Minute No. 408
Report – Executive Policy Committee – June 13, 2018

Item No. 7 Reimbursement of UFFW President's Salary and Benefit Cost to the City of Winnipeg

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That the Public Service seek 100% reimbursement from the United Firefighters of Winnipeg, Local 867 (UFFW) of the UFFW union President's salary and benefit costs incurred by taxpayers pursuant to the agreement provided for under the updated Letter of Understanding No. 20 – Union President Leave.

2. That the Public Service report back to Council prior to executing any agreement.

3. That the Public Service not exceed 30 days without providing Council an update on the status of discussions should an agreement not be reached within 30 days.

4. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,
That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted.

Carried

Councillor Eadie asked to be recorded as having voted against the above motion, in accordance with Rule 47(7) of The Procedure By-law No. 50/2007.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 13, 2018, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg used to pay 100% of the United Firefighters of Winnipeg, Local 867 (UFFW) union President's salary and benefit costs with no reimbursement by UFFW;

WHEREAS all other City of Winnipeg unions reimburse the City of Winnipeg in full for each of their President's salary and benefit costs;

WHEREAS authority was provided by Council to the Public Service in January 2014 to have them come to an agreement regarding the union President's leave and reimbursement to taxpayers from the UFFW;

WHEREAS in March 2014, an agreement was reached which provided for reimbursement of 40% of the UFFW President's salary and benefits from the UFFW;

WHEREAS reimbursement of 40% of the UFFW President's salary and benefit costs represented an improvement for taxpayers from 0%;

WHEREAS the details of the agreement agreed to in March 2014 were not presented to Council at the time;

WHEREAS details of the negotiated UFFW Collective Agreement (Dec 2016-Dec 2020) submitted for approval by Council in April 2017 did not present an updated Letter of Understanding No. 20 regarding Union President Leave;

WHEREAS no opportunity was afforded to Council to provide direction to the Public Service as part of the collective bargaining process with UFFW nor at the time Council was asked to vote on the agreement to arrive at a better deal for taxpayers regarding Letter of Understanding No. 20 – Union President Leave;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

WHEREAS the Collective Agreement (Dec 2016-Dec 2020) and revised Letter of Understanding No. 20 – Union President Leave have been fully executed and signed by the current President of UFFW;

WHEREAS the Mayor as the head of Council and Chief Officer of the City of Winnipeg as defined in The City of Winnipeg Charter has not signed and executed the Collective Agreement (Dec 2016-Dec 2020);

WHEREAS the Collective Agreement (Dec 2016-Dec 2020) and revised Letter of Understanding No. 20 – Union President Leave, as fully executed by the current President of UFFW, commits each party anew to come to an agreement regarding the union President's leave and reimbursement;

WHEREAS direction is best provided by Council to the Public Service on how to proceed with discussions pursuant to the updated Letter of Understanding No. 20 – Union President Leave prior to the Collective Agreement being fully executed by the Mayor; and

WHEREAS this motion does not represent nor should it be construed as representing a lack of support and appreciation on the part of Council for the committed and valuable work of Winnipeg's Fire Paramedic Service.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Executive Policy Committee recommend that the following be submitted to Council for consideration:

1. That the Public Service seek 100% reimbursement from the UFFW of the UFFW union President's salary and benefit costs incurred by taxpayers pursuant to the agreement provided for under the updated Letter of Understanding No. 20 – Union President Leave;

2. That the Public Service report back to Council prior to executing any agreement; and

3. That the Public Service not exceed 30 days without providing Council an update on the status of discussions should an agreement not be reached within 30 days.

and submitted the matter to Council.