Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – May 10, 2017

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment – May 1, 2017

Item No. 2 Water and Sewer Rate Increases of 2017 and 2018 – Public Hearings

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment and submitted the following to Council:

1. That the Council Motion of April 26, 2017 be received as information.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment – May 1, 2017

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Pagtakhan,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 1, 2017, the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment submitted to the Executive Policy Committee and Council, that the Council Motion of April 26, 2017, be received as information.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On April 26, 2017, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment:

Moved by Councillor Schreyer,
Seconded by Councillor Dobson,

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

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

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

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

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment – May 1, 2017

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

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

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

AND WHEREAS even Manitoba Hydro has been subject to public hearings in recent years, implemented by the Manitoba Public Utilities Board, over Manitoba Hydro's request to raise hydro rates.

AND WHEREAS Councillors' concerns raised on the idea of the Manitoba Public Utilities Board conducting the such hearings was that it undermined the independence of the City Administration to conduct its own business;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct the Administration to call public hearings on the proposed Water and Sewer Rate Increases of 2017 and 2018.