Minute No. 26
Report – Executive Policy Committee – November 28, 2018

Item No. 1 Paid Leave of Absence

COUNCIL DECISION:

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

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to do a cross-jurisdictional analysis of other Canadian municipalities regarding their policies on elected members of Council taking a paid leave of absence while facing criminal charges including, but not necessarily limited to, assault and sexual assault, and report back in 180 days.

2. 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 by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 28, 2018, the Executive Policy Committee submitted to Council that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to do a cross-jurisdictional analysis of other Canadian municipalities regarding their policies on elected members of Council taking a paid leave of absence while facing criminal charges including, but not necessarily limited to, assault and sexual assault, and report back in 180 days.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On September 20, 2018, Council referred the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Gilroy,
Seconded by Councillor Pagtakhan,

WHEREAS Winnipeg is a partner in the UN Global Safe Cities Initiative to reduce sexual violence against women and girls;

AND WHEREAS members of the Public Service and members of the public have the right to feel safe when interacting with an elected member of Council;

AND WHEREAS elected members of Council are in a position of power;

AND WHEREAS Council is a dignified and respectful body that represents the citizens of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS elected members of Council who are charged, but not yet convicted with, sexual assault or any other assault are under no obligation to take a leave of absence under the City of Winnipeg Charter;

AND WHEREAS, in some instances, employers may require employees charged, but not yet convicted with, sexual assault or any other assault to take a leave of absence;

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COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS an individual who has been charged with allegedly committing sexual assault or any other assault is innocent until proven guilty;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Winnipeg request the Province of Manitoba to amend the City of Winnipeg Charter to make it mandatory for an elected member of Council to take a paid leave of absence while facing criminal charges including, but not necessarily limited to, assault and sexual assault.