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

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 451
Councillor Schreyer asked the Chair to speak to his recent trip to Ottawa and his research regarding waste collection.

Councillor Mayes advised that it was a very productive day; he met with the Mayor, the Councillor who was the head of the Environment Committee, two senior staff that do garbage and recycling and CUPE representatives. He advised that Ottawa had a five-zone system for recycling and compost pick-up, however, the same level of service was provided, with garbage picked up every two weeks and compost picked up weekly. Two of the zones were operated by city workers unionized by CUPE, but they were not entirely within the pre-existing collective agreement as it was a competitive bid process. He stated that the city, as employers, come up with the wage rate and certain other provisions of the collective agreement were not part of the terms and conditions for the garbage and recycling pickup workers. Councillor Mayes suggested that the model bears looking at.

Councillor Schreyer inquired why Calgary would be 100% in house workers and Edmonton was 50/50; to which Councillor Mayes replied that he did not know exactly what the history was in those different cities.

Councillor Schreyer noted that Winnipeg City Council had to make a serious decision regarding what would probably be a seven-year contract and asked if it was now understood that in the Ottawa model at least, as well as other models across the country, the City bids after negotiating a wage with the workers.

Councillor Mayes concurred that there would be a major vote on a long term prospect and indicated that it required a lot of analysis and discussion.

Councillor Gillingham inquired if there would be a report forthcoming on the number of combined sewer overflow incidents this summer.

Councillor Mayes replied that to his knowledge there had not been any incidents, but agreed to find out, and stated that conversations had started with the Province about the Combined Sewer Overflow plan.

Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment - Question Period (continued):

Councillor Gerbasi noted that Winnipeg does not have a green environmental procurement policy yet and inquired if that could be considered at the next Standing Policy Committee meeting so that a more environmentally friendly option, in terms of the type of vehicles used for garbage and recycling, could be weighted properly in the procurement process. Councillor Mayes responded that he thought that was entirely appropriate.

Councillor Schreyer noted that the administration's report was not due until the last Council meeting of the year and asked how they could vote on the matter in September if the report had not yet been submitted. Councillor Mayes replied that he thought the report would be available in September.