REPORTS

Item No. 8 2019 Transit Fare Freeze

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee recommended to Council:

1. That the Chief Financial Officer be directed to freeze Winnipeg Transit fares at 2018 levels starting January 1, 2019 for a period of one calendar year and include this fare freeze in the 2019 Budget process.

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

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

The Chairperson called Councillor Mayes to the Chair in order to move the following motions:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,

That Rule 10(3) of The Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 be suspended in order that the following item, which was received less than four business days preceding the committee meeting, be considered by Committee.

Carried

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,

WHEREAS access to affordable public transportation is good for Winnipeggers;

AND WHEREAS Council has kept Winnipeg Transit fares amongst the lowest in the country despite ongoing budgetary challenges;

AND WHEREAS last year, based on information provided at the time, Council made the difficult decision to raise fares by 25 cents to cover a projected revenue shortfall faced by Winnipeg Transit;

AND WHEREAS, according to the Financial Status Report and Forecast to September 30, 2018, Winnipeg Transit is projecting an operating surplus of $7.9 million for the 2018 fiscal year, which may be used to mitigate cost pressures faced by Winnipeg Transit in 2019;

AND WHEREAS this operating surplus is partly due to ridership stabilizing in 2018 compared to 2017;

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg Transit fares have customarily increased by at least 5 cents annually to cover inflationary increases incurred by Winnipeg Transit;

AND WHEREAS, according to Section 3(1) and Section 3(1)(a) of the Fees and Charges By-law, the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to increase annually any fee imposed by the City of Winnipeg by an amount equal to or less than the rate of inflation unless a Council resolution specifically states otherwise;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct the Chief Financial Officer to freeze Winnipeg Transit fares at 2018 levels starting January 1, 2019 for a period of one calendar year and include this fare freeze in the 2019 Budget process.

Carried

His Worship Mayor Bowman resumed the Chair.