EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 539

Councillor Gerbasi inquired about the Opening of Portage and Main to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied that he was uncertain if the intersection of Portage and Main would be open to pedestrians next year as discussions with the property owners at Portage Avenue and Main Street were ongoing.

Councillor Wyatt asked if a motion would come before Council at the October meeting to give the public service approval to procure road improvement construction in the 2017 budget in order for tenders to go out in December or January, close in February and be awarded in March. His Worship Mayor Bowman replied that changes to the procurement policy were being considered by the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works with the aim of getting contracts out sooner.

Councillor Wyatt inquired if the money for roads and transit could be dedicated in the budgets for 2017, 2018 and 2019 as a top priority; to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied this decision would be made by Council during the budget deliberations and vote.

Councillor Wyatt asked if there was any news from the Federal Government regarding various applications to the Canada 150 program as he understood the money had to be spent by March 2018 to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied he would check with the Administration and encouraged the Councillor to do the same.

Councillor Dobson asked when all members of Council would take part in the draft budget process from the start; to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied EPC and three additional members of Council, Councllors Allard, Gerbasi and Gilroy were working on the preliminary budget and that all Councillors would have a chance to input during public meetings to discuss the budget, which will occur after the budget is tabled in mid-November.

Councillor Dobson reiterated his question; to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied that all members of Council do have access to input to the budget now, and encouraged all to collaborate with the Chair of the Standing Policy Committee on Finance.

Executive Policy Committee - Question Period (continued):

Councillor Eadie asked when the Mayor's Office would be fiscally responsible and transparent as the Councillors' Office. His Worship Mayor Bowman replied there were a number of changes made to post calendars and gifts to the Mayor's Office on his website and he would be available to meet with the Councillor to clarify what he was seeking.

Councillor Eadie inquired if the Mayor remembered the motions from Council in 2015; to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied he would review the policy on the specific motion being questioned and work with the Councillor to identify it afterwards.

Councillor Wyatt asked if a public policy on growth / impact fees would be announced within the next week or two; to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied the Chair of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development engaged in productive discussions with developers, the public, and City Council; Executive Policy Committee was awaiting the results.

Councillor Wyatt inquired what timeline was expected for the report back to the Executive Policy Committee; to which His Worship Mayor Bowman advised the time frame would be based on the input received.

Councillor Wyatt asked for assurance that a growth / impact fee policy would be brought in prior to the budget, to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied that budget deliberations were on-going and would continue to occur at the same time as discussions on impact fees.