STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 219

Councillor Allard asked if the Chair could answer and give some clarity to Council about what action was being taken to look at safety practices on Winnipeg Transit buses and recognized the leadership of Councillor Mayes, whose efforts had led to transit security forces, and his own efforts, to have plain clothed and uniformed officers on buses.

Councillor Morantz stated that it had been a very sorrowful event for employees, Winnipeg Transit Drivers and all Winnipeggers. He advised that the specific actions taken at this point were broad strokes. He noted that he met with the Acting Director of Transit, the President of the Amalgamated Transit Union and the Chief Transportation and Utilities Manager to discuss the situation. Also, a motion regarding transit safety would be discussed by the Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works Committee on February 28, 2017 to call for the Public Service to provide a comprehensive administrative report about everything they currently do to provide an opportunity to review and assess the next steps.

Councillor Mayes asked if WAPSO and the Police Association could be invited to discuss the issue at some point as they certainly have a part to play. Councillor Morantz confirmed that they were open to talking to any individual or association regarding the issue but reiterated that the first step was to get the administrative report.

Councillor Eadie questioned if the motion would request not only a report from the Administration but a report that explains the serious issues and the policy violations that happen on the bus and build up tension and societal issues.

Councillor Morantz stated that the motion would not speak specifically to that concern but would be the first step in addressing that concern. Once they have the report, all those questions and many, many more will be on the table in order to minimize the likelihood of anything like this ever occurring in the future.

Councillor Eadie inquired if the public would have an opportunity to speak and be scheduled at a time when people can actually make it; to which Councillor Morantz agreed to discuss the idea further with Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Wyatt questioned if there was a way to suspend the rules at the Committees to allow non-members of the committee to ask questions, or to submit questions to either the Chair or members of the Committee that could then be asked of the Public Service in attendance at that meeting; to which Councillor Morantz agreed to take the question under advisement.