is, has he or has he not been contacted prior to our budget discussions about the newest estimates in terms of what it's going to cost to build the whole road?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: We have not received detailed design and we haven't received sufficient information that we can trust the numbers that we've seen floated in public recently. We do want to get clarify on that and I will remind the Councillor and Winnipeggers that the Federal Government is working off the $30 million estimate, and has been working off that for some time. There are a number of incredibly supportive groups in our community that are supporting Shoal Lake and Freedom Road. They are also working off of the $30 million figure but we will in due course, as we get more detailed information, will continue to play a supportive and a collaborative role as we get that information in greater detail.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I understand that sort of in the democratic debate that takes place within this Chamber, and that takes place in the media, you know I very much know that certain statements are made that may not be the complete truth in context, and as an example Madam Speaker, you know when I voted for the Pedestrian/Cycling Strategy last summer, in the process of offering the best critical analysis on something that I knew people wanted in terms of critical analysis, now people wanted in terms of trying to make the best strategy we could, and we started with the report itself. But I know that in that…within that debate, you know, Mayor Bowman mentioned in the Chamber that I voted against a record amount of funding to repair streets and roads.

Madam Speaker: Your question Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Madam Speaker, these things happen, but Madam Speaker, in this case, Mayor Bowman's response to Councillor Eadie's first question, in his response about his comments about who voted against Freedom Road in the budget, he referred to give context of his remarks yesterday before he gave the rest of his answer. Madam Speaker, my question is this. When it comes to his remarks that he made specifically today, independent of how he phrased them and independent of any remarks he gave yesterday, regarding the comments that his Worship gave this morning, did he not make the point in his comments this morning that Cindy Gilroy voted against Freedom Road.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I believe my comments were clear. There were a number of Councillors who voted against the budget which included a number of very positive things that I'm very proud that the majority of Council supported, including increased funding for our roads, including increased funding for transit, including funding for dedicated sidewalk. I was very proud that we were able to increase funding for our access efforts, that we doubled the funding for reforestation that we were able to increase arts funding and finally able to commit to the Inuit Art Centre. Shoal Lake, there was funding finally for Shoal Lake, an additional $6 million. I was disappointed that there were some members of Council that chose to vote against that, as is every member of this Council's right to do so.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Second question?

Councillor Schreyer: I'm not sure if that is what His Worship said on the radio this morning and I'm not sure if that is the point…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer I think the question's been answered. Did you have any additional questions?

Councillor Schreyer: Well I get it. Absolutely. Does His Worship believe 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?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, asked and answered. Do you have a different question to proceed with?

Councillor Schreyer: Well, I believe that Councillor Gilroy, at the least, as does most of the other Councillors, should be provided an opportunity…I guess my question is Madam Speaker, this is a bizarre, I think, misinterpretation or miscommunication. It's not in full context and it's not fair to Councillor Gilroy as well as the rest of…

Madam Speaker: What is your question, Councillor Schreyer?

Councillor Schreyer: Would the communications resources of the Chief Administrative Office of the Mayor's Office, that those new resources of communication, public engagement, be availed to Councillor Gilroy at the least to explain what happened yesterday regarding Freedom Road and the work on this?

Madam Speaker: We don't have those resources in place. Do you have a different question?

Councillor Schreyer: Will they…when they are available, will they be availed?

Madam Speaker: To Councillors? Is that your question?

Councillor Schreyer: On this very issue.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I believe the Councillor's question should be directed to the CAO with regards to the voting record of members of Council. That is something that all Winnipeggers can view on Hansard and that's what I was pointing out today in my interview with CBC.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Schreyer, anything more? No. Next is Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I guess I'd like to know, in the Mayor's comments this morning, 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 as per our motions yesterday.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I believe the Councillor can listen to CBC if he wants to hear the full interview. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Second question, Councillor.

Councillor Allard: I posed a pretty specific question to His Worship Mr. Bowman. I'm wondering for the record, for this Chamber, if I could get an answer to what I think is a specific question and perhaps as well, the Mayor said he'd be open to ideas on how to include other councillors into the budget process. I'm wondering if he has any concrete ideas in that respect. I know that six councillors stood up yesterday to vote against the budget, and I'll leave that for now.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I understand the question. With regards to, we voted on the budget yesterday, and I do want to thank every member of this council for their efforts regardless of their votes. The process moving forward, as I've mentioned previously, part of the Let's Talk initiative and consultation was to seek input from all Winnipeggers, including members of Council for how we can continue to make positive strides in the budget process. As you know, there has been a tradition of how budgets have been built. We moved, I think, a step in the right direction this year by having a budget working group that included two non-EPC members. We also conducted the Let's Talk initiative, and I look forward to working with all members of Council and hearing their thoughts on how we can continue to make improvements and when we've been able to listen to input from members of Council as well as the public. I look forward to sharing more detailed thoughts on moving forward. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Just to…thank you for that response, and with all due respect Mr. Mayor, we heard that the budget process would be changing this year, that we would have much greater collaboration with members of Council, and how do we explain to people who are looking for real change in terms of how we do budgeting in Winnipeg, how things have changed, because some people are saying the process actually, under the previous administration, was even more inclusive by doing things like having in-person meetings so that the residents could communicate.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard, with all due respect, your third question.

Councillor Allard: I respect your all due respect. I'll sit down now.

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Mayor Bowman: If I understand the question, I've had an opportunity…I mean, look. The process was an improvement. The budget working group was a new initiative. That didn't exist in the past, and it was dominated by non-EPC members. We also had the Let's Talk initiative. Do these go far enough? I don't believe so, and I believe that collectively, we can continue to make improvements in the right direction. I have regular meetings and invite members of Council including Councillor Allard to meet with me. I have yet to hear directly from him in our meetings as recently as a week ago, concrete steps and suggestions. That being said, I haven't provided him with concrete suggestions on how we can move forward to make improvements yet either and I'm looking forward to having those discussions with my Council colleague and all members of Council, and I would encourage all members of Council to share their thoughts with our Finance Chair, with me and with each other on how we can improve the budget process. I am committed to continuing to make improvements and I have heard the comments that have been made in recent days by Council colleagues who have expressed concern and I thank them for sharing those concerns and I'll work collaboratively with them to continue to make improvements.

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

Councillor Mayes: Yeah, there appears to be some misunderstanding about how budget vote works and I wonder if the Mayor can just clear that with people. Is it a process where you get to say, well I favoured all the popular stuff and I was against the unpopular stuff? Or is it about in a package which includes some stuff you like and some stuff you don't and if you can live with the compromise you can, but if you vote against it you clearly have voted against the package. Could

the Mayor 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.

Councillor Schreyer: Point of order, Madam Speaker. But the point wasn't just the budget. The point was Councillor Gilroy brought forward a specific item on Freedom Road.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, you have no point of order. We're going to proceed with the question Councillor Mayes has posed. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you. I believe when you're voting on a budget, you are voting on a package. The budget contains the results of input from a number of people, 2,500 Winnipeggers shared their ideas through the Let's Talk initiative. All members were invited. All members of this Council were invited to provide their input. Some provided a significant amount of input to our Finance Chair and the budget working group. Some did not provide as much input, and that's up to each and every member of Council. Ultimately, the Councillor is correct. You are asked to vote on a package, some of which you will agree with and some of which you may not, and it is a series of compromises and it's the result of collaboration. I'm very proud that we were able to pass a balanced budget that included support from across the political spectrum. We have members of Council who I believe are Conservatives, Liberals and New Democrats who all voted for a budget, and one could only hope that we could see that level of collaboration in the Provincial Legislature or in the Federal Parliament, and at the end of the day, you are 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.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thank you Madam Speaker. So my question to the Mayor is related to this. So technically then what you're saying is, so when I voted against the budget, I voted against the Vacancy Management, the rich man's frontage levy tax. I want to be clear. So I voted against that, is that correct Mayor and that Councillor Mayes voted for that?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I believe Councillor Eadie voted against the budget.

Madam Speaker: Second question.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, that's interesting. Here's a "did you know" question. Mayor, did you know that Business Improvement Zones are not an entity of the Province? They're an entity created by the City of Winnipeg, so it's somewhat different than school divisions, and did you also know that…

Madam Speaker: That's one question, Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Alright.

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Eadie: Did you know that?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I'm aware of the governance framework. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Eadie: Third "did you know" question. Did you know that each levy is set within Business Improvement Zones based on their annual rental value and their consideration of the ability for those businesses to pay?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I am aware of the framework by which they come up with their business zone rates.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions for the Mayor? Councillor Eadie, you've had your two rounds. Anyone else? Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Is it understood in the conversation on the radio this morning by comments made that Councillor Gilroy voted for Freedom Road yesterday by virtue of her motion?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, we've already heard that line of questioning. Do you have a different question for the Mayor?

Councillor Schreyer: Not today.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Councillor Mayes your second round of questioning.

Councillor Mayes: Are you aware that Councillor Eadie voted for the "rich man's property tax", the frontage levy increase last year although he is saddened by that now he reported yesterday? Are you aware that Councillor Eadie voted for an increase in the "rich man's frontage levy" last year?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I'm aware of all of our voting records. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Any further questions? That concludes our Question Period. Just give me a moment please.

Councillor Pagtakhan: Propose that we continue working through the lunch hour.

Councillor Gerbasi: I think it's going to be a lengthy meeting yet. There's a number of reports ahead of us. I don't think we want to skip lunch. Maybe we want to vote on it.

Madam Speaker: Council will now recess for lunch and we will adjourn at 1:30....1:00 o'clock? Is that the will? We'll need a two-thirds vote to come back after the hour. Are you moving that motion, Councillor Gerbasi?

Councillor Gerbasi: Yes, so moved.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Thank you.

Reconvened meeting of
Winnipeg City Council of
March 23, 2016, at 1:06 p.m

Madam Speaker: Good afternoon. I would like to reconvene of March 23rd, 2016. We are on the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works. Councillor Lukes, the report dated March 14th.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
DATED MARCH 14, 2016

Councillor Lukes: Yes, good afternoon, Madam Chair, we are back. I would like to introduce the committee report from Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works dated March 14th, 2016, Items No. 1 and 2.

Madam Speaker: So they have both been pulled, Mr. Clerk. Was Item No. 2 pulled as well? No? Okay, all in favour of Item No. 2? Contrary? Carried.

Item 1 – Snow Clearing App to allow Bid Opportunities by Contractors and Individuals

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes to introduce the item.

Councillor Lukes: Yes, I will just say a few words and then I believe Councillor Wyatt's going to speak to this. We discussed this in committee with the department and as we understood it, this was an app that would look to contracting out or having folks have private contractors do various streets and pieces of our roads or active transportation network.

As it stands right now, we currently have contracts with snow removal firms for the next two to three years, so this wasn't applicable, but I would like to hear Councillor Wyatt's comments on this.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Yeah, Madam Speaker. This concept or idea, you know, we are seeing the different app crazes I guess you would call them. But the idea is you know, you have apps that are available for your own snow clearing, for your own private property, but the concept was, the way the motion is written is to have a pilot project. And to look at innovation in terms of the technology and to look at potentially the idea that you could potentially have smaller businesses, smaller contractors and encourage new businesses to spring up, to allow for snow clearing on residentials, back lanes, sidewalks, P3s, but to do it as a pilot project. It would be an innovative idea. Maybe something for the Innovation Committee, but it would be something that would be, you know, if there was a motion to refer to that effect, I would welcome it. But, that would be the idea. And the whole concept is to do this as a pilot project. And to see how it works and then if it does work well, look elsewhere...one time, you know, years ago, you know we…like, way before our time, you know, the smaller municipalities, they do it around Manitoba, you know, everybody knows actually who the person is who clears the snow, who the individual is who actually ploughs the sidewalk or removes the snow from their street. And quite often in smaller communities, they don't even call their councillor if the plough is not done right, they just pick up the phone and call so and so down at the corner of the street because that's who they know who happens to do the snow. It would be an opportunity to really democratize in many ways and decentralize what we are doing now through larger contracts...we wouldn't be able to do the P2s, there's no way we, you know…or the regional streets. Those are still the, you know, the big operators with the big ploughs and everything else. But you know, if somebody has a truck plough with a blade on the front, you know, why wouldn't they…couldn't they do two sweeps up and down a front street without front drives? You know or somebody with a snow blower? As long as they…they got to qualify through Materials Management, they'd have to, you know, have proper insurance, but the insurance is not overly costly to get liability coverage that we would require. And you know, all of sudden we could potentially have a whole fleet of people, individuals, entrepreneurs, who would just spring up, who would be able to provide the service. And, you know, as these apps go, be able to rate them. We would be able to rate them, they'd be able to rate us. You know, no different than you see with Uber and others that are happening out there. It would be creative. It would be something unique. I don't know if it would work but that's the idea of the pilot project, to see if it could be done. And you see what's happening in the private sector on the private realm. The idea is, you know, could we not apply something like this to the public right away in the public realm? And that was the concept behind the motion, that was to try to be you know...to look at this opportunity and not miss this opportunity. And you know, we pride ourselves on our snow clearing. I know we have challenges from time to time. But, you know, it would be a way for folks who are, if you think about it, who are retired, to potentially supplement their income. It would be a way for folks who are marginally employed or who have only part-time work to supplement their income or to have more income. It would be an opportunity for young people who want to start out and be entrepreneurs to get into the private sector, a chance to do something like this. It's just, I think, a unique opportunity at a point in history where this technology's just really changing everything in terms of how business can be done that we should not live in our little silo or box here and not think outside of the box. And that was what this motion is about, and I was hoping that it could be referred to the administration. I know there is resistance, I know it's convenient to deal with only so many contractors, that this would take. But the technology you could build into the technology, the material management requirements and everything else that would ensure that we have the safe guards in place and in terms of quality control as well. So, that's the thought, and I think it's something that's worthy of pursuing and we have this new Innovation Committee, maybe that might be the venue for a motion like this to be sent to as an idea. If somebody were to move that referral, I would support it. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Any further speakers? Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Inspired by Councillor Wyatt's idea there. I mean, it could be done for things beyond snow clearing for example. What about grass cutting? You can't go and you know, cut every...

Madam Speaker: Councillor Browaty, are you moving referral?

Councillor Browaty: I'll move referral to the Innovation Committee, sure. Do I need to speak to that?

Madam Speaker: No, I think we will vote on the referral, correct, Mr. Clerk? So all in favour of referring it to the Innovation Committee, this item. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Okay, there is no motions. We will move on to by-laws under Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works. Councillor Lukes.

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

Councillor Lukes: I would like to move that By-law numbers 60/2016, a by-law of the City of Winnipeg to prohibit the sounding of engine whistles at certain central Manitoba railway crossings in the City of Winnipeg be moved.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 60/2016.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: I would like to move that By-law number 60/2016 be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 60/2016.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: And I would like move that the rules be suspended and By-law number 60/2016 be read a third time and that same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. We'll now have Question Period for the Chair. Any questions for Councillor Lukes? Councillor Allard.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Allard: Today is actually not International Zipper Day. It's International Puppy Day, and I'd like to recognize Councillor Gillingham for posting on his Facebook earlier today a beautiful picture of his new puppy. That being said, I rise speaking about national days because the first time I spoke on National Zipper Day, we all considered the idea of zipper merge and I know that Councillor Lukes was going to be checking in with Administration I believe last Public Works meeting, although I know it was a 12-hour meeting so I don't know if you had the opportunity to ask the administrators where that's at, and are we anywhere near having an official policy on zipper merge because Brandon's doing it, so if Brandon's doing it, surely we can too in Winnipeg.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: We asked at that Committee meeting that they come back and give us an update, so I'm expecting it at the next Committee meeting in April that we will hear back.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions for the Chair? Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: I do have a question. On the topic of buses, which I understand St. Norbert needs a new bus, Old Kildonan needs a new bus, Councillor Gillingham's ward needs a new bus, so we all need new buses and I understand we are working on getting new buses on the street and there are issues, I understand, with possibly our current fleet…

Madam Speaker: Your question, Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: My question would be, I understand there may have been a priorization list by our Director shared verbally at the last meeting. Is there a priorization? What's the next bus that is going to go onto the street, and I just want to make sure we're doing these decisions based on need not based on politics, so where are we at with that?

Councillor Lukes: So, my understanding from Mr. Wardrop is the bus for Amber Trails is first on the priority list. It's been in the queue for two years now, going on three. The second bus in the queue is Bridgwater and that there are an additional five buses after that. It has been mentioned numerous times publically…I was actually just…I just got the audio of the Transit presentation at Public Works where I believe he listed them in there. I don't think it's come out in print anywhere on the public record, but I can definitely ask Mr. Wardrop to bring that to the next committee meeting and

his, you know, he comes with reports. Some of them have had reports and others have internal reports. So I will ask that he bring that to the next committee meeting so we're all aware of it.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Third question.

Councillor Allard: On the topic of buses, at the last Public Works meeting, my assistant actually went out to Brandon and found a barn burner of a deal. So six buses for $7,000 in Brandon. I understand they're mostly ready to go. I understand we have a used bus strategy. I understand the response from the Public Works Director was that these buses are too old. They are 1993 buses and I understand they have the same engine as the Calgary buses that we are in the process of buying which are 1995 buses.

Madam Speaker: Your question, Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Well, what exactly is too old for our bus fleet? 1993, 1995? It seems to me that's $7,000 a pop. Brandon buses are a great deal and why are we not moving forward with purchasing them right away so that we can get more buses on the street including a bus that you need Councillor Lukes, in your own ward.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you, Councillor Allard. Yes, actually I was just advised today that we are purchasing buses from Calgary, used buses, pre-owned buses. Obviously, the Transit folks go out and they check the buses to see which ones are more, you know, are in better state of condition than others, and they deemed that the ones in Calgary were. I believe that there's 24 buses that are coming in tomorrow to help supplement the fleet while we deal with this emission control challenge. This emission control challenge, I'm actually in the process of putting a very detailed blog on my website so I can convey it to the many residents in Bridgwater, which I encourage you to read when it gets posted later today. It's a challenging time because, because of the regulations that have been put on diesel engines to control the emissions, they're fragile, they're complicated, they're complex to repair, yet at the same time the technology for electric buses, for hydrogen buses, isn't quite there yet . So we're in a bit of a transition period really, you know, if you think about, you know, maybe what the taxi industry is facing, maybe what, you know, how we saw CD's go by the wayside. So the Department is really monitoring the fleet. They're working to…with the fixing of these engines and the maintenance of these engines and as it came out in the committee meeting, which I'm going to post it on-line. It's a very interesting hour and a half discussion with the Director, Mr. Wardrop, an hour and a half. It is really interesting on the perspective and the challenges that we're facing with these buses that have these new controls, and we've asked him to come back to the Committee and talk to us more about used buses, but it's a matter of monitoring what we have, of looking at possible purchases maybe of more used buses, purchasing some. We've got commitments for the U-Pass. We have budgets from last year and this year that we have on hold that we will be when the Department has a good confidence level on the maintenance program going forward, then we'll purchase the new buses, so it's a very fluid situation right now and are monitoring it very closely because like we've said, we've got seven routes that we want to expand with. We're investing heavily this year in this year's budget for folks for in the Maintenance Department, for parts. We have, we are budgeting for new buses for expanded fleet, so we want to expand but we just really have to be monitoring closely and get this challenge of emissions under control.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Okay. Any further questions for the Chair? Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you. Just in reference to the same line of questioning Madam Speaker, not sure if I got the entire conversation. It's a good conversation Madam Speaker. Good ideas with what seemingly good concern as represented by the Chair as she explains the position of the Standing Committee and the Administration of Public Works on this. So maybe I need to get this straight. I understand we have to monitor this. I understand we're dealing in the margin there in terms of how the buses are. Councillor Allard asked what's the difference between '93 and '95. So, is…like is the cut-off '94? What in fact is the issue of age between '93 and '94, and I apologize if I didn't quite get that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: So this is something that we let the specialists handle. The mechanics go out and I'm not sure exactly who it is that goes out in the Department, but given from the Department that have expertise in looking at the bus and looking at it. I mean, it is the engine of course, but it's also the actual, you know, make-up of the bus, so what you know, the seats…many factors play into it. So you know, '93, '95, '97. It's, you know, it's up to the Department to use their expertise to go out and determine which ones are in better condition than others, because as you can well imagine when buses are on the road, you know many things can happen. So we let them use their judgment to select that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Second question Councillor Schreyer?

Councillor Schreyer: The Public Works Department is aware of the condition of these buses in the question by Councillor Allard?

Madam Speaker: Is the Department?

Councillor Schreyer: Yes, are they aware of the condition of these buses that Councillor Allard was alluding to, referring to?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes?

Councillor Lukes: My understanding is that they are. They are obviously out there looking for buses that are going to cost…that are going to be most cost-efficient in repairing and running, so I have to leave it up to the discretion of the Director. I am confident in his decision making ability on selecting pre-used buses.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Any other questions for the Chair? Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Just a follow-up to that. On these buses, I do know that we need to defer to Administration, but I'm having trouble understanding the difference between a used bus that's a 1995 bus that's too old, but a 1993 bus is not too old. And the other part of this is, did you know Councillor Lukes that a new bus is over half a million dollars, and a used bus, if you look at these Brandon buses, $7,000? So how may buses could we put on the street and isn't it better Councillor Lukes to get people in buses rather than having them driving their private automobiles. I do realize that these aren't…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard, your question.

Councillor Allard: Is it not better to get people in buses now than having them driving their private automobiles, Madam Speaker?

Madam Speaker: Yes, thank you.

Councillor Lukes: Madam Speaker. In response to Councillor Allard, I don't think there's anyone more passionate…well no, there are actually a few more people passionate here about getting more buses on the road. Because of this challenge that we're facing, we have asked the Director to come back to the Committee and to talk to us and update us at the next Committee meeting which I would invite Councillor Allard to come to and listen to, on a used bus strategy. You will recall as a member of the Committee that we sat and discussed this in quite detail with the Director. Exactly, I mean, new buses are expensive but it's also…it's more than just the cost of the bus. It's the space to continue doing maintenance on it. It's the drivers. It's not just the bus. So there's a lot of other pieces that go into putting a bus on the road than just getting an economical bus, and we do want to get economical buses obviously. We do want to get more buses on the road, but it's not just a one-item piece. There are other factors that play into this, and Mr. Wardrop again did a wonderful explanation of this for an hour and a half and I'll post the link shortly, that you can listen to, and I encourage you all to listen to it because this is really important, you know. This is really important to getting people around in our city and you know, we've reached a point with our Transit system that, you know, we need to continue growing it. I'm so happy to hear from the Federal Government that there's going to be some funding going towards Transit. I'm not sure on the particulars. I'm going to be going tomorrow to hear from Mr. Carr and grill him on some details. But I'm very optimistic and I hope that will help go towards improving our Transit system, which is really important that we do that so. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: So Councillor Lukes, 25 percent increase in our Transit operating budget. Does that mean 25 percent more buses and if not, why not?

Councillor Lukes: I believe this is his last question, correct?

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Allard: This is another round.

Councillor Lukes: Oh, no it's…you're right. Okay. Alright.

Councillor Allard: Oh, two rounds and I'm done?

Madam Speaker: That's right.

Councillor Lukes: So the funding from this year's budget is going into hiring more mechanics to handle the maintenance challenges that we have with our new emissions control. The funding for transit is also going into increasing the stock of parts and materials that are needed, and the funding is also going of course to purchase buses and to purchase buses for increased routes, for route expansion. So that's very positive because we see from the Director's guidance, we see from his recommendations, that he is optimistic we can do route expansion, but we have to get a very good handle, because we don't want to have what happened in the fall happening again. The Transit, Winnipeg Transit, runs a very lean machine when it comes to the number of spare buses, so we have to, you know, there' s a very…there's a level of risk and we have to manage our level of risk. So that is what the investment, a greater portion of the investment is going into.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next is Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I feel compelled to rise as a former user of the Brandon Transit system. As recently as 2010, I used to ride the Brandon bus home from work. So I will ask, could we get clarity from Mr. Wardrop that one of the factors that may disqualify the Brandon buses is that none of them, at least none of the ones I ever rode, were a full-length bus, the kind that we use here in the City of Winnipeg. They were all smaller, shorter buses, which was appropriate given the volume of ridership, but (inaudible) bumpy ride, so bumpy you couldn't read your Winnipeg Free Press or your Brandon Sun when you were riding, so could one of the factors disqualifying the purchase of the Brandon buses be that they are in fact too small for what we usually use as a City of Winnipeg bus. Certainly all the ones I ever took were much smaller than City of Winnipeg buses.

Councillor Lukes: For sure. We will have Mr. Wardrop come back to our committee, like we asked him prior, and give us an update on pre-used buses. I'd also like to add that in the purchase of these buses or in this year's budget, is the purchase of buses for the U-Transit program, which is very exciting. This is going to be launching in the fall and we will have buses up and running for the U-Pass program and we will see what the projections are in relation to the number of users using the buses, so I think overall we've got very positive direction and growth and investment in our buses. We do have a challenge that, you know, other cities are facing also, but we're managing it. We're managing that level of risk, and we want to be very confident before we start adding new routes on to the system.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next is Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thank you Madam Speaker. I just wanted to ask a question about something that I support but I guess I voted against and that is a Handi…a software, new software to manage Handi-Transit. I'm wondering if the Chairperson of Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works can get back to us and let us know how long it's going to take for them to implement the new software that was identified in the Capital Budget.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. I'm actually just looking it up. I'm posting this on my blog too. It's a really…this is really very positive that this funding for this new software is in the budget that has been approved. So it is the Handi-Transit Scheduling System. So my understanding is from the Department is that this…I'm just looking for when it's up and running. I'll get back to you on that but I've got a very good overview of it. It's very positive. It's long overdue and I think that it will be very much embraced by the Handi-Transit community.

Madam Speaker: Okay. And that ends Question Period for the Chair. Yes.

Councillor Schreyer: May I have another round of questions?

Madam Speaker: We already extended the time. There's (inaudible) left on the clock. You've had your turn as well. Okay. Moving on to the Standing Policy Committee on Finance. We have no report. No motions and no by-laws today. We will now have question period for the Chair, Councillor Morantz. Councillor Schreyer.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Schreyer: As today may very well be the day of inadequately contextualized communication, I ask the Chair of the Finance Standing Committee whether he is sorry that only six councillors voted for the Freedom Road budget motion yesterday, which is in fact a fact.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Morantz.

Councillor Morantz: With apologies to my colleague, I don't quite understand the question.

Councillor Schreyer: Madam Speaker, such is my point. I don't blame him at all. I think that's how the people listen to the radio may very well feel as well. My point being, in this case Madam Speaker, only six councillors voted for the budget motion which was an amendment to the budget and I ask if the Chair of Finance now understands.

Madam Speaker: Can you clarify for myself, please?

Councillor Schreyer: Sure. Fair enough Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Schreyer: This can get rather confusing. So I'll say it again. Councillor Gilroy yesterday brought forth a budget motion on Freedom Road. I don't need to elaborate on that but only six councillors voted in favour of it. Does the Chair of the Finance Committee now understand sort of the problem in terms of the communication on who voted for what regarding the Freedom Road, regarding the budget itself, budget motions?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Morantz.

Councillor Morantz: I just will have to say, Madam Speaker, I really am…I don't understand the nature of the question. I wish I did but I'm not getting it.

Councillor Schreyer: That's fine with me, Madam Speaker and I apologize for any inadequacy and any lack of context.

Madam Speaker: Okay, are there any further questions for the Chair? Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Thank you Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, to the Chair of Finance, we've been through two budget processes together. We had the first budget process that was quick. We had to pass it right away. A second, we were hoping for greater collaboration. How can we work more collaboratively this next budget season? We saw six Councillors voting against this budget. How can we get to 100 percent next time?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Morantz.

Councillor Morantz: Well, you know I have said many times I think that the process could be better. You know, I think we've all talked about that from the very beginning. We did make some, I think, excellent steps in the right direction this year, and you know those steps have been talked about many, many times, but I think the unprecedented step of actualing the initial budget working group dominated, in fact, by two Councillors that were not on EPC was a very good process. Their input was great and I think they learned a lot too. And so I like that process. I think we haven't made any decisions about going forward about the constitution of a budget working group or really yet how next year's budget will be planned yet. We just passed yesterday so I'm going to hopefully be able to take a few days to sort of stop thinking about budgets but, you know, I do take the question to heart and we will, like I say, do our best to make the process as inclusive as possible. I might add that I do, you know, at all times, invite input from Councillors. I did request meetings and I think I met with not all of you, but most of you at some point during the process. But I do find interesting is that from the date…and I'm not questioning the genuineness of the question at all, but I'm just saying that from the date that we tabled until the day we voted on the budget, in that 20-day period, no one actually came to me to discuss all of their concerns. Not one single councillor did. So I mean, why not? Where were you? Why not come see me so we can maybe discuss what the issues are. I'm not sure why and maybe that's something we need to analyze as well. So if I'm missing…maybe someone did. If I'm missing one, I apologize, but for the most part, I don't recall people for the most part coming forward, so…but in any event, I think we can always try and do things better.

Madam Speaker: Second question, Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: So part of the criticism on the budget process this time coming from the dissenting six, as they've been called as they've been called or other stakeholders in the community, is that there was 20 days only to respond to the budget, so in particular some of the fees and taxes that are built into this budget are being voted on at the same time as the budget itself, so we haven't had time to consider the fees while we have to vote on this omnibus package and then we're being told that we're voting against certain things that are in the budget as part of that, so it seems everything is condensed in 20 days. Could we not have approved the water rates six months ago? Could we not have tabled the budget three months ago?
Madam Speaker: Your question, Councillor Allard?

Councillor Allard: Why does scheduling have to be so tight, Councillor Morantz? Couldn't we have tabled the budget months ago?

Councillor Morantz: That's a very good question, you know, and just historically, I did look this up because I was curious. The 2013 budget was tabled January 9th and voted on January 29th. That was under our…he's not there…our colleague from Transcona. Maybe he's here and has got a speaker somewhere, but that was 20 days. I'm not justifying it but actually the next budget, the 2014 budget, was actually voted on in late '13, which was early, which is what you were maybe looking for. But it was tabled November 29th and actually voted on December 17th, which is actually only 19 days. So I'm not justifying the practice. I think, you know, if there's a way that we can provide more time for consideration, I think that's something we should be looking at. Having said that, you can't rush something like a city budget. We went painstakingly over many, many issues, analyzation of various policy areas, and it just takes the time that it takes. There's no strategy behind it being in March or December. It really does take time and you want to make sure you get it as right as you possibly can. So, having said that I think, you know, for the most part, as I understand, that's something like 11 out of the last 15 budgets have been voted on in March. I could be wrong with that but I think that's pretty close, and that I think it's just that in of itself, I think, is evidence of how long it does, in fact, take to put together a budget for a city like Winnipeg.

Madam Speaker: Third question? Yes.

Councillor Allard: So I thank you for the answer. I do understand that we may not be that much different than past councils, but that's the point, is that we're supposed to be different. We're supposed to be more open, transparent, we're supposed to have better public engagement, and I do understand that the budgets used to be voted differently. We had the Capital and Operating budgets were split, so…

Madam Speaker: Your question, Councillor Allard?

Councillor Allard: So why can't we go back to a system where we consider the Operating and Capital budgets separately, giving all stakeholders, the public and Councillors more time to engage in the budget process in a real way where we can actually have our voices heard and seen in the budget lines themselves, not taken for information as we've seen this time at EPC?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Morantz.

Councillor Morantz: I'm not quite sure I'm understanding the question. Could you…could I get a clarification?

Councillor Allard: Can I just clarify, just very quickly?

Madam Speaker: If you could please rise, yes.

Councillor Allard: Yes, so we used to vote on Capital, Operating separately. There was like three months' difference apart. So we had much more time to consider. We had to vote on both this time at the same time, 20 days and 20 minutes.

Councillor Morantz: Of course, as with you I wasn't here at that time and to be honest, the only process I've known is that they've been voted on together. Having said that, I am aware that the statutory requirements for passage of these two budgets are different in terms of the timing of their passage I believe. The Operating Budget has to be passed by the end of March. Technically the Capital Budget and this is how we…I'm not quite sure why because it seems counter-intuitive but actually technically you don't have to pass the Capital Budget until the end of the year that it applies to. But in any event, I think that the idea was to move them up together so that, you know, we could address concerns that were raised, in fact I think yesterday, by Councillor Wyatt, who said that we need to be trying to tender on our project as early as possible, and really the fact of the matter is that although they are separate documents, they work together. Like, we have for example significant investment from our operating fund into capital, and so before you can really agree on a

capital budget, we need to know what are the operating contributions to the capital budget as well, and so really I think from my perspective, I think the best practice would be to consider them together. If the will of Council is somehow different than that, you know that's one thing, but since we've been here that's not been the will of Council and the conventional wisdom is that it is better to consider them at one time and together.

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

Councillor Mayes: (inaudible)

Madam Speaker: He has had his first round so we'll come back to him.

Councillor Mayes: It's a minor point, but I think a technical point, but it mattered to me, so I just want to ask Councillor Morantz to clarify this. Last…we've added one more committee with budget scrutiny this year and that being the Water and Waste Committee. Last year I was Chair of the Downtown Committee. That had no budget role. This year we have added one more opportunity for budget scrutiny. My colleagues and I were there for…it was the short one…it was six or seven hours of questioning on the water budget. So I'm wondering if we can just confirm that. The changes that were made last November in terms of committee responsibilities have added one more committee with budget oversight. I admit, I think somewhat Councillor Allard's saying very seriously. I think there are some serious issues there, but this year at least we did have that procedural change.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Morantz.

Councillor Morantz: You know, I'm actually not sure how to answer the question. I think the committee structures are established, is it through the Mayor's Office? I'd have to get back to you on that, I don't know. Sorry.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. And Councillor Gilroy is next.

Councillor Gilroy: I was wondering if the Chair could maybe tell us if he feels that maybe the standing committees could really take a larger role in terms of looking at the budget. I know that, you know, some of the concern was that a lot of the councillors did put stuff through the standing committee and there was only I think one thing that was ever really adopted for EPC and that was the fees for appeals, but there was many different things. I know Public Works had some. So is there a mechanism through maybe different standing committees how we can do a better job in terms of making sure that, you know, voices on the standing committees and stuff are being heard? I'm just wondering if there's a measurement there.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Morantz.

Councillor Morantz: Certainly, you know, this is a…these are very good suggestions and something I think we should have to take into consideration. As I said there's always, I think, ways that we can try and do things better. Having said that, one of the worries…and I think we sort of learned this lesson early on in the process last year…was that we need…you know the budget is a very serious document. It's the major legislative framework for the City for the year, and we really need to be able to give it serious contemplation with…you know…and you know we saw last year when we were just trying to go and have some conversations about rationalizing different resources, how that got sort of played out in the media. So I mean if we could, you know, all somehow find a way to agree that we're all going to take it seriously and not take one issue and politicize it somehow. I'm not saying we're politicizing but it has happened. Let's face it. If we could get away from the politics of it and sit down and have a serious conversation about the budget, everyone could commit to that and be serious about it, I think it would go a long way to fostering an environment where we could do that. And you know, I certainly think that would be the best scenario, but I just think we need to take all these conversations into account, all these ideas into account, and move forward as best we can.

Councillor Gilroy: My next question is I know that you have attended a couple of budget consultations when (inaudible) and I really, really appreciated you coming out to my community. I'm just wondering how you felt those interactions has helped during the budget process, if you'd like to do more of those or your feelings on that.

Councillor Morantz: I very much enjoyed coming out to Councillor Gilroy's ward last week to talk to her constituents. They asked excellent questions. They were very much engaged. We went through the budget presentation which is contained in the same presentation that's contained in Volume 2 of the Operating Budget. We had it up on the screen. I had the little clicker with the laser on it, so that was good, and people were very, very engaged, and I enjoyed it a great deal as well, and I always learn a lot when I go to those things. I also did one in Councillor Mayes' ward which I did last year, and so far those are the only two through the Chair, the only two councillors who have asked me but I would be

happy to go. I know Councillor Allard had one but I didn't receive an invite to actually go to explain the budget, so I would be happy to go and certainly would entertain those requests.

Madam Speaker: Okay, next is Councillor Schreyer. You have 25 seconds left on the clock.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I for one would like to ask if the Chair of Finance will be advised that we can't rush the process as the process that counts. I for one do not believe it's a bad day for democracy if we all can't vote for our budget. It's just a bad day for democracy if I can't vote for the budget, Madam Speaker. Will the Chair of Finance be advised of that?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Morantz quickly.

Councillor Morantz: Sure, well actually yesterday we had our day of democracy and Councillor Schreyer had an opportunity to vote for the budget and decided not to.

Madam Speaker: Next we will be dealing with the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment. We have no report. We do have…no motions and no by-laws. We have a notice of motion before us from the February...yes.

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

Councillor Gerbasi: Madam Speaker, I would like to move that we refer this motion back to the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste and Environment and have the discussion.

Madam Speaker: No instructions? You're referring…

Councillor Gerbasi: The instructions are simply to refer it back to the appropriate policy committee for discussion.

Madam Speaker: Okay, yeah, we need to let Councillor Eadie introduce his motion first.

Councillor Gerbasi: Okay.

Madam Speaker: Okay, so, this is the notice of motion moved by Councillor Eadie and seconded by Councillor Wyatt regarding the organics program. Councillor Eadie.

Moved by Councillor Eadie,
Seconded by Councillor Wyatt,

WHEREAS the vast majority of household solid waste comes from goods and produce purchased at businesses from all over the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the Comprehensive Integrated Waste Management Plan (CIWMP), as adopted by Council in October, 2011, set out City of Winnipeg policy in regard to solid waste generated within the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg's CIWMP promised a review of the new first phase of the autobin garbage and recycling program, and to be done by the Department of Water and Waste, and to have been reported back to Council in 2016, with further reviews to follow;

AND WHEREAS the Public Service has failed to meet the existing targets for waste diversion as per the CIWMP by 2016 under the first phase of the plan;

AND WHEREAS residential single to seven unit households are already taking personal responsibility for garbage recycling and organic waste diversion by regularly recycling and by diverting their own organic waste through household composters;

AND WHEREAS no Curbside Source Separated Organics (SSO) Trial/Pilot Project, as identified in the CIWMP implementation plan, has been undertaken;

AND WHEREAS despite past city consultation on curbside SSO waste collection, where it has been stated to have approval ratings as high as 63%, the fact that many citizens of Winnipeg, especially low and fixed income residents, do not want to pay another flat tax;

AND WHEREAS no organic waste programs have been carried out in Winnipeg neighbourhoods, other than offering, through regional centres, old style subsidized composters, and therefore ignoring the growth in community gardening and the local food movement;

AND WHEREAS commercial, institutional and industrial waste, from operations such as restaurants, grocery stores, meat shops, schools, hospitals, and personal care homes, just to name a few, generate a huge amount of organic waste which is not diverted from landfills and has the need for a diversion program, as was identified in the CIWMP;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Public Service be directed to;

A) immediately conduct a comprehensive review of the existing autobin garbage/recycling program as approved by Council in the CIWMP 2011 report and report back to Council before the last Council meeting of 2016. The said review shall include a full analysis of the existing program, failures to meet promised levels of service, as well as comprehensive recommendations and steps required, that are fully costed, to improve the existing program/service;

B) immediately suspend the implementation plan for curbside SSO (kitchen waste) collection, and cancel any and all plans to conduct public consultations on a curbside SSO program;

C) develop a City Wide program to reduce organics waste from commercial, industrial and institutional waste and report back to Council in 180 days;

D) develop a City Wide organic diversion program that would be community based and work with existing not-for-profit groups and organizations and report back to Council in 180 days;

E) improve the existing program of subsidized organic bins for Winnipeg residents, by reviewing and potentially increasing the bin cost subsidy, increasing the times and locations when bins will be made available, and by increasing the options for the type of models of compost bins being made available at the subsidized rate, and report back to Council in 180 days.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thank you Speaker Sharma. I rise to talk about this motion, Madam Speaker, that I believe we should actually…in re-going over it and determining...I don't think that there is a need to really refer this particular motion. But...and I'll explain why, because the content is very important here. We do have a comprehensive, integrated waste management plan. That is our policy of the city. And there is a whole bunch of things in there, including a trial and looking at curbside source separated organic collection. And it's in there. But you know, the whole plan is already behind, Madam Speaker. It's behind. It actually called for a comprehensive review of the plan by the end of this year, by the end of this year. And I think that review, Madam Speaker, really needs to occur before we start moving on to doing something new, we need to figure out how things are working appropriately here and it's very well defined in here, in the therefore be it resolved A, as to what is the expectation for this review. It's very important that it needs to happen, Madam Speaker. And clause B is asking for a suspension of this implementation and I see no reason why we shouldn't suspend this potential curbside organic pick up, Madam Speaker, and that's because, just like the whole plan, it's behind schedule any way, Madam Speaker. And the review is behind schedule. We need to have that. I know we get an annual report about how much we are collecting and all that but there is no appropriate review of how things are going. There needs to be appropriate costing for things before they move ahead, we need detail on that. And so, Madam Speaker, the stopping the consultation is...at this point, until we actually review how we are moving ahead with the CIWMP, we are not ready to go to a consultation yet. We need to understand how things are going. That review is so important, so important. And then what we have is you know...the City of Winnipeg, Madam Speaker, I think it still is, per capita, there are more restaurants in Winnipeg than anywhere else in North America, anywhere else. And so, how much waste does a restaurant produce? Quite a lot. And they already have processes to separate things. It's already there in restaurants. Hotels, grocery stores. Madam Speaker, I have spoken to a couple of friends...actually a neighbour of mine, she works at Sobeys out on Main Street. She…and even though Sobeys donates food, leftover food over to Siloam Mission, there is still a ton of food thrown out all the time. It's gotta be more, Madam Speaker. And when I ask people, they say, well we don't know how much organic waste comes from the industrial commercial and so on, but somehow we know how much comes from the residential, Madam Speaker? Like I don't understand why they can't give us these numbers. And, if we are going to be serious about climate change, that Rosser Dump, take a drive out there. I don't know, it's growing faster than Brady, I believe. I think. And there is waste going in there from Winnipeg. We know that. Anyway, I just wanted to

point some of these things out because in this motion we are trying to give some priority to look at it and it is within the City's purview. I'll remind people that the private sector used to have their own recycling businesses and then the City got into it. We passed the by-law and the City took over, I mean, through a private contract, but still, the City took over recycling all across the city. So, the same goes, the argument to say that, oh, we can't because we don't have control over that system. Well, I disagree, I disagree. So there's other things in this motion that are very good. You know, they said only 23 percent of the people are composting. And, you know, our subsidy program…and my family, Madam Speaker, and I'm sure many families around here…because we all want to take responsibility. It's not that councillors don't want to take responsibility for the climate, but I think we probably all have taken advantage of the subsidy program and bought these composters. And you know what, in the winter time, we still put our compost in at my family's house, okay. That happens, Madam Speaker. But you know what? There is never really been a real push to get people heavily involved in that. A subsidy program and an education through, for example, the movement that we heard from here at Green Action, the Canadian Centre of Policy Alternatives Manitoba, they are also hooked in with food matters, food security issues which I know the Mayor is very supportive of. Well, through that food security, what you will probably find is there is a number of people who are poor, who have lower incomes who maybe didn't have an opportunity...maybe we could provide a better subsidy so that they can compost the organic waste that they have and get more than 23 percent of the households of Winnipeg into that. It's…but that's never been tried, it's not being done. Let's get that done. So, Madam Speaker, this motion that we are debating today is actually prudent. It's not saying that we don't want to take responsibility for residential, organic waste. It's not saying that. What it's saying is, is that we need to look at this comprehensive, integrated waste management plan and look at and review to understand what's going on and being able to cost out more and actually, maybe our administration can reach out. We have a new Federal Government who is saying they will invest money in programs to help us deal with climate change. There is a whole bunch of things, Madam Speaker, that need to be done. And so I want to thank my seconder. This was my idea. My seconder agrees with me as he's the one who made it public, and rightly so, but he agrees with me because frankly this whole movement about climate change, these are the same people who care about poverty and so on, and Madam Speaker, I have to say, I as an individual, having grown up poor, my mom on social assistance, I know what it's like to be poor. And, for a family with that low of an income to have to start picking up costs...and it may not sound like a lot of money to people, $55, $100 a year, but you know what, it's all relative. Today, $55 a year means nothing to me. But you know, I know what it is for those people out there and you know, all these people on low income, many of them are seniors and they are actually composting already. Why are we forcing them to pay for something they're already taking care of? They're actually…Madam Speaker, there are people out in our city who are growing their own food because they can't afford the escalating cost of food and you know what, Madam Speaker? Yes, CPI is a low level but I just heard that fresh produce and stuff, in one month jumped up 4 percent, Madam Speaker. And the economists are saying that these food prices are going to be jumping higher. So, like...and where are they buying them from? They're buying them from the businesses so there is a whole circular thing happening here and we need to do this review and consider…before we move ahead, Madam Speaker. So, thanks for the opportunity and time to do this and I think we should just deal with this today. I think it's prudent to do so.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gerbasi if you could take some time here to clarify to Council your referral without speaking to the main item. Speak to the referral only.

Councillor Gerbasi: Okay. Yeah, if it's just speaking on the referral motion? Yeah, not speaking to the clause. Yes. Well, I would like to refer this back to the standing policy committee that deals with policy on this issue. And let the committee do its work in examining the issue. It doesn't…it just takes the ideas and the emotion and brings them to the standing committee. I'm not getting into the clause, so I would urge Council to support…

Councillor Wyatt: Point of order, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: No, it's a referral. She is clarifying the referral motion.

Councillor Wyatt: Without instructions? It's non-debatable?

Councillor Gerbasi: I am not debating.

Councillor Wyatt: She can't…she can't…

Councillor Gerbasi: Okay, then I will just move referral and sit down.

Councillor Wyatt: Then speak to it.

Councillor Gerbasi: I'm doing what she suggested.

Madam Speaker: She can clarify according to the rules. Please continue.

Councillor Gerbasi: I'm just…okay, all I'm saying is I am referring it to the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, okay. That's all. I am not trying to get into the debate. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just following the Speaker's instructions…I'm moving referral.
Madam Speaker: I'll call the question on the referral. Call the question on the referral. All those in favour of referring this to the committee, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Gerbasi, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Morantz, Pagtakhan

Madam Speaker: All those opposed, please rise. Roll call has started already and that's the past practice. We know that. Please continue, Mr. Clerk. Please continue.

Nays

Councillors Browaty, Dobson, Eadie, Gillingham, Schreyer, Wyatt and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 7, Nays 7.

Madam Speaker: So the referral is lost. Who would like to speak to the main notice of motion before us? Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would add my voice to all the public and that that have stated that they are opposed to this program. We are taxed and feed and everything to death. We are being imposed by other levels of government, all sorts of new fees, our water rates and sewer rates are going up. Everything is going up in cost. When I started on this council, solid waste cost about $85 to $90 average per household and that was covered at that time based on mill rate support. Our new Waste Minimization Program, unfair in my mind, to large families. My household, there are two of us there at the moment. We can be as wasteful as we want with these big 240 litre bins, we could never fill those if we tried. If you've got a huge household, if you are a new Canadian family that there's a ton of people living under one roof, it's not fair to you, because you have the same amount of garbage and recycling as everybody else. The current program costs an extra, now it's $56 per year per household. This proposal will add an extra $55 to $100 per household in costs. And it doesn't matter how you dress it up or make it fancy or whatever, whether it's put on property…on your mill rate support, whether it's a grant from Province or the Federal Government, that's still a new cost for a service that Winnipeggers aren't asking for. Your voters are not asking for this service. If we delay this now, if we refer this on, if we don't deal with this today, our public service is going to be spending a lot of time, a lot of energy and a lot of money, even if we choose not to do this, just in doing up the RFPs. Our master contract expires in a little over a year from now. If we're going to do this, we're going to have to award a contract sometime early this fall so that whoever comes up to be providing our collection services next year will need a year to ramp up to buy new equipment, to upgrade equipment, to implement this. Time is of the essence here. So again, we're started...when I started on Council here, solid waste services, $85 to $90 a year. You had about 48-49 pickups per year, you know, holidays, things moved. Now we are up to 52 pickups per year and again, we are paying more, I believe today, for what is an inferior service and we are trying to go even, I think, backwards here by trying to impose another bin. Go on a nice summer day to Toronto. People raving about how Toronto, you know, has curbside composting. In the summer the streets stink. When you have a separate compost bin, the smell that comes from these things is nasty. The juice that falls out of the trucks from the back, the leachate, we get some of that today, is even far worse in places like Toronto. The whole point of civic services is sanitation and health. Why are we trying to do something that's going to cost people more and go backwards here? I support this motion especially the component that puts a bullet through the head of the idea of curbside composting.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: You know, I stand up here really opposing this motion. First of all, our public service, we have...taxpayers have paid for a study on this. They paid out of their own taxes for a study and I think we haven't even gotten out the door with it and we are already trying to cancel something we don't even know anything about. There is different levels of government that has committed to climate change. We know the Brady Landfill is the second largest contributor to greenhouse gases in the province and really, if we are not the largest contributor, then aren't we one of the major reasons for reduction? They are going to be asking us for targets, we heard that today. We...I know that we can

come together as a council and find something that is affordable for everybody. But to really, to send our administration off, pay for a consultation and then don't go back to the community that has paid for it, I don't think it's responsible. I think we have heard...we heard good conversation from the Green Action Centre today. We are the last...you know every other major city...and almost every other city in the province has an organic waste program and we are behind. We are behind in a lot of things but like I can't believe that we are not even going to have a consultation on this. There is lots of great programs out there to study. Let's hear about those different programs that are out there in different cities. You know, and there is a lot of great work that's being done by different community organizations on local composting. I think that could be a part of this discussion. When it talks about our greenhouse gases a lot of it isn't...I mean, I am somebody that composts, but it isn't just the vegetable peels. It's the bones and the eggs and the cheese and all that other material that we need to get at. And if you look at our rates, it's really that organic stuff, the bones and stuff like that, that will make a huge contribution to decreasing emissions. We are not...it's not…we are doing lots in transportation...it's not even transportation, it's our Brady Landfill that's causing the greenhouse gases in Manitoba, the second largest contributor to it. So I really hope that we are cautious about this. We can still have a debate on this. We can still move forward and have a debate on this after we have a public consultation but let's go through it. Our taxpayers have paid the money for that. Let's go through that public consultation. We'll come back here, we'll make these decisions here on the floor of Council on if we should go forward with an organics program or not, but please let's allow the citizens to be able to be engaged and be part of this debate. We are not allowing them to be part of this debate if we don't go out and consult with the public. We need to be out there with our community, hearing their issues, talking about it, letting them know what other programs and services are out there and then we're going to still be able to have this debate, but please, we have spent the money. Taxpayers have spent the money. We need to let us consult with the community and come back to have the debate then. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Obviously this is a difficult one with seven to seven here as far as the vote goes. Every city is obligated to provide core services for its residents and at present, I don't believe an organics collection program is a core service. It falls beyond what would be deemed a core service presently. And from my estimation this would be what we would describe as mission creep, and mission creep for any city is costly. When cities launch any services an associated cost to run that service for the lifetime of that service and at this point, I've heard nothing about the lifetime cost and estimates of such a service because those costs inevitably increase over time. I have heard from many residents on this matter, in fact, I heard from far more residents on organics than I heard from anybody on the budget. Frontage levies, tax increases, the response I got on organics, on this when this became public, far out stripped discussion in response on the budget. I kept track, 40 e-mails, 15 phone calls, over 90 percent of them vehemently opposed to the introduction of the organic program. So, less than 10 percent were open to, at this point, an introduction to an organics program. And the calls were consistent as in many of the homeowners in St. James – Brooklands – Weston Ward have taken advantage over the years of the incentives that the city has offered by offering the black composting bins and they compost regularly in their back yards, in our community and they use their compost for their gardens and they have no interest whatsoever, no desire whatsoever, to have another bin out on collection day and to manage another bin. I think perhaps the best call I got, which was quite humorous, was a voicemail from a gentleman in my ward, a senior man that said, "I have one orange every day. Are you going to charge me to pick up one orange peel every day?" And I thought that kind of put it into perspective for me. Perhaps more discussion could be had but at a later date. I don't believe from what I have seen so far that...I believe that there is actually more, pardon me, more work for the department to do, much more work to do before we would be ready to proceed to a public consultation so I concur with Councillor Eadie and his comments to that regard and at this point, I will be supporting Councillor Eadie's motion. Thank you.

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

Councillor Allard: I would like to refer the motion to standing committee, but can I explain my referral? Or do I not get any comments?

Madam Speaker: Can you make the same referral again?

Councillor Allard: I was outside the chamber at the time. I understand that I can move to refer.

Madam Speaker: I'm going to ask the Clerk to clarify that. Question, Councillor Allard if you can have a seat, thank you.

Clerk: By virtue of your procedure by-law, a motion to refer is always an order. And in terms of clarification, you have to have not spoken before and so when you rise, you have to move referral first. If you want, you can ask for three minutes to explain why you are referring it and the mover of the motion or the Chair of the committee in this case, it would be the mover of the motion, Councillor Eadie, would get three minutes to rebut.

Madam Speaker: So you were saying that Councillor Allard can move the same referral because he has not spoken yet?

Councillor Allard: if I move to refer without making comments, is there a direct vote without the mover of the motion being able to respond? So he has three minutes. Okay. I would speak then. Regardless, he has three minutes, either way? Okay. Can I speak to my referral then?

Madam Speaker: No. No? After him? Before? So you are moving referral to?

Councillor Allard: Okay. So thank you to all of my Council colleagues, I understand this is a very engaging issue. A lot of people have a lot of opinions on it and yes I did get more correspondence on this issue than I did get on the budget as well. And this issue is really stirring the passion of our residents. I think...I think we have heard 80 percent of residents are in favour of composting. I think what residents are reacting to right now is the implementation that's been proposed and floated in the media. I think we need to have a serious discussion on this before...and perhaps I'll quote my colleague on this, Councillor Browaty, "Putting a bullet in the head of this proposal." Winnipeggers want to compost. We need to do our part. Cities across the world are doing this. We just need to find the way to do it that is amenable to the public, that the public understands. I…my office and I have researched this issue extensively, we have had conversations with people from across the country on how they do their composting. There are other ways than the flat fee model that's been proposed by our City administration which is the model that I have…I came out against hearing what my residents had to say about it. So, one of the biggest opponents right now of this proposal is the people who already compost and that's because they are seeing a proposal where they would have to pay a flat fee for something that they feel they don't already need. Well, I now understand it's a little bit more nuanced than that. Even if you do your backyard composting, which is the golden standard, we would want everyone to backyard compost if we could encourage everyone to backyard compost because then you don't have to truck the material to another location which creates more greenhouse gases. So, there are different ways of doing this and I've pitched the Toronto model at the last Standing Committee of Water and Waste, where you pay as you throw in Toronto and you get recycling and organics for free. So the senior on fixed income who can't afford to pay under the current system, would actually get a break where they would pay less based on consumption. The person who actually does compost would benefit in the Toronto model because they would use less garbage and they would still get potentially a service of curbside composting, where they can compost things that they can't currently compost in their backyard, which I understand are things like bones and other things that attract vermin. So there is merit in pursuing this…there is merit in proposing…pursuing this further and we need to find a way. We need to find a way that's fair to residents on fixed income and that spare people who have already been composting and I am one of those households that bought the subsidized bin and you can see how the current proposal appears to be conflicting with the idea that while we're...did I get any more extension.

Madam Speaker: No. No, you don't.

Councillor Allard: Okay. So please support referral.

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will take my three minutes and stick to why it doesn't need to be referred at the moment. I think the councillor spoke to the merits of the motion. But Madam Speaker, I don't see the need because we are saying to suspend moving it ahead, which would mean, because there's contracts, yes I understand, there wouldn't be any implementation for at least in the next five year contracts or whatever. But Madam Speaker, though, the Province threatens, what is it, 2020 I am sure there will be a change. That's a proposal that they have, that might change. So it could be 2022 when the five year contract is up, Madam Speaker, but…and Madam Speaker, I don't think there's a need for it to be referred to…for discussion because our comprehensive integrated waste management plan has all this stuff in the policy. This actual motion here does not delete the policy. It simply asks for review which is in the policy. It simply asks to suspend laying out a full curbside program when we haven't even done the trial which is supposed to have happened and on and on I could go, Madam Speaker. So I urge you to not refer. I think we can debate this now. People need to understand that this doesn't mean we're not going to do curbside pickup at some point. What the motion does mean though is, we are putting a faster track on the industrial, commercial restaurant, whatever you want to call it and looking at that, Madam Speaker, which is going to be part...get this, that will also be part of the provincial no organics going into dumps. So the business too. So, you know, Madam Speaker, this thing follows our plan. It just delays some aspects of it which are already delayed anyway, Madam Speaker, so there is no need to actually bring it to committee, I don't think, at this point. It will eventually come up through Water and Waste again because it's in the plan. So it will and people will get a chance to speak to it into the future because again, Madam Speaker, we are not the leading policy. I urge you to let's just complete the debate here today. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Voting on the referral motion before us. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Madam Speaker: All opposed, please rise.

Nays

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

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 9, Nays 6. Matter is referred.

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

Madam Speaker: The referral motion passes. We'll now move onto Question Period for this Committee. Any questions for Councillor Mayes? Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you to Councillor Mayes, a brief preamble to my question. What often is maybe not overlooked but not highlighted as much as that the largest costs in our Capital Budget are the projects related to water and sewer, the sewer treatment plant. And those are directly…those capital projects are directly tied to provincial regulation. And these construction projects are driven, as you look at them by really aggressive deadlines, to meet provincial regulation guidelines. There's also a call and a need for the City to address the CSO matters as well. All these capital projects are putting pressure on our water and sewer rates and I'm wondering if the Chair can inform Council if there have been any discussions with the Province as to perhaps adjusting deadlines for sewer treatment plant upgrades or any deadlines that may be imposed in regards to the CSO's improvements to alleviate the need to increase sewer and the water rates to collect revenue to pay for these capital projects. I'm just wondering if the Councillor can inform us through you as to whether or not those discussions have happened or if there's a plan to have the discussions with the Province on that. Thank you.

Councillor Mayes: Almost wish we'd have further debate because Councillor Browaty and I were on opposite sides of the issue and we keeping hearing today how it's all EPC block voting, so there was our opportunity, but we did vote on opposite sides, but to respond to the question, yes I have had, to the credit of the Minister of Conservation, Minister Nevakshonoff, called me and there was an exchange in the media, sort of back and forth about who said what, and I certainly said I don't want to get into a war of words. I think the Mayor said the same thing, and the Minister, to his credit, gave me a call the next day and said, you know, we're not trying to get into war of words with the City. That specific issue…it's a fair question from Councillor Gillingham, the deadlines were not discussed. I think that's understandable given that this conversation occurred a couple of days before the actual writ was dropped for the Provincial election, so that debate did not happen. I know the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Minister Caldwell, had written to the City indicating that the hundred million dollars that was being referenced in the throne speech as a commitment to help with the City of Winnipeg obligations that that should be considered permanent but I have to say there was no Provincial budget passed, so the binding effect of that to me was not clear. So, to the credit of the ministry did give me a call. I think those discussions should happen between the City and the Province soon after April 19th as possible. There are some balls in the air here, as I've pointed out. The biosolids plan has been with the Province since I think September '14 which is prior to the Municipal election of October of 2014. We haven't heard back. The combined sewer overflow plan has been with them since December, billions riding on that. And the work goes on and on. What will be the biggest capital outlay, bigger than the BRT project and that being the north end plant. So not just tens of millions, hundreds of millions of dollars, billions of dollars at play here, so as I've said repeatedly, we should sit down with the Province after April 19th and with the Ag sector. You know we…Councillor Morantz and I have this…Councillor Schreyer to his credit. There…see EPC and non-EPC members collaborating. Councillor Schreyer to his credit came and said to me "are you guys talking about some sort of Ag caucus, so we've been trying to talk to the Province and the Ag industry a bit about trying to work together and not finger point so much I guess about who's causing what. Let's just try and focus on what

we can do to help Lake Winnipeg. So, discussions need to happen. It's a good question. Those discussions need to happen after April 19th.

Madam Speaker: Okay. The next speaker, Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thank you Madam Speaker. I'm just curious, Madam Speaker, if the Chairperson could explain why he voted to put off the rates until April 14th along with Councillor Dobson and I.

Councillor Mayes: As I think I indicated at the meeting, it was a…it's a fair question, Councillor Eadie. He felt he didn't have time to deal with the rates. Councillor Gerbasi unfortunately wasn't there at the meeting. We elected to therefore put off discussion of the water and sewer rates until our next committee meeting which is April 14th.

Madam Speaker: Second question.

Councillor Eadie: Next question. Just asking the Chairperson if he'll put out to his networks that people can come to that public hearing at Standing Committee to talk about the rates. Madam Speaker, will he put that out to his contacts to let them know there is a possibility they can come and speak to these rates (inaudible)?

Councillor Mayes: I'm not sure really what's being requested here. Yes. I mean people can always come to Council meetings and appear in delegation. People can always come to Committee and appear in delegation. We heard from Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition. We've heard from the Keystone Ag Producers. We've heard from a wide range of people at the new Water Waste Committee. So, if, you know, sure I'll put something out on Twitter and Facebook. Happy to do so. I don't know that it will increase turn-out any but happy if that's what's being asked, I'm happy to do that.

Madam Speaker: Third and final question, Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker. My question is will the Chairperson of Water and Waste request of the new communications people we have to assist in publicizing to the public that they can come out to the April 14th meeting to speak about the water and waste rates?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Not sure those new communications people will in fact exist by April 14th, but I will certainly communicate with Corporate Communications to indicate that we should be clear that we're proceeding it with our regularly scheduled meeting and people, as always, can come and speak to the items such as the rate issue on April 14th. I do think we need to clarify a bit, certainly the City staff have indicated they didn't want to publicize the public budget town hall that I was having with Councillor Morantz. To his credit he came out, and City budget staff were terrific. I continued to take issue with that decision but I guess that's something we'll have to work through in terms of what sort of meetings, and Councillor Lukes has been tireless in having town hall meetings. You know, I think the City's staff should be publicizing those and any other meetings that we're having.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: On that, with the new budgetary line item for communications, people aren't sure we're going to have much more capacity on that Councillor Mayes, but to my question, I presented at Water and Waste that I didn't get the chance to ask questions. It was just a presentation, but last time we voted a three-year water increase, last Council actually. It was voted on so that we didn't have to revisit it as a Council until after the next election, so I had some questions about that. Why do we have to vote for three years of fees? Why can't we vote on these fees every year, Councillor Mayes?

Councillor Mayes: I can't speak as to what past practice was but certainly the staff have indicated that they think this is the standard practice across other jurisdictions. This has been, I believe, the standard practice in the City of Winnipeg to increase predictability so people know, industry and individuals can plan in terms of what the water rates will be. I remember your presentation and I don't think, I don't know that there's any attempt here. We will have voted on something and people can check your record. Whether we vote on it in 2016 or 2018, we're still voting on setting a standard, so I don't think there's any attempt here to bury this somehow and maybe you're not saying that but, you know, it's an open vote. We can vote yeah or nay on what you choose, but certainly the practice here as I understand it has been to set a three year, to set rates on a three-year cycle.

Councillor Allard: Second question is last time we voted on these water rates, there was an administrative report calling for 6, 6 and 6.5 percent increases. After a bit of grilling from Council, lower percentage increases actually, was

actually approved. So does the Department actually need the amount of money that they're asking for and why is it that Council was able to overrule last time and give the Department less and seemingly they were able to get by just fine?

Councillor Mayes: Yeah, there are always pressures. People certainly appeared at the Committee meeting, various councillors indicating that they were upset with certain projects being delayed, so if the Administration…the Administration I think is trying to fit a list of projects in within the constraints of the rates. I mean the firm bank (inaudible), firm bank interceptor was delayed. The Saskatchewan Avenue interceptor was delayed. I think the Transcona interceptor was put off for two years, not dropped out of the budget entirely. Councillor Wyatt can correct me if I'm misremembering that. The interceptor in Councillor Lukes ward was moved out of the five-year budget framework. Certain improvements at the lift station at Turnbull I think it is…I could have that wrong…were dropped. So, and then, I think the Administration was trying to drop out or delay certain projects given the pressure. In a way, the answer lies in Councillor Gillingham's question though, which is if the Province changes its requirements on us, then maybe we can revisit this somewhere down the line. But, I think half the plan, based on the current legislation and the current regulations and those have certain deadlines, in fact the Province has indicated their feeling that we should have moved quicker on some of these projects, so I guess if the question is, do they need all the money they're asking for, certainly all the indications we have are yes, and if they didn't then I don't think they're delaying these projects out of spite or preference. There was certainly some in different parts of the city, so a lot of big ticket items in play and therefore they had to make some hard decisions.

Councillor Allard: My next question, so at community consultation that I had in St. Boniface Ward…

Madam Speaker: I believe you already asked three questions, Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Oh, did I already do the three questions.

Madam Speaker: Yes, so we're moving on to Councillor Wyatt now. Thank you.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. That's okay. We were going to have a very important meeting by the sounds of it on April 14th at 9:30. Now that we know that it seems like we're going to be on the road of creating a new bureaucracy and a new service that's going to cost ratepayers and taxpayers anywhere from 50 to $100 minimum, would the Chair be prepared to move the meeting to the evening to allow average people, folks who are not the special interest groups who have the time to show up and speak their mind at 9:30 or 9:00 in the morning, but the average person, the ratepayer, the taxpayer out there who's going to be hit with this new bureaucracy, this new fee, this new charge, to have a chance to come and weigh-in on April 14th in the evening at 5:30 or 6:00 or 6:30 instead of at 9:30 in the morning? It's just a reasonable request in light of all this interest that we've received and all the emails, as we've mentioned, a good point, we've got so many calls and more emails over this and calls over this than over the budget. Could we entertain that, or even if it's not even a yes today, but take it under consideration Mr. Chairman?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: There is no plan, there is no road, there is no $50 fee, there is no $100 fee. Nothing has been adopted by Council, nothing has been adopted by a committee of Council, there is no organics, curb-side program on the runway. There is no organics curb-side program that's been approved. There is no new bureaucracy. There is no plan that has been adopted by Committee or Council. Councillor Eadie is saying what do you mean?

Councillor Eadie: (inaudible)

Councillor Mayes: Councillor Eadie is interrupting me, Madam Speaker. I'm just trying to answer the question. Councillor Eadie for some reason thinks we have adopted a $100 or $50 fee. This is news to me. We haven't. We haven't had a vote on this. There is no new bureaucracy. There is no new fee. As to moving the meeting to the evening, I can ask the Clerk. I have to say I remember here in 2012 when many, many people came in to speak in regard to the golf course issue and filled that gallery up to my left. Councillor Wyatt indicated that in fact, this shouldn't be at the Committee meeting. It should be referred to the then Innovation Committee, whatever its name was at the time. A lot of people, average people, who showed up and took time out of their day were very angry at that. So, I suppose I appreciate the respect for average people. A lot of people did show up at that meeting and were told to come back some other time. So I mean, I think we probably should keep to our practice of meeting at 9:30. That's been our practice. It's well publicized and if we start moving one meeting to the evening I suppose we can look at moving all of the meetings to the evening, but certainly happy to hear from anyone who wants to come down. It's not just special interest groups. Anybody can come down on the 14th and appear in delegation.

Madam Speaker: Second question?

Councillor Wyatt: I just want to confirm then that the Councillor is saying no to the concept or the idea of having an evening meeting for residents to attend in terms of raising their taxes, and I was at the seminar as well and it sounded like to me this thing…this is a train coming.

Madam Speaker: Your question, Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Yeah, yeah, okay. I just want to confirm. Is he saying no to having an evening meeting?

Councillor Mayes: As indicated, I am willing to discuss it with the Clerk, but of course, we do have our practice of meeting at 9:30 as indicated. I appreciate the Councillor's concerns for the average voter. I'm sure the people who appeared back in 2012 on the golf course issue when they were told to come back another day…

Madam Speaker: Please wrap up.

Councillor Mayes: (inaudible) to another committee, would've appreciated consideration as well.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. We are now moving onto to the Standing Policy Committee on Innovation, the report dated February 22nd, 2016. Councillor Browaty

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION
DATED FEBRUARY 22, 2016

Councillor Browaty: Thank you Madam Speaker. I would like to introduce the report and move Item 1.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Which Motion 4? Sorry, it was buried underneath here. We do have Motion 4 before us. It is amending Item No. 1. Do you have that Councillor Browaty? Yes. We all have that in front of us, Motion No. 4? Okay, Mr. Clerk. We will allow Councillor Browaty to introduce the item. You can read the item, Mr. Clerk, sure.

Item 1 – Winnipeg Fleet Management – Special Operating Agency – 2016 Business Plan (Selection Report)

Madam Speaker: Okay, Councillor Browaty to introduce the item.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is the annual business plan of the Winnipeg Fleet Agency. It provides vehicle services throughout the City organization by consolidating a lot of things centrally. Group buys are done and monies are saved. It also adds a level of checks to ensure that various departments are ordering appropriate equipment for the purposes. You can read the report before you and I will be moving it here today.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Schreyer to introduce Motion 4.

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

THAT Item No. 1 of the Report of Standing Policy Committee on Innovation dated February 22, 2016 be amended by adding an additional recommendation as follows:

To cancel the acquisition of the Automatic Vehicle Location System (AVL) for a savings of approxiamately $2 million, including foregoing of outsourcing of jobs out of the Province.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Motion 4, I am doing this properly, I hope is to cancel the acquisition of the Automatic Vehicle Location System, the AVL, for a savings of approximately $2 million, including foregoing of outsourcing of jobs out of province.

Madam Speaker: Any further speakers on the item or the motion before us? Councillor Eadie. You spoke to the…you introduced your motion. Yes, you can speak to the main item afterwards. We are going to hear from Councillor Eadie first.

Councillor Schreyer: Oh, yes.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. To the report, you know, Fleet Management is a special operating HC of the City of Winnipeg. It's a central place in which equipment is bought and leased out to departments. It's my understanding and I could be corrected, maybe Councillor Browaty could let us know more, but I believe Fleet Management already equips all of the vehicles have GPS and you're able to monitor where they go. Now, it's my understanding this new software, somehow, is going to monitor whether or not somebody applies the brake too often or all kinds of different things they'll be able to measure other than just where it's located and watching it move through a GPS system. So it's offering more, however Madam Speaker, I'm not sure of the intention of this software in terms of…it sounds like a high cost and it sounds like we are outsourcing to a company in Calgary to do the monitoring and that's interesting in that, I guess we are paying them to get up to speed with how our City of Winnipeg's Fleet Management System works in which each department communicates to Fleet but departments do not communicate amongst each other and some departments have the same kind of equipment. And I'm not sure whether or not...and I didn't read it anywhere, but it doesn't say that Fleet Management will be monitoring, say a back hoe used by Water and Waste versus a back hoe used by Public Works. In terms of...you know, well is it idle? It's not being used. Well, they need another piece of equipment over here from Water and Waste over to Public Works so that they can do similar kinds of work with that piece of equipment. I'm not reading that kind of innovation in here. Innovation which, by the way, is something that Labour brought forth, so all I understand is, supposedly, this software is supposedly to find some savings by I guess teaching people to stay off the brake. Maybe they are hitting the brake because there is a big pothole in the way. Like…I don't understand the heavier level other than to, you know...you already have a GPS system there, why are we spending new money on something new, Madam Speaker? I don't think it's getting to the measurement in innovation and efficiency of departments sharing equipment that are in common. We know the firefighters don't have very similar to other departments but you know there are some synergies with equipment between, especially, Water and Waste Utility and our Water and Waste Utility Department which gets all of its...the largest, by the way, the largest department of the City, Water and Waste. So Madam Speaker, I'm going to be voting to support...well, I am the seconder on the motion. Fleet Management is still a good idea. I don't know if it's changing its modus operandi about how it proceeds. It's in interesting in how there's a perspective between Fleet and the Police Service and how long a police car lasts. So, I am not sure that Fleet...is this going to gain them innovation and insight as well? It is being implemented through Fleet Management. I believe...are we measuring the leased cars of the Winnipeg Police Services as well in terms of how often they put their brakes on or how fast they are driving? Probably not. I wouldn't imagine that you would apply that to the Winnipeg Police Service. But you know, how are they going to measure how long of a lease you should have for a car that...you know, should you have a four lease…four year lease on a car that's only lasting three years? I don't know. Anyway, thanks Madam Speaker, I will be supporting the amendment.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next is Councillor Schreyer. You wanted to speak to the main item.

Councillor Schreyer: Well, I guess, Madam Speaker just for further reference, why did I not make the initiatory…

Madam Speaker: You were introducing the motion, so now you can speak to the main item if you wish. You will have an opportunity later to close on Motion 4 as well.

Councillor Schreyer: I see, okay. I don't think it's that complicated, Madam Speaker, but thank you now for the opportunity to speak on this. Councillor Eadie basically gave the gist of this. It's pretty simple. It's a savings of $2 million. We had quite a debate yesterday regarding surprisingly similar parallel type of technology yesterday with Winnipeg Police Services. And my understanding is we are looking at cost savings there. This one, I think, is more justified. I think it's just simpler, more streamlined. We are forgoing outsourcing jobs out of province on this as well. I don't see how you can compare this, really. I think the greater comparison if we're looking at these types of things right now, Madam Speaker, I think would be best served with the Winnipeg Police Services. I am not recommending that, Madam Speaker, just in terms of…if we look in terms of priority where our judgment would be in terms of…if we're looking for a $2 million savings, Madam Speaker, this is the place to find it. I don't think we're…this is where the innovation is...is worth the money and the outsourcing. And, you know, given, you know, we are only dealing with 20 percent of the sector, 80 percent of the sector is contracted, and you know, I think we find a lot...I'm not saying it would be cost effective, ma'am, but if the money were to be put there into the majority of the contracted sector in terms of you know, what we already have in the public sector, that being GPS, I think we would learn a lot more. I'm not recommending that, ma'am. What I am saying is let's take a look at some priorities, let's save $2 million on what's something that's I think is unnecessary. Especially given what we did regarding budget cuts with Winnipeg Police Services yesterday. It's an easy solution. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next is Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm going to rise and just indicate that I will not be supporting this motion, this amendment. I have had the opportunity to watch this type of system in effect in Oulu, Finland and what they…how they use it on their snow clearing machines that clean the sidewalks and pathways. And what it does is it provides an amazing…it's an amazing source of information for residents who can go out…or who can look on a screen and see when their sidewalk or their area is being cleaned. It is using technology to provide information. It's using technology to really provide a service to the residents and I truly believe that this is a wise investment of $2 million to help provide that information and to actually improve our service and improve our efficiency. So, I'm extremely supportive of this system. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Okay. Seeing none, Councillor Schreyer you have an opportunity to close.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am endeared by the reference to Oulu, Finland. I have been in the area about south of Oulu, flown over Oulu, I've been north to Rovaniemi right on the arctic circle just north of Oulu. It's an interesting place. I'm not going to call it obscure, Madam Speaker. Far be it for me. Finland is wonderful and they have an excellent use of technology, absolutely. Madam Speaker, and so do we. Madam Speaker, we are looking at millions of dollars of savings yesterday. We are looking at saving money on what is an excellent application of technology used by other police services across the country is what we have been informed by Madam Speaker. If we are looking for savings in terms of budget, here it is. At least with the Winnipeg Police Services, we were benefiting the safety and lives of police officers and therefore citizens and their mortal wellbeing, their mortal health, as well as saving police from situations of hearsay while they go about their daily lives. I would venture to say, Madam Speaker, when it comes to places on earth in terms of using innovative technology, the use of the $2 million would be best spent with what was intended through the Winnipeg Police Board's report. But, having said that, ma'am, we had that debate yesterday and I understand and on that basis let's save the money or let's put it somewhere else. We are in a position to do that with the new budget.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Browaty to close.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just to clarify on some of the concerns that are being raised by the motion here. This notion of outsourcing jobs, I don't know where that comes from, it's like, we don't manufacturer tires…we don't, you know, the equipment and the gear that we are talking about here is being bought from a third party vendor, that is true. But my understanding is the installation, maintenance and monitoring of the system will all be done by City of Winnipeg employees is my very best understanding of this. I mean, we will have third party vendors that will be supplying the cellular technology that will be going into these devices. But again, as far as I understand, it will be Winnipeg Fleet Management Agency that will be doing the installation and maintenance of the hardware, not outsourced, anything like that. The recommendation again that did come from the former Alternate Service Delivery Committee was to exclude...there was a question, I know, perhaps coming from Councillor Gillingham, Winnipeg Transit and the Winnipeg Police Service are specifically excluded from the program and there may be an argument that the Winnipeg Parking Authority, which has a very similar system already completely ramped up may also be excluded. The reality is, the previous GPS system as we've called it in the past that was installed by Fleet in the past has not worked particularly well. In my mind, this is one of these wonderful scenarios where doing this is both good for the environment and good for the pocketbook of Winnipeggers. It saves green and it save the environment. This is one of these wonderful instances where there is a double win. You know, the three legs of sustainability are all met, I believe, on this particular instance. Winnipeg's green fleet plan which is a council adopted document which will help reach those targets, again it's the…the idea's to reduce city idling by 20 percent by 2023. It is anticipated that with the addition of an idle reduction policy that the City of Winnipeg will be able to reduce annual Fleet fuel usage by approximately 1.78 percent in 2016, 2.5 percent in 2017, 3 percent in 2018 and an additional .5 percent per from 2019 onwards and reduce the City's greenhouse gas emissions by 13…113 tons annually when compared to 2011. The installations will take place over a two year period. It's about 1700 vehicles. You know, this is I think one of these really…these good ringed…good scenarios. It also does improve because it does have live cellular technology. It improves the ability and safety for work alone employees within the City's system. Again, these are City assets and City employees and our people at Corporate Support Services are working on the specifics on employee manuals and that and how this stuff will exactly work. So, again, this isn't some sort of Orwellian, draconian thing in my mind, I think this is just good business practices and something that will be good for both the City's finances as well as the environment.

Madam Speaker: I'll call the question on….yes?

Councillor Schreyer: Point of order, I just hope I wasn't giving the impression I was saying anything about draconian. Just saving some money.

Madam Speaker: That's fine.

Councillor Wyatt: Point of order, Madam Speaker, if you're calling the question. It's come to my attention that there is a whole bunch of appendices as part of this report and they don't seem to be published on the agenda. If that's the case then we should defer this matter.

Madam Speaker: Are they in fact published? I see them here on my screen Appendix A-3. Which one…
Councillor Wyatt: I don't see them appearing under the report. They are not accessible.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Clerk, can you comment on that? So you're saying when we click on them they are not accessible?

Councillor Wyatt: Typically…and it must just have been an error. Typically the appendices are listed underneath the report separately as you see below when it comes to P and D, you have the attached appendices A, B, C, D, E and for whatever reason they weren't published here. My suggestion would be this matter be tabled till next month until it's properly on the agenda so we can vote on the matter.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Browaty. There is a motion to lay over. Looking to you as the Chair, hopefully there is nothing time sensitive in here. There is a motion to lay over the item to our next regularly scheduled council meeting. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Next is the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development.

Councillor Gillingham: Question period for the chair? No…

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION
QUESTION PERIOD

Madam Speaker: Sure we'll give him a Question Period as well. Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Back to the AVL System, which I'm really looking forward to. I think it's a great move of innovation and would welcome it. Be it expanded even further, I brought it up once I think last year when I was on the ASD Committee. This is preamble to my question. I brought it up, I think last year, that perhaps it could be…technology could be explored whereby contractors and snow clearers are outfitted with the type of technology that keep their blades and everything from a certain distance from the curb so that there's less damage to our infrastructure. So, any of these AVL systems I certainly welcome their introduction. My question, I believe the Chair already answered one of the questions in anticipation, but when it comes to the AVL, the reporting on the AVL system, I'm wondering will Council or the Committee receive regular reports as to what this system is measuring. That's my first question. I'll ask…I'll give him all three and he can answer them. What kind of data will be collected on the report and he's already answered, are there any departments that will be excluded from this? So what kind of data and will there be reporting on that data? Thank you.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you to Councillor Gillingham, there is still a little bit of jurisdictional question when it comes to the Innovation Committee. Now while we are clearly have jurisdiction over the $1 million capital innovation capital fund, which again was approved for another year at yesterday's meeting, when it comes to the actual operation of the system, when it goes down to the individual department level, the annual operating costs of that will be done by the various committees, so Assessment and Taxation has a fleet of vehicles. Obviously Public Works has a large fleet of owned vehicles and leased vehicles from Fleet Management Agency, Water and Waste as well. So in terms of the actual performance in that, we've asked at Innovation Committee at the last meeting to get an update on the implementation of the capital project, but in terms of the ongoing operating savings and that, I'm certainly open to receive that information. We'll just have to make sure we have proper jurisdiction to do so.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Second question Councillor Gillingham?

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you Madam Speaker. Just directly to that point, because there's not a lot of jurisdictional clarity right now, then can the Chair of the Innovation Committee ensure that appropriate reporting is indeed implemented however and wherever the Committees need to be?

Councillor Browaty: Absolutely. And I think part of what we'd like to see is…again it's an operating detail. Like, what is Corporate Support Services saying in terms of what information will be available to what levels of managers within various departments, and that's a very valid question and where the right place for that to be supervised and to ask

those questions, I'd like to know, but in terms of just raw savings and raw details, yeah. I believe in being accountable and getting that information out there in public.

Madam Speaker: Any further questions for the Chair? Councillor Schreyer, then Councillor Allard.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Big expenses is in snow clearing. Public sector only has 20 percent of snow clearing. How will the AVL technology be applied to the majority of our large machinery regarding winter use?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through to you Councillor Schreyer. At this point, obviously there'll be limited ability to track that. I would…I mean, just on a personal note, I would love to see the ability to do like they do in Toronto for example. After a street has been cleared, there's live GPS technology that'll update. You know what? The streets have been cleared. You can probably say, for example, park on the street again. I think that'd be a great improvement to customer service for Winnipeggers. At this point that's not there but again, most snowplow operators have a mobile phone with them for example. Maybe there's an opportunity to work with our contractors that each operator on the plow has some type of GPS-enabled smartphone that would be tied into a city system that does that. You don't have to…there won't be a big capital outlay. Then it would give us an opportunity going that way. So again, the particular AVL project that we're looking at for City-owned and leased vehicles will not extend to the private contracted snow clearing at this time, but I think there's great innovation that could be brought forward to bring that information to citizens.

Madam Speaker: Second question, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: He referred to the application of GPS in these efficiencies. I thought it was understood that they already have GPS.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: A decade ago, there was a GPS type system that was implemented. I…it didn't have proper cellular technology in communications. More or less, it was not working properly. There was some information I think they got in terms of some fuel consumption, but it wasn't a live system that this would bring. So this is definitely a superior system and would certainly…they've presented a long-term financial statement showing that it will, over time, save the City money.

Madam Speaker: Final question, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: When Councillor Browaty said, at least we would have that information from the public sector, did he mean at least or did he mean at most?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Sorry, in what context did I say that again? Sorry, could you just clarify.

Councillor Schreyer: I believe you said, given that we can only apply it to the public sector at least we will have that information, but does he mean at most we will only have it from the public sector?

Councillor Browaty: What I am saying is, frankly, the City doesn't…it doesn't really matter if a private contractor leaves their vehicle idling in terms of their fuel consumption. It's not, we're not…we're not supervising those employees. If they leave their vehicle idling longer, that's a cost that's being borne by the contractor. You know, we're talking about winter and snow clearing. You want to leave these things running regardless. I mean, there's common sense that these items are idling policies. You know, a summer day, you don't want to leave a truck sitting and running for three or four hours, but in the winter, chances are you probably need to. I mean, we're in a very cold climate here. So in terms of the anti-idling piece, when it comes to snow clearing, I don't think the AVL, that component of AVL isn't relevant. When it comes to monitoring where the equipment is and what's been done in terms of snow clearing, AVL and where it's been and what's it's covered is relevant. In terms of damage to curbs and stuff, I don't know if GPS gets down to the detail of what kind of distance it was from the curb. I do believe that some of the GPS technology we already do have, it was mentioned at the last Innovation meeting, you can actually tell that, like after the fact. We had a sand spreader, for example, that went through Archibald and Marion at 3:42 p.m. and they were putting this volume of sand down on the street. We have that technology already, so that, like, if there was an accident after the case, we have proof as to, you

know, we weren't in this example negligent. We do have that technology already today. This is a further enhancement to that type of thing.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next is Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Just sort of a…so I understand the scope or the purview of the committee is still being determined but shouldn't the Innovation Committee apply to all departments and all operations of the City of Winnipeg if we're looking for new innovative ways of saving taxpayers' dollars and providing better service?

Councillor Browaty: My understanding is the organization of City Hall, the Organization By-law of City Hall has certain pieces. We clearly have jurisdiction over the Special Operating Agencies, golf, fleet, parking…golf, fleet, parking, at least those three, as well as the $1 million Innovation Capital Fund. Those are clearly, my understanding right today is those fall under the jurisdiction of this committee. However, we'd like to think that there's innovation happening every day by the City organization broadly. That said, you know, like for example, it's supposed to be technology related. Not one hundred percent clear, you know, if there's the traffic management centre. Should that fall under Public Works? I think a good argument or is that an innovation. What about better ways of planting flowers? I mean, it's not really, you know, maybe there's a better procedure and operation. Those are sort of procedural type things within departments that I think are better handled by those committees. So there's still some questions and some growing pains. I think it's a great opportunity and I support Mayor Bowman's initiative to…from his campaign to bring a separate Innovation Committee and I look forward to the challenge of continuing to…first of all we're doing great stuff already and perhaps even expand the scope of the committee.

Madam Speaker: Second question, Councillor Allard?

Councillor Allard: So, are applications, I guess, purview of your committee and if so, were you aware that there was a recent development of a "Know Your Zone" app by a local developer and that my office was able to translate that app, but that the raw data at the back end was not translated and therefore, we were not able to provide a bilingual service, and so if apps are purview of your committee, is bilingual service of those apps something that you would consider in those developments?

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Allard and I want to remind everyone that questions are brought through the Speaker, not directly through to the Chair there.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Madam Speaker, through you to Councillor Allard. If a department proposed an app and required Capital Innovation Funding for it, it would definitely be under the purview of this committee. So, in this case that is not the case. I mean it was part of an open data initiative which is a very worthwhile project but not necessarily directly through this committee. So, that's your answer.

Madam Speaker: Any further questions for the Chair? Okay, seeing none, we will move on to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development, the report dated March 8, 2016. We have three iteMs

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DATED MARCH 8, 2016

Councillor Gerbasi: Madam Speaker, on behalf of Councillor Orlikow, the Chair, I have been asked to move these reports. So I would move Items 1 and 2 for…2 and 3, I mean, for consent and I believe there is an amendment on Item 1.

Madam Speaker: I'll call the question on Item 2 and 3. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Item 1, Mr. Clerk.

Item 1 – Comprehensive Fee Review of Planning, Development, and Building Fees and Charges

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi to introduce the item on behalf Councillor Orlikow.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. This very complex report came to our meeting of the Property and Development Committee. We spent quite a lot of time on it. I hope everybody has taken the time to review it and to ask questions of staff. There were some misconceptions about it, there was a lot of discussion in the media so I

did want to try to go over and try to clarify as best I can for the committee on behalf of Councillor Orlikow who would have been able to assist me on that but I was certainly there working with him on this. First of all, the overall fee increase when you look at the entire thing here is about a 10 percent fee increase. You heard about a range of different fees. Some are going up, some are going significantly down. Overall, it's about a 10 percent increase. We're talking about fees for development like construction and other development costs. What this fee does, there was a cross jurisdictional analysis done of other cities and this moves us from being pretty much the lowest in Canada to still in the lower...very much in the lower half of fee level in Canada. So it's still…we are a significantly low level when you compare us to other jurisdictions. It was reported in the media that there was a hundred new fees. I just want to point out there is not a hundred new fees, there was a lot of changes to methodology. So originally, the report talked about new fees, many of…that wording was corrected to say new methodology. So some of the methodology in our fees didn't actually have a lot of rhyme or reason to it. This was part of the review was to tighten that up and make the fees more fair so there's situations for example where it's square foot verse the declared value and things like that. So there is some new methodology for many of the fees and the purpose of that is to make it more fair for those involved. I would like to point out that there are obviously there were a lot of concerns raised...well, from the industry because whenever you raise a fee, there is going to be somebody who doesn't want to pay more so obviously a lot of people came forward, so there was a lot of lobbying going back and forth. So, you know, there is a reason to clarify some of the things that came up in that discussion. There are discounts, one of the biggest concerns I've heard is infill development and obviously hello, Jenny Gerbasi here, queen of infill. Obviously I wouldn't be supporting something if I thought it was going to crush infill in our city so I hope you will put some trust in Councillor Orlikow and myself who deal with a lot of the infill in the city in saying that we don't believe that's the case. There is a discounts included in here for a 30 percent discount for new residential units in the downtown. There's discounts for infill and mature neighbourhoods and discounts for multi-family housing outside of the downtown. And also, there is significant decrease in a number of costs and you'd be interested to know, some of the decrease which are like 70, 80 percent decreases in costs are for things like home renovations. So a major home renovation of older housing stock in an older neighbourhood, you're going to get a significant decrease in your development costs and fees. So I think there's some positives here to help revitalizing our existing housing stock. There was support from industry advisor groups and the Construction Association for the service investments that are going to result from this and you will see in the report that the revenues that are going to come from the increase in the fees will go to the cost of making permanent our staff in the permitting department so rather than use a reserve to pay for ongoing operating staff this will be a source of revenue which is connected to the work that those permit people are doing so it's better financial accounting. It's permanent staff that are needed to help the construction and industry move along so people aren't waiting forever for their permits and those calls you get in your office, this is to formalize that increase in staff and pay for it in an ongoing, sustainable way. And there is also $300,000 that's going to go to medium term planning and to pay for the massive number, if you look at how many development permits and applications our staff are trying to deal with, the same amount of staff, this is going to add to our ability to process those faster so there's many benefits in here for those that are trying to construct infill housing and other forms of housing and get their applications through the City. So there's actually a lot of positives and there was support from the industry for those kinds of investments and there was consultant consultation with the industry. They were certainly here throughout the budget…or the meeting that we had. We were there for a considerable period of time hearing a number of delegations and the staff has had ongoing discussions with the industry about all of this and will continue to do so, I might add, over the coming year as we look at growth charges and other issues we may decide to look at and other development cost charges that we do need to look at. But this is transparently coming forward to you through the proper process. It came to standing committee, it didn't come like after we're already passed the budget or secretly, it went through the proper process. It was published, it was public, people came and spoke to it at length and all the issues were debated. So, there is nothing nefarious here. This is a fee increase which is always hard to do, it always takes a little courage to ask people to pay a bit more. But I'd like to point out something about who is paying more here and this is about our policy of moving towards cost recovery for some of these services. So, if we don't do this and we artificially keep the prices lower for those in the…across the development industry, guess who is paying for this? The taxpayer. The little old lady in Councillor Eadie's ward whose taxes…I mean, that's where that money is going, why should not the development community pay more of the costs that are incurred on the tax dollar for development within reason. And this is within reason. It's still in the lower half of rates across the country so it's very reasonable. So, what this does is it makes our existing...it's a very comprehensive...it's called comprehensive on the title. It's a comprehensive review of our fee schedule for these development charges and it's coming with an over the board 10 percent increase, but that's going to pay for services that the development community will benefit from as well. It's important to consider that. And in terms of fairness, I'm not sure why the rest of the taxpayers should really be significantly subsidizing the development costs of people who are choosing to develop in our city but this, obviously, it's a balance. All of these things are balanced in terms of not being so onerous that it decreases the possibility of development. And I would be concerned about that obviously. It's something we need to grow our city up and out and I have heard the concerns, you know, we did have one or two delegations of infill developers saying, you know, no, I'm going to have to pay more. But if you really drill down and look at what they are paying more, I mean, they are paying a little bit more, but I don't think it's going to be enough to stop that kind of development. And as I said, you know, nobody ever wants to pay more. Now, I know there's going to be a motion introduced to try to not move ahead with this and I just wanted to mention, I hope that you will

support moving ahead with this. Councillor Orlikow could not be here today as we all know. He, you know, asked me on his behalf to ask you to be supportive of this if you can possibly agree with it. Obviously if you can't, it's democracy and I respect that, but if he was here, he would be asking you to support this. And he would be echoing my comments and we both supported that. Councillor Orlikow and I worked very, very hard on this file. We spent a lot of time sitting down with, and I'd like to thank, Stan Dueck and John Kiernan and our very, very capable staff who spent an incredible effort with this comprehensive review that's been public and available for all of you to read and ask questions for the last several weeks. So I hope you have taken the time to do that and if you haven't, I hope you'll put your trust in Councillor Orlikow. And I hope you'll put your trust in me as the members of...some of the members of your standing policy committee who have done the work here to bring this forward. And it's about fairness, it's about charging...getting a little closer to cost recovery. It's certainly not full cost recovery for all the charges that our planners and everyone else does when people choose to bring development to our community but it does make it a little more fair, and there's some real benefits in terms of home renovation. We are talking about major renovations people can do on their houses and have significant fee reductions. That's really good for older neighbourhoods and for all our neighbourhoods in the future. So I really urge you...I know the motion's going to be introduced and I won't speak again to the other motion but, you know, it's saying to go and have more consultations, you know, to report back later. If we move ahead with this, it is considered as part of the budget in the sense that it moves ahead with perment…making those staff permanent and then we can get going on adding the additional planning staff which I think all of us know we desperately need additional planning staff to deal with all the development applications we get. I think we all know how hard those people are strapped for staff. It's part of our vacancy management issues we have all been talking about, this would add to staff. So I thank you for listening and I truly hope you'll support the hard work that Councillor Orlikow has done on this, and thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Wyatt to introduce Motion 3 that would amend this Item No. 1.

Councillor Wyatt: This is a motion not to amend, Madam Speaker, this is a motion to refer.

Madam Speaker: To refer, pardon me.

Motion No. 3
Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Allard,

TO Refer Item No. 1 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development dated March 8, 2016, titled Comprehensive Fee Review of Planning, Development, and Building Fees and Charges, back to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development to allow for:

a) Detailed Public seminar for members of Council to explain the extensive proposed fees and charges of the above said report;

b) Public consultations via the Standing Policy Committee Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development;

c) A report back on the Public Consultations and any amendments or changes to Council for consideration within 60 days.

Councillor Wyatt: This is a motion to refer and actually, I have three minutes to speak to it not ten. Motion to refer, I can speak longer? Oh, it's with instructions, ah, thank you. Okay, so I got the ten minutes to speak to the motion to refer, but I won't use it. I just want to say this: you know, I've had a chance to go through it. There is basically 27 different areas here in this report and...but those aren't the fees and charges. There's dozens upon dozens, upon dozens, far more than the 27 areas. I would suggest to Council that we be given the same courtesy that was given the development industry, the contractors and the developers to actually have a seminar. We found out at the P and D meeting that, that was on a Tuesday, that was dealing with the budget as well as the regular agenda, this item, that the industry had their meeting on Friday. They all got briefed. They all got a full briefing the whole day. First, the trades and the contractors and then the other…and then the developers and those folks. I don't recall there being a briefing for members of Council on a massive subject like this. I'm not necessarily against it. All I'm just saying is that we just need to understand it. There's some good things here as Councillor Gerbasi pointed out, there's reductions in fees in a lot of the different areas but there's lots of increases too, there's some areas of the 27 areas where revenues have gone up a million dollars. So I just think giving members of Council a bit of time, I mean, the report itself is interesting because it came in March to the committee, but the public service forgot to change the date, it's…in February. This report was ready in February. Why was it held back? Why couldn't it have gone to the February meeting of P and D? Why did it have to wait until the budget? Councillor Gerbasi spoke eloquently how she worked on it. She's obviously on her own with the Chair ahead of

time without the committee seeing this. This is really a cause of great concern. And I think if the industry and those out there who are...yes, they are paying for it, they have a right to be consulted and I'm glad that the Public Service did that. I am just saying the folks that actually have to vote on it should have a seminar so we can ask the questions. You know, one of the questions I would ask, for example, and I have asked but unfortunately, it's not exactly...you know, we're building a bureaucracy here…the idea of the permit reserve, what, so that when the economy slows down, you don't necessarily have to have all these folks and unfortunately the economy sometimes does slow down. Now, when we slow down, they're going to be sitting there. And you know, it does go up and down, it's the cycle of the economy. I mean, we have had a great run, let's be honest, it's been a great run, but the idea of the reserve was to ensure that those positions were permanent so that we would not be in a position of not...of having excess staff when we really don't need them. This motion is just simply saying look, allow for...I mean, if someone wants to amend the referral, I want to thank Councillor Allard for seconding it and Councillor Allard expressed similar concerns. I mean, if somebody wants to say, look at, you know, the industries are here, they already had their consultations, I just think councillors should be have a chance to ask the questions, to be in a room, get a briefing…Stan Dueck spoke, you know, I mean, we went till 10 at night. But Stan Dueck spoke about it, you know, we asked many questions but I think a lot of members of Council were at that time very consumed with the budget. I don't think everybody appreciates all the changes that are going on with this document and I want to emphasize that I am not necessarily against it. I hear what Councillor Gerbasi is saying. I hear these are costs. I hear they're costs that are subsidized by the mill rate. I understand we're trying to change that. I am not necessarily against that. All I am saying is that we do have a right to know exactly the implications and what we are going on and the changes. And I can tell you that it was bizarre at the P and D meeting because there was a whole list and it said new, new, new, new, new and then the Public Service in the middle of the meeting said, oh, no, no, no, those aren't new. And then we had to get a different list and it was like, we never got the list that night, you know, because they were running around trying to get the list. And I think, actually, they arrived just before we voted on it, the list. And, you know, we don't have time to read it and now they are saying, well this is what's new, this is what's not. So, I'm not…again, I want to emphasize, Madam Speaker, that I am not against this initiative. You know what, I have a lot of respect for the staff at P and D, I have a lot of respect for Mr. Dueck, I have a lot of respect…you know, they are highly intelligent and we're lucky to have folks like this working for us. And you know, Stan, himself, has brought some amazing, innovative stuff in terms of permitting. You know, one of the things that's not well known, we actually have the ability...he brought a system from New York City that allows you to fast track a multiple family permits to get multi-family rezoning for structures that are, you know, three, four stories or bigger you can actually, you know, get…and he…by reversing the onus on the...on to the engineers and on to the architects. It's not widely advertised, but we have this program that the only other place that, we're aware of, when I was chatting with him, is New York City. I mean, so there's great…so there's good work they have done, I just think, we just need a bit of...these rates, folks, just so everybody knows, you go through the book, everything comes into effect in June or August. June to August, some of it's June 1st, some of it's June to August, it depends on the section. If we give time here, we don't have to give 60 days, we can give 30 days, I'd be open to that change too. So I'm just making that as a suggestion and so that everybody knows and there's no surprises and everybody knows what they are voting on here today. Otherwise, then…I don't want to have to vote against this because of my level of comfort of not being able to engage with other members of Council and this is a city wide initiative, very important. This is a huge review that we have done. Anyway, I just…those are my comments and I didn't want to use all the time. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Mayor Bowman, you were on the list.

Mayor Bowman: I'll just say that I do want to thank Councillor Orlikow for his leadership on this file and it's really unfortunate that he is not able to be here with us today. I do want to send him and his family all of our thoughts as I know he is away on personal matters today. I do appreciate the fact that there has been a review of Canada-wide fees. There has been extensive consultation with the industry. Not all of whom will ultimately decide with each and every fee increase or fee decrease. And I do appreciate the fact that in this comprehensive fee review, especially for home renovations, the fees are going down significantly and that's something that whether you are building a deck or, you know, doing a detached garage you're going to get a significant break. Thanks.

Madam Speaker: Any further speakers? Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: I just…thank you to my Council colleagues, thank you to the queen of infill for her comments. I just want to say I have heard the arguments on cost recovery, I've studied the documents. I'm not…I guess I am not a hundred percent sure yet. So, delaying this a little bit, and I understand part of the fees only need to go up in June. I don't…apparently, some of the fees need to go up right now for them to support the budget. I am not clear on which fees need to go up right now, which fees need to go up in June, but when we're transferring about $1.5 million from the Planning Department to general revenue, I am not a hundred percent sure on the cost recovery question. I have been briefed by administration, I have talked to the Chair, I have studied the documents. I am just not quite there yet. So I think for the benefit of, well, myself and my colleagues, I think taking a bit of time to understand this a little bit better might be the way to go. I know…I understand some fees have gone down, some fees have gone up, but I still haven't

wrapped my head around this transfer of $1.5 million from the Planning Department into general revenues. I still haven't wrapped my head around which is a new fee and which is a new process on a new fee and I'm not sure that we…I'm not sure if we're looking at the amended list or the original list. I still have a lot of questions and I'm sorry…I'm sorry that John is not here to maybe clarify some of these questions today, but if we can move to defer, I mean, I'm comfortable seconding Councillor Wyatt's motion for many the reasons that I have stated just now. So, thank you for your consideration.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Dobson.

Councillor Dobson: Yes. I agree with all three of my councillors here, their comments. This is a good thing to do to increase certain fees to get some sort of cost recovery. But, we have just gone through a budget. A lot of us, members here, we didn't have access to it, so we got the draft budget. We were kind of cramming on that. This is a rather large document. There really hasn't been a lot of explanation on all the different parts of it. I kind of agree that we should put this off a little bit or at least have a council seminar and maybe go through line by line and explain, because we're going to be getting a lot of questions from our developers and from the residents on these charges. So it would be nice if we knew what we were talking about. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Any further speakers? Councillor Wyatt to close. No? Councillor Gerbasi?

Councillor Gerbasi: Just briefly to close on the motion, thanks for everybody's comments and it is a pretty large report and I know I didn't actually get like some secret, special briefing or anything, but the agenda came out and I did talk to Stan Dueck and go over it with him because I took the time to do that and was able to spend some time with him. But, it is, as I said, the industry has been briefed and at the Council meeting, we had a very significant Powerpoint presentation, we had a very lengthy discussion and those meetings are all online. I actually stayed up until ten, eleven at night, several nights, watching some of the other standing committee meetings during the budget process and it has been really rough for all of us and we are all exhausted so I won't gone on at length here right now. I think everybody is probably toast right now. But I just hope that you will put some trust in Councillor Orlikow, myself, our staff that did a significant amount of work on this. It's been vetted through the industry, they actually do in support...the industry itself supports the reinvestments. I think we all agree we need to have adequate permit people in place as well as some additional planning just to service the amount of development we will expect to continue to see. I don't think we have to worry about overstaffing. Like this is just cladding gap, so I'm not going to take any more time, I just hope that you will not...I hope that you will not support delaying this, that you will go forward with this. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker and thank you everyone for listening.

Madam Speaker: Question on the motion?

Councillor Gerbasi: Recorded vote. On the amendment or?

Madam Speaker: On the referral, pardon me. On the referral Motion No. 3. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Dobson, Eadie, Schreyer, Wyatt and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Madam Speaker: Those opposed please rise.

Nays

His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Gerbasi, Gillingham, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Morantz and Pagtakhan

Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 6, Nays 9.

Madam Speaker: Referral motion is lost. We will now vote on the main clause. Yes?

Councillor Schreyer: No speakers?

Madam Speaker: No, that time has passed.

Councillor Schreyer: I'm sorry, there's no speakers after a referral motion?

Madam Speaker: No, the debate is closed on this item. I will call the question on the main item, Item No. 1. Item…I will call the question on the main item, Item No. 1. All in favour...is it a recorded vote? All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Gerbasi, Gillingham, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Morantz and Pagtakhan

Madam Speaker: Those opposed, please rise.

Nays

Councillors Allard, Dobson, Eadie, Schreyer, Wyatt and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 9, Nays 6.

Madam Speaker: The item passes. Yes?

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just for my understanding and for future reference, if time for debate was over, how could there be a motion for referral?

Madam Speaker: Sorry, I don't understand your question.

Councillor Schreyer: I don't make the assumption that at the point of a motion for referral that that is the end of the debate. I'm assuming anyone in the middle of a debate can make a motion of referral and that's proving that the debate is still on the floor.

Madam Speaker: We were all speaking on the referral motion and the main item concurrently. That's how I saw it. Thank you.

Councillor Schreyer: Is that always the case, Madam Speaker?

Madam Speaker: As per our practice, yes.

Councillor Schreyer: I thought today we had a motion for referral once the motion was defeated not only did we continue with the debate, we had another motion of referral showing how early in on the debate that the referral…

Madam Speaker: That was a motion without instructions. This one was with instructions. It was very clear. It was in front of us.

Councillor Schreyer: And therefore motion with instruction comes at the end of debate?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Clerk, could you clarify?

Clerk: A motion to refer without instructions is non-debatable, but a motion to refer with instructions as was written is fully debatable and the practice is that you debate such motion at the same time that you debate the item. And that's why we had the mover for the item open. We had the mover for the referral with instructions open and then we had speakers on the clause and the item. And then they both closed.

Councillor Schreyer: Because it had instruction in this case. Is that it?

Clerk: Correct.

Councillor Schreyer: Okay, thank you very much Madam Speaker and Chief Clerk, thank you.

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS**

Madam Speaker: Thank you. We're moving on to the By-laws now Mr. Clerk. Is that correct? Make sure we have our spot here. Councillor Gerbasi on the by-laws, first reading please.
Councillor Gerbasi: I move By-law No. 33/2016 and 34/2016.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 33/2016 and 34/2016.

Councillor Gerbasi: I move By-law 33 and 34/2016 a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law Nos. 33/2016 and 34/2016.

Councillor Gerbasi: Move By-laws 33 and 34/2016 a third time and the same to be signed and sealed…I don't even have anything in front of me. Suspend the rules to do so. There we go.

Madam Speaker: Okay, suspension of the rules for third reading. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. We will now have Question Period. Will Councillor Gerbasi field the questions? Mr. Clerk?

Councillor Gerbasi: If you want.

Madam Speaker: Okay, Councillor Gerbasi. Any questions for the acting Chair? Seeing none, we will move on to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks. The report dated March 7th, 2016 Councillor Pagtakhan.

**REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PARKS
DATED MARCH 7, 2016 (reconvened March 10 and 11)**

Councillor Pagtakhan: Yes, thank you very much, Madam Speaker. On the PCSP report of March 7, 10 and 11, I understand that Item No. 3 which is to be stood down so I'd like to move Items 1 and 2.

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

Item 3 – Free Admission to Non-heated Pools – Community Services, Aquatic Services

Madam Speaker: Councillor Pagtakhan to introduce the item.

Councillor Pagtakhan: Yes, thank you very much, Madam Speaker. A really good news story here, we are looking at doing a no admission to four non-heated outdoor pools; Norwood Pool, Windsor Park, Provencher and Happyland. And we saw the…it was sort of a pilot project for the 2014 and 2015 seasons when Westdale Pool and St. Vital Pool were undergoing construction and repairs and what we saw, Madam Speaker, was a huge, exponential spike in terms of the usage and a lot of family usage at these pools. For example, at Happyland Pool the average use from 2011 to 2013 was one thousand…almost two thousand users and in 2015, when it was free admission, there was an additional four thousand users so 160 percent increase. So what this…there is no budget implication, Madam Speaker. The department has built it into the budget and, you know, we are looking to approve this.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Mayes, I believe you stood this down.

Councillor Mayes: Yes, I'd like to move an amendment which I have written here, I don't know that we need copies, it's quite simple, but I have it written. It's moved by me and seconded by Councillor Pagtakhan. In essence, what I am proposing to do is delete the word, "Council approved".

Madam Speaker: I'm sorry, I didn't hear that. Okay, that you have a motion, Councillor Mayes?

Motion No. 5
Moved by Councillor Mayes,
Seconded by Councillor Pagtakhan,

That Recommendation 1 of Item 3 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks dated March 7, 2016 be amended by deleting the words "Council-approved".

Councillor Mayes: I do, it's simply to delete the words "Council approved" from this report. And I want to end on a conciliatory note. Today I want to commend…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Mayes, we're just going to take a short recess. We do want to photocopy that and get it out to everyone.

Councillor Mayes: It's two words long, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Well, we still need to make sure everyone gets a copy of it. We will do it quickly.

Councillor Mayes: Can I speak to it while that's being done in the interest of time? Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Sure. He will continue speaking. The Clerk will be back in just a moment.

Councillor Mayes: I want to delete the words "Council approved" and ending on a conciliatory note here because I talked to Councillor Wyatt about this and I found an e-mail I sent March 27, 2014 to both Councillor Wyatt and then Councillor Vandal, Councillor Wyatt was then Chair of the Finance Committee. And I said…Leisure Guide, page 58, new for 2014; free admission to non-heated outdoor pools. In essence I said do you have any idea what this is, do you have any memory of this and Councillor Wyatt, after some humourous stuff, said no I don't recall this either. I think this is actually the exact danger that was being pointed to with things like the pilot for composting is Council didn't approve this. This was an administrative decision in 2014 to go with a two year pilot project for free admission to outdoor pools. Great idea, great benefit to Councillor Allard's ward, my ward, all in favour of it, make it permanent, terrific, good work by Councillor Vandal, good work by Councillor Allard. But I'm not going to vote for something I know to be untrue. We didn't approve this. I take, frankly, some offence at a administrative report claiming that we approved it when in fact, as Councillor Wyatt has a good memory, has a great memory for this stuff as well, will agree, we didn't approve this in 2014. This was a pilot project begun by the administration. In the end, it's had great results, but I'm not going to vote for something that says I approved it, simply not true and I think sets a pretty dangerous precedent if we start pretending that we approved something. There is no report attached that would prove this and in fact, I certainly have the e-mails from early 2014…March 27, 2014, some good work by my assistant, Christa Ragoonath, to dig this up saying, we didn't know about it. The councillors, the head of the...I was the head of the Protection and Community Services Committee, Councillor Wyatt was head of Finance, we didn't know anything about it. So, that's my amendment.

Madam Speaker: So you are deleting "Council approved" in Item 3. Okay, got that. Any further speakers? Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thank you Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I don't know where to begin. I understand that we are all concerned about the whole city and all the people and again I am not a word-centred councillor when I believe the most important project in terms of roads that needs to be done is the Kenaston widening in the city, which isn't in my ward but Madam Speaker, it's my understanding...and I have some pools that they say they want to close, Madam Speaker, just wading pools mind you, not this type of...this motion is not in reference to a wading pool but you know, Madam Speaker, there are wading pools and those wading pools are free admittance, but…it's interesting in that, you know, the numbers are down because we limit the hours or whatever and this year it was an experiment it sounds like, that I believe, actually must have been in the Community Services budget. And one thing I do know, Madam Speaker, is that no one individual in this...no one individual city councillor, whether they are in charge of the budget process or not, can know what the intentions of all the money in every department's budget, they can't do it. You know, when you're focused in...and yeah, you know, if you are the Winnipeg Police Board, yeah, if you are given access to the accounts, you can actually look through each account to see what's going on definitely, no doubt about it, but that's one department. No one individual can know all this. And so when I am standing up to speak, I don't know that we need to strike the word that it was not Council supported…Council decided. Because here's the thing, what I found out, we did one of the greatest efforts since I have been on City Council to find out almost account by account or detail by detail what is meant by these numbers in these budgets. And I have to say, Speaker Sharma or sorry, Madam Speaker, I have to say it was probably in Community Services budget but there was no detail expressed because quite often it's clear it happens. So the amending motion to this report for me is...you know, I was told I voted against all this stuff because I voted against the budget. So you know...but you don't know everything that's in that budget, Madam Speaker. No one

individual can know every detail of what is in a...what is it now? Over what...is it...I can't remember, property taxes is it almost $600 million? But like, we are talking almost a billion dollars of stuff. Stuff, which has huge numbers of accounts and who knows, like, what it's there for and we don't get the specific detail like...I don't even want to get into the kind of level of detail that you could get into that our bookkeeping and administration people go through on a day-to-day basis. So to...I don't support this motion to strike out “not supported by Council”. I may not agree though, that only those pools are free because we have...well, there’s unheated pools in Transcona that you have to pay to get into. There’s unheated pools in our area, Madam Speaker. Mind you, they are not facing lower numbers. I know that the Kildonan Park Pool, despite having to pay for it, there is a high demand for that pool. So although you have to pay to go to the spray pad and I think...I think it's the only spray pad in Winnipeg you actually have to pay to use. But anyway, I digress. It was probably in the budget in 2014, in detail, but nobody knew about it. The department had a space there to be able to do it and so I don't support the motion on the report. You know what, I’m going to vote for it. It’s something from the past…but anyway, I don't know what else to say, Madam Speaker. It just...you know, just because of the location of these pools, it makes it look like people are ward centric and I don't know that that's the underlying interest so I’m...I won't be moving for the amendment, but I will be supporting the report. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Wyatt, you are next.

Councillor Wyatt: Yeah. I don't...I guess the amendment is to correct history and if the amendment, just so I understand correctly, and maybe somebody….maybe the public service, the CAO can correct us. Is it...and this is a question, can I ask through to you to the CAO for a matter of clarity on this matter?

Madam Speaker: During your time, yes.

Councillor Wyatt: Sure, absolutely, thank you. Mr. McNeil if....

Madam Speaker: The only thing is, councillor, this is correcting history and Mr. McNeil was not part of that history at that time.

Councillor Wyatt: No, I just need a clarification, not on the history.

Madam Speaker: Okay, so perhaps maybe, it's more appropriate that Councillor Pagtakhan can answer your question in his wrap up.

Councillor Wyatt: I just want to know that if the amendment…with the amendment…the amendment passes, that Council still approving the pools being open and free. This is my understanding of it, I’m assuming that’s why Councillor Pagtakhan would have seconded it. The other thing too is, just to correct Councillor Eadie, that it's my understanding as well, Councillor Eadie, that there is a five non-heated pools in the city. One of them I think is in Councillor Pagtakhan’s ward and it’s already free. This is basically in addition to consistent with that, and I think that's one of the reasons why this came about. So there’s actually…the other outdoor pools that you’re referring to are actually heated and so, this is I think...I was kind of...I asked questions about it in the committee too, I asked Clive Wightman many questions about it because I was just wondering what we’re doing here and are we setting a precedent, are we going to kind of open a Pandora's Box? These were the concerns I had from a financial point of view because you know, we all like...they say that in marketing the greatest marketing term is the word "free". So if you get something free everybody comes, right? So, free pizza, free swim, free everything. So, you know, I think there’s…and Mr. Wightman went to a great extent to explain it. It sounded pretty innocuous. In terms of the costs, it sounds like it's minimal. So I don't think the amendment is in any way shape or form changing the intent of the clause which is to give Council approval to make these four pools free consistent with the other non-heated pool that is already free. So I just want to state that and that was my recollection of the Protection, Community Services and Parks Committee that had two sessions in this month that went till 1:55 in the morning. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next is Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am not going to get into the semantics of Council approved and not approved and the history, I am not really that concerned. What I am concerned is the financial impact statement that’s actually here the second last page of the report. First of all, in red it still has inter-description here, obviously, a lot of time wasn't spent thinking about this particular page. And the language on the bottom was; the 2016 preliminary budget was prepared on the assumption that free admission would continue to be operated at Happyland, Norwood, Provencher and Windsor. So my remaining question is, again, if the actual cost is 34,000 and change, that's fine. My concern is though it doesn't take into account the operating expenses. My understanding, I know with Kildonan Park Pool is for every number of people in the pool, you require an additional lifeguard. This is a traditional pool here, this isn't a wading pool where you can have one person overseeing the whole thing. If this is requiring now that we have instead

of a $100,000 in expenses in the past that it's now 200 or $250,000 in expenses, the impact isn't the $35,000, it's 150 for that incremental difference in expenses plus the 35. So I am a little concerned that that number isn't there so perhaps the Chair of the committee knows a little bit more about the expense out of this equation. The revenue side, I get that it's down $35,000 or so per year, I am not worried about the 35 grand, it's a good use of a City asset. I'm just wondering if he has more information on the incremental expenses that are involved by doing this because of the increased usage.

Madam Speaker: Any further speakers? Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: I want to rise in support of the...I want to support…in rise of support of the amended motion as well as the original motion. This has been an outstandingly successful program in St. Boniface ward. I understand if it's free, unheated pools in Winnipeg and if there are only St. Boniface pools in the report, the explanation I got from the Director of Community Services is that for…as Councillor Wyatt has stated, four out of the five pools in Winnipeg that are unheated are in St. Boniface and the one that is not in St. Boniface is outside of St. Boniface ward and has already been free for some time now. And just in terms of why this report makes sense to support, we have these assets that are very expensive to build. They are unheated pools so we are now getting into new...the new amenities tend to be heated and therefore people are choosing to go to St. Vital Pool, for example, because there is a heated pool there. There are other pools in Winnipeg that the people are willing to pay a premium for. But in terms of this program, I personally have seen the...I think it's basically doubling of the attendance in our pools in St. Boniface. I think it's a great use of a City asset and while I would urge members of this council to support this report, I...it's extremely popular and if we're thinking about the people who are choosing to go to the pool who would be choosing to not go to the pool if there was a nominal fee of a few dollars, these are the very people that we want going to these free pools during the summer when there are summer breaks so I would hazard a guess that this is actually a really good investment on the part of the City of Winnipeg in terms of keeping the individuals who are choosing to make a very productive use of their time by staying active where they might not be making that choice because of financial considerations. And I think that's…it's heartbreaking to think that people are in those situations where they choose not to go to a public amenity because they don't have the financial means to participate. And this is a great investment for Winnipeg and these are facilities that because they are older, because they are not as sexy as some of the newer facilities may not be getting that same type of uptake as some of the other facilities do get in Winnipeg. But, when you do make them free they are very well used and I think the best use of City of Winnipeg assets, it just needs a little bit of operating support through the making of admission to be free. And so with that, please support this report either amended or not amended, I just know how important this policy is not only for residents of St. Boniface Ward but for anyone who is close to...anyone who lives in Winnipeg, really. These pools are accessible to anyone and they are quite accessible to St. Boniface is…is a very central location. And so, everybody benefits from this policy not just residents of St. Boniface, so please support this motion.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next is Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: I just want to say that I am in full support of the motion going forward today. It's very, very exciting. I know lots of people go to Cindy Klassen. It is very, very popular in my ward and I know…I am looking forward to Sherbrook Pool being open because I think, again, this will be well used at Sherbrook Pool as well. I congratulate the other areas that are getting to utilize their pools like this, so thanks.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Councillor Mayes, do you wish to close? Oh, Mr…Councillor Mayes, just…the Mayor would like to speak as well. Mr. Mayor, you have the floor.

Mayor Bowman: Councillor Gilroy mentioned Sherbrook Pool so I had to step up and say I too am really looking forward to that pool opening. Maybe we can do some butterfly together in the water once it's up and running. And I would encourage all councillors to join us in a swim there as long as the media promises not to come with any cameras. But, I will say this is...I do want to compliment Councillor Allard's initiative here and of course, our committee chair and others for their support. I know Councillor Mayes has spoken out in favour of this as well. I don't see any change in the intent with the report, with the removal of the word "Council approved". I don't think it changes anything significantly and I will wholeheartedly be supporting this motion I think it…or report. I think it will allow the continuation of what's been a very good exercise so far. Thanks.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor. On to Councillor Mayes to close.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is, I think, more than semantics because, I mean, as we were signature here Mr. Wightman e-mailed me saying, "Councillor, you are correct. The decision was administrative in nature specifically by myself as Director of Community Services." And then goes on to provide an estimate of the lost revenue which is 20,000 to 35,000 if you want to read Councillor Vandal's stirring piece in The Lance from April of 2014 entitled "Jump on in the Pool, the Water is Free." He talks about the loss of 20,000 but it's 35,000. So it's a relatively minor amount but it's maybe a good cautionary tale about embarking on a pilot project for composting or something like

that that we have the admin moving forward with the pilot. What was told to me in 2014 was its revenue neutral to go to Councillor Browaty's point in that we won't have to have the person at the front gate taking the money. So is it revenue neutral, what with the revenue lost, all of this is, frankly, a little murkier than I would have preferred. The point is a) it wasn't Council approved. So we shouldn't approve something that says it was Council approved and, I have to say, Mr. Wightman agrees when he says it was administrative in nature. So His department wrote the report, let's take out "Council approved." Because they are now saying it wasn't Council approved. Anyway, the larger point is that it is a very good initiative and Councillor Allard's right, these are unheated pools that should be more widely used and this has been a success but I think it's a cautionary tale to end on in terms of, we've got to be clear on what it is that was administrative in nature. We've got to be clear on what the actual costs are because that figure seems to have gotten a little murky and Councillor Browaty's right. The lost revenue should be offset by decreased expenses but we haven't got that detail. So I'm supportive of the amendment, I'm supportive of the motion.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Pagtakhan to close.

Councillor Pagtakhan: Thank you very much. And thanks for all the comments from this chamber I appreciate it very much. Also got an e-mail from Mr. Wightman, basically there is no additional staff, Madam Speaker, minimal supplies and this will be easily absorbed within the budget. At the end of the day, we are looking to approve that this initiative which I think, very positive for the City of Winnipeg and this summer we will have 20,000 kids and families enjoying these pools. So, with that I will ask you to call for the question.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. I will call the question on Motion 5. It actually says motion six before you. We will make a correction, it's supposed to be Motion 5. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. We'll call the question on the main item. You can have your recorded vote now if you'd like. The main item, No. 3 as amended, recorded vote is called for. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Madam Speaker: The vote is unanimous. Thank you. Councillor Gilroy...actually, we're going to have a question period first. Any questions for Councillor Pagtakhan? Seeing none, Councillor Gilroy will move adjournment for today's meeting. 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, Pagtakhan, Schreyer, and Councillor Wyatt.

Council adjourned at 3:53 p.m.