COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Tuesday, March 22, 2016

The Council met at 9:35 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 Eadie.

ROLL CALL

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

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Madam Speaker: Mr. Clerk, would you read the meeting notice into the record, please.

Clerk: Pursuant to section 79(1) of the City of Winnipeg Charter, I am directed by His Worship Mayor Bowman to arrange a special meeting of Council on Tuesday, March 22nd, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. to consider the following; Item No. 1 of the Report of the Winnipeg Police Board dated March 11th, 2016 and Item No. 1 of the Report of Executive Policy Committee dated March 16, 2016, regarding the 2016 Operating Budget and Financial Plan for 2017 and 2018; and 2016 Capital Budget and 2017 to 2021 Five Year Forecast.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. I would like to now introduce our page for today's meeting. Katrina Chanas, if you could please come forward. She is a student at Miles Macdonnell Collegiate and she resides in the North Kildonan Ward. Thank you so much for being with us today. (Applause) We will now move on to delegations.

Councillors

DELEGATIONS

Madam Speaker: We have been advised that our first registered delegation, Garth Steek will not be with us this morning. Yes, Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: I would I like to move suspension of the rules, Madam Speaker, for Gord Delbridge to speak.

Madam Speaker: Okay, we shall add him to the list. Are there other names as well? Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Yes and I would also like…and the motion is for five minutes, no questions as our usual custom for additional speakers. And I have Michael Champagne, Markus Head, Chris Clacio, I also had Gord Delbridge, Michael Robinson and Dave Sauer.

Madam Speaker: Okay, great. Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: I have Sharon Redsky, Chuck Wright of Friends of Shoal Lake 40 and Josh Brandon and Joseph Kornelsen.

Madam Speaker: Okay, Is it the will of council to suspend the rules to hear these additional delegations today? All in favour? Contrary? Carried. As I just stated, Councillor…pardon me, Garth Steek is not with us today. He was a registered delegate so we will move on to others that will be speaking to the overall city budget. First up is in support of the 2016 Operating and Capital Budgets, we have Loren Remillard, Executive Vice President, Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce. Following that, we will hear from Elliott Sims. Good morning Mr. Remillard, you have ten minutes to make your presentation today.

Loren Remillard: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Mayor Bowman, members of City Council for the opportunity to appear before you today in support of the 2016 Operating Budget. Established in 1873, the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce is Winnipeg's largest business organization. We represent greater than 2,000 businesses from all sizes and sectors from all corners of the city. The vast majority of our members are small and mid-sized companies owned and operated by

Winnipeggers themselves. On behalf of the Chamber I'm pleased to offer our support for this budget. Last year, I appeared before Council on the 2015 budget in which we stressed the need for a vision and long term financial plan that did three things. One, enhances Winnipeg's economic competitiveness in particular for small business which is responsible for 50 percent of our GDP and 78 percent of all new jobs created by the private sector. Number two, transforms Winnipeg into Canada's leader in efficient and effective civic services. And third, establishes a new, sustainable municipal financial framework. Budget 2016 is a positive step in realizing this goal. That said, the budget is not a perfect document. However, when looking at the budget holistically, there is more right in this budget than there is wrong. We applaud the City for the proposed 0.3 reduction in the municipal business tax and associated increase in the threshold for the annual rental value. The proposed measures are a positive investment and an important vote of confidence in the small business community in Winnipeg. According to the Chamber's 2015 State of the Business Community Survey, participants stated that any tax savings would flow directly into increased employment and new technology to help them stay competitive and grow. Small business lives and operates in Winnipeg, meaning this investment does stay in Winnipeg. It is important to note that the $1 million in forgone revenue from this reduction is equal to 0.1 percent of the entire city budget. On the other hand, the proposed increases to property tax and fees equals $61 million or 6.1 percent of the entire budget. As such, any claims that this small business investment, and it is an investment, transfers the tax burden on to residential ratepayers is just mathematical without merit. The root of the property tax increases lay not with the 0.1 percent revenue decrease in business taxation but rather, the City's structural ability to control its costs. First, the Chamber acknowledges the hard work by administration in finding $11 million in savings. It is concerning, however, that 20.9 million in savings is being sought through vacancy management. Even more concerning is that that vacancy management has become the default option largely due to collective agreements that provide little recourse…other recourse. On the surface, the Chamber is concerned with significant operational increases notably, Police at 6.32 percent, Fire/Paramedic at 6.63 percent and an overall cost increase to this budget of approximately 6 percent. These numbers represent an increase twice the rate of inflammation and population growth as the Police Chief noted himself, pay increases for officers set out in the collective bargaining agreement account for 85 percent of the police cost and of course, today, the Police Chief was quoted in the newspapers as saying that the cost for policing in this city are not sustainable. As Police and Fire tend to be arbitrated agreements, the City has little control over these escalating costs. The Police and Fire increases, again, twice the rate of inflation and growth, population growth, but slightly below what the Police were seeking is an important milestone. It recognizes that citizens, via their civic government do in fact have a finite ability to pay and that we can no longer afford to rubber stamp increases of this magnitude. The Chamber commends the City for having the long-term vision and fortitude to stand up for citizens, to say we will respect taxpayers with responsible investments, not blanket approval of whatever is asked of it. As such, we urge the City to press the issue of taxpayers finite ability to pay in all future negotiations and arbitration. Within the CUPE agreement itself, the continued existence, the no layoff clause continues to tie the hands of Council. In aligning the workforce to evolving needs of the community. We acknowledge that it is for City Council to decide on how best to manage its workforce. All we are recommending is that Council have the flexibility to do so properly. Ultimately how you manage is a decision for you to make. In the absence of this flexibility, however, Council has little recourse but to continue vacancy management which does not serve citizens or city workers themselves. There are a number of concerns with the budget; the use of the water sewer levy to fund road work. The Chamber has long been in favour of dedicated fees for dedicated purposes and this move is inconsistent with that position. Fee increase as well above inflation, for example, rezoning went from 1500 to 13,000 plus a $400 acreage fee. This will impact everyone in the development world but particular concern is for the small developers doing infill...small infill scale development. If the City wishes to promote more sustainable growth, this fee is… this fee increase is not only inconsistent with that goal, but acts as a disincentive for the type of growth desired. If the City proceeds with the proposed increase, the Chamber urges the City to deliver meaningful value in the form of improved service delivery set against clear standards for the development community. Processing times for applications of all types continue to be a constant source of frustration for those in the business community. But perhaps the most frustrating for business is when it faces taxes and increase in fees for which it receives no return on investment. The Chamber believes that these fee increases, non-intended use of the water and sewer levy and property tax increase is truly belie a bigger problem, that being the City's revenue model. For that reason, we urge the City not to press for a greater share of other government's revenue, but for a whole new model that lets the City control its own fate. In the last election, we raised the idea of a city income tax for conversation tied to economic growth to offset this reliance on property taxes. Let's elevate the conversation from a battle between governments to one that engages Winnipeggers in a meaningful conversation about the type of city they want for the future and how best to build that city. In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge other areas where the City has made positive strides in this budget. The Freedom Road Investment, we recognize that there's some conversation right now about potential increased costs to that. This initiative is too important to be derailed by potential squabbling over what the additional costs may be. Our quality of life is made possible by the sacrifice of this community and we have a moral responsibility to deal with this issue and provide them Freedom Road. The arts funding of $1 more per capita year is a great investment, from development of our youth and anti-crime efforts, to supporting our creative economy. This is an important step in building that city that I talked of, that we want for our future. And lastly, investment in homelessness initiatives are truly welcome and we hope…contribute to the eradication of homelessness in our community. I'll end with quoting Labour Prime Minister Tony Blair who once said, "The art of leadership is saying no. Saying yes is easy." And

this is the challenge before Council is to have that vision, embrace the leadership opportunity that appears before you and make sensible decisions for the long-term prosperity of our city, not necessarily for the here and now. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Are there any questions for Mr. Remillard? Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: For whom, ma'am? Questions for…I thought it was…

Madam Speaker: For the delegation, Mr. Remillard.

Councillor Schreyer: Remillard. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Madam Speaker. First of all, I'm very pleased for Mr. Remillard's presentation. I believe I have an open invitation to join the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, as all Councillors do. I may very well take up that invitation presented by the Chamber of Commerce and, Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to say that it was last year, during the delegations from the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce to last year's budget, when it was presented, the idea, of a new tax model. When I asked what kind of tax model it was, it was finely presented the idea of a municipal sales tax which was at least presented as an option a year ago. And I'm pleased to have sort of brought forth some specifics in that discussion. I do have some concerns which I've mentioned in this chamber, this is not a surprise and related to that, I have to ask this question. Mr. Remillard mentioned that certain collective agreements have been at five and six percent, double the rate of inflation. That is to say, I believe, double the rate of consumer price index, double the rate of regular inflation. And yet, aspects of construction inflation have been at two and three times the rate of regular inflation. Now, when it comes to those aspects of construction inflation, are collective agreements within that industry at five and six and seven percent?

Loren Remillard: I'm sorry, are you asking me to comment on construction collective agreements?

Councillor Schreyer: Yes, to be more specific, Mr. Remillard, the collective agreements related to construction, are those at the same rates of the collective agreements that you mentioned?

Loren Remillard: Well, I'll defer to the Construction Association, the Heavy Construction, for more detail on that. I think it would be disingenuous for me to comment on a very specific industry in that regard. But the fact remains that as city government, you are a service level based government and the vast majority of your costs are related to salaries and the collective agreements that govern that. So, that to me is more germane to the issue before you today.

Councillor Schreyer: Fair enough. But very much on that point, I wish to point out that a lot of our services are contracted out and thus, they are very much a part of the issue of inflation as we are concerned with and discussing today. But it does not enter into collective agreements, at least not to the extent that we have just discussed this on the floor, Madam Speaker. Mr. Remillard also made the point that the increase in levies are going to water and sewer, and road work…sorry, the increases in levies from water and sewer rates are going to road work. I know that has been said, but I also look at the budget and I am told as well that it's supposed to go towards the debt. So I have to admit, I had some confusion because I have heard contradictory perspectives from members of the EPC on where the water and rate hikes are going and I wanted to know if Mr. Remillard could…would wish to comment on that.

Loren Remillard: Well, obviously the Council will debate the very nuances of how much is going where. But, it is clear that there is some funds being taken from the water and sewer levy and applied to municipal road works. So again, it comes back to the main issue of, what is the purpose of the water and sewer levy and as a dedicated fee, what is the purpose that those funds are going to. So, therein lies the bigger issue for us, is the proper use of the levy as a dedicated fund.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, your third and final question.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. When it comes to the issue of looking for a new municipal model, I have asked this in council before, I have asked Councillor Morantz, are there any models in Canada thus far that the Chamber of Commerce is referring to?

Loren Remillard: Not precisely right now that we would say this is a model you need to look at. And actually, that's the exciting part for this city is to be able to take a national lead role in this conversation. On far too many things, we wait for others to set the pace, to follow them and then once they have established its safe waters, then we jump in. That's not leadership, that's just following the crowd. So, you know, the conversation that's being had driven by the Mayor and other municipal leaders is a good conversation. We believe though, that we need to expand it between...beyond just necessarily, here is the pie, how do we divvy it up differently? To really taking a look at saying, as Council, it would be better to have a model where you do not really require negotiation with the provincial level of government as to share of

revenue, but one that you control and is really, truly, tied to economic growth. That really empowers this council to make long-term strategic decisions.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions for our delegation today? Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Hello…hi, Loren.

Madam Speaker: If you could rise when you speak.

Councillor Allard: Oh yes, of course. Thank you. So just...I guess an, “are you aware?” question at first and thank you for your…stating concerns on vacancy management. But, are you aware that a group of six councillors has brought together a motion that would essentially bring vacancy management down to 2015 levels using existing budgets, in part, by cancelling and reducing an unprecedented increase to Corporate Services, which is over $4 million this year, with "other departments having $600,000 a year for a new communications bureaucracy." Do you think the Chamber would be aware...would be in favour of looking at those budgetary line items in order to restore the front line services being cut by this...well, also unprecedented level of vacancy management which I understand you share concerns on?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Remillard.

Loren Remillard: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We are aware of the pending motion but the concern we have is that…and it really speaks to the challenges that the previous councils have had as well is that we get locked into the here and now conversations. We are trying to deal with a problem here today with short-term solutions and our concern around vacancy management is because it symbolizes, it's a symptom of a larger problem. When you do not have the tools available to you as Council to effectively manage your workforce because you are constrained by collective agreements, then you have to look at these measures of vacancy management. So while that motion...and I’ll obviously leave it to Council to decide the fate of that motion may address, may, a short-term need, it doesn't address the long-term challenge that faces the city. So, if that motion were to pass, you would be back here next year having the same conversation, having the same...taking a look at where you can…which pots of money you can shift and so forth. As a chamber, we’re trying to say to the City, let's go system wide, let’s really dig into what…how our city is funded and let’s build a model that we won’t have those types of conversations. As Council, we would urge you to have discussions on this floor of a much higher strategic level of where do we want it go as a city? How are we defining our city? Where are we making strategic investments to grow to meet the goals that we have for our city? When we get into issues of pots of money, I don't think that serves the citizens of Winnipeg long-term as well as it could. But again, I’m not going comment on a motion that will be debated here on the floor, I’m sure, extensively. But, we believe that, again, the vacancy management is a symptom, it's not necessarily the problem.

Madam Speaker: Second question, Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Yes, thank you for raising the issue of new fees for infill development. I know that the first time I saw the fees report, I...we received several delegations of infill developers concerned about their ability to...for their business to still be viable in an environment where it's already very difficult to do infill development. So, happy to hear you raise that. But, would you...do you have any further comments about that and could you elaborate on some of your concerns?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Remillard.

Loren Remillard: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Well, we do have concerns because again, it is symptomatic of a challenge that not just this council but previous councils have had as well, is that you have cost pressures that are locked in, you’ve got collective agreements say that you must pay this much and then the City finds itself every year, scrambling to find revenue under every single rock that it can. And the development fees are a great example of that. So again, that's why our biggest concern is more system-wide. The revenue model and so forth. We don't support the development fee increases because we are concerned of what that impact will have on the purposeful type of development that we truly do want in this city that...and we have heard on the floor of this council many times, every councillor talking about the need for density that, as a community, we need to really build that. And so we would say that the fees are inconsistent with that approach that says, how are we promoting density in our community as opposed to sprawl.

Madam Speaker: Third question, Councillor.

Councillor Allard: Yes. I noticed that you mentioned Freedom Road in your remarks and this is another, “are you aware?” type of question. And so, are you aware that the costs…the estimated cost for Freedom Road have risen to an estimated $46.5 million and that there is another motion on the floor....supported by….supported by.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard that concludes our question period unless we have a suspension of the rules.

Councillor Allard: I would just like to hear what they say on Freedom Road.

Madam Speaker: Is there a will to suspend the rules? Okay, Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: You asked the question to suspend the rules, I said aye.

Madam Speaker: So motion to add two minutes to the clock. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Carry on.

Councillor Allard: So I heard you advising caution on that and my question would be, isn't the risk with Freedom Road to not have the financial commitments from all three levels of government in order to build it? We know that there is a preliminary estimate now of 46.5, wouldn't it be best for the City to put up their part of the money so that this project can become a reality?

Loren Remillard: Lastly, we again, we applauded the City for the investment that it has articulated in this budget and committed to. The $46 million we would need to take a look at that estimate. It's…you know, until we really delve into that understand…is that a factual estimate or is it just an estimate, right? So, we really do need to take a look at that figure and see if it is truly accurate. The bigger issue at play here is our moral responsibility to this community, and you know, as to our bold initiative, we talk about the first rule is the idea, the second is the costing because if it's the right idea and if a community embraces it, we will find a will. If there is a will, we'll find the way. And again, when we take a look at everything that we have in this community, it's made possible by this community and unfortunately they are suffering and I think it behooves all of us, in particular Council as our elected leaders to really continue the conversation and find a way to make this happen. We have a moral responsibility to do so. But, this is part of a conversation you're obviously going to have to have with other levels of government. But, our concern is that that cost derails the project. That there is really good momentum right now, there is a real strong feeling in the community that we need to make this happen. Let's not let the price tag just derail that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Remillard. (Inaudible) Yes, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: I certainly don't wish to be rude to Mr. Remillard, I certainly wish...am willing to speak with him directly but do we address the questions to you, Madam Speaker, or directly to…

Madam Speaker: We have no more time for questions for Mr. Remillard.

Councillor Schreyer: No, in general, Madam Speaker. Just as a point of order, to whom do we address our questions?

Madam Speaker: For Mr. Remillard?

Councillor Schreyer: Yes.

Madam Speaker: There is no opportunity at this juncture, you can speak with…

Councillor Schreyer: No, Madam Speaker, in terms of procedure, not right now, logistically. But do we address our questions to you or to the delegation?

Madam Speaker: Are you asking at this point, right at this moment?

Councillor Schreyer: In general, for the rest of today and for the rest of the term. To whom do we address our questions?

Madam Speaker: Yes, you can address your comments to the presiding officer, that would be myself.

Councillor Schreyer: Okay.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Remillard. Next, we will be hearing from Elliott Sims. He's representing the Manitoba…the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. Are you here today, Mr. Sims? Mr. Clerk? No, okay. I don't see him here today so we will move on to the addendum list of delegations. Mr. Gord Delbridge from CUPE 500, if you could come forward, please. You will have five minutes to make your presentations and there will be no questions from Council.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, may I just make a point of order? I have to say this because, Madam Speaker, I'm really concerned that we have a procedure that says we can only have people making presentations in terms of and then asking questions for two people. Those for, those opposed and Madam Speaker, maybe we should at this point consider filling some of those spots which some people have taken...reserved those spots for themselves and not shown up, Madam Speaker. Might we consider filling those spots so that, with the people who are already registered here who are only getting five minutes without questioning?

Madam Speaker: That is what is before us, Councillor Eadie as per the Procedure By-Law. Delegations are to be in contact with the City Clerk's Office by 4:30 the day previous. So the additional delegations before us will have five minutes with no questions, that's as per our procedure.

Councillor Eadie: Just a last point of order on that, Madam Speaker, a number of people found out at the time they needed to, that there was already people registered in these spots so they didn't bother trying to apply to be delegates because those spots were already filled, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie, I don't see any motions from Council. We are going to proceed with this delegation here today.

Councillor Eadie: Alright, just thought I'd make a point of order.

Madam Speaker: Okay, Mr. Delbridge you have five minutes with no questions.

Gord Delbridge: Good morning, Mayor, Councillors and Madam Speaker. I would first like to acknowledge the challenges and hard work that goes into writing of the City's operating and capital budgets. The efforts of the Chair of Finance and the City staff do not go unnoticed or unrecognized. As well I would like to recognize Councillors Wyatt, Eadie, Allard, Gilroy, Dobson and Schreyer for your proposed amendment to the budget. You have shown strong leadership for Winnipeggers. In past Council meetings, city councillors have heard from many delegations over the decades on the City's priorities regarding the City's operating budget and where the money should be spent. The debate still remains and should always be here with us all, councillors, citizens, business and community groups. It should be open and transparent. I'm happy that councillors here today will each have a voice with a vote and every political leader here today is treated equally. Citizens elect their respective councillors with the understanding that all councillors are treated equally and councillors can make decisions that represent their communities and/or city with their best intentions. I think everyone would agree that all councillors need to have all the facts and figures in order to make sound decisions. In our view, more decisions need to be made with all councillors in City Council meetings. Last year, Local 500 was of the understanding that the budget process would be different this year and yet again we are back to three week budget process. All stakeholders need much more time to digest the proposed budget. That did not happen, nothing has changed. Local 500 has many members and your employees who make little more than minimum wage, not even a living wage, they work in 311, community services, cleaning staff, many seasonal workers don't even get time to…enough time to qualify for EI through the entire winter months. Many work part-time working two or three jobs to make ends meet. Many students who are civic employees struggle more now than ever before trying to pay bills in order to get through university. Imagine trying to get through Law School with a wage that pays little more than minimum wage? The City groups get dividend when these students and city employees go on to graduate. They pay taxes and contribute to the local economy. They are good citizens. Vacancy management in CUPE's view is out of control. Not just in our eyes, but also the eyes of the public. Vacancy management translates into huge cuts to front line services. These cuts are felt by all of our community; senior citizens, businesses, children and families. Skeleton crews mean much slower response times such as in the case with the Water and Waste Department. When the City experienced a very cold winter just a few years ago, every single department, they're short staffed and in many case this is could result in very serious consequences. Again this year, the proposed budget calls for another business tax cut which means residential homeowners will have to do more with…more heavy lifting. This is simply unfair to the citizens of Winnipeg. Business uses our infrastructure to make profits and that's fine. But they, too, along with the Federal Government need to pay their fair share. We can't have homeowners paying more while businesses pay less and less every year. Citizens see this and will remember it. Local 500 is asking Council to take this budget back and address the vacancy management and necessary change not to reduce the business tax. You don't have to rush this budget through today, do the right thing. Send it back so the changes can be done in the best interests of our city. Thank you for hearing me this morning.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Delbridge. Yes?

Councillor Schreyer: Given the last minute changes to the schedule, unbeknownst to Council and to Mr. Delbridge, given the absence of Mr. Steek and Mr. Simms I move that we suspend the rules to allow for questions to Mr. Delbridge.

Madam Speaker: Suspension of the rules require a two-thirds vote of Council. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. We will have question period for Mr. Delbridge now. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Mr. Delbridge, the previous delegation from the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce talked about how the City is constrained by collective agreements. I don't want to get into this. There are certainly constraints on the City budget and these are things that are part of the serious discussion that we need to undertake on a constant basis and are certainly looking forward to this conversation with all parties involved and all citizens, really. Mr. Remillard mentioned constraints of collective agreements of five, six, seven percent, I believe he said, but, I mentioned construction inflation that has at least that rate of inflation. And I asked Mr. Delbridge if, given the parties that he represents, if there have been six and seven percent rate increases as part of these constraints in the last couple of years.

Gord Delbridge: Most certainly that has not been the case. As I mentioned, many of our members are working at minimum wage and we have been seeing increases of two percent. And two percent over the last few years, and that was our last collective agreement, significantly lower than the rate of inflation.

Councillor Schreyer: But Madam Speaker, construction inflation is at rates exceeding those of the greatest collective agreements of the City. I ask Mr. Delbridge, you know, at least you know to work with Council and let's do some research. What are the factors creating construction inflation if it isn't the constraints of collective agreements?

Gord Delbridge: There most certainly isn't any constraints on our end. I think we have done our part to work with Council when we come to negotiations. We have accepted, like I said, two percent increases. Many of our members are not paid, they are getting paid minimum wage. When we negotiate a collective agreement for a term, then you can plan and budget for what those costs are going to be on our end as far as our collective agreement.

Madam Speaker: Third question, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: No further questions, thank you.

Madam Speaker: Okay, thank you. Are there any other questions? Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Gord, thank you for the presentation. I understand you are new to this position but not new to the labour movement. Would you have any stories to share that might come from your members or some feedback about the impacts of vacancy management on front line service?

Gord Delbridge: I do. I can just, you know, I recollect a few of them, just some issues that have recently taken place. As you've heard, Brookside Cemetery was flooding and that morning when I heard about that in the news, I put in a call to some of the members there. They informed me that they weren't able to get the equipment in to get the snow out of the ditches for proper drainage because they weren't filling the positions. They didn't have the staff there. Just recently I was at a work place meeting, a week ago at the Tecumseh Yard where they were talking a position there where the guy that orders all of the parts, the storekeeper there for the mechanics, this used to be a position that they had four people in. They haven't been filling these positions and as a result, management was saying that they have been getting complaints from other departments that they are not getting the equipment out…the mechanics not getting the equipment out quick enough and in time. And they said, well they are just not getting the parts. They are bottle necked and backlogged to a position where there used to be four people that were ordering and you know, going through the inventory of the parts that they had there and they are sitting there waiting to do the work. The mechanics are ready to go but they're just not getting the parts fast enough.

Councillor Lukes: Point of order. Is this…are we not supposed to be asking a question not asking for a statement? Are we not supposed to asking a question? I don't think that was a question. Is it a question?

Councillor Allard: I think Mr. Delbridge is answering the question that I had posed to him.

Councillor Luke: I don't recall. What was the question?

Madam Speaker: I think he's asked the question.

Councillor Allard: I would be happy to repeat the question and hear the answer again.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard, would you like to clarify the question?

Councillor Allard: Yes, Mr. Delbridge, for my colleagues on Council, my question for your recollection was, I know that you are new to the position but you are not new to the labour movement. So, would you be aware of any specific situations where vacancy management has actually been a front line service cut. And if you wouldn't mind repeating what you said I…or maybe pointing to another anecdote, but I'd be happy to hear it.

Gord Delbridge: I thought I was clear and I answered a few of those examples. Would you like more examples? No?

Councillor Allard: I guess I do have a second question.

Madam Speaker: You have the floor, thank you.

Councillor Allard: So, just more of a yes or no question; we understand that after a certain point vacancy management does become a front line service cut. Our understanding is that that number might be around $14 million for the City of Winnipeg. But in your opinion, has the…in the 2016 preliminary operating budget is the proposed rate of vacancy management actually a front line service cut?

Gord Delbridge: Absolutely, no question about it. At the 2015 levels, we were feeling the impact. What's being proposed now is unprecedented. I was utterly shocked and I think that the City, we're going to feel the impact. Winnipeggers are going to feel the consequences. It's getting to a point where it's an issue of public safety, I think it's going to become at this point in time if we proceed with these proposed levels of vacancy management.

Councillor Allard: The third and final question.

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Allard: So I think you referred to the motion that has the support of six councillors on this council, those who weren't on the budget working group, with the exclusion of one other council member. Would you be in support of that motion that looks at redirecting an unprecedented increase into Corporate Services, including $600 thousand in new communications bureaucracy, which is sort of considered soft services and putting that money and putting it back into front line services?

Gord Delbridge: I most certainly agree and would stand in support of that motion along with, I think, most Winnipeggers that are feeling the cuts.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. We'll move on to Councillor Gerbasi and then Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you and thanks for your presentation. I'm wondering if you are aware that in almost every budget year the issue comes up of the custodial staff? There was no contracting out and those positions remain CUPE positions this year in this budget. Like sometimes we talk about the things we...sometimes it's about the things we don't see and the things that are preserved. So I'm just wondering if you are aware that those positions are maintained in this budget?

Gord Delbridge: Actually, I just had a letter come across my desk, what they are doing is they are currently holding positions for the possible contracting out of the custodial staff once again that are making minimum wage. They are having issues right across all departments where they are temporarily filling position. Right now, I've got a letter out to Mike Ruta saying that we will not concur with proceeding with this proposal.

Madam Speaker: Second question.

Councillor Gerbasi: Well, the budget hasn't been passed yet but that's not in this budget to do that so I'm sure that might have been prior to the budget.

Gord Delbridge: The letter came across my desk.

Councillor Gerbasi: Okay, thank you.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Delbridge for your presentation and your insight and your examples with regards to the impact of the vacancy management. You are aware that only three years ago in 2014, the Executive Committee, EPC, reports briefing, whatever you want to call it, was briefed by Corporate Finance and told

point blank that for any increase in vacancy management over $14 million would result in front line service impacts. Are you aware of that?

Gord Delbridge: I have been made aware of that and I see it with my own eyes when I get out there. I'm getting my information from the front line service workers so I see it first-hand. I see the impact and I recognize that that 14 million was probably a threshold that might be a lot more in line than 29 million.

Madam Speaker: Second question.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you. And you are aware that 21 million, basically, 20.9 million…21 million is an unprecedented level of vacancy management which really is a fancy word for cutting of service. You are aware of that level?

Gord Delbridge: Once again, like I say, I see it first-hand from talking to the members that are on the front line services.

Madam Speaker: Final question.

Councillor Wyatt: And with the knowledge that we are running out of time, Madam Speaker, I want to respect the clock. The Speaker, I want to thank the Speaker and you are aware that now for the second budget process in a row since the general election, the threat of pool closures has been raised again, to close existing facilities. What are your thoughts on those?

Gord Delbridge: Once again, I've got concerns. We heard about the Bernie Wolfe Pool. That was the pool that my mother taught swimming lessons in, I took swimming lessons there myself, I sent a letter out to the Mayor and to the rest of Council. We see service cuts left, right and centre. I hope that doesn't happen with the Bernie Wolfe Pool, that's a pool that, I think, serves well for the citizens there. I suspect that if we keep on this path that we're going to see more closures or a lack of ability to be able to maintain the pools to a good, safe standard.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Delbridge for appearing today. That will be the end of question period.

Gord Delbridge: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Next, we will hear from Michael Champagne followed by Markus Head. You will have five minutes with no questions. We have used our two 10 minute periods for questions for those in support and for those in opposition to the budget so there will be no further suspension of the rules for question period.

Councillor Allard: May I have a point of personal privilege, Madam Speaker?

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Allard: Since this council meeting has started, we have learned of the unfortunate passing of another municipal leader, Robert Ford who passed away according to many national media outlets and I was wondering if we might have a moment of silence to recognize this contribution.

Madam Speaker: That will be something for tomorrow's Council meeting, Councillor Allard. We have other similar motions tomorrow.

Councillor Allard: Oh, we have? Okay, I thought it was pertinent given…I will leave it at that.

Madam Speaker: We'll deal with that tomorrow, thank you. Michael Champagne, if you could come forward, please. You'll have five minutes to make your presentation. Thank you.

Michael Champagne: Good morning, everybody, happy Tuesday. I am here today...I would like to, first of all, just say thank you to all of you and the public, of course, for being here. My name is Michael Redhead Champagne, I am the founder and organizer with Aboriginal Youth Opportunities. Recently myself and one of my teammates, Markus Head, who will be speaking as well, had the opportunity to connect with Councillor Jenny Gerbasi and allowed us an opportunity to come and speak to you about two very pressing issues that we feel are touched on but not necessarily expanded on within the budget that is happening this year. We feel like it's important for our council to know that there are citizens within Winnipeg who are diligently taking the responsibility of understanding our role as citizens very seriously and this is...I feel best exemplified within the examples of aboriginal youth opportunities and the politics brainstorm initiatives that we host every Saturday at Neechi Commons at 865 Main Street. It provides an opportunity for citizens to learn about political literacy and lets us, as citizens of Winnipeg, no one understands some of the processes

that happen here. I know that this is one of my first times coming and speaking to Council and it is an interesting process to observe, to say the least. We feel that citizens, in general, don't understand the budgeting process and civics in general. And so one of the things that we've taken upon ourselves in the last six years as Indigenous young people in this city is to provide opportunities for community members to come together and learn about how civics actually works. So the focus of what we're hoping for would be an expansion or a further clarification about the role of the office of public engagement and what it's going to be doing. Previously, the Mayor has committed to participatory budgeting and it is something that we as citizens are very much looking forward to engaging in as a process, and we are also hoping to see an increase in the amount of civic literacy that is presented from the City of Winnipeg's perspective. As citizens, and as organizers with Aboriginal Youth Opportunities we do have the capacity and the ability to bring together large groups of folks, primarily in the inner city but not exclusively. And that is something we come here today, volunteering freely to the members of Council, saying we are willing to do the necessary work to bring citizens together and we are not asking for large, giant increases in the operating budget for civic engagement or civic literacy necessarily but we are here to say to you that the resources that are allocated to building up understandings of citizens of Winnipeg to participate and be a part of and understand the civic process, are things that are important to us as Indigenous young people in the City of Winnipeg and we are here, willing, and ready to put our hands and resources and networks available. We know that the City has previously spent, in the thousands of dollars, engaging consultants and what not to participate, to invite citizens to participate in the budget and we feel like, with the co-operation of city and citizens together, we'll be able to accomplish that much more in a much more cost effective way. So, with civic literacy and participatory budgeting, we hope to see that expansion within the office of the newly created public engagement. So thank you very much for listening to us, myself and Markus, I think, is coming next. Thank you guys, appreciate it.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Mr. Champagne. Next is Markus Head followed by Chris Clacio. Chris, if you could make your way down to the bench here behind the Speaker's chair, that would be appreciated.

Markus Head: I'm here.

Madam Speaker: Good morning.

Markus Head: All right. Good morning. I actually didn't get any sleep today. I feel like you guys, I don't get enough sleep, I come here and feel a little bit crazy and haywire. Hello, hello! I'm Markus Head! Good morning, Mayor Bowman, ladies and gentlemen of City Council. A special thanks going out to Jenny Gerbasi for allowing citizens voices to be heard and to you, citizens of Winnipeg, for just being here and exercising your civic rights, and most importantly, civic responsibilities. So, first, let me briefly share about…a little bit about myself here. This is my first time so. I have been involved in the community for, oh gosh, for as long as I can remember. One of the things...one of the initiatives that I started last year was called inter-civics. And what inter-civics is is...yeah it's been around for one year, which is...it's a new movement that engages Winnipeg citizens to build civic and institutional literacy and active citizenship through participation in our city. So. Okay. So, I will be addressing the how and the why in the latter half of this presentation, but for now, let's begin. With the basic definition and then the context of both of the items I will be talking about. Number one, civic literacy, what is that? It's the knowledge of how to actively participate effectively in civic life through knowing how to stay informed and understanding governmental processes and the....implications of civic decisions. It also means exercising the rights and responsibilities of citizenship at the local...all the way up to the global, citizen power…citizens power, therein as a check and as a means to create avenues for peaceful change. Put simply, it is the foundation by which a democratic civilization functions. Number two, the second thing we've been talking about, participatory budget. What is that? I'll give you guys a bit of a refresher for those who don't know and those who do, kind of. It's a different way to manage public money and to engage people in government. It is a democratic process in which citizens or community members directly decide how to spend or allocate part of a public budget. It enables taxpayers to work with government and to make the budget decisions that affect their lives. PB gives ordinary people real power over real money. So that's the definition to that. Next, the context now comes in. So, where do we see both of the two defined implemented...or the two defined definitions that are implemented or encouraged? The Mayor said in his first State of the City Address, and I quote, "We will begin the planning for participatory budgeting activities for 2016 engagement process that will foster involvement of non-elected citizens and ensure Winnipeggers themselves play a role in allocating public finances and community decision making."

Madam Speaker: Mr. Head, you have one minute left on the clock.

Markus Head: Oh crap! Let's skip that, I'll go to what citizens, I think, what they want. Citizens want to actively participate and effectively in civic life, to understand how processes work and why civic decisions that affect their quality of life and their responsibilities are so important. Things like budgeting, in democratic processes, in which community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget, to responding to new ways to improving where there is lacking, understanding of basic civic education and institutions like City Hall itself, to responding to new and innovative ways we...that we can produce...by producing public services.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Head, that concludes your time on the clock. Thank you very much for appearing today. We appreciate it.

Markus Head: Oh, crap okay. It made some sense, I guess. Alright, Thanks.

Madam Speaker: Next is Chris Clacio followed by Michael Robinson and lastly we'll hear from Dave Sauer. Okay, Chris is not here, we will move on to Michael Robinson representing WAPSO. Good morning.

Michael Robinson: Good morning, Madam Speaker, Mr. Mayor, councilors. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to City Council today. I'm here representing WAPSO, the Winnipeg Association of Public Service Officers. We represent supervisory and professional staff here at the City of Winnipeg including engineers, planners, accountants, project managers, IT specialists, service supervisors and program coordinators to name a few. Today we have approximately 700 members working within the City of Winnipeg. WAPSO joins CUPE 500 here to speak specifically to the issue of vacancy management. Since 2006, Winnipeg has seen a population growth of 13 percent including almost a hundred thousand new citizens with a corresponding demand for services. Since that time, vast new suburban areas such as Waverley West and Sage Creek have been developed in all parts of the city. However, over that period, WAPSO has experienced a reduction of a 137 positions which is approximately 20 percent of our workforce. While the professional and supervisory staff at the City have been shrinking, the demand for our services has not. The request for City services from Winnipeggers has in many cases increased to the point that our members are reporting to us that over the last three collective agreements, the majority are experiencing significantly increased workloads. Doing more with less is our reality, with that in mind I want to speak to the issue of vacancy management. With the proposed increase in vacancy management this year and the combined 32 percent increase over the last two years the impact on our members is only going to get worse. Leaving a void this large in the municipal workforce seriously reduces our ability to respond to the needs of Winnipeggers. Winnipeggers have clearly indicated through the budget consultation that their priority is better aligning city resources with the demands and services, programs and facilities. Respondents indicated that public amenities such as libraries, community centres, parks and recreation should have their service levels maintained or enhanced. Service levels cannot be maintained or enhanced by further cuts to our staff through not filling vacancies. You cannot shrink to greatness. Participants also suggested that the City identify essential core services and fund them accordingly. The public clearly sees the value that our members provide and wants to see those services funded fully and fully staffed. Chronic overwork, heavy workloads and reduced staffing levels have a cost. Increases in sick time, stress-related illnesses, lost productivity and retention and recruitment challenges all tend to increase in work places that are chronically under resourced. Diminished public service and the corresponding public anger that follows are the consequence. For these reasons, WAPSO stands with CUPE 500 together representing approximately two-thirds of the municipal workforce and ask that the City hold the line on vacancy management. We have a modest request for this year that vacancy management be held to 2015 levels. We trust that you can find the $3.2 million in the budget to make that happen. Moving forward, we ask that you fix your attention on eliminating vacancy management completely so that City staff have the full resources to be able to respond to the needs of Winnipeggers. We together with CUPE 500 are open to working with City Council on this issue. Why not consult with us, the staff who provide these services to the citizens of Winnipeg every day? So in closing, CUPE 500 and WAPSO stand in solidarity for adequately funded services, well maintained infrastructure and a fully staffed municipal workforce. The fact that our members continue to bear the brunt of the City's budget challenges is not acceptable. We are looking for a council to hold the line on vacancy management this year and fix their attention on eliminating it next year. You have an opportunity to send a powerful message of support to your employees so let's all work together to ensure that the services that Winnipeggers depend on are maintained. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Robinson. Next, we will hear from Dave Sauer representing the Winnipeg Labour Council followed by Sharon Redsky. Good morning.

Dave Sauer: Good morning, yah, sorry. Good morning everyone. Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak today. I am here on behalf of the Winnipeg Labour Council which represents about 45,000 workers from 76 unions affiliated to our council. That includes CUPE 500, ATU Local 1505, United Firefighters of Winnipeg Local 867 and MGEU Local 911 as well as recently, as I've said at many committee meetings already, WAPSO, and you heard recently from Brother Michael Robinson. So, the budget is difficult and I do acknowledge that, that it is a difficult process, that it takes quite a lot of work to take care of the largest employer in the Province of Manitoba. But, I'm going to keep coming back to this vacancy management. Every presentation I have ever made to City Council during my ten year has always highlighted vacancy management as a continued issue because it is a service cut. And I don't think the cause of it falls on collective bargaining, that is free and separate from the budget process and I think that absolutely needs to be acknowledged that free and collective bargaining is something that workers are entitled to do here in this country and I don't think it should be confused at all with the budgeting process. So I want to just highlight some really big holes that I'm seeing here. One of the biggest holes in vacancy management that seems to be arising here is the...an I don't know, it's an astounding increase, it was in the water, waste and utilities. So last year, there was $3.3 million estimated in

vacancy management, this year it's 5.6. I'm trying to wrap my head around the idea behind leaving that much vacancy management in a city that deals with flooding, brown water, frozen pipes, dumping sewage into the Red River but all of a sudden we're going to look at that department and say that its staffing is not adequate...or isn't needed, isn't necessary? And it's interesting, too, when you're seeing the rise in the Corporate Services one, I mean, what is that? So we can inform the public better that their water is brown or that they...the pipes are frozen? So this is where I'm unsure about what the logic is behind continuing to use vacancy management in that one but it's okay to use corporate and communication services to better inform people about the service cuts that they are experiencing at this time. I can't help but agree with Brother Robinson what he had previously got up here and said that maybe hold the line this year but let's work to try and scale this back over the coming year. I'm actually proposing an idea here for Council, is that at every single committee meeting for the next year, we have administration report back on which positions were left vacant. That would give the public a better opportunity to actually take a look and see which positions are not being filled, and then we have a better opportunity to be transparent and open with the public about what service cuts are being used...or utilized to make sure we arrive at this. And again, I've got to take a hit at the idea that we are having so many problems with budgeting and so forth, but we are willing to cut the business tax by $1.1 million? I want to know how well that's going to sell out for the public? You know, we're going to have to increase all of your other fees and your rates, but the business community, they are entitled to a cut. Again, problems wrapping my head around how this is actually working, where it's actually going forward, but that doesn't make any sense whatsoever. And especially when you're going to go and cry poverty to the Province, I'd like to know what the optics game you're going to be dealing with where you say, well, we're not getting our fair share, but, again we're going to cut a business tax once again. So this creates a problem. You have an optics problem. You might want to get your corporate and communications group to work on that one to see where that's going to go forward. But, I will end just by saying that I do intend to follow through on that idea of tracking the vacancy management that's going to be coming forward. I think that that's important that every committee that is going to be reporting over the next year, whenever you have your monthly meetings that you do encourage admin to provide that list so the public does have an idea of which positions are not being filled and which services they are not receiving. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Sauer. Next, we will hear from Sharon Redsky followed by Chuck Wright. Good morning.

Sharon Redsky: Good morning. My name is Sharon Redsky and I am an off-reserve member of Shoal Lake. I did get a…just got off the phone with our Chief, Erwin Redsky and he sends his apologies. He would have really liked to be here today. Unfortunately, the issue in Shoal Lake for the next few weeks is very challenging for them to get across because the ice is melting. And last Tuesday, one of our trucks went through and thankfully, the woman, Brenda, was able to get out safely, just another reminder of the issues that Shoal Lake has to face. I just want to bring you guys back to a hundred years ago. A hundred years ago, the City of Winnipeg was facing some really social issues as well as health issues and a lot of people were getting sick because of the water. And so that City Council at the time, made the decision, a historic decision to take water from Shoal Lake and they did it for reasons that they needed to because they needed to make sure that people living in Winnipeg had safe water. And so, I do think that 100 years later, City Councillors that are sitting around the table today also need to make a historic decision, to right a wrong from a hundred years ago and to invest the money to ensure that Shoal Lake has an adequate road. I also want to remind you that when the feasibilities started to look at how much it would cost to develop a road, that was ten years…well, that was six years ago and that was developed in 2010. And so, if we could have froze time, I think we would be looking at 30 million but we can't freeze time and unfortunately, the cost is going to be an additional 5 million. And the message that I got from the Chief that he wants to share with all of you, is that we can't delay things. We really can't. The community has been suffering for many years and it is so important that our current generation and all of you councillors make the right decision today, and ensure that there is commitment behind supporting Freedom Road. We have all other levels of government, we have public support, we were just presenting in Geneva at United Nations, highlighting the human rights violations that's happening today, you know, in Shoal Lake. And so, we want to be able to be a partner and we want to be able to move forward in a good way, and I just want to let you know that it isn't just a road. What it's going to create is it's going to save lives. Nine people have lost their lives in Shoal Lake just trying to get home. And I think it's really important that we tell the families that their lives weren't lost for no reason and that we are going to build a road and we are going to ensure people aren't going to have to risk their lives to get home every day. In addition to that, it's a huge opportunity to develop an economy in Winnipeg. I don't know if you guys are aware, but in the 80s they wanted to develop cottages because they had no economy, and so they had this fantastic plan and anybody who's been to Lake of the Woods knows how incredibly beautiful that area is. But the three levels of government prevented that from happening because it might contaminate the water and as a result created a tri-party agreement and promised to create economic development opportunities for the community. And I do have to say that nothing has been created. But we have that opportunity right now to make a difference and to develop an economy in Shoal Lake. The other thing that's happening is they want to twin the highway out in Ontario, and so a big piece of that is creating capacity through the East Side Road Authority to make sure that people in Shoal Lake can learn the skills to participate in the development of the road, but also, the future economy. When we start looking at other opportunities to participate in the twinning of the

highway, timber, so it really isn't just about developing a road, it's about saving lives. It's about creating an economy so Shoal Lake can participate and benefit just like other Winnipeggers in the economy. So all of those things are really important and I just want to reinforce that we can't delay. We can't afford to delay another day, another year. And so I just plead with you all to make the right decision. Megwich.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Chuck Wright, if you could please come forward. Thank you and next well hear from Josh Brandon. Chuck Wright is representing Friends of Shoal Lake 40. Welcome.

Chuck Wright: Good morning. So today is World Water Day and today I would like to acknowledge that all of us in this chamber have used water from Shoal Lake Treaty 3 Territory today. And we use this water while those on the other end of the aqueduct are denied this right, a human right. I am a member of Friends of Shoal Lake 40, fortunately, I am following Sharon that makes my...what I have to say a little bit easier because she has given the history. But I am a member of Friends of Shoal Lake 40 which is a network of citizens, of faith communities, students that have come together to educate, collaborate and advocate with our friends and partners in Shoal Lake 40 First Nation. Last October, the end of October, I travelled with some of you around this table to visit Shoal Lake 40 to witness first-hand the experiences and struggles of our friends in Shoal Lake 40 First Nation. We learned about the isolation faced, the lives lost and the lack of access to essential services. Many of us in Winnipeg, I believe, not just Friends of Shoal Lake 40, see this as a symbolic road to reconciliation. And we're here along with...I am here with…along with some others in the chamber to show support for the councillors to do the right thing. We know it's an increase in the budgetary spending that wasn't originally estimated, but we feel this is important. Last summer we had...Winnipeg probably witnessed one of its largest marches for Shoal Lake 40 specifically. Nearly a thousand people of Winnipeg citizens came together to show support for Shoal Lake 40 and ensuring they have access to essential services and no longer remain isolated and denied their rights. I am here to ask you to do the right thing. I appreciate the opportunity to come speak to this motion and the motion that's been introduced by a number of councillors around this table and I know has the support. And I would just like to echo some of what others have said in that I believe there is a political will. I believe there is the commitment on a provincial and federal level to fund the Shoal Lake 40 Freedom Road and we cannot wait any longer. This has to happen. I know a lot of people have expressed good words around this table and now is the time to put those words to action. So again, I would just like to echo an appreciation for the motion being tabled today for an increase in the budget and ask that city councillors show their support for Freedom Road, which is a road to reconciliation and a first step to righting those wrongs that have historically happened as a result of this city's water infrastructure. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Wright. Next is Josh Brandon followed by Joseph Kornelson. Welcome Mr. Brandon.

Josh Brandon: Thank you, Council and thanks for…Councillor Gilroy for suspending…for putting the forward the motion to suspend the rules to allow me to speak today. I am here representing the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg and for those of you who don't know, we are coming up on a hundred years of work here in Winnipeg, supporting community organizations and residents groups with information that allows them to participate effectively in policy discussions. And we do this because we know that these groups hold vast knowledge and expertise in these areas and they are passionate about them. And, when it is shared with decision makers in the right way, it can lead to improved public policy. To begin with, I want to acknowledge Mayor Bowman's efforts to make 2016 a year of reconciliation and we strongly support those efforts. But to make those efforts tangible, we need to see 2016 as a budget of reconciliation as well. And of course at the heart of that is the support for Freedom Road. That's a project that we do need to complete and heal those scars on our community and we have heard some important testimony about that today. These efforts also need to include addressing the long-standing inequalities that are at the heart of many of the divides in our city, including the racial divides in our city. And we do acknowledge that there are some important investments in this budget. We are pleased to see the allocation of $150,000 towards the United Way's End Homelessness Project. And…but this cannot be the only way we address the complex issue of poverty. What Winnipeg really needs is a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy and a body to implement it, which we have suggested should be a committee facilitated by the City itself so the poverty reduction is considered when all decisions are made at the City level. And such a strategy requires, for example, support for affordable housing. We don't do enough around housing here in the City of Winnipeg. And there is much more we can do, I know Mayor Bowman's going to be heading to Edmonton soon, to hear what other cities are doing on that front and I hope he is able to bring some of those concepts back to Winnipeg because we know that housing is unaffordable for a large percentage of our population here in Winnipeg. We are also happy to see some new development fees for new neighbourhoods, so that development is paying the share of growth in our city. But those fees need to be matched with programs to increase affordable housing across Winnipeg including in new neighbourhoods as well as in core neighbourhoods. A comprehensive poverty reduction strategy also requires implementing improved...requires improving and building on initiatives such as the Aboriginal Youth Strategy which funds community-based organizations to deliver services across the city and including childhood education and care programming so that aboriginal children get the best start in life. It also means having City employees and those contracting out...those doing contracted services, making sure that all of our employees are paid a living wage. And we

heard today about how some employees are paid well below a living wage here in Winnipeg at close to minimum wage which is well below the cost of actually living in Winnipeg. It also means that we should be raising funds in a fair way. Since we've started to change direction from the budget freeze that we had in the earlier part of this century, the past five years, we have seen an increased reliance on user fees and on frontage fees and those put an unfair burden on lower income Manitobans...or Winnipeggers because they are not proportional to people's ability to pay at all. If you just look at frontage fees, for example, over the last five years, those have increased with this budget now, 114 percent since 2011 compared to less than 16 percent increase in property taxes. So that's a direction we need to shift in. We also need to have a consultation process that includes all Winnipeggers because we know that community groups and organizations have the expertise to contribute to the development of a budget plan. We look forward to 2017's budget consultations which we hope poverty reduction will be front and centre. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you very much. Our last delegation this morning is Joseph Kornelson. Welcome.

Joseph Kornelson: Hi, Thank you. Thank you very much for having me speak. My name is Joseph Kornelson and I am speaking on behalf of Functional Transit Winnipeg. Functional Transit Winnipeg is a local, non-profit group of citizens. Our mission is to advocate for a viable public transit system that is frequent, accessible and affordable. I am here today to urge Council to increase funding to Winnipeg Transit's operations in order to increase bus frequency throughout the city. Additionally, I want to urge the City to set aside money to commission a study on how a high frequency network could be implemented throughout Winnipeg. While the City is undertaking an expansion of its rapid transit network with phase-two of the southwest corridor, it is actually far more important to operate a frequent and affordable transit service. Capital projects like the transit way are roads, they are not the service and we have a lot of catching up to do when it comes to service. Winnipeg Transit operates approximately one bus for every 1100 Winnipeggers. Meanwhile, Ottawa operates approximately one bus for every 940 people and Edmonton, along with two nearby municipalities, operates one transit vehicle for every 750 people. To match Edmonton's transit service, we would need about 900 buses. That's almost 50 percent more buses than we have at present. While there is a clear increase in the amount of money toward purchasing buses in this year's budget, something Functional Transit Winnipeg is very happy to see, it is not clear that there is a sufficient increase in the operating budget to make any noticeable improvements to operations. Operational expenditures appear to have increased by roughly $5 million in this budget. An increase of $5 million represents an absolute increase of 2.9 percent in an operating budget that is increasing at twice that rate, 6 percent. When taking into account inflation of 1.4 percent and population growth rate of Winnipeg of 1.4 percent, this represents a .1 percent increase to transit operations. A .1 percent increase in a city already seriously falling behind other similarly sized Canadian cities. Frequent service is necessary to grow ridership with any transit service, whether we build rapid transit corridors or not. I know that you may not all be car drivers, but since Winnipeggers drive I would like to contextualize the experience of a transit rider relative to a car driver. What is it about driving that makes it so great? What makes driving a preferred mode of transportation? What is it about transit that makes people choose not to take it? Private automobiles give you control, they give you control of your trip. Transportation investment needs to be about empowering individuals to be in greater control of their trip. When people lose control they get upset. Think about how it feels to be at the mercy of an infrequent traffic light when you're stuck in rush hour traffic. Car drivers think a lot about rush hour traffic. For drivers, the dream is to create a world where rush hour traffic doesn't exist and for car drivers, that is a primary concern and it is certainly a justified concern. With transit riders, rush hour traffic is not the primary concern because it is not the primary area with which they lose control. Transit riders lose control when they have to walk long distances to get to useful stops. They lose control when they miss their bus at a transfer point and the next one comes in 25 minutes. They lose control when two whole days of the week have a barely functioning transit service. How can people live their lives with this kind of service? How would you live your life with this kind of service? A frequent transit network addresses these issues. The benefits of increased frequency are both intuitive and research backed. We urge City Council to set aside funding to look into implementing a high frequency network in Winnipeg. Last year Functional Transit provided councillors with a report on the benefits of ensuring transit service is accessible, affordable and frequent. I have handed out a selected portion of the report that addresses the research frequency and transportation needs of Winnipeggers. The City should look to cities like Minneapolis, St. Paul or to Houston, Texas. Both of these cities have worked to design frequency based networks. Planning professionals also point to the importance of frequency. Quoting from the Ontario Professional Planners Institute publication, 'Plain Transit for Planners', quote, "Key considerations for transit service include frequency of service, customer service, affordability and safety. The environment which incorporates street design, transit access points and neighbourhood design must be supportive of transit service, the success transit provided is otherwise limited." Winnipeg needs to begin the process of looking into what kind of improvements a broadly implemented high frequency network would have for Winnipeg. One of the priorities communicated to the City of Winnipeg through the budget consultation process was the importance of making Winnipeg a sustainable city. We are not moving in that direction when we increase Winnipeg transit's operating expenditures...when the increase is just .1 percent. This kind of investment will ensure that our system continues to languish no matter how many corridors the City builds. I urge City Council to fund a study to look into how a high frequency network could be implemented throughout Winnipeg. I urge you to think about what it means to be in control of your transportation and what it means to be a transit rider. You need to invest in transit like you want it to work for you. Where do you want to go? The grocery store, the

daycare, out with friends, your workplace; imagine taking a bus for those things. The key to increasing ridership is to meet these needs and we can do it better with a high frequency network. Thank you very much for your time.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Yes?

Councillor Schreyer: Can we be reminded of the name and the organization that just put forward this excellent presentation?

Madam Speaker: Sure. State your name and organization for the record please.

Joseph Kornelson: Joseph Kornelson, Functional Transit and I understand I didn't bring reports for the last two councillors.

Councillor Schreyer: I'll make a copy and be right back. Thank you very much.

Joseph Kornelson: Perfect, thank you.

REPORT OF THE WINNIPEG POLICE BOARD DATED MARCH 11, 2016

Madam Speaker: Thank you. That concludes our delegations for today. We will now move on to the report of the Winnipeg Police Board dated March 11th. We will be dealing with the 2016 operating and capital budgets. We have Motion No. 3 in front of us that I would like to draw your attention to. Motion No. 3 is moved by Councillor Gillingham and seconded by Councillor Browaty which is an amendment to Item No. 1 as submitted by the Winnipeg Police Board. We will hear more details from Councillor Gillingham on that. Yes, Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: I just have a point of order Madam Speaker. The way that motions worded right now is rather confusing. It appears...it's called expenditure management but it appears that the police...the Winnipeg Police Department will be running with a $2.5 million deficit the way this motion is worded. And no department can operate on...have a deficit position in terms of their operating budget. It talks about $1 million being transferred in terms of capital project deferrals bringing down the total from 3.5 million to 2.5 million. But it's still referring to a 2.45 million shortfall which basically is an operating deficit. I think there some error been made on the motion.

Madam Speaker: Okay. If you can give me a moment, I want to confer with the clerk to make sure this is in order. Okay, Councillor Gillingham, if you could address Councillor Wyatt's concern in your remarks, and I will remind you that budgets do need to be balanced. We can have the CAO weigh in if necessary. I'll take that direction from you. Yes, Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: I just wanted to make a point of order just to clarify the issue in its speaking...I believe the Winnipeg Police Board report also recommends a change to that expenditure management account and the actual number that I believe is at issue, as Councillor Wyatt has stated, is actually 1.45 million. It's in the Winnipeg Police Board report.

Madam Speaker: I'm going to ask Councillor Gillingham to proceed at this time. We are getting official word from the CFO that this motion is in fact balanced. Councillor Gillingham, if you could make your remarks right now. You will introduce the main item and your motion.

Item 1 - 2016 Operating Budget and Financial Plan for 2017 and 2018 and 2016 Capital Budget and 2017 – 2021 Five Year Forecast

Motion No. 3
Moved by Councillor Gillingham,
Seconded by Councillor Browaty,

WHEREAS the Winnipeg Police Service 2016 Preliminary Operating Budget includes an expenditure management amount of $3.5 million to reflect a year over year increase of 6.32% for departmental expenditures overall;

AND WHEREAS the Winnipeg Police Board and Winnipeg Police Service have worked collaboratively to identify savings to address this expenditure management amount;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT as recommended by deliberations of the Winnipeg Police Board, (Schedule "A"), that the Winnipeg Police Board recommendations be amended by adding:

4. That the 2016 Preliminary Capital and Operating Budgets of the Winnipeg Police Service be amended as follows:

A. That the 2016 Preliminary Capital Budget be amended by partially deferring the Police Divisions Systems Upgrades project by $1 million (Volume 3 page 2-94) to the 2017 Capital Forecast;

B. That the 2017 Capital Forecast for the Body Worn Camera System project (Volume 3 page 2-98) of $1 million be deleted in order to accommodate the capital project deferral noted above;

C. That the reduction in 2016 Capital Budget of $1 million due to capital project deferrals noted above will result in savings in the Winnipeg Police Service operating budget through a corresponding reduction in the department's transfer to capital account, and thereby a reduction in the expenditure management amount to $2.5 million to maintain a year over year increase of 6.32% for departmental expenditures overall;

D. That all relevant references to cash to capital amounts for the Winnipeg Police Service and City-wide be adjusted accordingly, as required throughout the budget volumes.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Proper Officers of the City do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Councillor Gillingham: Yes I will, at the time and thank you. I will do my best to address the Councillor's concern. Madam Speaker, I rise to present this motion to Council. I'm also introducing amendment as you noted to this motion which is Motion 3 before us. I will be supporting, I will be voting in favour of the amendment which you have as motion three. I will be voting against resolutions one and two in the main motion, I'll explain in a moment why, and I'll be voting in favour of the third recommendation in the main motion. I ask that when time comes that we be voting on each of these separately, please, Madam Speaker. As of this time last week, there was a $2.45 million gap between the preliminary budget and the Winnipeg...

Councillor Schreyer: Excuse me, and I…with all apologies to Councillor Gillingham. I just need to know as Councillor Gillingham continues on his good work here, are these four separate motions?

Madam Speaker: No. There's one motion before us, Motion No. 3. There are four different clauses that will be part of the main item.

Councillor Schreyer: And excuse me, Madam Speaker, I just thought I heard Councillor Gillingham say that he is voting against Motions 1 and 2?

Madam Speaker: I think we need to hear his presentation to understand what he's trying to convey clearly. Councillor. Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Before us, as I said, I'll try to lay it out clearly. We have the main motion that has recommendations one, two, three and we have an amendment which I will count as four. I'll be voting in favour for against one, against two, in favour of the third on the main motion. As I stated, this time last week, there was a $2.45 million gap between the preliminary budget and the Winnipeg Police Board's proposed Police Service operating budget. The greatest concern was that finding the $2.45 million may result in layoffs of recruits and cadets. I can say with certainty that the board did not want to see any cadet nor any recruit laid off. I want to commend the Winnipeg Police Board and the Winnipeg Police Service and their respective staffs who have worked tirelessly over the past week to identify and adjust expenditures within the Police Service budget that would close that $2.45 million gap and maintain the service complement. What I am proposing today avoids layoffs. I draw your attention to the main motion that is before you. Resolution one; I will be voting against resolution number one, recommendation one, which deals with the operating budget because the board has worked with the service as indicated, to identify a further $1.45 million which the service will manage through non-salary expenditure reductions. Resolution two, or recommendation two, I will be voting against which deals with the capital budget because the board again has worked with the service to identify $1 million in a capital project that we are proposing be deleted. This deletion will ultimately reduce the transfer to capital and make a million dollars available to be used in the operating budget. Just for Council's information, the project that has been identified is the Body-Worn Camera Pilot Project. Resolution three, or recommendation three of the main motion, I will be voting in favour of. It states that a) that the Board recommend that Council enter into negotiations with the Government of Manitoba to align its support to policing in Winnipeg with the shared priorities set out in the strategic plan established by the Board for the Winnipeg Police Service. Under provincial legislation, it is the board that allocates the Winnipeg Police Service budget. However, the vast majority of the budget is in fact outside of the Board's control. For example, the Board does not have the authority to reallocate funds provided by the Provincial Government nor to renegotiate funding agreements between the City and the Province. For example...maybe this isn't the best example but I will use it; the Board would prioritize funding to maintain the current staff complement higher than funding, let's say, for the police helicopter operations. But, as the Province fully covers the operational costs of the helicopter, reallocation of these funds is not effectively within the control of the Board. And so, for the goals and targets and the board's strategic plan to be met, the Province needs to further engage to align its support and funding commitments. B) Of number three, that the Board recommend that Council consult with the Winnipeg Police Board on the mandate for collective bargaining negotiations with respect to matters that affect the role of the Board. As I said a moment ago, while the Board has the legislative responsibility for allocating the Police Service budget, as a practical reality the Board, in fact, does not control allocation of a large portion of the budget. For example, the Board has no ability to reallocate to other purposes, the increase for salaries and benefits prescribed by the Collective Agreement. Those salaries and benefits constitute 85 percent of the operating budget. The Collective Agreement also contains provisions that limit management rights in ways that present barriers to improving the efficiency of the Winnipeg Police Service. And so, the board is asking that Council consult with the Board prior to the mandate for the next collective bargaining negotiations. C) that the Board recommend that Council allocate additional staff resources to the Winnipeg Police Board from within existing city staff complement to provide up to .25 FTE to strengthen the capacity of the Board to carry out independent financial analysis and review an expenditure management oversight with the staffer person having a dual reporting relationship to the Board's Executive Director and his or her current supervisor. The Police Service budget is the largest departmental budget in the City. Board staff, especially our Executive Director, Mr. Don Norquay, along with the Board's budget and sub-committee members do outstanding work in relation to the police budget. The additional...the addition of a .25 FTE would strengthen the capacity of the Board to effectively do the Board's work. So I will be voting in favour of recommendation…of resolution three. I want to draw your attention now…my colleagues attention now, to the amendment which is before you which is Motion No. 3. I will be voting in favour of the amendment that is before you. In simple terms, this amendment, if passed, deletes a capital project worth $1 million in 2017 and defers a capital project in the same amount in 2016 thus reducing transfer to capital. That $1 million is then available to be utilized in the 2016 operating budget to avoid the need to reduce salaries and benefits. As Council approval is required for amendments to the City's Capital Plan, I am bringing this amendment to the floor of Council this morning and I am asking my colleagues to take the unusual step of approving a transfer of capital funding to cover an operating expense shortfall and thus avoid layoffs. I want to take this opportunity also to express my appreciation to the dedicated members of the Winnipeg Police Board. These men and women take their role of police governance very seriously. They put in significant hours of work and do so with remarkable diligence and commitment. Though members of Council have the right to ask difficult questions of our board, I respectfully remind us all that the majority of the expenses in the police budget are outside of the Board's ability to control. In this operating budget, the 2016 operating budget, increases in the Winnipeg Police Service operating budget include two $9.6 million in salaries and benefit costs that are required by City negotiated Collective Agreement outside of the Board's control. The accommodation and debt charges made by the City mostly due to the new police headquarters, which is approved by Council outside of the Board's control before the Board existed, of $6.4 million. So I repeat that while the Board has legislative responsibility to annually recommend cost estimates to council, there is a reality that the Board does not control a large portion of costs or expenses that make up the operating budget which leads me to my final comments. Since being appointed Chair of the Board by the Mayor, which I am honoured to serve in this capacity, since that time I have been consistent in my position that the rate at which policing costs have risen over the last years is not sustainable for the citizens of Winnipeg. The Police Chief made a similar point

yesterday. The Board's strategic plan published by the service in 2015 recognizes this challenge and has set a target to limit the rate of increases to the cost of living beginning in 2017. But, it is going to take the participation of all stakeholders to be part of the long-term solution to slow the rate of cost increases. The Winnipeg Police Board, the Winnipeg Police Service, the Winnipeg Police Association, the Province of Manitoba, local social service agencies, the Mayor and Council, each has a role to play in addressing the rate of policing cost increases. And I trust that each could work together to accomplish this goal. To close, I reiterate that I will be supporting Motion No. 3, I'll be voting against resolutions one and two and I'll be voting in favour of the third resolution. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor. Any further speakers? Yes, Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Point of order. Sorry, this is very complex because, Madam Speaker, it seems the Winnipeg Police Board in its motion is somewhat dysfunctional in that the recommen...Madam Speaker, as indicated by Councillor Gillingham, he's going to vote against recommendation number one and number two. One of those is what covers, I think two, covers a capital budget program and if he is voting against that but amending it, he is still essentially not voting for his Motion 3 because he is moving to amend that report which then amends, if it's passed, then amends our capital budget program because that's the program that you have to balance. So, Madam Speaker, this is very complex and I think that this motion is out of order in terms of if this is how he proceeds to vote, I don't understand how that works, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: I'm just going to have the clerk confer with the CFO for just a moment. If I could ask you to be patient. The City Clerk is conferring with the CFO. I'm going to suggest that Council take a ten minute recess at this time just so we can look into this a little more clearly. Thank you. I would like to reconvene the meeting after our brief recess. We have conferred with the CAO as well as the CFO and have verified that the motion is in fact balanced and the process is sound. The motion before us is in order. Councillor Gillingham, I believe you had finished speaking. Are there any other speakers to the motion and the item before us? Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Bowman: Thanks very much, Madam Speaker and good morning to everyone. First, I would like to acknowledge the tremendous work by the women and men of our Winnipeg Police Service that they do for our citizens each and every day on our behalf. This is important, challenging work that should not be lost in the discussion here at City Hall. The topic of the police budget has seen some passionate views expressed recently and while I am all for the process of debate, I want to be sure that Winnipeggers keep in mind that all sides of the debates that we have here have the best interests of our citizens in mind. Those different viewpoints are simply coming from different perspectives, representing different priorities. Members of the Police Service are tasked with doing their absolute best to keep our citizens safe. The members of the Winnipeg Police Board are tasked with allotting the money provided to them by City Council, while we here at City Council are tasked with protecting taxpayer dollars and balancing citizens priorities. I wish we had an endless amount of money to provide so we didn't need to be having this conversation. However, the reality is, we've inherited a structural deficit from previous councils and all City of Winnipeg departments, the Winnipeg Police Service included, are expected to be reigning in their costs. Through 14 years of tax freezes and cuts, this city council is in the unenviable position of trying to make its budget go further while requests for more dollars continue to roll in. With respect to the police budget, cities across Canada are grappling with this very issue and trying to manage police budgets. Here in Winnipeg, the police budget is the single largest expenditure that we make as a city. When combined with fire and paramedic service, these two departments comprise 44.6 percent of the total tax supported budget in 2016. In fact, over the last decade the Police Services share of the overall budget has increased from 21 percent in 2006 to over 26 percent in the proposed 2016 budget that we are considering today. Put in real dollars that's $280 million of the total 2016 City budget of $1.054 billion. Over the course of the last decade the police budget has increased 80 percent. Over that same period of time, the City of Winnipeg's budget has increased by 68 percent. I will continue to support increased investments in the Winnipeg Police Service and accordingly, the Winnipeg Police Board's strategic plan to transition towards funding increases that are tied to or less than the rate of inflation. Let's be clear though, what we are talking about here is an increase to the police budget by 6.32 percent or $16.7 million above last year's budget. 6.32 represents about three times the rate of inflation. The year before the transition towards a level of growth that is tied to or less than the rate of inflation. People are certainly important and crucial to the work of the Winnipeg Police Service and 6.32, as an increase, this year more than meets the City's obligations under Collective Agreements. I've been clear since the start of the public discussion on this topic that I would like to see future police funding align with the Police Board's target of inflationary increases. My position has not changed and I believe this transition budget at three times the rate of inflation is extremely generous and a step in the right direction. I would like to also add though, that the members of the Winnipeg Police Board have done outstanding work for our citizens over the last number of weeks, including its Chair. These are not easy decisions. We raised some very pointed questions for representatives of the Police Board when Executive Policy Committee had the opportunity to publicly raise questions about the Police Board's position. And I want to thank those members, the Executive Director, for being forthcoming with answers to difficult questions. What is being brought forward here today is a result of the Police Board and the Police Service working very hard on citizens behalf and we should thank them for coming forward with this proposed amendment. I will be supporting the Motion No. 3. I will

not be supporting point one and two of the item. And I will be supporting Item 3, consistent with Councillor Gillingham's voting intentions. Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councillor Eadie, you have the floor.

Councillor Allard: I was just wondering in the conference that happened in the ten minutes that we took recess, is it possible for the rest of Council to be advised by the CAO and the CFO in terms of this conformity to the City of Winnipeg Charter?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gillingham, do you wish to clarify the conversations there?

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I think. As everyone can appreciate it, it's a very challenging and complex motion here. In essence what we have before us, Motion No. 3 is an amendment. Motion No. 3 says, "Be it resolved as recommended by deliberations of the Police Board that the Winnipeg Police Board recommendations be amended by adding…" and this really speaks to the capital budget. What it speaks to really is a million dollars in the capital budget and really, a way...for lack of a better term, free up a million dollars so that those million dollars…that million dollars can be used in...available in the operating budget to help close the gap that is there, the $2.45 million gap and avoid layoffs. The other $1.45 million gap has been identified and will be placed in really an expenditure management account so it will be reduced from the Winnipeg Police Services budget which brings the Police Services budget to balance. So that's what this motion, Motion 3 enables us to do. Motion 3, if quite frankly, if we vote according to what I've laid out, there's no layoffs, we don't need layoffs of cadets or recruits. And that really is, to me, the key. That has been the position and the goal of the board and I know working with the services, it's been their goal as well so. That's the highest level summary that I can give. I don't know if the Clerk needs to add anything to that explanation or not, so, thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Gillingham. Moving on to Councillor Eadie, you are the next speaker.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And just to clarify what an expenditure management account is, it has an opposite balance in that account to what an expenditure would be. So what happens is, you need to whittle that down in order to balance it but it is simply an accounting measure that balances things. And I would point out to my fellow councillors that, I believe it was last year's budget, in which there were a number of amendments made and I think it was...to balance it out it was referred to an expenditure management account in which the CFO ensures, through the controllers and the various departments, for example, it was the flowers and different things. So this is a…it's simply an account that measures...that's not the issue. I'm going to speak on this...I was originally going to vote with this motion from the Police Board but I want to talk about this. What we have here is you are seeing how Council is actually running the Winnipeg Police Board because the Winnipeg Police Board, by law, allocates the budget that is given by the City. We, as a Police Board, I'm a member of, we make a recommendation to Council through this report. To amend this report, for Council to amend it, is technically a...really it's running the thing. And all through this process, Madam Speaker, it's been very frustrating for me because, you know, it's set up in a dysfunctional manner, the Winnipeg Police Board. But here is what I want to indicate. So, what's going to happen is Council here is going to vote against Clause 1, because Councillor Gillingham is recommending to Council that Winnipeg Police Board's, Clause 1 as an example, which is the operating recommendation. And if you all vote against that operating recommendation that is in there, basically, what you are saying is whatever we have put in our city budget books, because remember, this Police Board recommendation coming forward is simply a report. So you can't seem to...and I don't know that, actually, the budget books have been amended to reflect the 1.05 dollar management…sick and vacation leave...it's a balanced sheet account, a one-timer, which lowers this expenditure management account. I believe the books you have before you people, has a $3.5 million expenditure management account. Now, this is very complex, so I want you to try to understand this, I hope I can explain it properly. So, the Winnipeg Police Board allocates whatever budgets it's given to so we have made a recommendation which somehow, they are saying in the City's budget, not the Police Board's budget recommendation, but in City's budget, we have different numbers. So but, if we are putting this Motion 3 into this report...or recommendation from the Winnipeg Police Board, what we are acknowledging is, is that the Winnipeg Police Board recommendations are the City of Winnipeg's budget. Okay, think about that. We are saying that these recommendations are the City of Winnipeg's budget. So, the...and you can vote against the Clause 1 which leaves the expenditure balance at 2.45 million and then low and behold we allocate the budget and we will allocate it appropriately but to amend this actual Police Board thing and Councillor Gillingham is doing that on the recommendation of the Winnipeg Police Board. But if you vote against...if you're assuming that the Winnipeg Police Board's capital program is actually our City of Winnipeg capital program, then if we vote against Clause 2, just to be clear, we are saying we don't agree with the Winnipeg Police Board's capital program which they acknowledge that they want to amend. But that's not what's being amended here in two, which should have...we should…this Motion 3 should be amending Clause 2 and then you pass it, if you believe that the Winnipeg Police Board's recommendations are the City of Winnipeg's budget. It's actually a motion to change the budget if people agree, right? It's just, this motion, I think, is still out of order. But, can

you see the complexity, fellow councillors? The frustration that I have been trying to live with. Under duress, a Body Camera Project that was supported by the Police Board in our strategic plan, moving forward, and under duress from Council, there is no need for us to amend this now. Give us the 3.5 expenditure management account and then we will allocate appropriately and where required, the Winnipeg Police Board can request which capital program gets cancelled and which gets moved to 2017. I just…you know, it's very, very frustrating. And I do support because the Winnipeg Police Board...and I think under duress, I do support their decision in Motion 3. It is the Winnipeg Police Board's parameter and operation to allocate the budget. But I don't see any need for us to move this at Council. If the issue is, you don't want to accept the recommendations except for three which are very prudent financial management issues that we as a Winnipeg Police Board need to be able to fulfill our duties, that's fine. So very complex but because of the complexity at this point with the Winnipeg Police Board, I don't see how I believe we need to suspend the rules to hear three motions on the operating and capital budget, Motion 3 should be on there. We shouldn't be going with what the Winnipeg Police Board put forth. It's just a total saying we're managing the Winnipeg Police Board. Let's be clear, Council is changing what it has in its budget book expectation. Let's be clear about that. So if Council is going to vote on that motion then, it should be...you should be voting for it as it pertains to Council's budget, not the Winnipeg Police Board's budget. Now, I know the Clerk and everybody, they figured it out that they can move ahead like this. But given the complexity, I'm saying that this Motion 3 is inappropriate. It could be moved by the chairperson to say Motion 3, the recommendation Police Board is you adjust the capital budget Council…requesting Council to do it but to do it this way and to vote against Clause 1, right? You are going to say, Clause 1 which has the 1.05 million, we don't agree with that. It's wrong. So, I'm just going to leave it at that, I'm not going to support any motion. And I'm not actually going to support…

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

Councillor Eadie: I'm actually not going to vote for the Winnipeg Police Board's thing based on dysfunctional, totally dysfunctional way things operate. And I would also just finally like to point out that the Water and Waste Department is the biggest department paid for by taxpayers all across the city. Let's be clear. Is it out of control? Is it out of control? What are you doing to control people's water rates? It is the biggest department. It is the biggest department. Not the Police Service Department. It just so happens, it's paid in a different way but it's paid for by the taxpayers of Winnipeg. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Wyatt: Thanks, Madam Speaker. I didn't expect to be so early on the list, I thought there would be a big line up. But I don't blame folks for not wanting to speak on this item because I can't recall a time where something seems to be so mixed up in terms of the budget process. It seems very dysfunctional and the system seems to be broken. The budget being published prior to, it appears, the Police Board coming together with regards to their budget recommendations and therefore not feeding into the final version of the budget coming forward to Council. Typically that's what would have been done and instead, we had this remarkable and I have never seen it quite before, dust up. And I don't think we've seen it where the Mayor of the City of Winnipeg is literally calling out the Chief of Police and the Police Board and questioning their work, publicly, and the Chair. It was not a great scenario for our city. And not a way of running one of the largest...I won't say the largest department, Councillor Eadie, but one of the largest departments inside the City of Winnipeg. The work the Police Department does is, as we all know is, as the Mayor has pointed out, is extremely important and the work that the officers do and the front line officers do is extremely important. And you know, I...it wasn't that long ago, Madam Speaker, when there was the hue and cry publicly, not just from the public but from the business community and the business leaders, for more police, more police. We need more police. So, what did Council do? Council responded year after year after year, adding more police and more police, to the expanding…dramatically expanding the complement of the Police Service. It wasn't that long ago where we had the hot summers where we had the open gang wars occurring. I remember, Madam Speaker, it wasn't that long ago when there was shootings happening, openly, when a young man, unfortunately, the only thing he was guilty of is being in the wrong place at the wrong time coming out of a 711 or going into a 711 on Sargent, who got killed in one of those drive-by shootings when he was just in the wrong place and the wrong time. I remember that, I remember the rally at the legislature that occurred after that. And it's funny how we tend to forget that even in the short period of time that has occurred since then. Now, the budget that's before us today should be the budget that would have been coming out of EPC, it should have been done in co-ordination and co-operation with the Police Board, not this ridiculous scenario where we had the charade go on, where we had this big public fight, the media loved it. Sells lots of newspapers, great headlines, but what does it really achieve other than more animosity? We hired those officers. We hired the service. 85 percent or 86 percent of their budget line is staff, whether we like it or not, that is their core cost. We have been subject to arbitration decisions. We have been subject to collective agreements that are impacting the direct bottom line. I hear the Mayor speak about 14 years of tax freezes as if his friends in the Chamber of Commerce who helped get him elected had nothing to do with it. It was the Chamber, Mr. Mayor, that campaigned hard for tax freeze after tax freeze and tax cut after tax cut. They were the ones who elected Susan Thompson. They were the ones who pushed the policy. We have the tax freezes

today that he says he bemoans but they are here today, Madam Speaker, of those 14 years of freezes or cuts, because the friends in the Chamber, who were here today, advocated for that year after year after year. Tax freeze, tax freeze, tax freeze showing up in this council chamber demanding another freeze, demanding another freeze, maybe even a cut and now we are just washing our hands? The surrogate who is on the floor of Council from the Chamber is washing his hands as if he had nothing do with it? It came from the same people and now we are told we have to rein in expenditures. Rein in expenditures, Madam Speaker. It's interesting that the Standing Committee of Protection, Community Services and Parks, when we were reading the budget and working through it over two meetings and two separate days moved a motion...moved a motion to actually try to rein in costs when it comes to one of our emergency services, Fire and Paramedic Service, two percent we said. There should be a two percent limit over three years average excluding growth of fire apparatuses having to be built, new fire halls because of the growth of the city, excluding new contracts from the Provincial Government or other governments flowing through the department. But we set a two percent limit...we wanted to see, we wanted to work towards and help the budget process knowing that this is a challenge but we wanted to also send a message...and this was passed by the committee, by the way, not adopted by EPC, which is…we are reining costs on police but it's okay to let it go on fire. Because the next day, who did we hear from? Who did we get a knock on our door from? Believe it or not, the President of the Fire Union coming at Councillor Eadie, coming at me, coming at Councillor Schreyer saying you know what, what do you guys think you're doing? What do you think you're doing? How dare you try to rein in costs of the Fire Department? Well, the Fire Chief, we sat there, we asked him, what would be reasonable, Chief? Would a two percent be reasonable, minus this, minus this, minus this? And Lane, and Chief Lane, to his credit, said yes. We also worked with him in terms of helping him with his Capital Budget, explaining the budget book better, moving motions to actually describe things in the book in terms of consolidations, in terms of the good work that the Chief is doing. But it seems, Madam Speaker, in our city today, we have a good chief and we have a bad chief. The Fire Chief is good and the Police Chief is bad and I don't get that because we're all supposed to be pulling in the same direction. If the Mayor says we are to rein in expenditures, then why are we not reining in expenditures when it comes to the Fire Department as well? Which, by the way, is receiving the same increases over the next two years similar to the Police. Even when you calculate out the cash flow going throughout right now when it comes to new fire halls being built and the money going through due to capital costs. The same, similar increase in the fire budget…nobody's talking about it. It doesn't exist but in the Police, heaven forbid…you know what, this is...the world is ending. Madam Speaker, you know what, Councillor Gillingham is moving a motion. He's in a very…like this is a…I feel sorry for him because this is an extremely terrible position that he has been placed in in a very awkward position where he is Chair of a committee, and I know he's worked very hard on it, I know he's done good work and he has attempted to bring people together and he is facing this challenge where we have this shortfall now, which really shouldn't have been there. I don't like the fact that it's going to go up and that we are even talking about 2.5 million. If you're telling me that the money is somehow in the department for 2.5 million, why was that money not identified early and why was that money not already found…efficiencies found and removed from the budget? Because clearly, there is 2.5 million of efficiencies still inside that department that we are not aware of based on this motion. So, you know, I guess...and I just want to such on something else, Madam Speaker. At the same time we are screaming about the services when it comes to Fire, our key emergency service Fire and Police, the Corporate Support Services…Corporate Services, is going up 15 percent in this budget, 15 percent. Because I am adding, by the way, Madam Speaker, there is a bit of a budget line here where it's $800,000 for communication staff on other departments. I don't know what that means, other departments. That's Corporate. The communication is being run by Corporate. It's under Corporate, other departments, that's another $800,000.00 on top of the 4.2.

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

Councillor Wyatt: That is a $5 million increase on a $33 million budget. That's a 15 percent increase in Corporate Services. Fifteen percent increase in Corporate Services at a time when we are screaming that the Police have to cut, not the Fire, but Police have to cut, other departments have to come down to the rate of inflation but Corporate is shooting up because we want to hire spin doctors and other folks and throw tons of money into Corporate Services. You know what, the folks in Corporate Services do great job. I worked with them, when I was Chair of Finance, they do a fabulous job. But this type of increase, Madam Speaker, at a time when we are looking at trying to find savings in other departments and pushing other departments, we have to be consistent. So you know, I hear what the Mayor is saying, I understand what the Mayor is saying, but with all due respect, Madam Speaker, the reality is this council, really, the Mayor, appoints a good chunk of that board. That's his board as much as this council's board. And for us to have gotten into a battle with the Executive Director of the board or EPC I should say, the other day, it doesn't do anybody any service, it doesn't do this council chamber any service, it doesn't do any of it. We have to avoid this in the future. The next…we have to ensure the next budge that there is a concerted effort to combine the work of the budget working group or whoever is working on the budget and with Corporate Finance and the folks over at the Police Department, so that we don't have this type of scenario which is really ridiculous to see this kind of fighting in the public realm where you're having, you know...back behind the scenes, battle it out, find savings, push for it but to take it like this and to see the Chief of Police contradicting the Mayor publicly, the Mayor contradicting the Chief, it just…it's not good folks. It's not

good for our city, it sends the wrong message, you know what, this has to be...this has to be…this is completely dysfunctional as it stands right now and it's hard to support it as it is. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank, Councillor Wyatt. Seeing the hour, Council will now adjourn for lunch recess. We'll reconvene at 1:30. Thank you.

Reconvened meeting of
Winnipeg City Council of
March 22, 2016, at 1:36 p.m.

Madam Speaker: I would like to reconvene the meeting of March 22, 2016. We are on Item No. 1 of the 2016 Operating Budget and Financial Plan regarding the Winnipeg Police Board. Our next speaker is Councillor Mayes followed by Councillor Morantz.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will just try and be brief given we are a long way from the finish line here. Just to say, I will be supporting the recommendations as put forward by Councillor Gillingham. I want to thank Councillor Gillingham for his Herculean efforts on trying to sort through this budgeting dilemma that we've had as well as Don Norquay from the Police Board who I know has been working with him and who he mentioned earlier. In particular, I think the recommendation here that we, the Council consult with the Police Board on the mandate for collective bargaining is an important step and an important step forward. Obviously there are important issues that will come out of collective bargaining; the wage rate, the benefits, pension provisions often are influenced by what results out of collective bargaining. All of those are cost items so I think it's important that we do try and discuss with the Police Board what its perspective is, what the needs, what the perspectives are from the Police Board before embarking on the next round of collective bargaining. Obviously the Police budget is one that has a lot of pressures on it, I know that was recognized in discussions we had in the previous council. If you look back at Hansard from some of the previous budget votes, December of 13, the people talk about the need and the pressures and the difficulty in meeting the challenges in the future. So it's nothing particularly new, but we are trying to work through the challenges. Everyone who has talked, has talked about the respect for the men and women who work for our police force and the respect for Chief Clunis, I would echo those comments and just repeat, I want to thank Councillor Gillingham for his work on trying to bridge the gap here.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next is Councillor Morantz.

Councillor Morantz: Thank you, Madam Speaker. First, I would like to thank the Police Board Chair, Councillor Gillingham for the amazing work he has done and of course, the Police Board and their staff. I know they work very, very hard to bridge the gap and to move things forward. Madam Speaker, I really do need to address some of the remarks that were made by the councillor from Transcona, if I may. Sometimes in life when in you're in a job or a career for a very long time, for many, many years, it can become difficult to recognize when times have changed. Unlike ten years ago regarding police cost, there is a general recognition that today they are simply not sustainable. Now, this is not just me saying this. My voice alone would not be sufficient. As we know, just yesterday, Police Chief Clunis said the same thing. But it's not just the Chief and I. Today, cities all over Canada are struggling with this as well. Ten years ago, this was not an issue. At that time, public sentiment called for more funding for policing and politicians responded appropriately. Today, it is clear public sentiment has shifted. I want to say we all appreciate the amazing, hard and dangerous work done by our police officers in the line of duty. But that is a separate issue from Council's responsibility to make budget decisions. And again, it's not just me and the Chief and every other city in Canada, but the fact that the academic community just last year, Professor Christian Leuprecht wrote in his paper that…wrote a paper called 'The Blue Line or the Bottom Line of Police Services', and anyone who is not familiar with this article, I would be happy to share it with them, it's very informative. But, in that article, he basically argues that essentially, the police services across the country risk pricing themselves out of business. He directly says, and I'm quoting from the article, "Federal and Provincial Governments have frozen operating budgets for ministries. Police services boards should insist that their police forces do likewise for their budgets. Indeed, times have changed." I might add, Professor Leuprecht is a national and internationally respected mind on this issue. Madam Speaker, I was surprised to hear when the former Finance Chair spoke earlier to suggest that these debates be conducted behind closed doors. That should all be worked out…it should all be worked out before we table the budget, just like the old days. A past practice of a bygone era. In reality, the Board and Council need to have these discussions in an open and transparent way, as we have done. This is what the public expects, and we have risen to the occasion. Now, the reality is, Madam Speaker, on the issue of 14 years of tax cuts and freezes that the councillor so passionately blamed on the Chamber of Commerce, he was on Council for most of that time, and for part of that time as the Chair of Finance. It seems a bit rich, somehow, now, that it's the Chamber's fault. Frankly, as a member of Council and Chair of Finance, he had a choice and he chose the freezes. The decisions

that he was part of are what led us to the problems we have today. Not anything that this new mayor or Council has done. And with that, Madam Speaker, I will be gladly supporting my colleague, Councillor Gillingham. Thank you.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. First of all, look, the budget process is a very difficult process. It's a complicated process, and over the last few weeks, you know, I have certainly had my challenges in wrapping my head around just, in fact, what is going on in the budget. That has been my process in the last number of weeks especially. And I also want to recognize all the good work that has been done in this process and that right now, at this point, Madam Speaker, we are dealing with the Police Services report. And, I recognize the good work of Councillor Gillingham, Councillor Eadie and all members of the Police Board in coming up with, well, difficult decisions. I just happen to believe, Madam Speaker, and I am not the only one, I believe I am not the only one, that it's been a rushed process in recent weeks, to...rushed decisions made by the Police Board as recently as last week, that leads to, well, what is in fact a dysfunctional process because it doesn't have to be like this, Madam Speaker. I don't believe it, to the extent that we have today, what I consider to be a rather unnecessarily convoluted set and combination of reports, amendments, support of certain amendments but not supporting the report, and I have to say look, I am willing, in much of this, to follow the lead of Councillor Gillingham, given all the work he has put into this and the insights he has to try to make this balance. I have no reason not to accept that, because I believe he has been working hard on this. Having said that, it's not obvious to me what the implications of this are. Now, again, Councillor Morantz regularly has good insights to offer this council and he does mention that, you know, that over time, times change. Times change, Madam Speaker, and this is meant to be the era of openness and accountability. But, it appears to be, Madam Speaker, that what we are trying...what we are moving on now, the motion now, relies on new powers to the CFO to have the powers to reallocate budget from one department to another, without having to restate what the budgets are per department. And ma'am, this is the era, as times change this is the new era of openness and accountability. And, why is this the era if times changed and this is meant to be the era of openness and accountability, Madam Speaker, why are we taking the responsibility of accountability away from Council when it comes to these budgetary items? I wasn't elected on this. I don't believe that. I didn't run on this. I ran on the foundation of an agreement with the people I represent that in the spirit of openness and accountability, Council's ultimately responsible. Now, you know, when it comes to moving around budgets from one department to another, inevitably it will come out in the 2018 actuals, in two years from now. But sure, that's historical. That's hindsight in terms of openness and accountability and I am responsible now. I am responsible for this year to explain what I am supporting. And, given the dysfunction of the last few weeks in trying to make this work in the ambiguities of the motions put forth, combine that with in this new era, which is an in congruency to me, Madam Speaker, that we are taking power, we're taking responsibility and accountability thus until two years afterward. Taking that responsibility of accountability away from the elected representatives, that is something that I can't support. Unless, Madam Speaker, someone can tell me before the vote, where the money is going to be coming from. And, I don't think Clause R comes close to offering that, Madam Speaker, and so I have my suspicions on behalf of Winnipeggers that I represent, that this is not open and accountable enough and on that basis, unless someone can show me otherwise before the vote, I am not willing to support this in the new era of openness and accountability, because, Madam Speaker, times do change.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: I am rising...I am going to support this motion. I am really happy to hear there won't be any cuts to services because I really do think that that's going to affect the citizens of Winnipeg. And I do want...I am hoping that, you know, our union leaders and our administration are listening closely to this debate and we do come up with some solutions. And I know they are tough solutions and I'm hoping that they can really take that on. The one thing I do want to mention, something that Councillor Wyatt really brought forward was the idea that, you know, there was a time when people were knocking on our doors to hire police officers, and you know what, I have...I have to be honest, that was my community and for the most part it still is. They really, really rely on the services of our Winnipeg Police Service. And you know, just the other day in the paper, there was a story of...I think it was nine or ten exploiters that have been arrested because we have a Counter Exploitation Unit of nine members of the Counter Exploitation Unit, that their sole job is to go out and find those that are exploiting women and go and help the women that are being exploited to try to get them out of the situations that they are in. That's a critical service that I am worried is something that could get cut in times like these. Another thing is the Missing Persons Unit. We have heard about that, about the young man that went missing and many other Indigenous women that go missing in our community. And there's 13 members of that unit and their job is to make sure that they find our missing young women, find the other young men that have gone missing and bring them home safely and try to find them. So, I want to talk about the good work that they are doing because it's really, really important. Because, when we look at service delivery, you have to look at are we getting our bang for our buck? And I want you to know that even though we are paying for the service, I want you to know that in my community, I really do feel like they are doing a really good job. We had a meeting...we had a meeting not too long ago because there was a shooting in the area around a restaurant, and there was a meeting that took place with the community. And even police

officers that weren't on duty came and showed up at this meeting because they really cared about the community and they understood the impact that it had to the community. So, you know, those are pretty powerful. And one of the things that I think that has affected me the most in this office was a call that I got from a woman, and she was being exploited by her husband. And, you know, it was something that I was shocked because most of the conversations that…the calls we get are about the potholes and our pipes and all the other stuff but this was like, something that was emotionally kind of draining. And, you know what, I was proud to know that we have a unit out there that can help support her deal with the situation that she was in. So, I just want to say in this conversation, sometimes we forget to say thank you to the men and women that are doing a great job and I also want to thank Councillor Gillingham and Councillor Eadie because I know that you have championed this a lot, too. So I just want to thank the men and women of the police force. I do hope that during arbitration, we start talking about these things. I am glad to hear that the debate is happening and I'm really glad to hear we're not having any cuts to the police officers because I know that that will be impacting the service that we have in the City of Winnipeg. So thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Dobson.

Councillor Dobson: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I kind of have a problem with this motion here. I understand where they are going to defer the police division system upgrades for one year and thereby come up with $1 million. But then I hear this word expenditure management which there's really is not a lot of detail on and it's not in the draft budget books at all, that actual terminology. Until I have some sort of detail of exactly where all this other money is coming from, I cannot support this. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Are there any further speakers on the item? Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Thank you. I rise to speak in support of Councillor Gillingham's motion. I do have to say that this process has been a little bamboozling in terms of how complex it is with the reporting relationship to Council, but that being said, I heard no layoffs and so I understand front line services will be protected as part of this motion. So thank you for your work on this, Councillor Gillingham, and thank you to...I see Moe Sabourin from the Winnipeg Police Association is in the stands, thank you…if you could pass a thank you to your members that work hard day in, day out to keep us safe on the streets. That being said, I will be supporting this motion.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any other speakers on the item? Councillor Gillingham to close.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think with permission, I'm going to kind of take the discussion just a bit of a different direction for a moment because this is the first opportunity that we have had at Council to be together since the Chief announced his retirement, and I think it's appropriate just in the context of this also to congratulate Chief Clunis on his retirement. I know the Board and the Service are all sorry to see…and all of Winnipeg, sorry to see him leaving his post. I know Council is as well. I'll just briefly say that the citizens have been well served by Chief Clunis. He is a visionary leader and has done an excellent job. The Board has already...just so that Council knows, the Board has already begun the process…the recruitment process and we will be updating this council and the public in due course, kind of as soon as we can. But, I want to thank my colleagues for their comments, the various comments that you have made regarding this complex motion and this situation today. I concur with what has been said and Councillor Wyatt's comments that there needs to be improvements for the future, and I would agree. I think we would all agree that this is complex and we will...I will be certainly committed to making improvements for future budget years as well. This motion and amendment may be complex, but if passed, it will achieve the goals of avoiding layoffs of recruits and cadets who help with efficiencies. The recruits, pardon me, the cadets really do help with efficiencies of the budget and credit to all those before us who set that up including the Winnipeg Police Board and Council and the Association as well and the Winnipeg Police Service. This will avoid layoffs of cadets and recruits, while bringing the budget in at $280 million in accordance with the preliminary budget. Some were somewhat confused or maybe not clear on the $1.45 million expenditure management account. What that is, is that's really...that will be out of non-salary accounts, non-salary expenses throughout the year that will be managed. It's really…I can't speak specifically of what that will be or will not be, the Board can't because that will be in consultation with the Service and ultimately those choices will be made in detail in that expenditure management account, ultimately by the Chief of Police. And the $1 million, of course, is what we have before us here would be achieved through the deletion of a capital project which the 1 million would then be brought back into the operating budget to be used for operating for salaries and benefits. So simply to close today, I just reiterate that I will be supporting the amendment which is motion number three before us. I will be voting against resolutions one and two of the main motion and I will be voting in favour of resolution number three and I am asking, Madam Speaker, again, that each of these be voted on separately. I'd also call for a recorded vote on each of them as well please. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Seeing no further speakers, we will vote on Motion 3 and that basically is adding Clause 4 to the main item. There was a call for recorded vote. All in favour of Motion 3, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Madam Speaker: All opposed please rise.

Nays

Councillors Dobson, Schreyer and Wyatt

Clerk: The vote Madam Clerk, Yeas 12, Nays 4.
Madam Speaker: Motion 3 carries. We will now vote on the main item....

Councillor Orlikow: I counted three in opposition. Did I miss somebody? I don't think the count is correct, I could be wrong.

Madam Clerk: Mr. Clerk?

Clerk: The vote, Madam Clerk, Yeas 13, Nays 3.

Madam Speaker: Thank you for the clarification. We will now vote on the main item, clause by clause, also a recorded vote. All in favour of Clause 1, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Eadie and Schreyer

Madam Speaker: All opposed, please rise.

Nays

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

Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 2 and Nays 14.

Councillor Gerbasi: He didn't vote.

(Inaudible)

Clerk: This is…

Unknown Speaker: For the last one.

Clerk: Councillor Dobson also?

Madam Speaker: So Mr. Clerk, would the correct terminology be that it’s defeated or deleted?

Clerk: Defeated.

Madam Speaker: So Clause 1 is defeated, we will now move on to Clause 2. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Eadie and Schreyer

Madam Speaker: Those opposed, please rise.

Nays

His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Dobson, Gerbasi, Gillingham, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Morantz, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Wyatt and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma
Clerk: The vote Madam Clerk, Yeas 2 and Nays 14. Again, defeated.

Madam Speaker: Clause 2 is defeated. We'll now move on…

Councillor Eadie: Point of order, Madam Speaker?

Madam Speaker: Yes?

Councillor Eadie: Does that mean it was voted down, does that mean that the budget books that have a capital program besides like the North District Police Station and many other capital projects now are going to be removed from our budget books?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Clerk.

Clerk: It means that the recommendation of the Police Board pertaining to capital was not followed.

Councillor Eadie: That means that what's in our budget books still stands then?

Clerk: Correct.

Councillor Eadie: That's interesting, okay.

Madam Speaker: Moving on to…

Clerk: However, it would be amended by what you are passing with regards to recommendation four.

Madam Speaker: Moving on to Clause 3, all opposed, please rise...or all in favour, pardon me. Please rise. See? Making sure everyone is awake.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Madam Speaker: Those opposed, please rise.

Nays

Councillors Dobson and Wyatt

Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 14 and Nays 2.

Madam Speaker: Okay, Clause 3 carries. Okay, we've already voted on four. Okay. That brings that item to a close. Okay, yah, so we will vote on the entire item as amended. You wanted a recorded vote for that as well, Councillor Gillingham?

Councillor Gillingham: Yes, Madam Speaker, after maybe the Clerk can just clarify what this vote is again for us, please, thank you.

Clerk: You are really voting on the clause that remains as amended. So if you are voting on section four…

Councillor Gillingham: So re-vote on four?

Clerk: Vote on the motion the amended clause and now you're voting on the specific section, section four.

Madam Speaker: Okay, we will vote. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Madam Speaker: Those opposed, please rise.

Nays

Councillors Dobson, Eadie, Schreyer and Wyatt

Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 12, Nays 4.

Madam Speaker: Item passes as amended. Thank you. Now on to...just one moment. We'll now move on to the main budget item dealing with the 2016 operating and capital budgets. We have two motions in front of us, Motions No. 1 and 2, which are amendments to the main item. (inaudible) Okay, we will get to that in a moment, thank you. We will have an introduction of the motions to start. Introduction of the items pardon me, followed by introductions of the two motions and then we will have debate from…any Council member can speak at that time concurrently to the motions and the main item before us and there will be ten minutes to speak to both items. We will ask for suspension of the rule. You are asking for a vote, Councillor Wyatt on...yes, later. Okay. So, Mr. Mayor on the report of EPC dated March 16, 2016.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED MARCH 16, 2016

Item 1 - 2016 Operating Budget and Financial Plan for 2017 and 2018; 2016 Capital Budget and 2017 - 2021 Five Year Forecast

Mayor Bowman: I will defer to our Finance Chair to introduce this item and motion.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Morantz to introduce the budget.

Councillor Morantz: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am pleased to speak to the 2016 operating and capital budgets. These documents have been well considered and I believe contain measures if taken in their entirety, are disciplined responsible, and in the public interest. I would like to thank you, Mr. Mayor, for…through the Chair, for your leadership and the budget working group through the Chair as well as EPC for all of their work and effort. Although we face challenges going forward, I am delighted about some of the good things we have been able to do in this budget process. The budget tabled today is balanced, makes record investments in infrastructure and maintains and invests in key services Winnipeggers have said they need while proposing a modest property tax increase that is entirely dedicated to infrastructure. We have had extensive consultations with the public, our Council colleagues and the Public Service. Budget working meetings commenced last June, some eight months ago, and included for the first time, extensive consultations with and direct involvement of two non-EPC councillors namely Councillors Gerbasi and Gillingham. Their insight and input was invaluable. Although the process can always be better, I believe we have made great improvements since we took office. Since taking the role as Finance Chair I have been steadfast in my belief that we need to be utilizing better budget practices. And to this end, this budget accomplishes many new and better practices. For instance, we have conservatively utilized debt to fund inter-generational projects such as the Waverley Underpass as opposed to borrowing for short-term projects. Available cash in the Land Operating Reserve from land sales and capital closures are now being used to help fund capital projects. This is a departure from past practices when much of the surplus funds were used to balance the operating budget. In this budget, we emphasize the need to utilize to the greatest extent possible only class 3 estimates and to this end only 20 capital projects have cost three estimates lower than a class 3. In addition, our City Auditor is now auditing class 3 estimates for major capital projects. No longer are we permitting capital projects that do not have realizable and reliable funding sources. We have and shall maintain a self-imposed debt ceiling. This balanced 2016 budget proposes a 2.33 percent property tax increase of which 2 percent will be dedicated entirely to the local and Regional Street Renewal Capital Programs and .33 percent to the Southwest Rapid Transitway. Every single cent dedicated entirely to infrastructure. The 2.33 percent property tax increase represents an additional $38 in municipal property tax for an average home assessed at $288,190 in 2016. Winnipeg home owners will continue to have among the lowest residential municipal property taxes in Canada, however, revenue sources for the budget remain limited and antiquated. This is why we continue to work with other municipalities to underscore the importance of receiving a fair share and having a fair say in how provincial infrastructure dollars are invested in our communities. The reality is our city receives just 8 cents of every tax dollar but we are responsible for 60 percent of infrastructure costs. The total capital investment into the street program shall increase to a record level $105.2 million this year, almost $2 million more than last year and $21 million more than in 2014. This represents a 25 percent increase over the last two years. This investment includes $11.1 million in efficiency savings. This budget includes $155.1 million for the Waverley Underpass. Adjustments to the frontage levy will have an annual impact on home owner with an average sized 50 foot lot of $55. This year, $10 million in revenue generated by this levy is being dedicated entirely to the capital budget to fund the Bridge Renewal Program thereby eliminating the need to fund these

capital investments using cash from the operating budget. The small business tax rate will drop from 5.6 to 5.3 percent, a 7 percent reduction since 2014. The rental value exemption threshold will increase from 30, 000 to $32,200. The effect of these two measures results in 48 percent of all Winnipeg businesses not having to pay the business tax. I am happy to say that civil marriages will now be conducted in City Hall and I look forward to seeing more of our citizens utilize this great public asset and this new and happy service. We have provided Assiniboine Park grants for operating and capital exceeding $16.5 million. In addition to the great work being done at the park, these monies will fund the new Kids Discovery and Learning Centre at the Assiniboine Park, as well as a wolf exhibit. These are amenities that all Winnipeggers will enjoy. This budget appropriates the sum of $1 million toward a $5 million commitment to the Inuit Art Centre at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. The City's 2016 contribution to Transit is $69.9 million for a total Transit operating budget of $200.4 million, this represents a 14.6 percent increase. To that end, this budget makes significant funding contributions to Winnipeg Transit to ensure that repair shops have the resources they need to keep buses on the road and on schedule. In addition, the Transit U-Pass Program is scheduled to launch in the fall of 2016 to support the city's university students. Important investments in front line service departments include; $215.5 million for Public Works, $111.4 million for Community Services, $44.3 million for Property, Planning and Development, $297.2 million for the City's Water, Sewer and Waste Utility. We are continuing our ongoing commitment to our Aboriginal Youth Strategy in the amount of $1,750,000. Funding to the Winnipeg Arts Council will be increased to $7 per capita honouring the Mayor's campaign commitment. We also enhanced our Accessibility Program by an additional $75,000 to a new all-time annual high of $425,000. We have funded the new Office of the Integrity Commissioner with $100,000. We have allocated $250,000 to study Smart Growth Policy Options. We have shown again this year a very strong commitment to safety services. The Winnipeg Police Service budget will be $280.7 million, a $16.7 million increase or 6.32 percent. In addition is a $190.1 million commitment to the Fire Paramedic Service budget representing an $11.8 million increase or 6.63 percent. We also recognize that funding for Police Services at the present rate is not sustainable to the taxpayer, working with the Winnipeg Police Board, we continue to seek ways to reduce the impact on taxpayers while maintaining appropriate service levels. While the 2016 preliminary budget is balanced, it forecasts a $51 million deficit in 2017 and an $81 million deficit in 2018. We are challenged by a structural deficit that we inherited following many years of property tax freezes. While the 2016 budget forecast a challenging fiscal position, we did manage to reduce the deficit projected in 2017 from $115 million to $51 million. I am delighted to say the 2016 preliminary budget fulfills the City's current $10 million commitment toward the construction of Freedom Road, an all-weather road for Shoal Lake First Nation 40, by contributing a further $6 million towards the design and construction of the required bridges. This budget invests a record level in sidewalk…local sidewalk renewal of $2.4 million representing an increase of $1.6 million. We continue to fund active transportation at levels identified in the 2015 budget. In addition, funding of $750,000 is in place towards our $3 million commitment to support the 2017 Canada Summer Games. We have also funded $50,000 annual commitment for five years for a new Municipal Infrastructure Chair at the University of Manitoba in accordance with the Mayor's campaign commitment. We are supporting public safety and stronger neighbourhoods through $150,000 commitment to the community homeless assistance team operated by the Downtown Biz. We have also funded $150,000 for the second year of our commitment to the United Way's plan to end homelessness. We have doubled the budget over the next three years for Reforestation Improvement Program to support tree replacement and pruning along city boulevards, plazas and parks. We have funded operational support for the Transportation Management Centre scheduled to be in operation by the end of 2016. The $1 million Innovation Capital Fund is now embedded annually to facilitate investment in new and innovative ideas to improve efficiency, service delivery and responsiveness in city operations. I have to say we have accomplished much since the time of our election but we have much more work to do. I am satisfied that the measures prescribed in this 2016 budget are measures that will further the public interest in a disciplined and responsible way respectful of the wishes of the taxpayer and their hard earned tax dollars. This is a balanced budget, balanced not only fiscally but balanced in terms of need. It's balanced.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Gillingham moves extension. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Morantz: Thank you. It's balanced not only fiscally but balanced in terms of need. It’s balanced socially, it's balanced fairly, it’s balanced progressively and reasonably, this budget protects, maintains and enhances services that all Winnipeggers expect. Winnipeg is a growing, thriving and modern city. This budget is a responsible and disciplined approach that maintains and invests and services Winnipeggers have told us they need while also building our city for the future and of course, I will be happily supporting both the operating and capital budgets today Madam Speaker. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next, we will move on to Councillor Allard to introduce Motion 1, followed by Councillor Gilroy to introduce Motion 2 and then we will go to the speakers. I see Mr. Mayor, you had your hand up and we will make a list following that. Councillor Allard.

Motion No. 1
Moved by Councillor Allard,
Seconded by Councillor Eadie,

WHEREAS the practice of 'Vacancy Management' is, in effect, an operating budget cut that results in reductions in front line and other services;

AND WHEREAS in 2014, Corporate Finance specifically indicated to IEPC/Reports Briefing in a confidential meeting that an increase above $14 million in Vacancy Management would result in cuts to front line services;

AND WHEREAS Vacancy Management is projected to go from an estimate of $17.7 million in 2015 to a new time high of $20.9 million in 2016;

AND WHEREAS the Corporate Services budget is proposed to receive in this budget an unprecedented increase of $4.29 million (13%) at a time when other departments are being requested to keep their spending in line with inflation or less;

AND WHEREAS a reduction of $2 million in the increase to the Corporate Services department will still result in a net $2.29 million increase to that budget, or 6.9%;

AND WHEREAS Corporate Services/Other Departments is proposing to hire six permanent full time communications staff as well as other increased costs for a total of over $800,000 of new spending in this year alone;

AND WHEREAS the budget proposal to transfer the temporary workers in the permit branch to full time positions funded by the operating budget renders the Permit Reserve obsolete, for all intents and purposes, making available the Permit Reserve balance of $600,000 for a more productive use;

AND WHEREAS multiple audits in the last few years have expressed concern with regards to the powers delegated by Council to the CAO/CFO without any further reporting via Council;

AND WHEREAS Clause Q and Clause R of the Council 2016 Operating Budget Recommendations proposes to delegate new authority to both the CAO and CFO, which would radically change reporting obligations to Council and move the city in the wrong direction in terms of accountable, transparent government;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Vacancy Management be brought down to its 2015 level by amending the 2016 operating budget and restoring $3.2 million from the following budget areas:

A) reduction in the Corporate Support Services increase from $4.29 million down to $2.29 million resulting in a savings of $2 million;

B) a transfer from the Permit Reserve to the 2016 Operating Budget for a value of $600,000;

C) a reduction of $600,000 as referred to as "Other Departments" on page 12, of Appendix 1 (new communication bureaucracy);

For a grand total of $3.2 million to be used against Schedule A, specifically eliminating the increase in Vacancy Management in 2016; and to return to 2015 levels.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Clauses Q and R be deleted from the 2016 Operating Budget Recommendations and Clause S be re-lettered accordingly.

Councillor Allard: Thank you. This motion is primarily about restoring cuts to front line services that we understand to be cuts through vacancy management. How we've gone from a vacancy management of around $17 million all the way up to $21 million. And we understand from past conversations that any vacancy management for the City of Winnipeg over $14 million is in effect a front line service cut. We have heard that through the...well, from our city administration in the past. And so a group of six councillors yesterday proposed this amendment to the operating budget and using existing dollars within the budget and speaking and hoping to have our colleague's support on the motion today. So, this in the context of the Corporate Services budget which is going up at least $4.2 million...$4.29 million or 13 percent, with an additional Corporate Services other departments going up $800,000 for what appears to be a new communications bureaucracy. And so, looking at this budget and looking at the…what we call schedule A as part of the motion, schedule A is the document that had been sent to us by Communications staff earlier when some of us were asking questions

about vacancy management and what that actually meant, line by line. So, I wonder what kind of front line services are being affected with…we look at Water Works, and it was mentioned earlier today, at $3,600,000 in vacancy management. You know…going through this list, it's not clear how much our front line services are really being impacted. We also found money in our conversations with PP&D. We found out that there is a permanent reserve fund sitting at over $600,000. And that was a permanent reserve fund that was used and destined for temporary workers. We now understand that for all intents and purposes that permit reserve fund is no longer needed, so one of the sources of revenue that we've identified in order to support this motion. I want to bring attention to clause Q and R because I think this council, we talk a lot about transparency and accountability, and the need to go in that direction, and clause Q and R in the operating budget seems to be a stark...a stark disconnection from that direction of having more openness and transparency to Council. I'm just going to read out clause Q and R so that everybody understands what this motion refers to and what we are all voting on today. So clause Q, "That the Chief Administrative Officer be delegated the authority for departmental units under his authority to transfer funds and or budgets between departmental units to reflect administrative structure changes made by the Chief Administrative Officer and the City organizational by-law number 70/197 be amended accordingly." Now, I would be happy if one of my colleagues could correct me but, what I am reading here is that under clause Q, the budget becomes essentially sort of a working document, a statement of what direction we want to go as a council because if the CAO has the authority to shuffle funds between budget lines, why do we even have budget lines at all? I'm concerned that we are delegating a very substantial amount of authority to the CAO's office with clause Q. Clause R, "The Chief Financial Officer be delegated the authority to restate the budget subsequent to adoption to reallocate amounts to departments to reflect Council's ratification of collective agreements. Council's approval of decisions with budget implications as well of corporate cost reduction measures including innovation savings on a budget neutral basis." So clause R to me says that...with clause Q we can shuffle money between budget lines, with clause R we can actually…the CAO will have the power to actually restate budgetary allocations that have already been passed by Council. So just on those two clauses that seems to be a significant…significant powers that we are delegating to the administration, and that in a context where residents want more accountability to Council, not less. I had a public consultation the other day and the issues that we all know very well came up about fire halls built on land we don't own and increasing overruns with the police headquarters. And people were asking me, who is really running the show? Is it Council or is it the administration? Well, looking at Q and R and additional powers to the CAO's office, it seems that we are delegating substantial increased authority to our CAO, which will mean less scrutiny of the public and Council and we know how that's gone in the past with some of these cases that we are all very familiar of…familiar with. So that "be it resolved the vacancy management be brought down to its 2015 level by amending the 2016 operating budget and restoring 3.2 million from the following budget areas." So bringing Corporate Support Services from an increase of $4.29 million down to $2.29 million resulting in a savings of $2 million, which, by the way, would still have Corporate Services going up by 6.9 percent which is still a substantial increase to that budget line. So, B) a transfer from the permit reserve of 2016 operating budget for a value of $600,000, C) a reduction of $600,000 as referred to as "other departments" on page 12 of appendix one which will amount to a new communications bureaucracy. And that, in a time where we're obviously cutting front line services. We made the tough decision last council to cancel the Fall Street Sweeping Program and I'm sure we've all had complaints regarding that cancellation. Well that's roughly the same amount of dollars that we are talking about here to hire these new communications folks. So finally, after these transfers, there would be a grand total of $3.2 million to be used against schedule A, specifically eliminating the increase in vacancy management in 2016 and to return to 2015 levels, and I would like to add, we heard presentations today, not only from labour but from the Winnipeg Chamber and what I heard from both those groups is that vacancy management is not the right direction. Vacancy management is a very…is not an ideal way of dealing with budgets because it impacts front line services. So the last 'be it further resolved' in the clause is that clauses Q and R be deleted from the 2016 operating budget recommendations and clause S be re-lettered accordingly. So that's basically saying, let's not delegate those additional powers to the CAO and the CFO. Let's keep those powers with Council and with the public so that we can stay accountable to the public. Because those are very dangerous powers that are being...well maybe not dangerous but they're very important powers being delegated to the CAO/CFO. So, in this era where we've…there always seems to be new money for consulting, we've already talked about the new money for communications staff, services have been suffering, residents see and talk about it all the time. And frankly, we've got a democratic deficit happening where the public…the public still doesn't think we are up to the task on many of these things, on public spending. The consultation was talking about these significant infrastructure challenges that we are facing. Seven billion dollars I understand is the number. And while we have these great infrastructure challenges, the public is telling us well, when does it end? And why are all these cost overruns happening? Well, if we pass Q and R, we may never really know the answers to those questions because they are going to be no longer reported on to this council. So, at what point do we draw the line with vacancy management? At what point is enough, enough? At what point will there be no more public workers to deliver the services that our residents need? We see it growing every year and we know that it's not the ideal way of controlling budgets. So, with that, I would urge my Council colleagues to support this...can I have another two minutes?

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

Councillor Allard: And you know, the “Council Six” or the “Six-Pack” that came together with this amendment, we came up with this after many discussions with standing committees, after...this is the way that we can have an impact on the budget to have a real impact on the budget. We saw many, many motions come from standing policy committee and I’d like to thank Mayor and EPC for removing the fee…the fee that was…the brand new fee that was going to be coming in that would have charged residents $250 to access the appeals committee. I think that was…thank you very much for that. It's very much appreciated by residents all across Winnipeg. But, this is our one opportunity to have a substantive say on the budget. And we’ve found the budgets from existing budget lines, it doesn't mean any additional new increases over and above what’s already being proposed in this budget, but it would restore the front line services that our residents tell us that they want and for the services that we know that they need. So with that, thank you for your consideration.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Allard. Next we will hear from Councillor Gilroy, she will introduce Motion 2.

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

WHEREAS the 2016 Capital Budget reduces overall funding on Local and Regional streets (as per stated in the capital budget on p. 2-23) when compared to the same funding levels voted on and passed by Council in the 2015 Capital Budget;

AND WHEREAS the state of our existing infrastructure and its lack of repair and renewal was a high priority to Winnipeggers during the 2014 Civic Election and remains a high priority today;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor campaigned on building five new Rapid Transit Corridors within the next 15 years;

AND WHEREAS thanks to previous Council decisions, including this Council, the Local Street Renewal Reserve (LSRR) and the Regional Street Renewal Reserve (RSRR) is projected to be at a balance of approximately $40 million (combined) in 2017, and a first call against these funds would ensure better and efficient tendering and reduce construction inflation impact;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has made an historic commitment of $10 million matching the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada to build Freedom Road in order to address a long time injustice with the Shoal Lake 40 First Nation in this year of reconciliation;

AND WHEREAS the Freedom Road project has increased in terms of cost from the original estimate of approximately $30 million to a revised estimate of approximately $46.5 million, requiring all levels of government to increase their share by approximately $5.5 million for a total of $15.5 million each;

AND WHEREAS the Inner Ring Road functional design has never appeared in the budget book before, has a budget of $6 million over six years, and clearly directs the public service to fund more limited access expressways at a time when our existing infrastructure is crumbling and the need for rapid transit has never been greater;

AND WHEREAS multi-year budgeting, specifically for the Capital Budget, was recommended in the Capital Projects Audit as a way to deliver projects more efficiently and effectively;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct the public service to amend the 2016 Capital Budget by the following:

a) that a first call on the 2017 Local Street Renewal Reserve and the 2017 Regional Street Renewal Reserve which will represent an addition to the projected total spending on the Local and Regional Street Renewal Program;

b) that the Inner Ring Road Project Funds of $6 million over six years be transferred to fund the $5.5 million shortfall in Freedom Road.

c) that the $500,000 balance from the Inner Ring Road Capital Project be used to increase Rapid Transit Planning and Design for a new total of $3 million over six years;

d) that the public service, prior to the 2017 budget, develop a policy that requires Council approval to move the City of Winnipeg to a 2 year Capital Budget and a Five Year Projection.

Councillor Gilroy: The amendments for the budget motion as before you today, took into account the wishes and promises and commitments of Mayor Bowman. There is no added cost to the taxpayers as we took it from existing allocations of the 2016 budget. As a councillor that is not part of the budget process, I have limited input to the decisions being made on behalf of the ward. Since I received the document two hours before it was released, I have been going over it day and night to learn how it affects and impacts our city. I have hoped for more of an open budget process as it included all members of Council on the decision making process. Regrettably, this has not occurred and this is the process in front of us today. I am very grateful for Councillor Morantz who has attended the budget consultations throughout the city and many wards answering questions, including my own and I want to thank Mr. Morantz because I really appreciated your efforts because I know that I couldn't be there. And I hope for in the future that we see more processes like this so citizen participation is greater and we can all have an impact on the budget so that Winnipeggers can help mold and shape our city, it isn't just top down, I think that that's important. We're not always going to agree, however, we must include in these debates and conversations that they are vital to adding different perspectives on the budget as well as getting the public engaged on what matters most. This motion is about investing in what Winnipeggers have told us in a number of...their number one priority, the time is now to fix our roads rather than waiting. We as Councillors have improved major investments into our roads, however, as councillors we are getting those calls on the conditions of pothole-filled streets that are just waiting for reconstruction. And this amendment allows us to do a little bit more to fill in that gap that's left by the 14 years tax freeze. My commitment during 2014 election was that I was going to do everything I can to fix the roads and I believe the Mayor also made that commitment along with many of you here today. My constituents call day after day telling me that we are putting more money into the budget but they are not seeing our roads get fixed. We are putting money into the road reserve when we could be spending the money now and getting to the streets and fixing our potholes faster. This amendment gives us an opportunity to fix more roads while allowing the Mayor to keep his commitments and hold the line on property taxes, taxes at the rate of inflation. So, I learned about Freedom Road a few years ago when Shoal Lake members walked from their reserve to Winnipeg to highlight their plight. As a poverty activist, I spoke out about this issue and about water on First Nations reserves. I was honoured that the Mayor had asked me to represent the City and speak at the Shoal Lake Water Walk this past summer to pledge our commitment to getting Freedom Road built. I, along with many of you, went to Shoal Lake 40 to learn first-hand the decisions of the past and how they have impacted Shoal Lake 40's future. I've spent time talking to the community, I took part in the forums at the University of Winnipeg that informed citizens of Winnipeg on the importance of Freedom Road. I've also made a motion at Public Works that this be added into the 2016 budget process to get Freedom Road built. This motion is about talking about our commitment to Freedom Road. We need to make sure that we are committed to this project, that we are committed to the people of Shoal Lake 40. This amendment makes that commitment not only financially, but ethically and morally as well. We all know that the costs have gone up. It's been in the paper. And we also know that the Province has also committed their share and are just making sure that other levels of government do the same. We know that the 10 million...was a…30 million originally was a conceptual design, but the costs have gone up. Today is World Water Day and I know that Shoal Lake 40 has been out at the library letting Winnipeggers know about what the water looks like. And I just want you to know that this is about making sure that we fulfill a commitment. And my worry is when the amount is wrong in our books that we're not going to fulfill that commitment. So, I just want to caution you guys all, because the Province has committed 15.5, it needs other levels of government and when we don't put in our share, when we're not saying we're going to commit, I don't know what that's going to happen with other levels of government. So I'm really...it's a passionate plea because I really believe in this project. I believe that in the Year of Reconciliation, we need to do this. So, I know that it was with other motions, but I know that the Mayor really, if he wanted this project to go forward, he can make sure that it happened and making sure that we have the money for the project at the costs they are now. So thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gilroy. Who would like to speak next? Mr. Mayor, the budget overall and the motions before us.

Mayor Bowman: Thanks very much, Madam Speaker. Given the topic at hand I think it's appropriate to recognize because I don't think it's yet been recognized that we are on Treaty 1 Land in the traditional homeland of the Métis Nation. I would encourage all whether it's through a budget discussion or otherwise, to make that acknowledgment given that we are all, in fact, Treaty People. I am very pleased to be able to speak to this year's proposed budget that we are now voting on. The preliminary budget tabled earlier this month is balanced and it makes record investments in infrastructure and maintains an investment in key services that Winnipeggers have told us that they need. This includes increased investments to both the Winnipeg Police Service and the Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Service. I believe this year's budget reflects a disciplined and a responsible approach, considering that we do face an over $7 billion infrastructure deficit and we've inherited a structural deficit following 14 years of property tax cuts and freezes. Nevertheless, this budget builds our city for the future. It reflects the fact that we are a growing and thriving city. It also maintains and invests in key services that Winnipeggers have told us through the budget consultation process that they need. Winnipeggers remind me, and I am sure all members of this council, regularly that they want their streets fixed. This proposed budget reflects this priority. The budget proposes a modest property tax increase that's entirely dedicated to infrastructure, including building and repairing local and regional streets and sidewalks and investing in the future

Southwest Rapid Transitway which is a key strategic infrastructure investment required to support a more modern public transit network that is essential for a modern, growing city. The property tax increase proposed this year is entirely dedicated to infrastructure while ensuring Winnipeg homeowners continue to have the lowest residential municipal property taxes when compared to other large cities in Canada. Total capital investment into local and regional streets increased to a record level of 105.2 million this year, almost 2 million more than last year and 21 more than 2014 representing a 25 percent increase over the last two years alone. A $50,000 annual commitment over five years in this budget for a new Municipal Infrastructure Chair at the University of Manitoba will encourage research and collaboration in finding new technologies and better ways to build our city. While the 2016 preliminary budget reflects significant investments in infrastructure, this priority does not come at the expense of key services that the public have told us that they need. The budget proposes to increase funding for both the Winnipeg Police Service and the Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Services by 6.32 and 6.63 respectively. Combine these two departments, as I noted earlier, comprise 44.6 percent of the total tax supported budget in 2016 and do need to be managed carefully. I have and I will continue to support increased investments in the Winnipeg Police Service. I support the Winnipeg Police Board's strategic plan to transition towards funding increases beginning next year that are tied to or less than the rate of inflation. The 2016 budget makes many other important investments; it fulfills the City's $10 million commitment towards the construction of Freedom Road, an all-weather road for Shoal Lake First Nation 40 by contributing a further $6 million towards the design and construction of the required bridges. I will point out and thank all members of Council, including Councillor Gilroy and Councillor Wyatt for their passion and their dedication to Shoal Lake. It's something that should send a very clear signal to our friends at Shoal Lake of the commitment that remains here at City Hall. Let's point out though that I and members of this council have been committed to Freedom Road. I will note that when I visited Shoal Lake First Nation 40, I was advised that I was the first mayor since Bill Norrie to visit our friends in Shoal Lake First Nation 40. The City has demonstrated a commitment to the project from the beginning and has led the way with the investment in the design in the construction of the Falcon River and aqueduct bridges. I will continue to work with other levels of government on any future project cost increases for Freedom Road, however, this budget year, we are proceeding based on the $30 million cost estimate. I note that that is a class 5 estimate. We are still waiting for a detailed design and the Federal Government is also working with the $30 million cost estimate. That being said, I have already proactively reached out to our federal counterparts as well as the Province of Manitoba so that we'll continue to collaborate them on any future cost increases, which at this point, have not been determined how high they will go. But make no mistake about it, the commitment and the leadership has been there and will continue to be there, to ensure that we get the job done. It's something that I know is very important to me, it's very important to, I believe all members of this council and certainly to Winnipeggers and will continue to play that leadership role. This budget provides a $150,000 commitment to the Community Homeless Assistance Team or CHAT, operated by the Downtown Biz and continues the $150,000 commitment to the United Way's plan to end homelessness, End Homelessness Winnipeg, this is the second year of that funding. In 2017, we look forward to welcoming over 4000 athletes and coaches and more than 20,000 visitors from across Canada to the Canada Summer Games and this year's budget provides $750,000 towards a $3 million commitment to support the games. This budget provides increased funding to the Winnipeg Arts Council bringing the funding level to $7 per capita and also supports the Inuit Arts Centre. It increases support to city-wide accessibility program bringing total funding to $425,000 a year, doubles the budget over the next three years for the Reforestation Improvement Program, to support tree replacement and pruning along city boulevards, plazas and parks. The budget continues to make strong investments into Transit with a $25.6 million investment representing a 14.6 percent increase. Operational support for the Transportation Management Centre is included in the budget and this center is scheduled to be in operation by the end of this year. Funding to support the creation of the new office of the Integrity Commissioner and to study and review smart growth funding options for council consideration are included in the budget. And of course, we're always looking for ways to bring back a little love here to City Hall for $500, the public will be able tohave a civil marriage ceremony conducted right here at City Hall. Small businesses are the engine of economic growth. This year's budget supports our small business owners by reducing the business tax rate from 5.6 to 5.3 percent, representing a 7 percent reduction since 2014. It also enhances the small business tax credit program to provide approximately 5,900 or nearly half of all Winnipeg businesses, our smallest businesses, with the full rebate when they have an annual rental value of 32,220 or less in 2016. The budget continues to identify administrative efficiencies in tax supported savings that are invested into regional streets. This year the budget identifies 11.1 million in administrative efficiencies in tax supported savings that are invested directly into regional street programs.

Madam Speaker: Moves extension. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Mayor Bowman: It also embeds the $1 million Innovation Capital Fund annually to facilitate investment in new and innovative ideas to improve efficiency, service delivery and responsiveness in City operations. We continue to chip away at the structural deficit that we inherited following many years of property tax freezes and we still have work to do. While this budget is balanced, it does forecast a $51.7 million deficit in 2017 and $81.9 million deficit in 2018. While this budget forecasts a challenging fiscal position in future years, we managed to reduce the deficit projected in 2017 by over 50 percent from 115.2 million down to 51.7 million. That is a huge accomplishment and one that we should take great pride in moving in the right direction. Moving forward, we need to continue examining responsible and reasonable ways to

address the structural deficit while we continue to work with other municipalities to obtain a fair share and a fair say in how Provincial funding dollars are invested in our community. And we'll continue this work and as we continue this work, the 2016 City budget puts us on a disciplined and a responsible track that builds our city for the future and invests in key services that Winnipeggers have told us they need. I want to thank our Finance Chair. I want to thank all members of Council for their contributions. I want to thank the Public Service for their important work and all of the public including the 2500 who engaged in the Let's Talk public consultation process and engagement process. We want to thank everybody for their efforts. It has been many months of difficult work by many people and I am very pleased that today Council will have its say in whether they want to proceed in building Winnipeg for the future in the manner described in the budget. Thanks you very much. Merci and megwich

Madam Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor. Next speaker? Anyone? Okay, we…Councillor Gilroy, pardon me. Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Uh, yes, Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on the budget. I would like to first of all thank Councillor Gilroy and Councillor Allard for their motions. I just want to say it's been a pleasure working with you folks on the amendments and the other members of Council. I think it was a tremendous working experience. You are both...and other new members of Council, Councillor Dobson, Councillor Schreyer are very passionate. You care a lot about the city, I believe. And you truly do work hard on a daily basis to reflect that. Working with you over the last few weeks and getting know you better through this budget process has been a pleasure and so I look forward to working with you in the future. And I'm sure getting to know other new members of Council too might be an opportunity in the future if we have a more collaborative budget process, but until that happens I have enjoyed working with members of Council that I've had the opportunity to work with. I want to thank the motions to amend. I think the motions to amend are excellent. They speak to the very issues which I think we were elected on only a year and a half ago. We heard loud and clear the issue of infrastructure over and over and over again and that's a massive issue that's still out there. Every day we hear it from our constituents. The roads and the issue with the roads and to learn that, not only are we not able to...the money we are budgeting is not getting into the communities like they are supposed to. The Infrastructure Committee, they heard that only 85 percent of the 103 million last year was actually spent and actually the work done is a real concern. And so therefore, the motion to actually say that we should have a first call on the 2017 budgets for the local street renewal reserve and the regional street renewal reserve makes a lot of sense. The money is there. We can tap into it. We can get that money moving now and get that work happening into our communities. The Freedom Road Project is a tremendous project and I want to thank Councillor Gilroy for taking the time to explain it to me and go over the project and to see the benefit of it. And the projects listed also in terms of going forward with a two year capital budget versus a one year capital budget would make a huge difference for this council in terms of addressing our issues. But I want to talk about also the vacancy management motion. The vacancy management motion, as we know, has risen...vacancy management in the last three years dramatically. It's up now to $21 million, a huge increase over previous spending and this is a direct impact on the actual operating budget of the City. It has impact on the front line services that we see day in and day out and we really run from crisis to crisis now as a city when we respond to many of our service calls and the calls we get through 311. And we see at front line because we're getting the calls with 311 and our constituents are calling us. And this has a direct impact on us, the phone maybe doesn't ring in the Mayor's office, but it rings in our offices. And this is a direct impact on every one of our wards, so the motion coming forward to address the vacancy management matter is very productive and very useful. I want to speak just briefly on the budget itself as well. The roads, I've spoken extensively on it, the fact of the matter is we are going in the wrong direction. We are actually over the next six years dropping our funding in terms of roads by a total of $18 million less over the next six years. We are literally funding active transportation which is wonderful, which is great. We all love active transportation but we are literally extracting $12 million for active transportation projects out of the regional street budget, taking away from important regional street repairs. On top of that, we have actually cut, this budget proposes a cut over six years, to the regional street and local street budget even though it claims to be putting money into it. But of course, we know that the key chart that outlined the local street renewal budget and the regional street renewal budget disappeared from this budget book, mysteriously disappeared. It was crucial to have that chart in the name of transparency and openness. And in the name of transparency and openness I have called for it to be back in the next budget book. We called for that motion, that motion was not adopted by EPC. This budget all of the sudden dropped $6 million into a Inner Ring Road that we don't know anything about. There's no description on the budget played what that stands for. We just had a civic election where the Mayor campaigned to build rapid transit. I'm not sure if it's BRT or LRT but rapid transit. And he campaigned to build five runs of rapid transit in the next 15 years. We are spending in this budget folks, $2.5 million to do design and detailed design and maybe land assembly on rapid transit in the next six years, but we are spending $6 million to build…to do the same type of work for expressways. What was the last election about? What is the future direction of our city? Is our future direction of our city expressways? Is our future direction of our city freeways? Or is it going to be more sustainable? I know we love to go to the United States. I know we love to ride on their freeways and travel around their cities. And we love the way the American Government funds all that stuff. Does a huge amount of money…but the reality is we just had a Federal Government that's announcing today the Federal budget; more money for sewers, more money for rapid transit, more money for housing. What does this budget do? This budget stagnates on

combined sewer overflows. We are actually losing ground over the next six years when construction inflation is calculated by $7 million. We're losing grounds with our roads. We're losing ground with rapid transit. We actually pulled the only rapid transit project out of the Building Canada list going forward which was Louise, the eastern rapid transit corridor, removed by this council. We are actually going in the wrong direction of housing. We learned through the estimates or whatever you want to call it committee, it felt like estimates that we were going through, the budget committees, we learned that the Housing Manager's position has actually been closed. That's gone. What was fought for by previous councils…and fought to keep, even though previous mayors tried to kill the position, that position has been closed. We don't have a Housing Manager anymore at a time when the Federal Government is coming forward and saying we have money for affordable housing. We are in the housing business folks, whether we like it or not. Every day or every other...every month at community committees we approve housing, it just happens to be for-profit housing. But we have a role as a municipality to provide affordable housing. There's tons of people out there who cannot make a down payment to buy a house. We need to do more. We have to ensure that we have an equitable society that there is room for people to have home ownership. That there's room to people to have quality housing, but yet we've just closed the manager position. The Housing Manager position confirmed in the committee by Mike McGinn, at the time, it is closed, it is gone. Madam Speaker, we have now attacked infill. We've had huge increases on infill. We heard at the Standing Committee of Property and Development from not, you know, the Qualicos and the Genstars of the world, you know what, they're going to just pass it on to their customers whether they like it or not, right? But what we heard from…what I was really interested in hearing was from the small builders. The ones out there who are trying to make a living and they buy a lot here and they do a rezoning and they can go from one dwelling to two on a lot or from one to four. But now we've just jacked up their rates 700 percent on these developers, on these small builders sending them the wrong message, basically making every door that they build way more expensive. They're going to have to pass it on.

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

Councillor Wyatt: We've just hit the very type of program that we want to encourage in the city, infill housing, this budget attacks it. This budget is no doubt, I have two minutes left to talk about a billion dollar budget, but I'll say this, this budget hits families the hardest. It hits families because whether you live in a house that is on a 50-foot lot…whether you're living in a $150,000 assessed value home or $750,000 assessed value home, you are paying the same on that frontage levy. Frontage levies are regressive but yet we are backing out the cash to capital that was generated from property taxes and replacing it with the frontage tax. We are not even increasing the amount of money we're spending on infrastructure because of it, we're actually replacing it and we're replacing it with a regressive tax that inherently regressive. And at the same time, over this period of time, everybody's concerned about, you know, tax fairness, well, same time, the pie that the business community is actually paying towards the old assessment base is shrinking and it's shrinking dramatically. Where is the fairness there? On top of that, hey, you know what? Everybody loves being Santa Claus giving away money, absolutely…5.6 down to 5.3 percent for businesses. That's great, another 1.1 million. But at the same time we're hitting families with a frontage levy increase? The property tax increase of 2.33 percent the Mayor promised…he's going to stick to it…is false. We are hitting them with a frontage levy. We're hitting them with a water dividend that's soared now to 32 million. Many of you don't know or maybe, if unless you were listening at 10:00 o'clock at night the P&D meeting. We're now taking another 15 mill…we're taking $15 million soared up to 21 percent out of municipal accommodations. So we are actually undermining every City facility that we are funding right now by applying a new dividend or an existing dividend that's soared more than doubled onto the municipal accommodations division of the City to balance the operating budget. These things I realize that the...that's my time. I had the extension.

Madam Speaker: Wrap up. Thank you. Councillor Mayes followed by Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good to hear Councillor Wyatt will be supporting us on the next BRT line unlike the last vote that we had on the BRT. Glad to hear it, that it's a vote. It's important to kind of talk about it, it's interesting that today is the federal budget day and the difference between a provincial and a federal budget and what we have here, we have a municipal budget. It's sort of an odd mix of people from different backgrounds, different party affiliations come together. Councillor Morantz and I have talked about how if we were in the legislature, we would probably devote our careers to heckling each other but here, it's a different kind of forum, and you try to work together and certainly, I think the Mayor has tried to do that. We brought in...these budgets are always difficult balancing acts, people from different perspectives try and come together, it's not something…you know, I don't love everything in there, Councillor Morantz doesn't love everything in there, Mayor Bowman doesn't love everything in there but you compromise. You try and work together on a document. The Mayor made it even more complicated this year by bringing in two non-EPC Councillors from very different backgrounds to make that balancing act even trickier and yet a document was produced that we could all live with. We don't all love everything that's in there but we can all support the budget as a whole. Should there be more effort made to bring in non-EPC councillors? I would hope so. I expect there will be. I have been a non-EPC councillor, I would like to see specific...you know, people are saying we need to be more involved, well that's great and let's see some specific ideas for how that might happen. It's usual in this spot in the

budget to thank the Finance Chair and I want to do that very sincerely. As I said, Councillor Morantz is a different political background than me but I think he's worked very diligently on this and I want to say, especially…I mean, there has been some name calling and some insinuations of things but, and I really don't want to make this sound like I am attacking previous budget Chair, it's not my intent. But Councillor Morantz has been scrupulous about not benefiting his own ward from his position. Frankly, I encouraged him to put some more money towards chip sealed roads, my ward's number two in terms of chip sealed wards. He is the chip seal king but you'll see there's no increase in that in this budget because Councillor Morantz was very straightforward saying, I really don't want to be seen to be benefiting...going out of my way to benefit my own ward. I don't want to make it sound like he doesn't fight for his ward, we all do, but I want to just highlight that, that Councillor Morantz, I think, has been really scrupulously honest and straightforward in how he's attacked this. Does he like everything that's in here? No, he's off this morning about that when we happened to be walking in together. But, in essence I want to thank Councillor Morantz for the efforts he's put in as well as the staff and the Mayor for trying to broaden the process by bringing in a couple of non-EPC councillors. And you can have influence as a non-EPC councillor, I think I did and I'm going to give an example, Madam Speaker of some influence that Councillor Allard's had, because we didn't have the translator, we didn't have the service de traduction (Translation of French Spoken: translation services) under former council but once Councillor Allard got elected, he went out of his way to say we should have that. He was right. So I want to say a few words and flip to my French content as I occasionally do here, Madam Speaker, because there is an important French aspect in this budget.

Translation of French Spoken: This budget provides funds for a full-time French-language services coordinator. Improving these services is important to the City of Winnipeg. It is especially important for St. Boniface and St. Vital. I would like to emphasize the work Councillor Allard has done in supporting the Franco-Manitoban community.

Councillor Mayes: Councillor Allard has been a great champion for the Franco-Manitoban community and we are going to be adding a full-time French Language Services Coordinator position. There is more money in this budget for roads. People can try and dance around the numbers, 105 is more than 103, I am confident I am right on this. There is more money for roads. There is more money for trees. I know that Councillor Lukes and I championed that reforestation. We've doubled that over three years. Some will say this budget only aids the wards of EPC Councillors or people who have drafted the budget. I have bulletproof evidence that that's not true because there's more money, for the first time, for La Barrière Park and that's in no one's ward because there are three parks, as you know Madam Speaker, you are the champion for Little Mountain Park, which belongs to no councillor. Like that, La Barrière Park oddly is assigned to no councillor but this budget puts money in for washroom replacement at La Barrière Park. What I really want to talk about though is take advantage...we heard some speakers this morning talk about reconciliation and putting reconciliation into action and this budget does that. I want to talk, in particular, about one program that's in there and that's the Youth United at Winnipeg. We'll be start funding that next year. It's $200,000 a year for 2017 and 2018. It's a pilot program. We started on this road last year, as you'll remember, we put $40,000 towards a feasibility study for a youth service corps in the City of Winnipeg. You have seen me hold that up many times, Madam Speaker, that's the American program that I have been talking about for 25 years and I want to give the Mayor some credit. It's…I have been banging this drum for 25 years trying to get a youth service corps in 18 months…less than 18 months of the Mayor being in place, we have managed to get that into the budget. So it's a program that's going to be operated by the University of Winnipeg. It's an important reconciliation step. It's, in the words of the University of Winnipeg, "Our purpose is to engage"...no, sorry, it's, "Youth Service Winnipeg will provide an opportunity for youth engagement in the process of reconciliation by bringing together Indigenous, non-Indigenous and new comer university students to work and learn in Winnipeg's inner city and North End communities. 20 U of W students from across the city will be engaged in an intensive 15 week work study experience in the inner city. The central theme of the program will be reconciliation, drawing upon the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission." So, we are taking concrete steps towards reconciliation. We are doing something for our youth. We are…you know, the Mayor had it in his platform that we should increase the civic engagement of universities. He talked earlier about the U of M and the Infrastructure Chair. I'm going to talk about U of Winnipeg and I want to thank the Mayor, I want to thank the U of Winnipeg who were terrific in working with me to put this together. I was rambling away at one meeting and saying, look, if you are not supportive, and they just stopped me and said, we're supportive! We want to make it work, we'll work with you, this will happen. And it is going to happen and I'm very proud of that. It's a program designed by the Urban and Inner City Studies Group at U of Winnipeg. It will be delivered out of the new campus on Selkirk that's going to open next year. So it's an important, concrete proposal coming out of the Year of Reconciliation. I figured something's got to be right with this when I brought together Jim Silver who is a pretty passionate left-wing advocate and Marty Morantz, who's a former Conservative Party candidate, and they both can agree on this program and what it'll offer for the city. It will offer downtown youth some opportunity…but more important, Madam Speaker, more important, I think, it will offer an opportunity for people from…like my ward, from St. Vital a chance to see the other side of the tracks, to get engaged in the inner city, to get engaged in that reconciliation process. So very proud that we'll be accomplishing that. I heard the Chamber of Commerce speaker today that we can't always follow. We sometimes need to lead as a city. And I have been talking to people in Calgary about this because they were talking about a youth service corps as well and the fella that I was talking to said, "Can you make sure that when Mayor Nenshi visits your city he knows that this is going on because this is the kind of thing that we've

been trying to make happen." So I said, "I will make sure that we advise Mayor Nenshi that we are taking the lead in the country on a youth service corps that talks about reconciliation." So it's something that I am hoping other cities will copy, will emulate. I'm hoping the other levels of government will give us some funding to help build the program. It's an important joint effort of the university…of the city.

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

Councillor Mayes: I will just end, Madam Speaker, by saying, you know, this program is called Youth United of Winnipeg and U of Winnipeg used to be called United College. My father was a student there and then he was a prof at United. And just very proud that this is…there's a symbol here that, you know, United College is acting to bring together these groups from different parts of the city and different backgrounds. So I think it's important and if I can run that metaphor a bit, this budget tries to unite people from different political backgrounds, different perspectives. It's not perfect, it's not something we all love every aspect of but there is more for everything from roads, to trees and I think we have made the effort to consult with the public. Again, I want to thank Councillor Morantz for his efforts. He came out to St. Vital again this year for the annual Budget Town Hall that I host. And I do think, as has been said, there should be more work with the non-EPC councillors and I will end, Madam Speaker, by saying, you have been a pretty good example of this. You have been pretty tireless in your efforts and if I hear more about the 33 and 35 Maples buses in this year, I think I will go slightly mad, but you have been a great champion for your ward and I think that's a good role model. We should talk and engage with the non-EPC Councillors and try and work together and maybe try working in a united fashion toward our budget next year.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Morantz. Next is Councillor Gerbasi followed by Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm going to start by talking about some of the positive things in the budget. Obviously, the Arts funding to $7 per capita is a really important investment, supporting our world class cultural sector in Winnipeg. The Inuit Art Centre, I am absolutely thrilled. This…Winnipeg holds the largest public collection of Inuit art in the world and this is just going to be an incredible project for downtown and also important in recognizing Indigenous culture in our city especially in the Year of Reconciliation. The city-wide accessibility program has been something the AAC, Access Advisory, has asked for years. I'm really pleased to see that making our city facilities accessible…more accessible to people of all abilities. The tree canopy, glad to see more spending there. The105 million on local and regional streets, more than we ever spent before since I have been here, so I'm not sure why we're seeing giant posters of potholes and people complaining, that's more than we have spent before. So, obviously we want more but this is pretty good considering the challenge of the budget. There is also, in terms of making our city more walkable, a conscious decision was made to boost funding for local sidewalk renewal. This is in older neighbourhoods or existing sidewalks, almost doubling the funding for that. Very helpful. Active transportation spending, it makes sense to have part of the regional and street improvements projects which include active transportation since 2009 when we changed that policy so that things would be built in an integrated fashion with less traffic interruption and cost. So that's part of the budget and it makes sense. Plus, we've just adopted a new active transportation strategy which is recognized with an increased investment there which the public wants and any city…modern city should be making these kind of investments to make our cities sustainable. Rapid Transit Phase 2 is in here, 2.5 million for rapid transit planning. Obviously, we can use more but it's a good start to this year and perhaps we can look at putting more a bit earlier in future capital budget discussions. Transit fare increases are held to the only inflation. There was talk of further transit increases and in the budget deliberations that did not happen. I'm happy to see we're keeping transit fares very affordable in the city. The U-Pass is starting in September finally, after so many years. Affordability for students will be excellent as well as increased ridership. There is also extra funding for Transit for maintenance staff for buses and accelerating investment in new buses. So these things are significant. I was also thrilled to see the CHAT Program of the Downtown Biz funded. This is a humane and successful approach to helping alleviate the complex social problems we have in our downtown, it's a really important program. As well as the United Way's plan, the Aboriginal Youth Strategy and the Integrity Commissioner which has been mentioned, all of those things are good. I am also pleased we continue to support housing in neighbourhood revitalization in targeted areas of a million dollars. I am glad to see Councillor Wyatt's now supporting this. I do recall him completely eliminating it in a previous decision at the Property Committee. I guess he's had a change of heart on that issue as well as many other changes of heart lately. So, I am pleased to see he's come around to support housing in our inner city. The Freedom Road, there's been a lot of discussion about that, Council fully supports that. I think we do have to be though cautious about the specific number we put in the budget, but I am confident from the Mayor's work and the discussion here today that we will see that through. We will work with the other levels of government and we support that and we will see that through. Vacancy management is a concern for me, it always has been. I know our staff are stretched, however, the motion to speak to that, I don't believe it's right to completely eliminate our newly created Public Engagement and Communication staff that we are finally putting in place. There was a detailed study that addressed that that department was completely not functioning and we need that support…almost every councillor has wanted and been using that support. So I'm surprised especially with a lot of concern about the budget process and public engagement that people are prepared to

just get rid of all that...that whole department of Public Engagement. So, I can't support that approach to reducing vacancy management, I would like to see it reduced but I don't see that this is the way to do it. Now on some of the concerns about the budget going forward, we are really up against the wall with this structural deficit. It's very real and we really need Council and the public to begin to understand the depths of the challenge we are going to be facing because it's not going to be any better next year. Each year, the budget must be balanced under law and we go into each year with a huge gap. This year it was $80 million to get to a balanced budget which we are required to do by law. You might want to be thankful you weren't part of that process, those of you who weren't on the Budget Working Group, it was not easy. The forecast for 2017, when this year's process started, was a structural deficit shortfall of 115 million, that's what we were looking at for next year. And this budget brings that forecast down to 51 million. So a lot of good work has been done and it might not be that exciting, but that's a pretty important achievement for next year. Each budget, we have to come up with a range of solutions to produce a balanced budget, many of which are not easy, such as; frontage levies, vacancy management, fees and other increases. Today, we have a balanced budget which is very difficult to do. So, what are some of the potential solutions for the future? We definitely need more support from other levels of government to address our infrastructure deficit and probably right now the Prime Minister is announcing some of that, hopefully. And in that budget that some of those announcements will be helpful to our capital challenges especially in areas such as water, waste water, transit and other green infrastructure that we will be needing to do in the future. We really need to also look at the problem of growth, not paying for growth. The $250,000 study in the budget to study smart growth funding models is really important. We need to get going swiftly to sort out the best way to guide growth in the city in more sustainable way and to stop the excessive subsidization of urban sprawl. Just like any issue, there will be a push back when we try to change the status quo. But if you look across the country and compare Winnipeg in terms of growth fees, we are at the bottom of the pack. And this is part of our structural deficit problem, why we're in the mess we are in and why we have the inability to provide the levels of service that we all want to see. A good example of this is in Parks and Transit where the same amount of staff and buses have to cover whole new neighbourhoods stretching service in existing areas and needs not being met across the board. There was also a concerted effort in this year's budget to improve some of the budgeting practices we have come to see in Winnipeg's budget. It's poor practice to use one-time money for ongoing operations such as the permit reserve or whatever to use for that. That is being addressed. Land should not be sold to run services. There was significant changes made to this model…in this model in this budget. Improvements are well under way in capital management. We all know what happened in the previous council with capital management. We have a new administration, we have audits that have taken place and acted on and some of the budgeting practices around capital projects have changed dramatically in this budget, and I am proud of that. The work with the group…

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

Councillor Gerbasi: We have stopped putting projects with class 5 estimates going forward, they must be class 3 or better and funding sources must be clear. Unfortunately, we still have some cleaning up to do in this budget from previous council's ways of doing things that are coming back to bite us. Not class 5 estimates, funding sources that don't actually exist and we had to fix several of those problems so that the citizens in those neighbourhoods got their projects complete. But we've got to change that going forward. I have long been an advocate for a better budget process and I doubt that…I don't doubt that every member of this council would like to see a process that works better for public and Council participation. There have been some efforts, which have been mentioned, including non-EPC councillors and some work by dialogue partners, which I would really like to see more work by dialogue partners, that kind of budget work. We heard from AYO and others, Social Planning Council that they like to participate and I'd like to see more of that engagement. One of the challenges of doing budget with all members of Council, is that we have to have a situation where all members of Council are willing to work together in an atmosphere of trust. It is impossible to have this open and safe environment to review and test out potential budget ideas when you know that confidences will not be kept. Councillors themselves, all of you, each of us, have to take responsibility for that. And I'll give you an example, with the curbside composting issue. As soon as preliminary information was shared in a private meeting with Councillors, it went to the media, the whole story was spun in such a negative way that the whole project reduced political and public will and that project is in serious trouble now. So, you know, you can understand why it's not always that easy, it takes two to make something work. So each member of this council plays a part in making this council work effectively. That doesn't mean we have to agree on every issue or political point of view, but we have a choice to try to put partisanship aside and work together. Sometimes it's about getting things done together as opposed to fighting with each other and regardless whether all of Council can come together, today we still have to move forward with a balanced budget before the end of March, that's the law. And a budget that tries its best to meet the needs of citizens within the resources we have today. Thank you.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's yet another budget meeting where I didn't come with prepared notes but I rely on the inspiration of my fellow councillors to provide me with insights to work with. Of course, I've been

mulling over this for weeks, Madam Councillor, there's not a lack of things to talk about, but just to put it into perspective of the conversation already at hand as been presented by my fellow councillors. I don't know where to start, I've just been writing notes and there's so many things to talk about, to be honest, Madam Speaker. This conversation doesn't end this afternoon. This conversation on this budget is going to be taking place for the rest of the year and I dare say for longer than that. Because, what I may have considered to be that my closing remarks I will say now. The budget is so important it is the essence of the direction of our council and of our city. Because we are not just talking about money, we are talking about planning, budgetary planning. We're talking about openness and accountability. We are talking about the essence of the democratic conversation that is ongoing and indefinite. We talked about budgetary allocations and one of my fellow councillors says, you know, casting aspersions. I hope I didn't cast aspersions in terms of how I felt about the budget at this point. So, if that is the case, if anybody feels I have been casting aspersions, I can understand that, as a matter of fact, Madam Speaker. And on that basis, I feel an obligation to explain myself on this budget for the rest of the year. So I state for the record, I will be doing so, because I can't talk about it all here. This took weeks for me to think about and I can't discuss it in eight minutes if I get an extension. I'm already four minutes over…up, my goodness. Fundability of revenues, we…it seems to be in this case, Madam Speaker, that when it comes to the worst taxes, we see them going to the best causes. Well, we got this increase but it's going really to everything…those things that everyone can agree on. Well, the reality is, Madam Speaker, that fundability. We take in money, and it goes out. Now of course, one could argue well, you know Jason, that's not true. We're going to allocate this to that, but Madam Speaker, in this budget we just have clauses Q and R, that state that the powers now taken out of Council and that responsibility now goes to administration for deciding whether there's going to be a shift in departmental budgets. And on that basis, Madam Speaker, it's difficult for me, in fact I can't at this point, not today, unless someone can explain it otherwise before the vote that we can't say well these fees...these record increases in this type of tax or fee is going towards this or that. We can't say that, because of Q and R. We can never say that again if we pass this budget, unless that's amended. And I know it's not happening today…I suspect, Madam Speaker, it will be amended one day because we are to achieve that era of openness and accountability. Accountability…direct accountability, Madam Speaker, of the elected politicians over this budget process. Especially when we see, Madam Speaker, this tax increase is going to that. There are so many things to talk about. Councillor Mayes talked about how we worked together in this chamber and I have to admit, Madam Speaker, when I was first elected, I stated, I am here to work with anybody to get the City back on track. A good working relationship with Councillor Browaty. If we were in the legislature together, goodness knows what we'd be saying about each other, but we work well together. Councillor Wyatt, people are surprised how well we work together but I am just doing my job and it happens to be that we work well together. Councillor Dobson…I don't even know what political party he would belong to…I don't think he belongs in any political party, which might make him a really good City Councillor, Madam Speaker. Now I don't want to talk about the amendments. Councillor Gilroy's amendments regarding Freedom Road. What I like about this, Madam Speaker, is we are talking about a consensus issue. We all agree on this, we all know that. So, not only is it a consensus issue, it's already what I would consider a commitment. So based on what I would consider a previous commitment, we can go forth. And not only that, Madam Speaker, it's balanced because it shows where we take the money out of. Now I have been advised that the Inner Ring Road, of course, is part of the master…the Transportation Master Plan. I know that Madam Speaker, there's a lot of things in the Transportation Master Plan. As a matter of fact, I was aware of the issue of the Inner Road, before we had a Transportation Master Plan. I have an idea of how it ended up in the Transportation Master Plan, but at this point I can't call the Transportation Master Plan a consensus issue of this council right here, right now. That's how I know we can afford this consensus issue of a first call for…and other budgetary allocations for Freedom Road. Councillor Allard's amendment, it's fundamental, actually, to what I think is the essence of how we go about budgets and what this budget represents from here on in. I think it's an excellent…an excellent and reasonable way of balancing the budget in favour of those things which I think are greater...the greater priorities for Winnipeggers, including the issue of political and democratic accountability towards our budgetary allocations. Now, we talk about openness and accountability and I understand this process isn't perfect, Madam Speaker. But the missing page, media picked up on it within minutes, if not hours. Took me a little longer to really gauge the gravity of this. Appendix six which coincidentally was in the exact same place, or at least place holder…place number where it was meant to be, as last year's budget, but it wasn't there this time. Now, it's been said it'll be there next year and Councillors are going to make the commitment...it's going to be there next year, I believe that. But Madam Speaker, I'm saying right now, I'm not waiting till next year. I am going to work on appendix six and I'll be bringing forth appendix six. And if I get it wrong, I will be explained why I'm wrong and then I'm going to get it right. And if I still don't get it right, I'm going to work on it again and I'm going to get appendix six right until it's right. And if I don't get wrong…if I don't get it right, people are saying it's wrong, I'll work on it again until it's right. And then we'll understand appendix six and we'll understand part of the foundation of this budget. It's going to take me some time, but I believe I will actually have the collaboration, co-operation of some very good people here at City Hall in this room. Now we talk about having to rein in on given constraints.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Councillor Gerbasi. We have the budgetary constraints, absolutely Madam Speaker. We've got problems and we have got problems, in a sense, we are only beginning to realize. And other councillors in

this circle over the past hour or so have been alluding to that all day, as a matter of fact. Well, we're alluding to that and we're talking about how we're going to do it, but Madam Speaker, as I've started a year ago, almost a year ago, I see now it's sort of picking up in terms of the gravity of this issue. We are talking about where we have to rein in and where our greatest costs…our greatest inflationary costs, Madam Speaker and how we are dealing with it. But, Madam Speaker, what I see worries me and everyone should be worried. At the same time that we're saying because of these budgetary constraints, we should be looking for a new taxation model which may very well be the case, Madam Speaker. I'm not arguing that off the top, that's not my point. But we are looking at sort of liberating the City of Winnipeg or municipalities from the budgetary constraints by giving them a new form of taxation which should alleviate budgetary constraints? Why shouldn't we have budgetary constraints, Madam Speaker? That's my point. Because there's one thing suspicious in this argument in terms of dealing with inflationary increases. We haven't dealt with the issue of construction inflation. Madam Speaker, that's the largest increase in inflationary costs that we're dealing with, but it's suspicious…suspiciously absent by considerations in the budget in terms of absolute statements and by those who have prioritized bringing in a new model of taxation and talking about where we have to rein in our budgetary inflationary explosions. Madam Speaker, if we bring in a new taxation model without dealing with the greatest inflationary challenges of the decade, if not longer, we're not really dealing and on that basis, Madam Speaker, we haven't dealt with our problems with this budget. I know we have all worked hard on this, so have I. And on that basis, I stated my case. Unfortunately, I can't vote for this budget because it's not dealing with the future.

Madam Speaker: Okay, thank you Councillor Schreyer. Next is Councillor Dobson followed by Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Dobson: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The first thing I would like to talk about is these two motions we have before us. There are a couple of things on there. Freedom Road, of course, is…it's a great project, it's something we should be doing. The two year capital budget, this is something all cities, all big corporations, I'm sure do, or should do because it's going to save us money in the long term. Removing clauses Q and R, that's a great idea. Now moving onto my speech, well, here we are this new council and mayor and it's our second budget. And before I continue I would like to thank Councillor Morantz for all the extra time and effort he put into this draft budget. He worked hard and should be applauded for it. I don't know how many times I have seen him walk into the chamber area and just looked totally exhausted so I really…he really deserves to be applauded for the amount of work he put into it. Anyway, the last budget had over 103 million budgeted for our local and regional streets. That was a year ago and yes, I did vote against that budget. Here is why and here is what I said. Roads are a major concern to residents in this city and this budget goes a long way to addressing it. Unfortunately, I feel that this budget, one year ago, has missed the mark. This budget relies on too many one-time transfers and increases which will not be available or viable in the future. We can stay on this path which will lead us to ever increasing difficulties in balancing budgets in the coming years with massive tax increases or we can choose a different path. I said freeze hiring in all departments and all new hires will need the approval of the CAO or Council. I said all capital improvements in all departments are to be put on hold. I said stop all discretionary spending and renovations, office upgrades, etc. I said all new community developments need to cover all our infrastructure and service costs relating to these projects before granting approval. Urban sprawl, the city's expanse, can't continue and if I may stop for a second, other members of Council have kind of mentioned that today. I said stop BRT, we can't afford it the cost in build and service as well as a burden of the additional infrastructure are too much for the city at this time. I also said that it is the Mayor and his six appointed EPC councillors who ultimately decide what is in or out of the draft budget and moving forward, I would like the other nine members of Council be involved in the meetings and have meaningful input so that when there is time to vote on the draft budget, they would be making an informed vote. Only in this way can be the budget process be considered open and transparent. It was my understanding that due to the election, the budget cycle was rushed and there would be a whole new process next year. That was one year ago. Since then, well, I would like to cover a few points. In July, we approved the pedestrian and cycling strategies. In August, our credit rating was downgraded by Moodies. And then in September, at Council, as a question to the Mayor I commented on how this could impact on our debt servicing costs and borrowing rates. I refer to our city as the good ship Winnipeg headed for a financial iceberg that we are in a tough spot right now, just as we were in the spring. My question was, when are we going to start making it turn away from this financial iceberg and get our spending under control? In October, we approved increasing our debt ceiling by $250 million. Also in October, we increased the capital project's reporting threshold from 10 million to 20. I said, until we store the trust and accountability to the restaurant…to the residents of this city, we should not increase it. In November, we passed an Open Government Policy I thought was a great idea because it will make more information more accessible to the public in a format that is easily read. I was at a disconnect, however, that here we are making information more accessible to the public and many Councillors, including myself, were not privy to the budget discussions that had been going on since June. November 27 had a special council seminar, councillors were informed about the Let's Talk Winnipeg initiative that was taking off on Monday. Three days notice. February of this year, we passed the Waverley Street Underpass Project. However, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works stalled it in January because they felt they were being rushed and had further questions to ask. I was concerned that we were not kept abreast of the project and was alarmed by the single source to RFP. March, this month, Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment, of which I belong, delayed the sewer and water rate increase to

the April 14th meeting. We felt that the high rate increase needed more scrutiny and two days' notice was not enough time to adequately cover the material. And now I would like to talk to two items that I think all Winnipeggers should take note of. The Let's Talk Survey which took place from November 30th to the December18th. Let's make one thing clear, this council, right here, did not approve the content or questions in the survey and we were only notified of this survey the Friday before it being released on Monday. We didn't know it was coming. Council should have had input and approved all content and questions before this went out. Personally, I feel that this should have went out at the start of the budget cycle in June or July, not near the end. If you want a question, ask who authorized this survey to go out in December, because it certainly wasn't this council. This is just another example of the lack of openness and transparency and the secrecy happening here at City Hall. My second item is frontage levy. After two budgets, I can see a trend happening here. The frontage levy will collect around $13.2 million and the 2.33 percent property tax will collect around 11.7 million for a total of 24.9 million. The average house on a 50-foot lot will pay 38 more for property taxes and 55 for frontage levy. A total of $93 get curled into a 4.9 percent property tax increase. Now keep in mind, these numbers may not be a hundred percent accurate but they are fairly close. Eliminating the frontage levy and setting the property tax at 4.9 percent would raise the same 24.9 million and the average homeowner would see an increase of $81 not 93, and a savings of $12.98. Those homes valued at half the average would see a savings of 3349 and those homes valued at twice the average would pay an additional 31. Wake up, Winnipeg. This frontage levy tax that the Mayor and EPC have put forward for the second budget in a row is a trend to move away from the assessed value of the property to a frontage levy system which benefits those who own expensive properties. Many residents in my ward and across the city are on fixed incomes and cannot afford this type of tax. We have to put a stop to this. Seven seconds left, perfect.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Dobson. Next is Councillor Eadie followed by Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Eadie: Bear with me. I gotta try to keep track of what I'm going to speak to because if I get unfocused, it seems I get a little too carried away and Madam Speaker, I would like to apologize for being...name calling in past meetings. That's not appropriate. Madam Speaker, I just wanted to start off by talking about this year's budget process. I have been a city councillor now for...this is my sixth year going into. This is my sixth budget and I have to say, the process hasn't changed, really much at all. If not...I think it might have gotten somewhat worse. However, I wanted to thank, Madam Speaker, what we saw leading up...once the budget was tabled on March the 2nd, I want to say that I am proud of the new councillors and the old councillors who spent hours and hours grilling our administration so that we could understand what was going on in this budget. Even on Protection, Community Service, Parks, we spent 24 hours of meetings with maybe three hours of break in there if that. And so, we got to ask a lot of questions. When the Winnipeg Police Board was working towards its recommendation, it went through a similar process as Councillor Gerbasi was referring to with the Budget Working Group and you can talk about confidentialities or whatever but…that's kind of a different animal, but in that it's supposed to be a standalone operation that can direct adequate and effective police service. Aside from that, I also wanted to thank Councillors Allard and Councillors Gilroy for their excellent motions. A lot of work there and for a lot of you, it's a new process. I'm going to leave it at that and I just wanted to start off by saying, Councillor Gerbasi said it for me but, the Access Advisory Committee has been doing…recommending an increase and I am glad that EPC and the Budget Working Group recognized to at least up it by half of what the request was each year and that will be very important for us meeting our obligations under Manitoba legislation. There also is a lot of other accessibility stuff in our budget. For example, the software to improve Handy Transit service which persons with disabilities in this city, they are right, it's just not working properly and so hopefully with this software investment, through Winnipeg Transit, it will be good. But, anyway, I just wanted to spend some time on revenue because this is my biggest issue. I just would like to start off by...we had a presentation from the Chamber of Commerce whose promise to them, which is to reduce business tax seems to be being kept but really, frontage tax is property tax, okay. And we are not holding it to inflation. Let's be serious, come on. Let's...the taxpayers are seeing the increases. While business is seeing less of a share of a pie, if you look to my previous studies and continue to pay less of the property tax share of pie. But let's be clear, an income tax is not the solution because right now, under our thing, we need to balance a budget. Which, point has been made in which is really difficult for Councillor Morantz, I appreciate that as the person who leads this process. But if you go to a purely an income tax to pay for city services, you're going to need to be able to run deficits because income taxes go way up and way down whereas property is a much more solid thing. Our forefathers were intelligent people who understood the issues around municipalities and funding services and having to have secure, stable funding. So, you know, pie in the eye sky, some of these ideas, I don't know where they come from, unless you want to let us run deficits. Which, you know what, I don't think is necessarily all that great. It's good that we have to balance it, but then that means we need to look at things like...we are doing nothing with our property taxes to deal with inflation. The 2.33 percent is all for capital projects dedicated and we will continue to do it. We are still really continuing the problem of no property tax increases for 14 years. We are still continuing it really, because there is nothing that's helping us deal with inflation other than the rich man's flat tax called frontage tax. There are ways to fix that, but that's what it is and Councillor Dobson is right, but it's actually more than a 4…it represents more than a 4.9 percent property tax increase over 2015 which is what a 1 percent property tax increase would be, but with the frontage it's probably…for some people, I can tell you right now, the tax increases for them are going to be like 13 percent, 13 percent for somebody living in a house that's worth like a hundred thousand dollars! That's all they can afford to buy,

then you're going to throw water rates on them that are going up 9 percent! Then you want to run a curbside collection system that's going to cost them anywhere from 55 to $100 a year. Keep tacking it on. I know they can afford it in Tuxedo, but they can't afford it in the North End, in the West End, in Elmwood. Come on Councillors, let's get with it. Let's be cognizant of the issues that everybody's dealing with. You know, business is important, they provide jobs but, you know what, we all got to share in what we are doing here. The Chamber of Commerce is wrong. Actually, it's the same Chamber of Commerce and I can say this, the same Chamber of Commerce who is recommending Executive Director was recommending in the fielding reports some years ago, that the City get out of pool business. Not giving the….supplying the pool services to our citizens of Winnipeg. All the kinds of things they said that we should cut because they're not essential or important. Like, unbelievable. People, I have to tell you, we're…and I just…on the water rates, which we haven't passed yet, I just want people to understand, I don't think people knew that the City of Winnipeg was sort of taking a dividend anyway, because actually, our Water and Waste Department pays property taxes on their facilities inside the City of Winnipeg to the tune of I think $10.7 million. And then we put a dividend, 12 percent on that and you know, the water rates were running at a bargain, so you are charging 12 percent on 10.7 million right there. Like, it's double taxing. You're using that to balance the budget and that's fine as long as you are clear to people. Like, that 30 whatever it's supposed to be in 2016, that is the only place where we are looking at dealing with inflation. I must admit though, Councillor Morantz utilized a very intelligent means to sort of take capital…cash to capital back out of certain programs in order to alleviate the inflationary pressures on our property tax, very intelligent, very thing to do. However, that was for some bridges and they used the rich man's tax to do it. And then when it comes to roads, I support the amendment from Councillor Gilroy because, you know, the issue is this; there was some cash to capital backed out of that. It was supposed to be, if we had the charts in the right appendix, we would have been able to see that there was cash to capital being backed out of, not our dedicated funds for that but out of our regular vote programs, some cash to capital is being backed out when we went 105. We should have went to 118 with the so called efficiencies that our mayor and others had found.

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

Councillor Eadie: So I wanted to be clear on that. Last thing I want to talk about is nowhere in our budget does it describe why clauses Q and R are in there. There's no…like, what problem is it that we are supposed to solve with Q and R? There is no explanation why we are giving these powers to our CAO and CFO. I think this is a real scary track line to go down, it's really scary because, you know, it just makes the power mayor more power. Nothing is changing. It's getting worse. We talked about openness, transparency, accountability. I'm really afraid with this particular clause. But vacancy management as well, you know, when you've got the department going up 13-15 percent and you're attacking the Police Service or even other public departments, you know, it's a city wide problem of sustainability to pay for what we've got. So what are we saying? As the WPA says, we are okay with raising the soft costs while the core essential things we are willing to put a risk at that. And yeah, 2017 sounds promising. Chief Clunis is right, it can become sustainable. Councillor Gillingham is right and I have been saying this all along. It takes everybody who has an interest in ensuring that our services continue to be provided at the same level they are. And I will just leave you with this, I am sad that I voted for last year's budget because, you know, the biggest problem with that is to protect pool hours…I went along with what I think is a future direction that is for the rich people not for the poor people of this city and thus was my prayer. But, you know, I also wanted to say that with this budget, yeah there are good things if it passes, not necessarily the end of the world but really it's taking us down the wrong direction, it's taking us down the direction of what...you look it up on the internet, it's called the 'Mean Society'. That's where we're going to. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Next is Councillor Lukes followed by Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you. I made some notes here so I'll just...I am not as eloquent as some of the folks here. The City budget is on the face of it about dollars and cents, but on a more fundamental level, it builds on the foundation for our future and it builds a path to opportunity. And opportunity is what has drawn people to Winnipeg from around the world, generation after generation and it is still what draws them here today. The balanced budget did not just happen. It took hard work, focus and determination and I want to thank our Finance Chair, Councillor Morantz for the countless hours he has invested and for the Public Service also, who have also put in countless hours and for the input of all councillors because all councillors did have the opportunity to speak to the Mayor any time they wanted and also to Councillor Morantz. Now there is much discussion around budget process and how it needs to change, and I need to say there has been much change since we all arrived here at City Hall. A new mayor, seven new councillors, a new CAO, a new COO, we are working in an environment of change and that brings challenges, but it also brings great opportunities. And yes, there has been a change in the budget process like never before. Two non-EPC have been part of the process and this hasn't occurred and I think it added great value. And I know the process can be better for sure, no process is perfect, but I do hear a commitment from the Mayor to continue making change in the process and I look forward to being a part of and supporting that change. This year's budget builds on our city for the future, reflecting on the fact that we are a growing, thriving city, a city with much opportunity. 2016 budget reflects significant investments in infrastructure that do not come at the expense of key services and that, I believe, is very important to Winnipeggers. We

have already heard many of the highlights today, but I want to reiterate the commitment to our roads and the record investments we are making. This was the number one issue I heard during the election and as Chair of Public Works I continue to hear it every day in phone calls and e-mails. And I cannot overstate the importance of transportation investments related to our growing economy. As a city in the centre of Canada and a city that has and continues to invest heavily in moving Winnipeg forward as a multimodal global transportation hub we are making significant progress. Planning for the Inner Ring Road is a critical part of this future in our city's growth as is the investments we are making in our bridges and regional roads and rapid transit. And of course, I must mention the investments we are making in sustainable transportation. Again, very significant investments in active transportation that helped create a vibrant and alive city. And I hazard to say, people don't move to cities for the good roads. People move to cities with opportunity, vibrancies and a bright future. The sidewalk renewal budget has increased by 200 percent, and most importantly, we are enabling a very large percentage of our population who don't drive, safe and sustainable transportation options. And again, I look at the significant investments we make in Transit. Yes, we do have challenges in Transit with our emissions controls that we are addressing this year with the increased investments by adding maintenance FTs and parts and accelerating the purchase of new buses. The department is continually monitoring the emissions controls situation, but I am confident we will be expanding routes in the near future. And our investment in the rapid transportation corridor is well...is now well under way and we are planning for another leg. And just other highlights that I am very pleased to see is the 21 percent increase in accessibility funding. I've worked with the Accessibility folks on many projects over the year and this is really significant. The $7 per capita investment in the Arts Council and the commitment to Inuit Arts Centre in Assiniboine Park Conservancy, really creating a real vibrant fabric in our city. There are Francophone residents also in St. Norbert and I know they will really appreciate the benefit of the French Language Position. I am very pleased with Councillor Gillingham and the Winnipeg Police Board's collaboration that we will not be laying off members and I want to express my gratitude very much for that, and of course, the commitment to Freedom Road. Undoubtedly, we are challenged with our revenue sources and we may not all agree on how we generate that revenue. There is only one taxpayer and we must continue to work with levels of government to ensure our fair share. And yes, we do have a structural deficit that forecasts challenging fiscal position in future years that require more hard and difficult decisions. But I do believe with this budget, we are on a disciplined and responsible track that builds our city as one of opportunity and future growth. Madam Speaker, I will be supporting the 2016 budget knowing it supports many of the investments and services residents have asked for.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Lukes. Next is Councillor Gillingham followed by Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to express my support for the operating capital budgets as presented. Some of comments may seem redundant, but they are no less sincere. I want to begin by expressing appreciation to Councillor Morantz for his diligent work as his Chair of Finance in this arduous process, I think that'd be fair to say, that's what it is. He needs to be commended for his work. It was good to work alongside him. And I echo what other have said, I know the Mayor has said as well. That is, we have opportunity to look for improvements in the process through the future year, I welcome those as well. I want to highlight a few of the reasons I will be supporting this budget. This budget contains impressive levels of funding for streets and roads, infrastructure as others have said. I know Councillor Gilroy, I think, was the first to say it today that I, like so many of you, campaigned on prioritizing investments in street repair and renewal, water main and sewer main renewal like other mature neighbourhoods, many streets in my ward of St. James - Brooklands - Weston are in desperate need of repair. Streets like St. James and Logan and Keewatin that are slated in this budget for reconstruction are economic arteries of our city, that their repair will benefit residents, business owners, commercial transport operators and visitors to the city. The funding dedicated to improve roads, water mains and sewers will improve the overall condition of our city's infrastructure. We have a long way to go through…we have a long way to go through future years, but this budget is another step, I believe, in the right direction. Speaking of water mains, recently a break in a water main installed in the 1920s flooded several homes along St. Matthews Avenue in my ward. I visited residents there, a senior couple who are retired and they said at 2:00 in the morning they were in their basement trying to lift, you know, the heavy pieces of furniture up to get them high enough to keep them from getting wet and the floor. Well the $19 million proposed in this budget for water main renewals will ensure new lines replace aging water mains so that other home owners will be spared the kind of disaster experienced by those along St. Matthews Avenue recently. Sidewalks, Councillor Lukes mentioned sidewalks, I am very pleased to see the record level of funding, $2.4 million for sidewalks. Sidewalks are an important component to the city's infrastructure yet in years past, funding for sidewalks seemed to be the least prioritized of the infrastructure dollars. But sidewalks are a vital link in the infrastructure/transportation chain. As our population ages and more people are using mobility aids such as walkers and canes and wheelchairs, good sidewalks are critical to accessibility. There are many seniors in my ward for whom sidewalk conditions matter on a daily basis. After years of underfunding, I am very glad to see sidewalks getting an increase in investment. Freedom Road has been mentioned by several of my colleagues. Investment to a total of $10 million in an all-weather road that will link Shoal Lake 40 Band to the TransCanada Highway is perhaps the greatest highlight of this budget for me. Because as early on one of our delegates, Ms Redsky said, this investment stands to be the most historic legacy piece of this budget. In fact, years from now, history may record that this one decision is the most important decision this council will make in our four year term. Millions of Winnipeggers

have drawn their drinking water from this community over the past century and yet, for all those decades, the residents of Shoal Lake Band 40 have had no access…no road access to their own community. So I believe that investing in this road is the right thing for this council to do and I consider myself privileged to be able to vote for a budget that includes funding for Freedom Road and I'm confident that the Mayor and our city will work continually with the Federal Government and with the Provincial Government as well on this matter as the months unfold. I want to again echo Councillor Lukes in regards to comments about the Inner Ring Road. I am very pleased to see funding included in the capital budget for functional design of the Inner Ring Road. Our city is a commercial transportation hub in Canada, in fact, in North America. Making it easier for the commercial trucking industry and all other vehicles to get from one area of the city to another is an important investment in our economy. And by taking heavy trucks off of some of our other roads and putting them on a ring road, it will in fact save our infrastructure. The Transportation Master Plan adopted by Council several years ago, and I've got the map right in front of me, includes a map that outlines the proposed Inner Ring Road. Presently in the northwest quadrant of the city, adjacent to Councillor Dobson and my wards, the City's position does a great economic opportunity. But the pending development of Centreport and the airport lands completing the Inner Ring Road will be critical to see in that area fulfill its potential. This will in turn provide the most significant economic benefits that the City has seen in years. Completing the Inner Ring Road is also critical to achieving the Strategic Goods Movement Network that also is outlined and proposed in the Transportation Master Plan. I was glad to see the Reforestation Program included in the budget. The doubling of this program…funding to this program will enable the City's Forestry Department to invest in our city's canopy. This is an important, green initiative. Not only is this a good move for the environment, it's an important investment into the aesthetic beauty of our great city. The Community Paramedic Program, this investment stands to pay great dividends through future years. The Community Paramedic Program is an important initiative that assists many of our city's most vulnerable people. This program also provides efficiencies for all of our protection services departments; our police, our fire and our paramedics. And in partnership with the Province of Manitoba, the proactive nature of this program seeks to focus medical and social needs attention on those members of our community whom we know will need such support. It's a good investment and it will have a good return. The small business tax reduction; small businesses are in many ways the backbone of our local economies. By alleviating the tax burden on small business, owners are able to hire more employees, able to expand their businesses, to upgrade their facilities. Recently I spoke to one small business owner in the West End of the city who indicated the business tax threshold is key to whether or not she can hire an additional employee. St. James Civic Centre; this past January, the St. James Civic Centre celebrated its 50th anniversary. The centre has served as a hub of activity and a gathering space for, not only the residents of St. James, but also from…all Winnipeggers for the past five decades of its existence. Countless residents have learned the life skill of swimming by taking swimming lessons in its pool. Countless children and adults have learned to skate, play hockey or play ringette on its rink. Countless people have gathered in its community hall for social and community building events. I often, or in the last several years have attended several Folklorama pavilions there. The St. James Civic Centre is a critical asset for our city and there is a lot of life left in this building but it needs upgrading. Further, there is presently a need and an opportunity to build an addition to the St. James Civic Centre and that addition proposed will be for the St. James 55 plus centre. This group has close to a 1000 members. They are an active organization. They keep seniors connected. They keep seniors involved, engaged, socialized and active. And I am glad to see funding in this budget for the upgrade and renovation of the Civic Centre. I am also glad to say that the Province of Manitoba and full kudos to MLA Deanne Crothers, has committed 50 percent of the funding needed to upgrade…to do the upgrades and to build the addition to the St. James Civic Centre. It's very exciting news for the citizens of Winnipeg and in fact, for all Winnipeggers. In closing, no budget is perfect but there is much in this budget that will build and enhance this great city we all call home. I will be supporting this budget.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Our next speaker is Councillor Browaty followed by Councillor Pagtakhan.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The budget process is difficult. There are no shortage of great things the City of Winnipeg does and no shortage of great things the City could do. Lots of difficult decisions have to be made every year. I have long stated that my priorities, and I believe those of Winnipeggers and the residents in North Kildonan, are the three Ps of municipal government, not P3s, but three Ps, pipes, pavement and policing. And this budget, I believe, makes significant investments in each. I would like to start by thanking actually, our public service. Mike Ruta, Betty Howard, Liza, you guys have spent so many hours working with the elected officials to make this budget a reality. After we make long days, you guys went back. Reworked everything, worked out all the numbers, communicated with your colleagues and finance of the various departments and you had to make things work. Your work is very much appreciated. I would like to thank our Finance Chair, Marty Morantz for your tireless work through this all, as well as the members of the Budget Working Group that started work last summer already, Councillors Gerbasi and Councillor Gillingham for your efforts. A lot of the heavy lifting, a lot of the early consideration was done before the rest of EPC was involved this time and I think that was probably a good exercise to make the circle a little bigger. Again, this budget process isn't getting any easier. As everyone knows we are currently in a provincial election. As the City is representative on the Association of Manitoba Municipalities Board, I can tell you that I believe all members of this council stand united that municipal governments require a fair share and a fair say in the scarce and precious taxpayer dollars we all pay. Local governments are responsible for 60 percent of infrastructure but collect only eight cents of

every tax dollar collected, plus we have little to no say on how the rest ultimately is spent. I'd like to thank Mayor Bowman for his leadership in hosting the kick-off event for AMM's election campaign along with many other mayors and councillors from across the province in late February. I encourage all of my colleagues on Council and all Winnipeggers regardless of your political stripe to remind candidates running for election that municipal issues really, really do matter. I am happy to see an enhancement to what I believe is Winnipeggers highest priority, investing in our roads. With early spring, we are recognizing how bad this truly is needed. The impressive list of projects to be completed in 2016 throughout the city is great and is far more substantial to what I have seen in past years on Council, but more is still needed. Our biggest capital expenditure in the current budget and five year capital plan are actually not roads or rapid transit, they are for upgrades to our sewage treatment plants. Today, on World Water Day, we should be proud of the investment we're making for the future of Lake Winnipeg and our environment. Clean air and clean water are truly the most basic elements of human life. While I publicly question the need forced upon us by the Province to use a biological process to remove both phosphorus and nitrogen at our sewage treatment plants, I feel we are overdue to more fully remove phosphorous from our sewage treatment. Many leading scientists recognize phosphorus as the cause of the huge algae blooms in Lake Winnipeg that can apparently be seen from space. This is very important work. We can talk about curbside composting tomorrow. I am happy to see an investment in the city's forgotten quadrant park, Kilcona. And I'm happy that it is now formally in the five year capital plan. We have seen amazing things happen at Assiniboine Park and progress in parks like St. Vital and Kildonan. This is a sorely needed investment in Kilcona which will very much be appreciated from the growing northeast quadrant. I am excited for the opportunity to chair Council's Innovation Committee, now it's a full standing policy committee. Just yesterday, the committee was updated on the initiatives that are underway from 2015 allocation that are finding better ways of delivering municipal services, saving money and improving customer service. I am excited to see the innovation capital fund in this budget for 2016 and look forward to finding initiatives that will even further improve the way the City of Winnipeg does business. Up in my ward of North Kildonan, I am pleased to have initial allocation in 2018 to fund planning and engineering for what I'm calling the urbanization of Henderson Highway, north of Gilmore Avenue. As an Art Winnipeg identified image route, this four-lane stretch has open drainage ditches, no centre median, stretches without sidewalks and unpaved gravel shoulders that are not cycling friendly in the least. The funding allocated will consult with the community and generate Class 3 estimates for completing this work. It will also produce engineering plans dealing with the box culvert bridge over Bunn's Creek, define ways to deal with the Red River back-ups that occur and flood out homes along Bonner Avenue during high river events, it actually backs up from the Red up the creek. In years passed on a number of occasions, sandbagging and emergency mud dikes have been needed at great cost. As more extreme weather events occur, investing in resilient infrastructure that will deal with extreme events related to the change in climate makes good sense. In terms of policing, we are making record investments in 2016 for our policing. I would like to thank Police Board Chair, Scott Gillingham, for your tireless work, and it was my pleasure to second the motion today that will find a way to make sure that that investment will not mean the reduction in cadets or police officers in 2016. That said, we're going to have to find ways to ensure the sustainability of the police force going forward and I like forward to the work that you're doing over there. On the A&M front, I'm going to look forward to working with the new Attorney General, whoever he or she may be. Minister McIntosh will not be returning as he is retiring from politics. But a lot of work was already going on between the A&M and the bureaucrats as well as the elected officials to find ways to improve court time so that officers on overtime weren't spending so much time waiting for them to go to trial. So, again, that's something I think that the Province and through A&M and that, we can actually make some meaningful improvements in delivering. I would like to thank the representatives that were here this morning from Functional Transit Winnipeg and I will be spending some time looking at your submission. As I have stated many times in the past, I am a believer…I believe that the investments for the return in Rapid Transit Phase 2 doesn't make sense. I still support Council in the project in investing a portion of those savings in improving the entirety of the transit network and looking at innovations like jitneys and on-demand transit service to outer suburban neighbourhoods. I understand that there's an $82.3 million in today's federal budget for Manitoba transit services in the federal budget. I'm hoping that's incremental revenue and that will backfill some of the city's current investment in the Council adopted Rapid Transit Phase 2 project. It would be inaccurate to say that I love everything about this budget. But there is enough good that I am happy to support it today. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next is Councillor Pagtakhan followed by Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Pagtakhan: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. And it really is an honour for me to stand here and speak in support of this budget. It's a very good budget, Madam Speaker. A lot of great work has gone into preparing this budget. It's a responsible budget. It's a balanced budget. And I think…I believe it will help Winnipeg grow this year and the many years to come. With that, I really wanted to just take a moment to thank all the public servants who worked at our...worked with here in the City of Winnipeg; the Clerks, Public Service, our statutory officers, members of the Winnipeg Police Service, Fire and Paramedics and everyone who is involved here, including all my colleagues and the Mayor as well. A particular thanks to Councillor Morantz for his guidance and his ability to put difficult matters into plain language so I really want to thank him for that. He has been a great mentor for me and I call him sometimes 'Kuya', Kuya Marty. So kuya in my language means older brother, so it's a sign of respect and so that's my Kuya Marty there, able to talk in plain language. So, thank you very much, Kuya Marty…little bit of Tagalog for everybody. Madam

Speaker, there's a lot of great things within this budget, and I just want to start off by saying June 2015, the Cornish Library and the St. John's Library, two Carnegie libraries here within the City of Winnipeg, celebrate 100 incredible years providing citizens of this great city with public access to materials, to literacy and encouraged sense of community, building community. Tens upon tens upon thousands of Winnipeggers and visitors across our city and across Canada and across the world have gone to those libraries, Madam Speaker, and you know, I was just checking out the website, there's an incredible amount of stories that are on about the St. John's Library and about the Cornish Library and about how some famous Winnipeggers were judges and doctors, you know, used to go there when they were kids and how they used to borrow books like 'Robin Hood' or 'Treasure Island' and other things. This year, Madam Speaker, we're going to be putting monies into both those libraries to ensure that there's the centennial refurbishment renovation of those two libraries takes place. I really want to thank the good work of the Winnipeg Public Library Foundation along with our staff. These two libraries are going to get a really modern makeover in terms of having sort of...you have to see the pictures, but basically, it's glazing on the outside so that people can still see the facade, the brick, and historical facades, and, yet, there's going to be lifts to take people and patrons from the first and second floors all the way down to the lower levels of the library. There will be more space for programming, for kids and for community members just a many a myriad of great things that are happening. This item…these two items, Madam Speaker, are in our budget and it's going to help our city grow and to be creative. On that note, Madam Speaker, there's also monies for Makerspace. I've really got to applaud the Director of Community Services, Mr. Clive Wightman. This is something that he really advocated for in conjunction with working with many citizens and the Manager of Library Services. Makerspace…what is a Makerspace? Basically, it's a space, Madam Speaker, that's going to have book publishing, software, equipment. It's also going to have some craft tables and tools. It's going to have a 3D plotter. People who use the space, it's going to be open to the public. We'll be able to design prototype and manufacture things. And some of these things, who knows what they could be, the could be also be software games, they could be contraptions, they could be widgets of some sort, books, literary pieces, whatever. Anything creative in design, this is going to really enhance people's ability to do that within the space of the Millennium Library, and we could have some pretty major significant impact within our city, within our province and with this great country. Growing up in St. Vital, I'm glad to see that the French Language Services Coordinator is in here. I know a little bit more French than I do Tagalog so it's kind of good that's in there. I want to thank also my government colleague, MLA Ted Marcelino, for really advocating that the Tyndall Park…you know, the folks at Tyndall Park really wanted to meet the demands of basketball and more court sports within Tyndall Park Community Centre. Right now, Tyndall Park Community Centre is a small little facility that doesn't have its own gymnasium. They share the gymnasium with Tyndall Park Community School, and there's a lot of use of that school, and oftentimes there is not enough space or time to accommodate many of the basketball teams within the area. So I'm glad to see that we're going to be doing a feasibility study, Madam Speaker, to talk about that and to flesh out, you know, the how we can build a gymnasium at Tyndall Park Community Club. As well, there's going to be monies in here, Madam Speaker, for a recreation facility master plan, which I think is extremely important. I really want to thank members of my standing policy committee, Councillor Wyatt, Councillor Schreyer, Councillor Eadie for talking about this. This particular item was…I think is very important, and as Council here we are supporting this here today, it's going to make sure that we understand the needs of within our city. There are so many areas growing, Madam Speaker, as you know in northwest Winnipeg, has three major developments. There's a ton of activity growing there. Out in south Winnipeg, there's a lot of growth there as well. And there's also growth for certain types of sports, such as basketball. So this facility…this study, Madam Speaker, will help flesh out some of the needs within our city moving forward. Also the Arts Council funding, Madam Speaker, I just want to say I'm really glad to see that that's in there. For every municipal…I really want to thank the Mayor for his commitment to the Winnipeg Arts Council and his commitment to the arts within our city. Winnipeg is an art city. We're one of the creative cultures…creative cradles of Canada, and we're known across Canada for being a creative hub. And an interesting fact that is true, Madam Speaker, is that for every municipal dollar, Madam Speaker, it leverages $18.23 of other revenue to the arts. The arts creates jobs. It creates economy. And it drives our city…creates a vibrant, and a very wonderful, exciting city. In terms of the innovation capital fund, I really want to thank, you know, Councillor Morantz for embedding that, thank Councillor Browaty for his work. This is about creating a culture of innovation, I believe, within our city, and this is extremely important that we're embedding $1 million moving forward year after year within this budget, and we should be really congratulated for that. I think great things are going to come out of that. I want to thank Councillor Scott Gillingham, Chair of our Winnipeg Police Board, for the wonderful work that he has done in terms of building a strong collaboration with the Board members as well as the Winnipeg Police Service. You know, you've done incredible work and I want to thank you for what you have done, Councillor Gillingham, Chair of the Police Board. Madam Speaker, pretty soon in the near future, this council is going to have to come to grips with 104...well, right now it's 104 years old. It's a bridge that connects north over south, over the CPR tracks in our city, and I'm glad to see that we have some money allocated here, $2 million to come to a Class-3 estimate to do preliminary design and to work with consultants and also to do a value for money exercise and, Madam Speaker, it's also to determine how much time we have left really before we really need to do something with the Arlington Bridge. It's been serving our community for over 104 years. Madam Speaker, very important connection just this past weekend through allocations in previous years that I fought for to ensure that we had money to do public consultations, Madam Speaker. We just had a public open house on the weekend, and a great number of people came out. Incredible work.

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

Councillor Pagtakhan: Incredible work has gone through the public consultation and what's determined, Madam Speaker, you know, is that the public...the public has said and the consultants have also agree with this conclusion are recommending that the Arlington Bridge needs to be replaced. Madam Speaker, people, the neighborhood, Winnipeggers all agree that this is an important connecting route within our city, so I'm really glad that we're going to be doing a Class 3 estimate. We're trying to establish a new culture of when it comes to project management here at the city, Madam Speaker, that we make sure that we do Class 3 estimates before we actually start budgeting for major capital projects. So I really am glad that we are doing this. I think this is a right step. This is the right process. I would have wanted to see this done years ago, but you know what, I'm trying to be patient and get this thing done. At the end of the day, I'm confident that this council will see fit that we do take the step forward and, you know, find the necessary funding to do this bridge in the future. Lastly, I just want to say, you know, there's so many good things within this budget; Inuit Arts Centre, active transportation, record spending investments within our roads, Madam Speaker. And just a couple of things also, for the kids within the William White and the Dufferin neighbourhood and kids within the North End within North Centennial Neighborhood, they're going to be having a spray pad this year, Madam Speaker. And same thing with the freight house, there's a lot of folks there that don't get out, don't have transportation to get out to the beach or to a cottage, and the Public Service is making a recommendation to build a spray pad there, and I'm glad to see that's happening. And kudos to you, Madam Speaker as well, I know you fought really hard and advocated on our top…on top of the Seven Oaks indoor pool, and I believe it's going to be Winnipeg's first indoor splash pad and congratulations for your work on that. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Pagtakhan. Next we'll hear from Councillor Gilroy followed by Councillor Allard.

Councillor Gilroy: I just want to make sure that I'm speaking on the motion, not the…I mean speaking on

Madam Speaker: The budget overall

Councillor Gilroy: The budget overall and I still have time to close on my main motion.

Madam Speaker: Yes, that will be after Councillor Allard speaks to the budget.

Councillor Gilroy: Okay, perfect. Okay, thanks. I just wanted to talk a little bit about…because I didn't get a chance to talk about the other motion that's before you about...about vacancy management. And I really think that we could balance it out. We're still adding 6%, 6%. We're still adding staff into Public Engagement and into Communications. You know, we're still doing that, but at the same time this motion really talks about taking us back down to 2015 rates, and for me I think we've done a really good job. Like, the Mayor's office, I really have seen an improvement in our communications, and I really am seeing that. And so I think we're there in terms of the Mayor's office and in terms of the COO's office. What I'm really lacking though, is communication in between the departments. And you know, I have raised this before, and it's when you know...you get a call, and it's going to 311, and you know, they need somebody from the department to get back to that person. There's really a lack of communication, and I think it's because of our vacancy management. I don't think we have enough staff within our departments to deal with some of the issues that are impacting our citizens and the frontline services that face them the most. I still think...I agree that we need to do communications for our corporate staff. I think we've done a good job doing that. I think we're still allotting the 6%. I think we need to make sure that we are putting money into frontline services. So that's one thing that is really important to me in that motion. I also do want to talk about the Q and R. That the Chief Administrator Officer be delegated the authority for department units under his authority to transfer funds and/or budgets between department units, or reflect administrative structure changes made by the Chief Administrative Officer and the City Organizational By-Law number whatever, whatever. So like, this happened to me, so I...I'm a Chair of the Citizens Equity Committee, and I'm nearing in between my term, I had $2,000 taken out. I have $2,000 less than what I was supposed to. When I went to ask about it, it was because of this. So, I do…it's a smaller version of it. It's a smaller version. This is more of a big scale, but, like, I think that we need to recognize, you guys, that we need to be able to understand where our money is coming from. I think we're doing a better job. I think we're getting there. But, I don't think this is a way of making sure that we're improving things. So I just want to highlight that because I know that it has impacted me and my committee. So now I'm glad we didn't end up spending that money, but what if I had? What if I had earmarked it for a special project or something? I do want to caution you. I think these motions are good. I think we're still adding people into our communications. Still 6%, we're still adding them. So we're still going to give more money into Communications. But all we're doing with this motion is making sure that we're balancing that out, making sure that we have staff in our departments for front line services as well as making sure that we're maintaining control and we know what's going on, right? I think it is about transparency, and I think we're doing a better job. I think we need to be mindful of these things that pop up. I want to…you know, Councillor Wyatt brought this to my attention. You know, these are big documents, and you don't always get an opportunity to read them, so that's why I appreciate sometimes hearing the debate so I can

understand these things and how it impacts citizens. So I just wanted to bring that up because I think that's really important. And in terms of the budget, I want to talk about a little bit about the business tax for a bit because when I first sat down with the Chamber, the Chamber's concerns wasn't necessarily about the rate of the business taxes, it was how business taxes were being spent. So that was their concern when they sat down with me. Now, the things that I'm concerned about is we're looking at doing projects like the Ring Road and True North Square and those are really…you know, they are great projects. You know, these could be really beneficial for the city and all that. Where are we going to get that money from? And the business tax is part of getting that money from…it's allowing us to keep putting into the economic engine of our city. So I'm really scared that we're decreasing that opportunity to support our businesses. I also think that we're losing the opportunity…like I'm nervous about the TIFF. Like, that's our business tax, right? So I'm nervous about how that's going to affect future fundings for TIFF. So those are thing that I want to bring up in terms of our budget. You know, I have to take a shout out to Sel Burrows because he really trapped me at one of my local events and he's like, "You're not talking about the frontage levies enough! You're not yelling!" And it is. It is a concern. It's very much a concern for my community. That, you know, in essence, we are raising taxes. We all know that, but it is a burden more on people that can't afford it. So, somebody that lives on Spence Street is going to be paying the same frontage levy, if it's the same size as somebody on Wellington Crescent. So, you know, I promised Sel I would bring that up. Sel Burrows, if you're hearing, I am bringing it up. There's lots of good things in the budget that I'm excited about. But for me, this really is a lack of process. Like, I really feel like I've been taken out of that. I'm not a councillor that gets up there and most of the time I am supporting the Mayor's initiatives. And, I know they added two more councillors and you know what, I was happy…like Jenny Gerbasi, I think she thinks very similar to me. But unfortunately, they can't tell us what they're saying or in the budget process because it's all confidential, and what I was really hoping to see was kind of somewhat what happened last year is when people were getting up and talking at EPC that we would start to see, okay, we are listening to you. We're listening to the citizens of Winnipeg that come up to present. We're listening to other members of Council that are coming up and presenting and you know, like, I'm not feeling that this budget. I'm not feeling that. And that hurts because I'm…but my voice is being left out, I think, and I represent citizens. Not only in the West End, I think my voice represents citizens from all over the city. So it's very, very hard for me to…and I understand it's really exciting for all those people that were part of that. They probably know where things are going and all that a lot better than I do. They've had their say on things that are important to them, but it's hard to sit on the outside, and I know that some of you know this. I'm not...some of you know this because you sat on the outside before. So, the process for me is going backwards, not forwards, so I just want to say, I'm concerned about that. I do want to talk about Marty Morantz because I really respect…I really respect you. Even when somebody was putting two motions forward at the last minute, six people, and that's frustrating. You have worked long and hard on these budgets. You feel like you have everything, but you sat down and talked to me, and you were respectful to me, and I appreciate that, right? I think we need...like, I don't know how to get that through that we need greater dialogue.

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

Councillor Gilroy: So I just want to quickly talk about the roads because…but you know what, that's okay, I can…yeah, no, I'm going to talk about my roads because then I can talk about Shoal Lake in the other one. Okay, roads. For me what's frustrating is that we're seeing more and more money. Everyone is standing up, more and more money that I'm not seeing more roads in my street being done. So I'm asking the question, it's because my need total reconstruct because they're pothole-ridden and they're so bad that they need…and that's $2 million a pop, right? So the motion about getting the money out faster is purely...like let's not wait. It looks good come election year. We're going to have a little pot of money and we're going to be able to spend it and we're going to be able to tell people we got more roads done. I think people need the roads done right now, right? This is what we're dealing with. They're calling our offices, they're calling our offices. So, I just wanted to make that clear that's how I felt about the roads. So that's fine. I can move on to...do you want me to move on?

Madam Speaker: We'll hear from the next speaker and then we'll come back to you to close.

Councillor Gilroy: Oh, okay, sure. Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Thank you, Miss Speaker and through you a quick thank you to Councillor Morantz. I know this is a tough job, and there's lots of things to balance. So briefly, I want to say...I want to commend Cindy Gilroy on her motion and that I will be supporting it. I didn't get a chance to speak to that yet. But on the main motion, on the 2016 operating capital budgets, I have prepared a prepared speech, so if you'll bear with me. So since receiving this budget 20 days ago, I have read and reviewed its contents. I have sought to understand this document to know its implications for the city and the community I represent. I have presented at four standing committees, met with, spoke to most of my council colleagues and presented it at the final EPC meeting prior to the approval of this budget. I sent word to constituents, stake holders, and community leaders in St. Boniface Ward. I invited them here to be a part of this process. I hosted a

budget and consultation…budget consultation in my ward last week where I invited thousands of my constituents using print media, robo-calls, e-mails and social media. I received e-mails and phone calls, private messages, and was approached in restaurants, coffee shops, and community events to discuss it. I rise today as the elected representative of over 50,000 Winnipeggers from Old St. Boniface to Island Lakes to give credit where it is due, but also to express some serious concerns with the contents of this budget. And perhaps to rip off what Cindy was saying is I feel that my voice has been largely not heard as part of this budget process. So and the process by which it was crafted, presented to this council and to Winnipeg at large. Last year, fresh off the election we were presented a budget, meant to reflect our fresh mandate, but also constrained by the limited time available to write it. This council approved that budget, and in a gesture of faith looked forward to a better, more inclusive process for crafting it going forward. I'm afraid it's that…I'm afraid that we've gotten the opposite. This budget was written by the Mayor, his EPC and two other councillors with extremely limited solicitation from other members of this council. And indeed from the public, beyond a slick website and handful of computer terminals set up in a couple of libraries for a couple of hours each. And then face with less than three weeks to consider its contents, following a two hour briefing moments before it was released to the media, we were then asked to give our endorsement to this gigantic, billion dollar document with all of its enormous implications upon the services our residents use every day. And indeed, implications upon the greater long term vision for the entire city. I have done my best to do that, Madam Speaker. At Standing Committee for Water and Waste, I expressed concern that multi-year budgeting had locked in water rate increases and taken away the democratic ability of citizens to weigh in on this policy until after the next election. At PCS, I fought for the historic opportunity presented by the Promenade Taché Project which enjoyed private sector funding, community support, and a large commitment of ward discretionary funds to be included in the project. At the Planning, Property and Development Committee upon which I sit, I express my disappointment of the two excellent community organizations in my ward, whose modest funding shortfalls our committee had been working on for months were not resolved. I also expressed my serious reservations with some of the broadly applied fee development charge increases which I believe might affect the viability of infill development across Winnipeg. One of the most critical types of change needed for the long-term economic viability of our city. It may well be that these fees are justified, but we're talking...we're taking a year to study greenfield fees to ensure that they are properly applied, whereas these ones have been slapped into place with little information of other potential affects and consequences. At Public Works, I spoke to the strategic opportunities available to expand the size of our transit fleet and noted with dismay that a much needed bus route in southeast Winnipeg was not included in this budget. At EPC, finally, I stood before many members of this council and noted some of the excellent features in this budget which I salute. In particular, I would like to acknowledge, again, the EPC for removing the $250 fee for development appeals, which I spoke to before. Unfortunately, I spent over half my allotted ten minutes before the committee discussing the good things in the budget for St. Boniface, and I was cut off before I had the opportunity to discuss some of my and my constituents' reservations. And I do understand I was at the ten-minute mark. Madam Speaker, I hope you'll forgive me if I gloss off the positives right now, having already dually put my thoughts about the good things in this budget on the public record. Lastly, at each and every one of these committees, I raised my concerns with a practice known as vacancy management. Since being elected a year and a half ago, my office and I have worked and leaned on our fine city staff and administration. I have looked at their experience, their dedication to public service. Yet, time and time again I have also seen how challenging or impossible it can be to get my constituents the services they received in the past. From potholes to permits to planning, City services have suffered, in part, because politicians and their allies have perpetuated time and time again the myth that our civil servants is a vast, bloated bureaucracy full of incompetence and waste. They say there are millions of dollars in "efficiencies" to be found which can then pay for huge spending promises without leaning on unpopular tax increases. Our CFO, Mike Ruta said recently that beyond $14 million, vacancy management means service cuts. This budget brings vacancy management to $21 million. So then what becomes of the work done by staff by those positions that go unfilled? Sometime Madam Speaker, the work goes undone and the wait times grow. Sometimes a devoted, valiant staff person picks up the slack and goes above and beyond with little or no additional incentive, nor reward. And sometimes, as we can see clearly in this budget document, we hire outside consultants to do the work, which must be done. We've got $250,000 to re-evaluate fee structure for green field development, $100,000 for a dog park master plan, $600,000 to determine the best way to close a fire hall in St. Boniface ward. Do we have so little confidence in our city staff that they cannot do this work? Or do we simply not have the staff at all anymore? Any of the dollar figures I named above could have been used to hire or retain high quality staff in our Public Works, Planning, or Community Services Departments. Instead, many of these jobs go unfilled in the name of "efficiencies" for the taxpayer, and the work is done at greater expense by consultants. I believe the expression, penny wise, pound foolish comes to mind, Madam Speaker. And the same time, as these departments are being asked to cut back, to do more with less, we're seeing other departments will be spending at least $600,000 in new staff ostensibly to "engage with the public." I dare say, Ms Speaker, that we should be investing in providing services, not hiring people to explain why they don't have that service. What of the fee increases of which this budget is filled as well. Water rates including a $31 million dividend into general revenues, which I can tell you from my public consultation is a no go with the public, the frontage levy, an arbitrary form of taxation, going up nearly 25%. Mrs. Speaker, there are homes in this city worth half a million dollars with virtually no frontage, and others worth less than $100,000 that straddle corner lots. This levy was created to service local improvements and local streets. Today, we're seeing it used more every year as a form of flat property tax, which brings me to this moment. I stand before this council to...

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor moves extension? All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Allard: So to say that one, this budget does not include investments, large or small from St. Boniface which were referred to this budget process in 2015. Two, this budget was written behind closed doors following a very limited or nonexistent collaboration with many of the elected representatives of the people. Three, this budget continues a very problematic long withstanding trend towards service cuts disguised as operational deficiencies. Also, given so many worthy amendments, suggestions, and alternative ideas put forward in the limited time and opportunity available to me and other members of this council, we're summarily dismissed without a shred of public discussion or debate. I put these amendments...I have put this amendment forward and my colleague, Councillor Gilroy's put forward another. I have outlined my serious concerns with this budget, and I have presented what I believe is a solution. So I call upon this council to consider or incorporate these amendments. If we do that, I will support this budget. If we don't, I will be voting no to the 2016 operating capital budgets. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gilroy, this is your opportunity to close on Motion 2.

Councillor Gilroy: I'm really concerned that we're not putting the 15.5 commitment in today because what that means we already have a commitment from the Provincial Government, what that means is it's not in here. So today if the…you know, if the Federal Government ended up committing to this, it's not in here, right? And also, it would show the Federal Government that we did really commit to this project by making sure the money was in it. There were discussions about...there were discussions about the funding and the increases, and that's a concern, and I understand that. But I think we heard from Sharon Redsky today that, you know, that there is increases, we know that there's probably, you know...they could increase a little bit more. But at the end of the day, I feel we have to do this project. And we have staff from our Museum of Human Rights that will be traveling to Shoal Lake 40 to look at our violations of human rights. Looking at putting this historical unjust into a permanent place in our museum. This is about the people of Shoal Lake 40. This is about the many supporters of Freedom Road. And the people that have been advocating for this community and knowing we're doing the right thing, and I think the profound affect that it had on me is when I was standing on the dike at Shoal Lake 40, and I looked over and you are looking over at the aqueduct, and you are understanding that you created this dike, and that you created this island that you have moved people from a mainland where they had access to stuff, onto an island, and then on this dike you realize that you are standing at a place where we disrupted the burial grounds of the community. And then you look down, and you see on one side water that is pure. So pure you can see to the bottom. And on the other side of the dike, it's murky, murky, sandy water. And what that dike is there to do is it is there to control the water. It's to control that murky water coming from Falcon Lake, and it controls it by Shoal Lake 40. It's because we don't want it touching our water, it makes sense, we all want clean drinking water, right? But that has affected that community. So, we're going to say, we could get into arguments, who should be paying more, the Federal Government…I don't want those arguments, I want the road built. This is an unjust. Most of us was up there, we have an obligation and this is the Year of Reconciliation, and I just...I'm scared that this project is going to fall apart because we know...like we all know that when things aren't in the budget, we got to find the money from someplace. And it could push a project back even more and then costs go up. I guess I'm passionate about this. And if this motion doesn't pass today, like I'm really hoping that the Mayor hears this because the money is not there, and the community needs to know we're behind them and the costs are just going to go up. So I just want to caution you, this is a really important motion. If it doesn't pass today, I really want us to continue with Shoal Lake 40, there's a lot of people riding on this. This doesn't mean just clean drinking water. This means people's lives trying to cross. This means kids that get to go to school on the reserve, people that don't have to leave their community. I have actually...people that live in my community from Shoal Lake 40 and they turn on…they pay water. They pay a water bill, and part of that water bill goes to our road. And that's people living in my community from Shoal Lake 40, and all of our communities. We have many people living here from Shoal Lake 40. I guess I am passionate about it. I've shared with you, I'm really hoping that if this motion doesn't pass today, Mr. Mayor, that you're going to continue on and you're going to champion this because it needs to be done. That's all I have to say. Thanks.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Allard, it's your opportunity to close on Motion 1.

Councillor Allard: I realize I should probably use la langue de Molière a little bit as a fair warning to my council colleagues. I'm going to try to go back and forth between French and English. So, vacancy management, we've heard from the Chamber today and we've heard from Labour saying this is not the right way to balance our budgets. And I just want to read a few statistics that came out recently on our 311 targets. Hazardous sidewalk repairs, target, two days, average turn around 61.8 days. Housing complaint, yard and accessory building, target, ten days, average turnaround 20.3 days. Missed garbage collection; target in days 2, average turnaround 4.72 days. Now those are the most egregious…did I say that properly? Egregious…examples, and I do believe that a big part of these problems are being caused by vacancy management.

Translation of French Spoken: The practise of limiting hires at the City of Winnipeg level did indeed result in a reduction of frontline services. The proposal that I put forward, with Councillor Ross Eadie's support, is based on reallocating existing budget funds to frontline services. Over twenty days and twenty nights, six of my colleagues and I had the chance to propose any desired change to the budget. Changes to the City of Winnipeg's operational budget as well as to its capital budget. I would like to recognize my colleague Cindy Gilroy for the proposal she put forward regarding the capital budget. My colleagues and I believe these proposals to be reasonable. We are using existing funds, we are requesting they be reallocated. So, I might be repeating some of my comments from earlier this morning, but I'm doing so in French, and several hours have already gone by since the original comments. Our corporate budgets will increase in an unprecedented way. $4.29 million, or 13%... This doesn't include increases for departments that are not identified in the budget. This would mean, I believe, that there is a 15% increase in budgets for non-frontline services. Such services are important. However, when we have to make the decision to cancel a fall street-cleaning program, or when we have to make a decision as to whether or not we should have employees doing frontline work, such as repairing sidewalks or enforcing municipal by-laws... When we are making that type of decision in terms of cutting frontline services, I don't believe it is appropriate to have a permanent budget increase going toward communications staff, especially with this dramatic corporate services increase. Our proposal did include a 6.9% increase for this department. We also found reserves worth $600,000 in the property and real estate committee. These are no longer needed, since workers in the permits field will now be supported by our normal operational budget. And, finally, clauses Q and R of the municipal budget. One of the things that stood out during the budget consultation, which was – which was well attended... People were looking for our funds, they were looking for accountability in terms of the way we expend funds. And we're not there yet when it comes to public trust. In English now...

Councillor Allard: In terms of accountability and transparency and the public's confidence in our ability to deliver projects, we're not out of the woods yet.

Translation of French Spoken: I am asking my fellow City Council members…you have before you a proposal from six of your colleagues, with my proposal and my colleague Cindy Gilroy's proposal, to change the budgets so they reflect our contributions, and I am asking you to support these amendments. For me, this is an essential factor in whether or not I support the capital budget, since it is the way in which I found I was able to have a real impact on the municipal budget. Thank you for your consideration.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Morantz, will you be closing on the budget?

Councillor Morantz: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. I just firstly want to say, I've never had so many people say so many nice things about me so I just want to thank you all for that. That's very kind of you, and I want to thank my little brother, Councillor Pagtakhan. I want to clarify just a point...not really a point of order, but when I did run, I ran for the…not the Conservative Party, but the Progressive Conservative Party where progressive still means something to me, Madam Speaker. There have been so many good comments and, you know, I think at the end of the day we're really all here for the same reason. We just have maybe different perspectives on how we should accomplish our goals, and so I think it would be impossible for me to respond to every single comment. Some I agree with. I find myself actually often in agreement with Councillor Dobson, which I have said many times before, and I want to thank him for some of his comments, not all of his comments, but some of them, anyway. So thank you. I think that's...you know, it struck me, you know, as we're all sitting here that...and talking about roads, Madam Speaker, that what's interesting about this budget is that we're talking about our roads budget, which is, of course, the highest it's ever been and it's a major accomplishment certainly for this council. But we seem to keep circling back to one particular road, and a road that's not actually in Winnipeg. It's a road that's sitting 200 kilometers east of us, and a road that I think, you know, we all understand needs to be built. There's a moral and ethical obligation based on the history of our water supply that really needs to be righted. And I think that the fact that the conversation around this table keeps circling back to that road in particular speaks to the character of this city and this council, frankly. I think this is a project that we all really want to support. And I just want to...I think it would be worthwhile giving an explanation, some of the thinking around the discussions of funding this road. Keep in mind that right now as we sit now before the passage of this budget, historically this council has allocated only $4 million to Freedom Road. As we sit here now if the budget didn't pass for some strange reason...I don't want to jinx myself, but that would be it. So when we were having our budget deliberations, we were essentially given a ballpark estimate, it was $30 million. And so our goal was to fund up to $10 million of that. That was our goal. Now, when you're facing a budget that has a $74 million deficit, and a projected $115 million deficit in 2018…or 17, which was what last year's budget said. Finding that extra $6 million is…for any project, finding $6 million for any project is a very difficult exercise, and you know Madam Speaker, I think we need to really congratulate everyone who participated in this budget for being able to do that. We did what was expected of us. We found that extra $6 million, and we put it in the budget, and it's sitting there today, in support of this project, this road not in Winnipeg, so far away, but so close to our hearts. And we did it, we found $10 million. And so I think it's just important to put it in that perspective because the current estimate is something that we came very late in terms of our budget process. It doesn't mean it's not something we can't consider or that we...it is something that we have to consider, but it was really...it really

came after our budget decisions had been made, and I want to say, well you know it's easy to just change the decision, could be the argument, but really, it's not so simple because in our capital budget and in the utilities budgets, once something is budgeted for, the budget is balanced, and so it's very difficult to go and alter something on such short notice. I also want to say that one of the things that's been important to us also is that we have solid estimates and I know this came up...it had been important to a number of councillors, for example, I don't mean to create anymore equivalency between the Waverly Underpass and Freedom Road. But I do want to say that, you know, on the Waverly Underpass, councillors were very concerned, and in that case, you know, we had very solid Class 3 estimates. The $30 million, as I understand it, is a Class 5 estimate that we essentially inherited from prior council. The $46 million number that's been presented that's really no...we've not received any estimates or information about it. We have not had time to really consider it. And so, I think to be fair, putting it all in context my perspective is that we did what we were asked to do. We were asked to put up our share, and we found it. The number was 30…we found it...we made it ten. And I know from the comments that the Mayor has made and I know Councillor Gilroy feels very, very strongly about this project, that we will continue to work with the Federal Government and the Provincial Government to try and get better estimates and better numbers. For example, like if we just said today, okay, we're going to make it $15 million, what happens in the fall when maybe someone says it's $60 million? So I think to be responsible, we need to have very solid estimates before we can make our decision making. So I just want to say, like, we are not shirking our responsibility here. We are…we have, in fact, stepped up and honoured our responsibility here. And I think that really needs to be recognized, and so I am very, very comfortable with the decisions that we have made around Shoal Lake 40. I feel very strongly that we need to support this project, but we need to do it in a methodical and level-headed way to make sure that we get it right. And I think that's what people expect of us. They're tired of us getting it wrong. And so, one of the things I want to do is get it right. And so, those are going to be my comments about the Shoal Lake Road. I hope they're okay. I really do respect the predicament of the residents of Shoal Lake 40 and personally feel very strongly, as I said, on a moral and ethical basis. This is something we need to move forward on, but we need to do it in a constructive way and not an ad-hoc on the fly kind of way. And that's what we've done. We've done it in a constructive way using the best information we have. So those will be my comments about Shoal Lake. A number of other comments made. I just would say…with respect to Q and R, I think the best thing to do with Q and R is…and I have spoken to the CFO about this. He would be happy to sit down with each and every one of you that has concerns about it and explain what they are. There's really nothing insidious about Q and R. There are no great conspiracy theories that really have any validity around Q and R. These are really...in my view, completely innocuous, and I think if you would just sit down with the CFO and take a few minutes to understand what they are, I think you would understand them very well. I also want to say although the time is short from the time of tabling to today, no one has really come to me in that period of time and expressed many of the concerns that I've heard expressed here around the table. I just...you know, I think it would be nice if somebody would have come to see me and maybe we could have talked about it before, and then he could with have, like, come to a solution that we could have talked about collaboratively today around the table instead of sort of, you know, doing it, you know, in a critical sort of way.

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

Councillor Morantz: I don't have much more really to say about it. I think when it comes right down to it…I think last year at the end of my budget speech I said something like a sign of a good budget is that nobody is particularly happy with it, and I think I'll stick with that. I would also say that I think last year I also said that it came down to pools, patios, and flowers, or something like that. Today I think it really comes down...in my mind, it all boils down to this road so far away but so close to our hearts. With that I'm just going to close, Madam Speaker, and I would really urge all councillors to support this budget. I have put my heart and soul into this budget…these budgets over the last two years, as have many of you. I do want to make the process better. I think that some of the complaints around the process are completely legitimate. We are taking steps to try and fix them, and I would like to take more steps, and I know the Mayor would too in the future. So I would really urge you if you are considering not supporting the budget to maybe if you have a last minute change of heart, I think that that would be something that would be very welcome. So, thank you for that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Morantz. Now time to vote. We'll start with Motion No. 2. Call for recorded vote on each. Motion No. 2, that was moved by Councillor Gilroy, seconded by Councillor Wyatt. All in favour, please rise

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Dobson, Eadie, Gilroy, Schreyer and Wyatt

Madam Speaker: All opposed, please rise.

Nays

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

Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 6, Nays 10.

Madam Speaker: Motion 2 is lost. We're moving on to Motion 1 that was moved by Councillor Allard, seconded by Councillor Eadie. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Dobson, Eadie, Gilroy, Schreyer and Wyatt.

Madam Speaker: All opposed, please rise.

Nays

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

Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 6, Nays 10.

Madam Speaker: Motion 1 is lost. We'll now move on to the main item. There was a request to vote on the operating budget and the capital budget separately, so we will be doing that. I will call the question on Clause 1, the operating budget. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Madam Speaker: Those opposed, please rise.

Nays

Councillors Allard, Dobson, Eadie, Gilroy, Schreyer and Wyatt

Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 10, Nays 6.

Madam Speaker: The operating budget passes. We'll now move on to the capital budget. It will be as amended because the police budget, Motion No. 3 affects the capital budget. So all in favour of the capital budget, as amended, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Madam Speaker: All opposed, please rise.

Nays

Councillors Allard, Dobson, Eadie, Gilroy, Schreyer and Wyatt

Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 10, Nays 6.

Madam Speaker: Capital budget passes as amended. We'll now move on to by-laws. By-laws for first reading only, Mr. Mayor.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – FIRST READING ONLY

Mayor Bowman: Thanks very much. I move that the following by-laws be read a first time; By-law 41 through 45 inclusive 2016. Sorry? Sorry. I'm sorry. I move...my apologies, Madam Speaker. I move that By-law number 40/2016 be read the first time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law 40/2016.

Madam Speaker: By-laws for all three readings, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I move that the following…

Madam Speaker: Mr. Clerk, recorded vote on the by-laws? Yeah. Okay.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that the following by-laws be read first time, By-law 41 through 45 inclusive 2016.

Madam Speaker: Okay. We'll call the question on that segment. Mr. Clerk, does that make sense? Yeah. Okay. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Madam Speaker: Those opposed, please rise.

Nays

Councillors Allard, Dobson, Eadie, Gilroy, Schreyer and Wyatt

Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 10, Nays 6.

Madam Speaker: The by-law is passed for first reading. Mr. Mayor.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that By-laws numbered 41/2016 to 45/2016, both inclusive, be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: There's another ask for 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, Lukes, Mayes, Morantz, Orlikow, Pagtakhan and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Madam Speaker: Those opposed, please rise.

Nays

Councillors Allard, Dobson, Eadie, Gilroy, Schreyer and Wyatt

Madam Speaker: By-laws for second reading pass. Mr. Clerk, the count.

Clerk: By-laws 41 to 45/2016.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor, on the third reading.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that the rule be suspended and By-laws number 41/2016 to 45/2016, both inclusive, be read a third time and that same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Gerbasi, Gillingham, Lukes, Mayes, Morantz, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Wyatt and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Councillor Allard: Are we voting on whether or not to suspend the rules or are we voting on the...

Madam Speaker: Sorry. The question?

Clerk: And Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma.

Madam Speaker: All those opposed please rise. Yes.

Nays

Councillors Allard, Dobson, Eadie, Gilroy, Schreyer, and Wyatt.

Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 10, Nays 6. Not having achieved the two-thirds necessary for the third reading of the by-laws.

Madam Speaker: Okay. What does that mean, Mr. Clerk?

Clerk: That the by-laws will have to be passed on a different day.

Madam Speaker: Richard. Sorry. I didn't hear you, Mr. Clerk. Okay. Alright, we're moving on. Councillor Gillingham, will you move adjournment? All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Roll call, Mr. Clerk.

ROLL CALL

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

Council adjourned at 4:59 p.m.