COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Wednesday, March 20, 2019

The Council met at 9:43 a.m.

The Clerk advised the Speaker that a quorum was present.

The Speaker called the meeting to order.

The opening prayer was read by Councillor Gillingham.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Nason, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, and Schreyer.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Madam Speaker: Thank you Mr. Clerk. Will you please read the notice calling the special meeting for today?

Clerk: Pursuant to Section (79)(1) of the City of Winnipeg Charter, I'm directed by His Worship Mayor Bowman to arrange a special meeting of Council on Wednesday, March 20th, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. to consider Report 1 of the Winnipeg Police Board dated March 8th, 2019, and Report 1 of the Executive Policy Committee report dated March 19th, 2019 regarding the 2019 Operating Budget and the 2020-2021 Projections and the 2019 Capital Budget and the 2020 - 2024 Five Year Forecast.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Mr. Clerk. I would like to take a moment now to recognize in the gallery with us today, St. Norbert Collegiate Junior Varsity Women's Basketball Team up at the top there. Congratulations on your recent win of the provincial title. I know your city councillor, our Deputy Mayor, Councillor Chambers will be making a formal announcement tomorrow at Council on your recent win. Thank you for being here. I would like to now recognize two first time pages for today's meeting. Please welcome Amelia Otwari who attends St. Boniface Diocesan High School and resides in the Transcona Ward and Cosette Beaudin who attends Louis Riel Arts and Technology Centre and she resides in the St. Vital Ward. Thank you for joining us and for serving Council today.

DELEGATIONS

Madam Speaker: We'll now move onto delegations. I would like to call forward Mr. Anders Swanson. Following that, we'll hear from Mr. Chris Lorenc. Mr. Swanson is here on behalf of Winnipeg Trails Association. He is in support of the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 19th, 2019, the Operating and Capital Budgets. Welcome and we will have ten minutes on the clock for you.

Anders Swanson: Thank you. My name is Anders Swanson I am the Executive Director of Winnipeg Trails Association. We have been around since 2003. Our stakeholders are essentially everybody in Winnipeg. We are particularly focused on active transportation of all kinds, and our major work focuses on a gap between what people want to do and what people can do and it's mostly related to infrastructure, which is why I'm here to speak to the Capital Budget. I am here to speak in favour and…because nothing is black and white, I will have a couple of suggestions to make it better in future. The reason I am speaking in favour despite the fact that the budget isn't everything that I would love it to be, is I recognize that you guys are in a difficult spot, and I am a very process-oriented person, and there are processes that lead to the budget, and I think that in terms of damage control, I think you have done actually quite a good job. I'm speaking very specifically about the Public Works transportation side, just because I'm not an expert in the other pieces, and so, you know, there could be some awful, terrible thing in the rest of it and I would still be speaking in favour because I wouldn't have noticed and I did look at, takes a long enough time to look at the list. I have a few attachments in front of you. The first one is a citizens' guide to planning and designing for bicycles. I'm going to be talking very specifically about cycling today rather than walking or other things, although I will mention them in the context. This is a really, really important document because this represents the best practices around the world for how to do transportation, and in it essentially talks about how…if you understand what humans need and tell people what you are doing and why, you will very quickly realize that we essentially need to fix everything. What I mean by that is there is a destination and there is an origin on every street, back lane, arterial street and highway in Winnipeg. The other

document I have is, first of all, this one is something I shared in 2015. This one is a review of the local roads projects that were announced. This was after the capital budget because the local listings of roads tends to come after. I spent a week doing analysis of each and pointing out all the things that could or should be included in those relatively unknown projects in order to make them work for active transportation. One of the reasons that we do that is I bring voice to a couple of really important stakeholder groups. One is people under 18 who never come and present at council meetings. So I always have a mental note that I'm speaking on behalf of those people for whom walking and cycling is critically important. Also, although I have zero agency on it, I always try and make a point of making sure that equity is at the top of everything I talk about. Women in transportation face massive challenges. And in cycling, just so you know, just to give you an idea of the current context, right now the split between men and women in cycling is 70/30 in Winnipeg. Technically, because women on average make smaller, shorter trips outside of peak hours, bicycles are really, really important to their ability to reach food, education, places of work, so it actually should be flipped. It should be the other way around. You see, for example, 55/45 splits the other way around in places that do it right. And the reason I mentioned them in the context of the local streets is that when I say shorter trips, and (inaudible) peak hours, we have done counts on residential streets that show that the active transportation motorized split, for example, is 50/50, and a lot of that comes from a lot of the times young women and young girls and younger people. The other thing that I want to draw your attention to is the 261 quick fixes that we crowd-sourced from citizens of Winnipeg over approximately a one week period. This represents a long list of things where if you're biking or walking around, you think every day, darn it, I wish they would just have fixed that. So this is also from 2015, just to point to the scale of what we need to do. I will get to my point about why I think it's a good idea to put off the roads budgets. And basically what I'm offering you is a huge opportunity and an offer. So when I was here talking about the local streets budget, I pointed out the fact that if we were able to scale things up quickly, we are also able to scale things down quickly or we're also able to do them right. In our haste to repair roads, I found that we were doing things that were, in my opinion, unconscionable. Putting this one off the list now is, I think, the smartest thing you could have done because it gives us a chance to do it right. There's some opportunities coming. You saw the federal budget yesterday, and the implications for gas tax, the municipal fund, that makes a big difference. The Provincial government has not been cooperative. Provincial government builds hospitals (inaudible). We do not have a logic that ties transportation directly to health. I know, because our organization is part of a three year research project with Children's Health Research Institutes of Manitoba specifically linking diabetes and CVD, which is cardiovascular diseases, but there's all kinds of things like asthma, lung disease, et cetera which are tied directly to our transportation choices. If we had a logic that showed how much money we could spend on roads and put that in front of the Premier, based solely on having complete communities through those roads, and what I mean by that is a road that works perfectly for everyone, we would have so much money we'd be…it's ridiculous. I could point you to all kinds of studies. Like, this is pre-empting our research, of course, but if you don't realize that biking, for example, is healthier, what it could do or what the impact of physical inactivity in North America is as a result of not providing that kind of infrastructure for people, then honestly you just haven't been paying attention and I would love to tell you more about it. The other opportunities that I would like to offer to you, besides that cost benefit analysis which is something I would love to help with, is a very simple thing, is if you recognize that this citizen's guide to planning and designing for all people and roads, you will very quickly come to a conclusion. And that is that the pedestrian cycling strategies that we have contain a minimum grid cycling network. They do not tell you that all the rest of the roads are off limits because unless you live on the cycling network, your road is on the cycling network. So an open rhetorical question, I realize I can't ask questions, but what diameter of pipe do you need in order to safely get fresh water to people, in say, I don't know, just pick a random…Island Lakes, where I grew up? What diameter of pipe do you need? I have no idea, and I don't care. If I was a councillor, all I would ask people to do is give people fresh water. And when you decide to not put a bike lane on a street, and I've lived in cities where they have one on every single one, it means you're deciding that that person can't get there. And I'm just going to quickly go through a list; so I looked at the Capital Budget in maybe a creative way, but I looked at the destinations on the streets that are not going to get bike lanes in 2019. Again, water under the bridge, but next year. So just Ellice alone between Arlington and Maryland, it means not providing a safe route to John M. King, to 711. That pairing is important, if anybody's ever gotten a slurpee when they were a kid. Pho K Huang Restaurant, which is an awesome Vietnamese place by the way, Hong Hing, West Central Women's Resource Centre, St. Matthews Kids Corner, Lisa's Hair Salon, Galen's Wedding Store, Slam Grocery, Ewan's Discount Store, Winnipeg Central Mosque, Red River Pharmacy, Mr. Calzone's, and while I am reading these out, I would like you to think of a person. A person you know who maybe works at that 711, a person you know who maybe goes to that mosque, and ask yourself whether they deserve safe, equitable, free, sustainable transportation in 2019 in the face of massive health issues and environmental looming disaster. India Palace, Chicken Delight, Super Tasty Pizza, Tam Custom Tailors, if you need a suit, talk to that guy…don't judge me based on…I haven't stayed enough. Husky Convenience Store, Super Taste Pizza. And I'll just pick another one at random. I gave you a long list there. But let's say, let's do Inkster; so KFC, Golden Crust Pizza, Marigold, Coca Cola Bottling, Humphries, VAW Systems, and the list goes on. What I am basically saying is that deciding to not put cycling infrastructure on those streets means that you're saying that the last mile, at the very least, is going to be on the sidewalk. So you're asking them to do something illegal, or more likely, you are asking them to not do it, and you're suggesting that the should drive which is how we got into the infrastructure deficit problem in the first place. So the opportunity is this; you've got a year off, essentially, for Public Works Department. And I was at Public Works Standing Policy Infrastructure…standing committee, where they talked about how the fact that of all the

local street renewals, they are basically designed. So they are sitting there, who did that design and when did they do that? You have a year where you can ask them to go back and look at each project. I'd happily sit next to the desk for weeks on end and I've done it before, to look at those projects and give recommendations if they don't know exactly what to do. But they need your direction. So I would suggest, and I would love to see an amendment come forward, like, I know with this kind of thing, you know, we should have been here last week and I should have, you know, talked to people, and whatever, gotten you to…but, whatever, you've got an hour…you know, seven hour meeting or something planned…five hour. I'm sure you can come up with one which basically recognizes that every road matters and every person matters and that you are directing Public Works to look at it that way because I wouldn't be here if we did that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you for your presentation. We will now take questions for our delegation. Are there any? Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Last November there was a proposal or put forward with a priority of a route Transcona from Regent Avenue…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Nason, if you could rise when you address Council. Thank you.

Councillor Nason: Sorry. Still thinking of my community committee that was last night. Last fall, there was…I think it was November timeframe, there was a proposal for a Regent Avenue to Panet Road active transportation corridor that is now absent from this budget. I see that in your map that you showed an exclamation mark, as it looks like a critical piece for safe transportation from Transcona to connect to more of St. Boniface and onwards downtown. The question for you is, from an advocacy perspective, where does that rank? Is it at the top? Because it was the most expensive item that was on the prior proposal. So I would like to hear your thoughts on that.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Anders, if you could address Council through the Chair, thank you.

Councillor Nason: I'm not alone.

Anders Swanson: That hurts, yeah, it really, really hurts. If you look at the map of Winnipeg, that basically means you are cutting Transcona off. It still is…has always been cut off. If you have ever tried to bike there, it's a nightmare. In terms of top priority, anybody who is cut off is obviously a top priority which is why that cycling network needs to have its own budget. So that budget, the line item…so there is different line items. There's the accelerated roads, there's the regular roads, there's the roadways that have bicycle stuff included in them, those are stuff I didn't mention today by the way, and then there's basically bike paths and things that you should use; bicycle corridors, trails, this kind of thing, regional sidewalks, there is a whole long list. Each of those comes with priorities. But as a councillor…sorry, as a councillor, I would suggest to look at the map and turn the Google bicycle layer on, and you can see very clearly how important that trail is to Transcona. Yeah, it hurts. It's really disappointing. What can I say? I was asked to speak either for or against, and I am a nice guy. But that one definitely hurts a lot of people, and so I would like you to I guess think about all of those roads and streets that I have listed and recognize that there's a Transcona trail for everybody. What we are trying to basically do is quickly as possible build a minimum grid while allaying the damage elsewhere. And so that money has to come from some from somewhere and I'm proposing a solution that would help us get enough money to do all the Transcona trails. If you want to look for a real gaff, look at the whole northwest side of the city with the Google bike map later on in terms of who is not being served right now. But, yeah, anyway, if that answers your question, it hurts, yeah. That's a big dream and it's going to put it back a long time because there's lots of property acquisitions that need to happen and as soon as you get that in the budget, that sets that motion…that sets that process in motion.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Second question, Councillor Nason. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Good morning and thank you for being first up on budget day. Miss Speaker, there was a notation from the speaker that he's lived in other cities that applied walkability and cycling networks to the road, that there was a logic on what this council could spend on roads, having complete communities, connected to healthcare outcomes, climate change, and equity and noted a chance that we have in the preliminary draft budget, and I know that he spoke in favour of the budget, an opportunity to, I quote, "Do things right." For the question, what direction could Council provide that would recognize investments like you described?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Anders.

Anders Swanson: I'm very glad that the councillor used the word investment. I'll come back to that. First of all, No.2 in the citizens planning guide is basically tells you everything that you need to know. It's very simple. In terms of investing, you basically need to make every big street work. You need to make every little street work. You need to make every

highway work. If you spend any time in any Dutch, Finnish, German city, you'll see that they're either already there or working towards it. It's particularly special to be in the Dutch and Finnish ones because they're already done. But basically it means human beings live in residential areas, therefore you design them for human speeds. It means human beings live and work on major streets, therefore you design those major streets for human beings. And investment, the reason I'm really glad you used the investment, is the reason that's so important is that if you propose a certain thing that's going to happen in the city, you leave an out. Business people like to have the rules be the same for everyone. There are implications; parking, do I get my patio? Ellice is a great example. Ellice could easily have had a centre…left right turn lane, I know because the Public Works Director when I very first came to council 13 years ago told me that one should have gotten bike lanes and it should have gotten wide sidewalks because there are so many family businesses on it. That would be an investment in those businesses. It would be investment in the people. That one happens to run through one of the busiest…the highest bicycle mode share postal codes in Canada already. So anybody who works there needs to get there. That would be investment for them. And if you say, oh, we're only going to do these streets and these streets, that's not what the pedestrian cycling strategy is intended. They said this is the minimum grid, we're going to try and build as quickly as possible but meanwhile, you want to make sure that every business in Winnipeg knows that we're investing in them too. On my list, there's I think 4 Royal Banks, I don't know what it is Public Works has against Royal Bank, but I just want to point out that, for example, the manager of Royal Bank in Portage La Prairie is their top cycling advocate. He started their committee, he made it happen. So don't discount anyone and realize that everyone wants this investment, and if you leave uncertainty, that's when you start having trouble.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Rollins. Councillor Schreyer followed by Councillor Allard.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you Madam Speaker. I'm very grateful having met with Mr. Swanson before his…having given us a tour…sort of an active transportation tour of the Valley Gardens area around Valley Gardens Community Centre, highly insightful both in the local and general level. In terms of issues that we can deal with in terms of active transportation that are very concrete and important, I also concur with Mr. Swanson in terms of dealing with diabetes as an example, Madam Speaker. And in that case, Madam Speaker, sometimes we need to…I'll admit to some statistical facts that are…whether they're true or not, I've been saying that sidewalks are over 90% of the active transportation system in Winnipeg. And I wanted to know if Mr. Swanson could comment on whether that is correct.

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Anders Swanson: You know, I would say it's 100% because there's this apartment building in Miami where you can actually drive your Porsche into it and it will lift you in an elevator right into your apartment. But that doesn't exist here yet. Every trip starts and ends with a walking trip. So I would…yeah, I would concur that cycling…walking is vitally important. I'm not sure if that answers your question.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Second question Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: My concern is that our budgetary ability…the City's ability or the City's will to take proper care of our sidewalks in winter time is in jeopardy. Would Mr. Swanson like to comment on that?

Anders Swanson: Your ability to take care of library's in jeopardy. I agree. I guess the only thing I would say from a functional perspective which speaks again to this like, importance of having good traffic flow that at a human scale in residential areas is being the one thing that you need to just do and say is that functionally for a person who's walking or using a wheelchair or skateboarding on a sidewalk, they're most at risk, actually, at the intersections. So when we're talking about neighbourhood-wide traffic calming, actually, that's what matters. So yes, 100%, but what you need to do is you need to look at not just the sidewalk's themselves, but where the people need to cross and that speaks also to the major streets as well. It's also…it basically is a connected system and what ends up happening is you create the environment where it is comfortable, convenient and safe. I mentioned this at Public Works when I came here, but every spring what happens is cars start to speed up because the snow goes away and then lots more kids start walking, biking to school and then lots more kids start getting hit. And in the two weeks since I made that presentation, there's been three. And I think what we need to do is we need to have a lens on our transportation network that takes seriously the people who are not in the room. And so, yes, I agree that snow clearing is part of it, I think we're going to need all kinds of extra equipment like Ottawa's had to buy because of climate change and the increase in iciness and length of the shoulder seasons. But yeah, I could talk about it at length, I don't know how to get the short answer.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next is Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Thank you Madam Speaker. So first off, thank you very much for your advocacy and your presentation today. I…we've already had…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer moves extension. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Allard: We've already had discussions at Public Works so my question's really for the benefit of the chamber…of the council chamber. So are you aware that the Provincial government has arbitrarily skipped a $40 million payment out of 2018 and that has impacted our ability to fund active transportation in this budget and are you further aware that the Public Works Committee has recommended that we ask the Province to immediately restore that funding that's been confirmed by EPC? And then, are you also in support of that direction to ask the Province to put the money back into the budget so that we can build facilities including active transportation?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Swanson.

Anderson Swanson: The short answer is yes. The long answer is also tell them why and also do it right. So when I say for example, I'm in support of the fact that you now have 12 months to figure out how to do this right, I recognize that there are members in the gallery who are probably going to speak against the budget because of the impact that it has on their…on construction workers, designers, etc. And that's what I mean about tough choices. But when you're asking the Province to invest more, again, I think you can ask them to invest ten times that based on the ability to prevent diabetes, cardiovascular disease alone, because there's real cost to that. Real cost to productivity to…and I would also say, again, like, there's nothing black and white in politics. Some of the things that I've suggested if these were in place two years ago, I wouldn't be here. And do I think we should build as many roads as quickly as possible without considering the young people that need to use those streets and the path way that for some reason got a square curb on Des Meurons where you come off instead of being done right and I still haven't been able to fix? No. Because, you know, that's what I mean by an opportunity. So yes I support you because I think you're right and I know how much money...

Madam Speaker: Councillor Chambers move extension. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Anderson Swanson: I know how much money you get for $100 in taxes raised and I…so yes, I agree.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Thank you. Second question, Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Thank you for answering that question. And my second question is really maybe an opportunity to respond to Councillor Schreyer's question. Are you aware that the enhanced snow clearing budget that we have…which we are proposing in today's budget also includes higher priority for streets, P1s and P2s which include sidewalks, which means sidewalks are getting cleared faster as a result of that? And are you further aware that Councillor Schreyer also voted for that report?

Anders Swanson: You know, I have a lot of things to do so I'm not aware of the second one, no offense. Thank you. But the first one, I am definitely aware of that. I'm also exceedingly aware of the fact, for example, that a lot of the pathways that are going to get cleared for…that will help cycling, because they're praised actually as active transportation corridors and we're bumping them all up. Every single thing that is good for biking is good for wheelchairs by default from a technical standpoint. It's also good for people in strollers from a technical standpoint. So I realize that yes, that is long-awaited. Again, I wish things moved faster.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Allard, nothing further. Councillor Gilroy. Okay, thank you. That brings our question period to a conclusion. Thank you for your presentation today.

Anders Swanson: I'd like to just conclude with the fact that that presentation was for Danielle.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Chris Lorenc is here. If I could call you forward. He's here on behalf of the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association and he is in opposition to the same item, the Capital and Operating Budgets. Welcome.

Chris Lorenc: Good morning, Madam Speaker, Mr. Mayor, members of council. We don't like as an association to be appearing before any public standing committee or indeed this council in opposition to something. We have throughout our 76 years always attempted to advocate for solutions, challenges facing governments with public policy suggestions made in the public best interests. You have not heard from our association that the budget must be this or it must be that. You have always heard from us advocacy that encourages evidence-based decisions on infrastructure investments to grow the economy and consistent with principles that best serve our community, our public budgets, and our municipal government. And this budget cycle was no different. To say that we are profoundly disappointed with the outcomes of EPC deliberations heading to this morning's meeting would be a huge disappointment. You asked us to push Manitoba to make good on a $40 million commitment. You asked us to press Winnipeg MLAs to engage, to stand up for the public, not partisan interest. We did all of that, and more. Our approach, I believe, has been factual,

measured, and balanced. We agreed with you that provincial deficits should not be balanced on the backs of Winnipeg rate payers, but we also asked you to be consistent and not load the impact of the 40 million deficiency on the backs of our women and men whose incomes, livelihoods and families depend on work in our industry. You asked us to provide you with considered options and we did. Sadly, we have heard in response phrases such as accepting a new reality, a phrase that in our opinion does not reflect the public best interest. If our infrastructure, our roads, were not in need of my repair, okay, what are you pushing for? If our streets were in good condition, all of them, what are you complaining about? If we had eliminated the annual infrastructure investment deficit through difficult decisions including appropriate cash to capital contributions, we wouldn't be here other than to support the budget. But that is not what is before us. Our residential and regional streets are by and large in deplorable condition. We are facing a three billion investment deficit for what exists and what is required in our streets and bridges. You raise taxes every year by 2% specifically to address this deficit in infrastructure funding. You raised 11 million each year in revenue specifically to see both local and regional streets program funding rise in year to chip away at that very deficit. This year, that local program was cut by 30 million compared to 2018's program. This year, you wiped out all significant work on neighborhood streets, and you're choosing to do that despite the fact that you have options. You have reserves, you have a projected surplus, you have a budget that surely like any other always has room for adjustment. With all of that, and with a request that you bridge your 40 million shortfall over two years, we have silence from the budget. If pipe, pavement and bridges are not one of the essential core functions of civic government, we and I suspect the public wonder then, what is? Mr. Mayor, you have associated your candidacy for election and re-election as mayor of the city with amongst other things, a focus and sustained investment in local and regional streets. You did that a head of both elections. The public accepted your representations not only because investment in roads is a number one priority for the vast majority of the public, but because you did demonstrate to a large extent a delivery on that promise in your first four years. In the second of your campaigns you reminded the public of the historic levels of investment in our streets program and indicated a commitment to more of the same. We respectfully ask you Mr. Mayor, as mayor of our city to sponsor a motion and correct and adjust the budget priorities. And we ask Councillor Gillingham based in part upon his stated concerns after the March 7 IRPW meeting when he first learned that as a consequence of the preliminary budgets tabled March 1 that there was effectively no residential streets renewal program for 2019 to second the motion. I have prepared a draft and would ask that it be circulated. The motion reads as follows: Moved by Mayor Bowman and seconded by Councillor Gillingham, whereas the funding of new and existing local and regional street system is a core civic function, and whereas Council has, through policy and budget, attempted to redress the deficit through a combination of dedicated realty taxes, cash to capital, debt financing and shared funding agreements with Manitoba and the Federal Government. And whereas Manitoba has short-changed Winnipeg rate payers $40 million by refusing to pay said amount arising from the last year of a five year funding agreement ending 2018, leaving Winnipeg tax payers with a funding shortfall for 2019. And whereas Manitoba has not committed to a new five-year shared infrastructure funding agreement to succeed the one ending 2018. And whereas an unacceptable immediate impact is the effect of elimination of the 2019 local streets program, which is unacceptable to Winnipeg rate payers and inflicts further damage to the street system. And whereas the total operating budget revenues for 2019 are estimated to be 2.5 billion and projected expenses 2.4 billion, leaving a projected surplus of 10.7 million. And whereas the federal budget tabled March 19 commits to double the level of funding available to municipalities in 2019 through the federal gas tax which could mean more than 40 million in additional capital funding in 2019 to Winnipeg. And whereas all such previous funds received by Winnipeg have been allocated in support of its local regional street system. Therefore be it resolved as follows: one, that Winnipeg pursue from the Federal Government the additional 40 million under the announced gas tax commitment and allocate its full amount to the 2019 streets program. Two, that pending receipt from Ottawa of the projected additional 40 million as bridge funding, Winnipeg allocate 0.788% of the 2.5 billion in anticipated revenues to offset 20 million of the shortfall in the 2019 capital program funding of Winnipeg's local streets program. Three, that upon receipt from Ottawa of a confirmed commitment of the 40 million, that it restore the 0.788% back to the operating budget. And four, that council call on all Winnipeggers to press the Premier, the Provincial government, and all Winnipeg MLAs to provide the outstanding 40 million in full and final payment of the City of Winnipeg for the 2018 roads program and press the Provincial government to enter into a successor 2019-24 five-year shared infrastructure funding agreement. The impacts are immediate and would be supported by Winnipeggers and they are no increase in taxes, no increase in debt, no reduction in services, and the restoration of the 2019 residential streets renewal program. We oppose this budget not because we oppose all of it. As we said when it was first released, there are many, many good aspects to it, and we very sincerely regret to say that without your adoption of the proposed or similar motion, we oppose your adopting the 2019 Preliminary Operating and Capital Budget as presented. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Mr. Lorenc for your presentation. We'll take questions in a few moments. In the meantime, I'd like to call forward Mr. Michel Durand-Wood. Is he here today? Yes. He is in opposition to the same item. We'll have five minutes on the clock. Following that, we'll take questions for both of the delegations. Welcome.

Michel Durand-Wood: Mayor Bowman, councillors, thank you for the opportunity to speak here today. My name's Michel Durand-Wood. I'm co-chair of the Glenelm Neighbourhood Association in Elmwood, board member for the Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation, also in Elmwood, and I also write a really fun blog about infrastructure

and municipal finance called, 'Dear Winnipeg'. But today I come to you as a concerned taxpayer, because that's the best kind. I know your budgeting job isn't easy. There's never enough money to do everything we need to, never mind everything we want to, and it seems to be getting worse every single year. Unfortunately, no one is talking about the real reason there's never enough money, and that's where I'd like to start today. Two and a half to one; that's the ratio of our $85 billion assessment base to our $35 billion of infrastructure and that is catastrophic. Why? Let's look at it this way; if I live in a house assessed at $250,000, 2.5:1 means my share of our infrastructure is $100,000. Now, the City would never send me a bill for 100 grand all at once, or at least I hope it wouldn't, it would collect it in smaller chunks over several years through property taxes. Now cost benefit analysis submitted by developers are using an average of 4% so a 25 year replacement cycle in their calculations. Given the developers are most certainly trying to sell us something, it's safe to say that 4%'s probably understated, so we'll just use that for now. So every year, I need to pay 4% of $100 thousand for my share of infrastructure replacement, a total of $4,000. Ouch. Especially since I already pay less than 1700 a year in property taxes now. And that 4,000 is just for infrastructure replacement, it doesn't include any services. We'd need to double our property taxes just to take care of the infrastructure we already own, triple them if we still want our garbage picked up. But wait I heard someone say, and I don't want to single anybody out so let's just call him Scott F. Scott F says the City has a spending problem, that if you city hall fat cats would just tighten your belts and stop wasting the City's money, we'd have all the money we need. Now is that true? Well, let's look at it another way. We have $35 billion in infrastructure, 30 of which is just roads and pipes. At 4%, that means we need to set aside $1.4 billion a year, every year forever. So even if we cut every single City service, fired all the staff and forced all of you to work for free...don't worry, we wouldn't actually do that. But let's say we did, we still don't have enough just for infrastructure replacement. That's what 2.5:1 means. We've built way more infrastructure than the size of our tax base can support. So how do we fix it? Well there are two possible courses; we can work at increasing that ratio to a sustainable level. And that means we focus on doing things that increase the tax base without increasing our infrastructure. Things like embracing infill, planting a whole lot more trees, and we do things that make better use of our existing infrastructure like expanding protected bike lanes, making neighborhoods more walkable and improving transit, and we absolutely stop building new roads. Or two, we can triple our property taxes. It seems like a straightforward enough choice for Winnipeggers to make, but there's only one problem, even though we know about 2.5:1, all the Scott F's out there still think it's simply an issue of mismanagement of City finances. No one's talking about 2.5:1, they don't know. And that means that all public engagement we do about infill, about transit, active transportation, forestry budgets, about everything is a complete colossal waste of time. Because unless all of it is framed in the context of 2.5:1, we're essentially asking Winnipeggers to choose from a menu that has no prices on it. And the prices are important because they can change people's choices. Do you want the pizza or the kale salad? Pizza! But the pizza is $90. Hm, the kale salad has craisins. If Winnipeggers knew that the price of refusing infill, bike lanes, transit investment, vision zero, all these things that would help increase the ratio is a tripling of our property taxes, I think a lot more of them would choose a kale salad. Or maybe not, but we need to have that discussion. Austerity can't save us. The math tells us we're already way past that. And that's why I can't support a business as usual budget where we make hard decisions on which services to cut and which infrastructure's going to neglect this year. It's time to have a real, honest conversation about how we got here and how we're going to proceed going forward, and we have to do it now because next year, you'll be approving our first four-year budget. Missing this window means kicking the can down the road another five years and hoping it doesn't all go south before then. We have nine months to help the most important city-wide kitchen table conversation in generations, if not ever. So my ask for you here today is this: set aside $500,000 or $1 million, I don't know exactly what these things cost, in order to do the public engagement that is needed to frame everything we do going forward in this critical context. That way, we gain Winnipeggers buy in for one of the two possible paths out of this mess; either a city that becomes a whole lot less infrastructure intensive or one that's willing to accept a 200% tax increase. The emperor has no clothes, and we need to address that. I promise you your jobs at community committee will be much easier going forward. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you for your presentation. Now the opportunity for questions, Councillor Schreyer.

Translation of French Spoken:
Councillor Schreyer: Thank you Madam Speaker. It's my pleasure to ask a question of Mr. Durand-Wood**.**

Councillor Schreyer: If I could ask question Mr. Durand-Wood.

Madam Speaker: Are you asking the question in French?

Councillor Schreyer: No, actually it's in English.

Madam Speaker: Okay.

Councillor Schreyer: Is Mr. Durand-Wood aware of the change in the budget for tree planting and for the tree planting for the city?

Michel Durand-Wood: Yes. I guess maybe I need a little bit more context as to what…

Madam Speaker: Okay. Thank you. Councillor...

Councillor Schreyer: I'm implying…does he wish to comment on it?

Michel Durand-Wood: Sure. Well, I mean one of the things that I guess I'm trying to address here is that we are not talking about the real problem and we are just doing what we can to rob Peter and pay Paul and move things around and stay afloat when we're not doing things to address the real problem. And to address the real problem, like I said, there are two options, we can jack up our property taxes, which is a valid option to keep doing things the way we're doing them or we can adopt an approach that is much more math centric that can look at what kind of small-scale incremental investments that we can make that are low risk and high return. Specifically talking about trees, that's one of the investments that we can make that is low cost and low risk. I've blogged about it before, but a $500 tree planted on a street has the potential to return 22% return on investment in property tax values. I believe EPC was presented with those numbers, and so that's really a low-cost, low-risk approach that we can take. Our budget, even though it isn't a cut, we understand that, it's still insufficient to replace all the trees that we are removing, never mind adding more trees as we should be doing.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Second question, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Is Mr. Durand-Wood aware or actually, does he wish to comment on the fact that I've made an agreement with the Glenelm Residents Association to provide funding from the local Land Dedication Reserve from the ward to make up for what we would consider a relative infrastructure deficit and what we need to do the planting and we need to do in the ward specifically in Glenelm?

Michel Durand-Wood: Yes, well, being the co-chair of the Glenelm Neighborhood Association, I am aware, and I do agree that that's a good step at the local level. I also believe that going forward, the City does need to take a much more neighborhoods first approach to really take a grassroots level look at what are the small things that we can do to improve our neighborhoods incrementally one small step at a time. You know, wake up every morning and say okay, how can we low-risk invest in our city to get to a less infrastructure intensive way of living, which means more walking, more biking, more transit. Trees absolutely help in that. They also help in reducing the stress on our storm sewers. And yeah, so obviously I'm aware. It was a project that we brought forward to our councillor and we're very happy that he was very on board with it, as well.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Final question.

Councillor Schreyer: Yes, so will Mr. Durand-Wood take into consideration that I agree with him and I've said at the meeting in which I agreed to the extra funding that I consider, as well, a short-term gap fill because as well, we need to look at a larger systemic approach to the problem of losing trees, elms and ashes in our city?

Michel Durand-Wood: Yeah, absolutely agree. Like I said, we do also consider it a stopgap measure. We are absolutely hoping for kind of an overall review of how we approach things as a city, which is why I'm here today is to ask for city council and the City to do that work, to engage with the public, to talk about the real problem, the fact that we are using way more infrastructure than we're currently willing to pay for. So we need to ask the question, do you want infill or tripling our property taxes? Do you want bike lanes or tripling our property taxes? Because that's not how it's being framed as, do you want infill or not? Of course they say no. Do you bike lanes or not? No. It's a menu with no prices. We need to price it out for Winnipeggers to be able to make an enlightened decision and to make your jobs easier at community committee when you have the people with the pitchforks and torches. At least we can know that everybody is on the same page with the same information.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie. Mr. Clerk. Councillor Eadie, this is your opportunity to ask a question, you did have your hand up.

Councillor Eadie: Pardon me, I'm just dealing with a slight problem. Madam Speaker, this question is for Mr. Lorenc. I just wanted to preface it by saying I really feel for the loss of construction jobs that we don't try to do 2019 work that we had projected last year and so on. And we do have this problem with the Province of Manitoba. But Madam Speaker, I am not sure, and I'm not aware if it is known yet, but I know that the water bill payers are beginning to spend more money on doing sewer separation work, and that has been escalated I believe in the 2019 year, not by much, mind you, not by 40 million. But does an increase in our capital spending regarding sewer separation help out the heavy construction industry?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Lorenc.

Chris Lorenc: Madam Speaker, through you to Councillor Eadie, the point about the impact on our industry is simply to illustrate that the sadly mangling of infrastructure budgets that began since 2016 with the provincial election and are now being imposed upon the City of Winnipeg have an across the board very negative impact on the ability of our industry to provide gainful employment to the roughly 15,000 people in this province who depend upon jobs and incomes from the heavy construction industry. Our observation on the budget and the point around the budget isn't to have a budget for the sake of providing jobs, but when the Province cumulatively has reduced investment in infrastructure by $420 million, roughly, and imposes a further impact on the City of Winnipeg in terms of immediate impact of 40 million, and a further roughly 150 by not choosing to enter into a new five year agreement to succeed the one that ended 2018, and when you consider that 30% of all project costs are attributable to labour, you can see that the impact on our industry's women and men is in the vicinity of $140 million of lost impact. And that is not something that is sustainable for our industry. It is not an outcome that one would think would be a desired outcome by any level of government, namely the decimation of an industry.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Second question, Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, I'm sure he is, but is he aware that the Federal Government's budget table is talking about increasing the gas tax…doubling the gas tax to municipalities across the country?

Chris Lorenc: Madam Speaker, through you to Councillor Eadie, yes we are. And the motion that I propose and hope that the Mayor and Councillor Gillingham sponsor, effectively tries to ensure that through short-term bridge funding, by an allocation of 0.788%...of a percent, along with securing federal funding allows a 2019 residential program to in fact materialize. And the motion and the thinking behind the motion is intended to ensure that Council can still say to its rate payers, that we haven't increased your taxes beyond the 2.33%, that we haven't increased your debt load because there is a concern about that, that we are not reducing services, we are living up to core civic responsibilities, one of which is the ability now to restore a residential street renewal program for 2019.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer moves extension. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Councillor Eadie, final question.

Councillor Eadie: Final question. Did you know that the estimate for Winnipeg from the federal budget is approximately $40 million?

Chris Lorenc: Madam Speaker, through you to Councillor Eadie, yes, I explicitly referenced the $40 million that is anticipated to come to Winnipeg from the Federal Government as a result of its March 19th tabled budget. We rely both on what we read and on the statement that was made by the Mayor yesterday in response to the announced federal budget.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Is Mr. Lorenc aware that Councillor Eadie and I have brought forth an amendment to increase the debt for the sole purposes of trying to bring back to balance our road renewal budget, and this would add to the budget for the next 20 years or so by about 0.04%, something like that. Is Mr. Lorenc aware of that?

Chris Lorenc: Madam Speaker, through you to Councillor Schreyer, I am not aware of the specifics of your motion. I am aware that you and Councillor Eadie have been attempting to provide alternatives for councils' consideration. We are mindful of the debt levels that the City of Winnipeg has. We are mindful of the strategy that the City has adopted in terms of trying to balance between cash to capital contributions, dedicated tax for local and regional streets. We are attempting through our proposal to not add additional pressure on the City's borrowing capacity by providing, as a scenario that we think works, is reasonable, the notion of bridge funding pending receipt of money from the Federal Government.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer moves extension. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Councillor Schreyer, second question.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you. And I know it's…might not be fair to Mr. Lorenc, it wasn't his purpose of being here today, nor part of his delegations and offerings of alternatives to the budget, nonetheless, we all have to keep an open mind. If Mr. Lorenc were to make a budget cut in this budget, does he, offhand, would he have a suggestion?

Chris Lorenc: Madam Speaker, through you to Councillor Schreyer, we have actually provided Council in communication to all members of Council including Executive Policy Committee in first instance, a proposal which suggested absent knowing what the Federal Government was going to do, the notion of allocating a 0.788% to fill a gap in 2019 which would have allowed Council the breathing space of 19 and 20 to press the Provincial government to pay the $40 million that it is reneged to the City of Winnipeg to press Manitoba to sign a successor agreement to the 2018…to the agreement, sorry, that ends 2018. So our approach has been not to put before council the choice of this or that, rather we are saying that there should be, and we believe there to be sufficient flexibility to find that 0.788% even without the federal announcement that was made yesterday.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you. Would Mr. Lorenc consider the idea that…that idea of using the federal funding could apply to the amendment being offered by Councillor Eadie and myself in terms of bringing the…bringing back the budget for road renewal back up to taxpayers' expectations? That federal money could go towards that.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Lorenc, if you could quickly answer the question.

Chris Lorenc: Madam Speaker, through you to Councillor Schreyer, without knowing the specifics of the motion, it's hard for me to say yes or no. However, if the question suggests that any debt immediately borrowed by the City be paid off by the $40 million from the Federal Government that is not an unworkable approach.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. That brings our question period to a close. We appreciate your presentations today.

Chris Lorenc: Thank you very much, good morning, and I wish you good luck in your deliberations.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. We will now move onto reports. First, we will deal with the report of the Winnipeg Police Board dated March 8th, 2019. Councillor Klein.

REPORT OF THE WINNIPEG POLICE BOARD DATED MARCH 8, 2019

Councillor Klein: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I think that we are all aware that the Subsection(29)(2) of the Police Services Act states that council is responsible for establishing the total budget of the Police Service, so therefore, I would move that the Police Board recommendation be received for information as the police budget has been included in the overall 2019 City of Winnipeg budget.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any speakers? Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you, I want to thank Councillor Klein for his leadership as Chair of the Winnipeg Police Board, also our Deputy Mayor, Councillor Markus Chambers, is serving on the Winnipeg Police Board. In fact, all of the members, especially the new members of the Winnipeg Police Board, I want to thank them for their deliberations and their efforts. Going through the budget process, especially for new members of Council, as it was new for me in the last term, is quite a process. It's a steep learning curve, and I want to commend and thank the Chair of the Police Board, Councillor Klein, as well as the Winnipeg Police Service starting with our Chief of Police who I think Winnipeggers are very fortunate to have as Chief of our Police, and each of the women and men of the Winnipeg Police Service. The report that we are considering now and the budget ultimately calls for a historic investment of $301.4 million into the Winnipeg Police Service. It reflects an increase of approximately $10 million or an approximately 3.4% increase year over year from last year. This at a time when the demands that are being placed on the Winnipeg Police Service are changing at a very rapid pace, and these investments, of course, are largely to fill obligations under the collective agreement, but also to make sure that the resources are there for the valuable men and women of our Winnipeg Police Service who work day in and day out to keep our community and our families safe. And I want to just take this opportunity to highlight the investments, but also to offer appreciation on behalf of all Winnipeggers and this council chamber to the men and women of the Winnipeg Police Service. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Any further speakers? Councillor Klein, do you wish to close?

Councillor Klein: Yes, thank you very much to Mayor Bowman for those comments, and I will echo that the efforts of the women and men of the Winnipeg Police Service, both the officers and civilian staff, is outstanding. I'm proud of our

Chief of Police and the work that he does in the community, and I think that that should be recognized that we have a chief that is in the community, takes time from his personal life to make sure he is a part of the community when tragedy strikes, offering support and comfort in a very sincere manner. So thank you for allowing me to put that out there, Madam Speaker, and I would just call for the vote as so moved.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Klein. I will now call the question. All in support of receiving the Winnipeg Police Board report as information? All in favour? Contrary? Carried. We will now move on to you, Mr. Mayor, the report of the Executive Policy Committee. Okay.

REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED MARCH 19, 2019

Item 1 – Executive Policy Committee – Final Recommendation – Preliminary 2019 Operating Budget and 2020 to 2021 Projections, and 2019 Capital Budget and 2020 - 2024 Five Year Forecast.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Mr. Clerk, Mr. Mayor to introduce the item.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you Madam Speaker. And I'm going to speak for about a minute and then I'm going to defer the remainder of my time to our Finance Chair. Firstly, I want to thank all members of council for their deliberations and their efforts on this year's budgets. I want to also thank members of our public service and the public, all of whom contributed over many, many months to input into the budget. Key priorities in the 2019 budgets include investments in transit, roads, innovation, and combined sewer overflow mitigation, maintain front line services, reduce the sewer and water dividend while keeping taxes and fees affordable for Winnipeggers, Madam Speaker. Balancing this year's budget required many difficult choices and decisions as all budgets do. Compounding the challenge this year was ongoing uncertainty regarding the Provincial government's funding support to the City of Winnipeg for 2019, as well as provincial funding commitments from prior fiscal years that remain outstanding, Madam Speaker. Notwithstanding these significant challenges, the 2019 preliminary budgets present a balanced and responsible blueprint, a plan that keeps property taxes affordable for Winnipeg families while maintaining and investing in key infrastructure, services and technology that are important to Winnipeggers, and are essential to building our city for the future. I will have more to say at the conclusion of our commentary. I do want to thank our Finance Chair who I think has done very difficult work. He has been a true collaborator and accessible to all members of council, and I want to commend him for his leadership in preparing this year's budgets.

Madam Speaker: Councillor. Thank you Mr. Mayor. Councillor Gillingham to take the rest of the Mayor's time.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you Madam Speaker and through you, thank you to the Mayor as well. And I want to echo what the Mayor has said, outside of his comments, just expression of sincere appreciation to Mayor Bowman and all members of the Budget Working Group. Thank you to my other council colleagues also for the conversations and input into this budget. Thank you to the Chief Financial Officer, Mike Ruta, and our entire Corporate Finance team, and thank you do other City staff who have been involved as well. I want to thank the members of the public and the various stakeholders for your engagement throughout this process. Each budget year is a challenge as request for funds inevitably outstrip the availability of funds. So the aim is always to present a responsible budget that funds the services citizens of our great city need while keeping property taxes, rates and fees affordable. And overall, I believe the preliminary…pardon me, the 2019 budgets strike the balance between discipline, addressing immediate priorities, and continuing to invest in key services and infrastructure that will build our city for the future. Madam Speaker, it's my privilege to move adoption of the 2019 Preliminary Capital and Operating Budgets including the final recommendations. The 2019 budget is balanced. The budget limits municipal property taxes to 2.33% with the entirety of those…that percentage increase going towards infrastructure. It means $40 in municipal property taxes in 2019…$40 more for the addition…for the average homeowner. There's no frontage levy rate increase in '19. The impact fee increase will be at the rate of construction inflation, which is the 3.5% set for 2019. There are no new fees or charges included in the 2019 budget. Back to the impact fee, the impact fee will not be used…is not used as a funding source in the 2019 budget. A highlight of this budget is a decrease of the water and sewer dividend from 12% to 11% of budgeted water and waste sales. This measure will help fund significant upgrades to Winnipeg's wastewater treatment infrastructure as mandated by the Province of Manitoba, while also helping to keep water and sewer rates affordable for Winnipeggers. Transit features…investments in transit feature probably prominently in the 2019 budget. In 2019, the tax supported transfer to transit is set at $70.4 million, an increase of over 6% from last year's tax supported transfer of $66.4 million. There is much more to say about transit but perhaps others around this chamber will want to speak to some of the transit highlights. We will turn our attention though to the roads renewal budget. This year, Winnipeg's investment in regional

local road renewal will increase by the full value of the 2% property taxes. 2019 also marks the first year of a five year accelerated regional roads investment program jointly funded by Canada, the Province of Manitoba, and the City of Winnipeg. However, the Provincial government has recently made a unilateral decision to not fully fund the final year of the five year $250 million road funding commitment to the City that expired at the end of 2018. And Council, as we see, is now faced with a very difficult choice as to how to address a $40 million provincial roads funding shortfall from 2018. As we've heard, council could address…could choose to increase property taxes by approximately 7% to cover this provincial funding shortfall. Alternatively, Council could choose to cover the $40 million provincial shortfall with long term debt. However, to do so, could have negative implications for the City's current credit rating, would reduce the City's borrowing capacity for future projects, and or will reduce the City's investment in other capital assets. I for one do not believe it is appropriate to pull out the City's credit card to make Winnipeg taxpayers pay the Province's bill. Instead, the City…the budget before us proposes what I believe is a balance and prudent approach. This balanced approach proposes to cover $20 million of the 40 million provincial funding shortfall from 2018 using resources from the local road renewal reserve in 2019. The remainder of this provincial shortfall will be addressed in 2020. Now very recently, all members of Council received a letter from the Minister of Municipal Relations. This letter addressed to Mayor Bowman states, "It is the Province's intention to provide the City with $37.9 million advance payment for the accelerated regional roads program." The letter suggests that this advance, and I quote, "Frees up City funds for other purposes." However, the details of the contribution agreement are still being reviewed. And the Province has made it very clear that these funds, when and if they are advance are encumbered and must ultimately be used for the accelerated regional roads program. The advanced funds cannot be used to fund the City's local roads program, and it is the local roads program that has been reduced this year as a direct result of the Province failing to fulfil its 2018 funding…growth funding commitment. Unfortunately, and it impacts this…our decisions today, the Minister's letter does not commit to providing $40 million that the Province of Manitoba stills owes the City of Winnipeg for 2018. Further, the letter does not offer any evidence of accounting to substantiate the Province's claim that they have fulfilled their obligation. The letter contains numbers but offers no justification for those numbers. What the letter does is…see the provincial government contradict itself by stating that the 2014 $250 million roads funding was not and I quote…or pardon me, was, and I quote, "A political commitment to which a successor government is not bound." However, this current provincial government, i.e. the successor government, of its own volition, bound itself to this 2014 roads funding commitment by fulfilling years three and four of its five year political…of the five year political commitment. And further, for 2018, the successor government provided 10 million of roads funding initiated by the previous Provincial government. That 10 million, in 2018, is final payment on the Disraeli project. So while on one hand the letter argues that the government is not…the Provincial government is not bound by the previous government's five year road funding commitments, on the other hand, the same Provincial government on its own…of its own volition in fact bound itself to that commitment by providing full funding for years three and four and partial funding for year five. So the City Council and City Administration will continue to press the Province of Manitoba for funding clarity and certainty. It's a matter of public record that the Standing Policy Committee on Finance was asking in 2017 for information on the 2018 budget from the Province of Manitoba, but it was not till January 2019, 13 months after Council adopted a 2018 budget, that the Province informed the City of the unilateral decision to not fund the $40 million of the final year five year commitment which brings us to today. Council needs to address the $40 million funding shortfall. Late yesterday, the Federal Government tabled its 2019 budget. They indicate that they are willing to directly fund municipalities including the City of Winnipeg. Yesterday's budget out of Ottawa made an expressed commitment to double the gas tax funding available to the City of Winnipeg in 2019. This could mean $40 million directly from the Federal Government may be available to the City of Winnipeg for roads funding in 2019. I appreciate the Mayor's commitment that was circulated that's subject to the review of the details and subject to the federal budget passing, Council Administration will work diligently to administer any funds that may be available. However, it would be premature to presume that federal funding and to amend the budget before us in any way today. And I've got two more pages, but I think I'm out of time Madam Speaker and apparently there's no extensions at this point. So there we go.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. There are no extensions for opening on an item. Thank you Councillor Schreyer. Any further speakers? Yes, Councillor Eadie, the motion has been circulated. Councillor Eadie will be opening on Motion 2 and is asking for withdrawal on Motion 1. Is that correct Councillor Eadie?

Councillor Eadie: That is correct Speaker Sharma. There was a typo error in the previous first motion.

Madam Speaker: Okay. So Councillor Eadie, your opportunity to introduce Motion 2.

Motion No. 1
Moved by Councillor Eadie,
Seconded by Councillor Schreyer,

WHEREAS a reduction of more than $40 million in 2019 local road, back lane and sidewalk renewals will have an adverse effect on the Winnipeg construction industry and economy;

AND WHEREAS $20 million of Winnipeg's 2019 budget for the dedicated local road renewals needs to pay for 2018 road work the Province of Manitoba committed to but refused to pay;

AND WHEREAS this level of reduction in Winnipeg construction and the reduction of construction throughout the province will result in heavy construction industry workers being laid off, meaning many of the 15,000 Winnipeg heavy construction workers during the construction season around Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS people out of work will not be able to spend money in Winnipeg including their ability to pay property taxes;

AND WHEREAS the City's debt by-law and policy Debt Strategy limits the City's tax supported debt by 80% of total revenue aside from Water and Waste's 110% of their total revenue;

AND WHEREAS there is fiscal concern that debt payments become a drain on operating budgets;

AND WHEREAS the city's/tax payers' designated local road reserve is only used for local renewals and not part of operating funds;

AND WHEREAS $12 million of the federal gas tax revenue is dedicated to local road renewals;

AND WHEREAS reconstructed roads and back lanes are built to last 30 to 50 years, meaning leveraging 30 year debentures at an budgeted annual 65.28% debt servicing rate if borrowing to renew local streets and back lanes makes sense;

*AND WHEREAS the local road renewal dedicated reserve has already been leveraging low interest rate debentures to the tune of $275 million ($10 million in each of 2013 and 2014, $6 million in 2015 and $1 million in 2016), meaning there is $11.7 million of room for debt based on 0.8 times the reserve and gas tax budget lines – ($33,898,000 + $12,000,000 – $25,000,000) * 0.80 = $11,718,000;*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to take on $10 million of 30 year debt to be added to the Local Street Renewal Reserve funds to increase the number of streets and back lanes that get fully reconstructed in 2019 (list pending from administration after the budget is passed);

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the debt servicing payments be placed in the Local Street Renewal Reserve from the $33.898 million indicated in the "regional and local road renewal budget sheet" and that the amounts to be invested in the local street renewal be reduced by the debt and finance charges commencing in 2019 at an estimated cost of $394,000 and annualized to $628,000 thereafter.

Motion No. 2
Moved by Councillor Eadie,
Seconded by Councillor Schreyer,

WHEREAS a reduction of more than $40 million in 2019 local road, back lane and sidewalk renewals will have an adverse effect on the Winnipeg construction industry and economy;

AND WHEREAS $20 million of Winnipeg's 2019 budget for the dedicated local road renewals needs to pay for 2018 road work the Province of Manitoba committed to but refused to pay;

AND WHEREAS this level of reduction in Winnipeg construction and the reduction of construction throughout the province will result in heavy construction industry workers being laid off, meaning many of the 15,000 Winnipeg heavy construction workers during the construction season around Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS people out of work will not be able to spend money in Winnipeg including their ability to pay property taxes;

AND WHEREAS the City's debt by-law and policy Debt Strategy limits the City's tax supported debt by 80% of total revenue aside from Water and Waste's 110% of their total revenue;

AND WHEREAS there is fiscal concern that debt payments become a drain on operating budgets;

AND WHEREAS the city's/tax payers' designated local road reserve is only used for local renewals and not part of operating funds;

AND WHEREAS $12 million of the federal gas tax revenue is dedicated to local road renewals;

AND WHEREAS reconstructed roads and back lanes are built to last 30 to 50 years, meaning leveraging 30 year debentures at an budgeted annual 65.28% debt servicing rate if borrowing to renew local streets and back lanes makes sense;

*AND WHEREAS the local road renewal dedicated reserve has already been leveraging low interest rate debentures to the tune of $27 million ($10 million in each of 2013 and 2014, $6 million in 2015 and $1 million in 2016), meaning there is $11.7 million of room for debt based on 0.8 times the reserve and gas tax budget lines – ($33,898,000 + $12,000,000 – $25,000,000) * 0.80 = $11,718,000;*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to take on $10 million of 30 year debt to be added to the Local Street Renewal Reserve funds to increase the number of streets and back lanes that get fully reconstructed in 2019 (list pending from administration after the budget is passed);

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the debt servicing payments be placed in the Local Street Renewal Reserve from the $33.898 million indicated in the "regional and local road renewal budget sheet" and that the amounts to be invested in the local street renewal be reduced by the debt and finance charges commencing in 2019 at an estimated cost of $394,000 and annualized to $628,000 thereafter.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Where to begin? Well, we know why…we know why myself and Councillor Schreyer are putting this amendment item forward. It is as a result, Madam Speaker…as a result of…well, ultimately it results from the promise of the new provincial government making decisions to get rid of a tax, but also to get rid of funding, what I believe, in an appropriate manner, the infrastructure of the City of Winnipeg. Not to mention, as well, there are other municipalities that are not benefiting as much as under the previous government, but that aside, I wanted to say, first of all, Madam Speaker, in regards to this motion, this motion is actually a fiscally prudent one. To utilize words like taking on massive debt, is inappropriate, Madam Speaker, because $10 million in conjunction to a city that's annual budget is over a billion dollars is not considered to be massive debt, I'm sorry. What it attempts to do, Madam Speaker, is to restore or to bring some funding for new construction that's…not new, reconstructed back lanes and roads. It may not be enough to handle all that was being projected for 2019, as we all know, we all campaigned on continuing to fix roads, and yes, we are paying back 20 million over to 2018. It did fix the roads. However, there is an expectation on our residents, Madam Speaker, that they actually see some work this year for the new taxes they are actually paying this year. They are paying another 1% for local roads, Madam Speaker, $5.5 million, Madam Speaker. This…to borrow 10 million would cost about 620…would cost…budgeted $628,000 per year from that 5.5 million, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, you know, when they talk about debt, if my house could totally…was ready to rip down, and I would have to borrow money, Madam Speaker, and that's what you do because I don't have enough income at one time to build a brand new house for my family to live in. An investment or debt of this sort, Madam Speaker, is not erroneous, it is not wrong. As a matter of fact, it doesn't even affect the operating budget, because the dedicated money in the local road reserve is dedicated for that. They pay it, it goes through, it goes to the reserve, and as we spend that money, whether we pay down debt or we pay cash to reconstruct a road, that's fine. Last year in my ward, we reconstructed Rupertsland Avenue from Powers to McGregor. It was almost a million dollars. That's a pretty big-ticket price. Anyway, Madam Speaker, it's nice to do cash to capital if you can do it. Now on the…since I submit this, we hear that the Federal Government is interested, giving us double the gas tax money that we receive on a regular basis, and part of the calculation, as a matter of fact, in this is to say that we are calculating 80%, because we can't borrow more than 80% of the revenue. Okay, that's our debt by-law. Okay. Follows that, fiscally prudent, Madam Speaker, apparently, CFO says that's fiscally prudent. Going beyond 80% is not fiscally prudent. Okay. So it meets that. It's a good motion. I don't know if it's really needed at this point now, if the Federal Government comes true, and that it is actually a 40 million new dollars that can be directed to local roads. Right now we have that $12 million from gas taxes dedicated to local roads. I think that's good. So anyway, to coin this motion is to say that I am going spending crazy. That is wrong, Madam Speaker. For people to say that kind of thing, alls I am trying to do here is be constructive. Councillor Schreyer and I, that's what we are trying to do. Our residents expect to see some roads get done. I have to say. So yeah, we did roads last year, everybody appreciates it. And then they say, well when is mine going to be done, Madam Speaker. That's what they say. So, you know, we have the context of the heavy construction industry, talking

about those issues. But anyway, I personally…you know what, the more I think about it, I think we should go ahead with this. We already borrowed 27 million towards our local roads over the last…since 2013. Something I voted for, Madam Speaker. I support that and it still continues to be in this operating budget, Madam Speaker. But I have to say, I think maybe we could go ahead with this because I don't know why we are spending cash. Let's leverage low interest rates. We have low interest rates now. Let's leverage it. Let's be like a business. No, I know we are not a business, we are a public entity providing public services and providing public assets to be used by the people who live and visit Winnipeg. But ultimately, you know, this is a reconstruction. The road's going to last for another 50 years or 30 to 50 years. If interest rates are low, that's a good time to borrow. In the 1980s and '90s, which our CFO, when he came on, he helped us resolve that problem, that's fine. But in the '80s and '90s, our debt problem was directly related to high interest rates. That's not the time you leverage dollars, Madam Speaker. That is not the time. The time to leverage dollars is when interest rates are low. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Eadie. Any further speakers? On the budget, that's right, and on Councillor Eadie's amending motion. You would speak to both items together. Councillor Klein.

Councillor Klein: I would just like to move, Madam Speaker, that we call for the vote now for this motion and for the budget if we can.

Madam Speaker: So you are moving to close debate and call for the vote? Okay. And that is a motion that is in order. We'd require just a majority vote. Is that correct Mr. Clerk?

City Clerk: Yes, Madam Speaker. That motion is in order and it requires a vote of Council simply to close debate and move directly to closing on the items and a vote on the budget.

Madam Speaker: Yes. There's no debate so I will call the question that's in front of us. All in favour? Mr. Clerk, if you could reiterate the motion is on the floor to close debate and move to the vote. Okay. On the budget…on the budget…on the budget, no. So all in favour? So call for a recorded vote? Okay. So what is on the floor…I have the floor Councillor Allard. The motion that's on the floor right now is to close debate and move to the vote, and it is an allowable motion and it's on the floor. Call for a recorded vote. All in favour? What is your…do you have a question, comment?

Councillor Allard: May I speak now?

Madam Speaker: No. But not on this item…

Councillor Allard: May I point…may I have a point of order, please? I'm not challenging the Chair. I have a point of order.

Madam Speaker: Are you speaking on the motion that's in front of us?

Councillor Allard: Well I just want to…I want to point out that this is the opportunity to have your say…

Madam Speaker: You cannot speak on the motion, Councillor Allard. Please take your seat and I will call the question. There is a call for recorded vote. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Klein, Lukes and Nason

Nays

His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Schreyer and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 3, Nays 13.

Madam Speaker: The motion is lost. We will move forward with debate on the Capital and Operating Budgets as well as the Motion No. 2 that Councillor Eadie just presented. Who is the next speaker? Councillor Orlikow.

Councillor Orlikow: All right. Thank you very much for this opportunity to speak on the budget. I'm going to be specific about something I find super exciting in this budget, it's very…this budget reflects the fact that we are in a new reality with the Province of Manitoba. Bottom line is they're going to contribute less funds to the City of Winnipeg going forward. That's not in dispute. So we have to figure out a way how we are going to move to the one million people with the infrastructure deficit and even the operating deficit we already have. And so why I'm really excited about this budget is that for the first time we're taking…we're going to use innovation, transformation and technology to be able to look at ways to provide those services that the public needs at less cost and more efficiently. The budget has funds in this for this new council to work. This budget also has funds in it to work together to map out how we're going to get there and how we're going to provide value to our residents, how we're going to continue to attract those people to Winnipeg, and a roadmap through a four year budgeting process, again incredibly transformative way of working. I'm very excited to be working with all the colleagues here today to figure out that strategic plan and how we're going to move forward for the next four years, rather than what we have been doing since I have been here, which is a one off every year, just putting our finger and hopefully we can get through the next year. This won't be an easy process. We're going to have some many large and pretty confrontational battles between each other as we try to figure out what our core services are and how we're going to move forward. But again, we have an incredibly talented and diverse pool of people in this city council…this new city council to do that. The use of technology and innovative ways and changes on how the City runs will be proven to our residents to improve service at a lower cost. To accomplish this transformation, the 2019 Preliminary Budget includes additional investments in technology to address years of deferred technology improvements for critical services that are putting our citizens at risk and is required to transform the way the city does business so we can improve services and even at a lower cost. Innovation such as sensors to determine snow removal and street conditions, synchronization of lights for emergency vehicles, train crossing notifications, improved platforms to share information with residents including recorded council voting, and the ability to fund department innovation…departmental innovations to transform City Hall into a culture of innovation are just a few examples of how this budget will address both the issues of today and how we will address the issues of tomorrow. The Standing Committee on Innovation is lucky to have three excellent councillors on the committee and I'm excited to work with them and the administration on this transformative process. I also want to let the Mayor know that I am equally excited about the inclusion of the economic development portfolio with the Innovations Committee that was mentioned in the State of the City Address. A strong economy is critical for the growth of Winnipeg. Winnipeg is growing, changing and moving forward and I'm excited to be a part of it. I will be supporting both budgets.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Orlikow. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Mr. Mayor and the eight councillors, the Budget Working Group, have taken weeks and countless hours to pour over the thousands if not millions of line items in the budget. The budget sets out the projects for this year and identifies what operations will be funded. The budget is the one document that lays the foundation out for our every action and really our purpose of being at City Hall. It is the one document where we should all be working together on it as it forms the foundation and is the purpose of us being here. Madam Speaker, the Mayor and eight councillors on the Budget Working Group have sat and deliberated. They have met with every department head and teams of staff to review the positive and negative outcomes of virtually every decision they have made in this budget. While seven other councillors were excluded from these meetings, they have received binders and binders of detailed line items and information while seven other councillors were restricted from receiving the same information. For months, they have discussed and determined what the City's priorities are for this year, while seven other councillors have had a day or two in total to put forward their perspectives on the City's priorities. The Budget Working Group determined where, in whose wards, to allocate tax dollars to support these priorities, while seven other councillors had little to no influence or input. They have had months to review and deliberate what the city's priorities are and where to invest. Yet seven other councillors had seven days with virtually no background information to review the $1 billion budget and recommend changes. Madam Speaker, in this day and age of open and transparency…openness and transparency, constituents elect councillors to represent their interests at City Hall, and that is not occurring. Madame Chair, I quote a 2014 campaign statement, "We have a city hall where it seems as if decisions are being made and presented to council as done deals. There is little opportunity for the council, let alone the public, to voice their concerns or participate in the debate. This has to change." Another quote, "City hall lacks consistency in allowing the public to be heard with respect to policy development or decision making that affects how we live, work, and play." As a citizen, Madam Speaker, who had come to City Hall countless times prior to being elected, these statements gave me hope for our city. They gave me optimism and they motivated me to vote for change. But Madam Speaker, now, as an elected official, I've had seven days to review and bring forward change. There is little opportunity for Council, let alone the public to voice their concerns or participate in debate. Decisions are being made and presented to the Council as done deals. And I'm talking about the entire budget, not just selected items. I find that this still rings true in 2019. I'm not going to highlight any items in the budget today except for one. I see Madam Speaker, that $100,000 is being proposed to make change in the process of setting priorities in crafting a budget. I note that a timeline of 60 days is set to secure a consultant to proceed. Madam Speaker, I spoke with the Auditor General of Manitoba. In 2009, they studied board governance in crown corporations. When looking at board governance, Auditor

General found that executive committees or shadow committees marginalize other board members. That executive committees weaken governance effectiveness. That executive committees lead to overall deterioration in board performance and decision making abilities. The Auditor General found the use of executive committees created an environment of, and I quote, “Those on the inside in the know, and everyone else who isn't.” They note executive committees have become less common and are an endangered species. And I remind you, this report was produced in 2009, ten years ago. Madam Speaker, council members called for a governance review in 2016. It took until 2018, until funding was put in the budget, and now we are well into 2019 and we have not had a council update on what is occurring with that governance review. Madam Speaker, while I appreciate the motion in the budget to get moving on a strategic plan, I tell you, I’m not overly optimistic about the process. Because of our current governance model of reinforcing those on the inside in the know and everyone else who isn't, it destroys trust and equality. Our decision making abilities, our decision making and abilities for good governance will continue to deteriorate until we abolish the Executive Policy Committee. We are failing our citizens, we are not treating all democratically elected councillors as equal, and we see this, yet again, in how the budget has been crafted. I ask you, Madam Speaker, does my vote count today? Will it make one iota of a difference? I do not believe it will make any difference because the nine votes are secured. Sure, Madam Speaker, I may gain favour of some kind if I choose to vote for the budget, but that's not my style. I am accountable to my citizens in every action I do in this role. I came back to City Hall for another four years to continue to try and make positive change for our citizens. I did not come back for more behind closed door meetings and deals. And Madam Speaker, I know you and many others did not come back for more of the same. I am calling on my council colleagues who are not part of this budget process to vote against the budget. It is symbolic. I cannot be accountable to this budget as I have virtually no input, nor did you. I ask you, how can you support it and be truly accountable to your constituents? You can’t. So please don't support it.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Lukes. Next speaker, Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. I would like to start by recognizing the work of Finance Chair, Scott Gillingham, Mayor Bowman, EPC plus two. There's a lot of work that goes into making budgets. Having been part of the process many times, I recognize the many, many binders and documents and reports that you go through and the decisions are not easy. I mean, it’s certainly difficult. Also like to recognize the finance CFO, Mike Ruta, and his staff for all of the work. I know there is a lot of decisions that are made during the budget process, and eventually every night once the council members go home, they go back and they readjust everything to show members of the Budget Working Group where things are at. And I know it’s a lot of work and I certainly want to recognize that…that staff. I hope you have a glass of wine and enjoy your dinner tonight once the budget process here is done, so thank you guys. In terms of the budget, again, the decisions that were made were certainly not all of the ones I would have personally made if I was…been part of the budget process, but there is good and there is bad. So I’m going to just give some highlights as to where I think things are at. First of all, the tax increase is not more than was previously programmed and expected. That is definitely important. This year, Canadians are…Manitobans for sure, are facing their first carbon tax. That’s going to raise the cost of everything, whether it’s a tank of gas or groceries at the store, things are going to go up in price. So making sure that we keep our house in order and not increase taxes for our residents through Winnipeg means is important. We have again…we have frozen the frontage fee this year. Good. We have actually decreased the dividend that is coming out of the water and sewer utility to go into general revenue. A good first step and I applaud that decision. Water and sewer rates this year, not the pipes but the rates, frozen. Transit fares; frozen. Very, very good news. We continue to invest in our parks and playgrounds. When I started, a lot of playground equipment and that was in deplorable shape. Since I have been on Council, we’ve consistently funded the renewal of our parks and playgrounds, very important and they are in much better shape than when I started on Council. And that’s a very positive. We’ve doubled…more than doubled our investment in the community centre renovation fund. These are community members on the streets that know how to provide amenities that vary from neighbourhood to neighbourhood. This is a very good investment in our neighbourhoods and I’m supportive of that initiative. Again, I heard the Mayor on the radio this morning and I confirmed with staff here, we are now when it comes to ambulance services, getting full cost recovery on what is really medical service. That hasn’t always been the case, so I applaud both the Mayor and staff for being persistent on it and for the Provincial government for making this…making this so. In fact, this is an odd case. When people get a City of Winnipeg ambulance bill, thanks to additional provincial funding, they’re going to get a lower invoice. This is actually good news with the provincial…with the City of Winnipeg logo on it. So that should be recognized and appreciated while we are doing this here. Kilcona Park is still in the five year capital plan. It’s our largest park. It is the northeast quadrant's park. I would've liked to have seen this moved up in time, not, you know, stayed static, but again, that is still in the five year capital plan. I would love to see that move forward, not backward. Bus safety measures; our employees, there's nothing more important than ensuring that the safety of our employees is maintained. But safety shields are not the be all end all, but it’s an important step and an important signal to our employees that we are serious about this. We are doing it in a quick…we’re doing it quicker than what was originally proposed, good investment. Again, this is minutia, but again, it’s been in the budget I think since I have been working on this budget; the Fire Paramedic Service dispatch service is held together by band aids and rubber bands and is literally I think 1980s technology, dot matrix printers, that whole jam, for dispatching fire and paramedic service. It’s a big investment. It’s not

the sort of thing the public will ever see, but again, if it breaks down, it could be catastrophic. And it was to the point where it needed to be done. So surprised that it's finally there and it's actually getting funded this year so good news. And finally, in terms of the pros, the strategic plan. Very happy to see that this is an opportunity I think for Council to come together, figure out where we have common objectives. There is stuff that you know, I may have as a priority, stuff somebody else may have as a priority, but let's figure out where we are working together so we can all pull together on those particular items. We are not all going to agree on everything, but let's figure out where we do have agreement and let's funnel our energies on those items. In the category I disappointed; I'm a little disappointed on the arts community for sending out a fear factor that we are cancelling all our arts funding. That was not what was proposed at all. This council has continually, and Mayor Bowman can take credit for this, they have increased the amount of funding to our arts organizations. This was a one-time holiday that was proposed initially on public art funding. You know what, we are doing huge capital projects that have a huge public art component. Southwest rapid transit, Waverley underpass, it was completely reasonable to take a one-year holiday. I think the compromise by going to 250250 over two years is fine, but again, I was really not appreciative of the arts community and the way they handled that particular item. In terms of bad, the waste diversion fee, up almost 10%, and that's still not full cost recovery. We went on a path on new garbage contracts and specifications in those contracts. It's ironic that it's called waste minimization, the way we've gone about doing this, waste maximization. The cost of collection has gone in the wrong direction, in my opinion. I do support improved transit. However, I do question why we are taking on what I think is not a transit improvement program, but an improved transit social program by going towards the low-income pass. If this was a priority of another level of government, it would be entirely appropriate to subsidize for the people of limited means…or further subsidize for people of limited means…public transit. I don't think it's a City of Winnipeg and our scarce resources should be going towards this program. You have the administrative report saying that we're not going to be…the cost of administering the program will be very high and that our…and that it's quite likely going to be rife for abuse, in fact. I mean, $100.10 is a lot of money for a lot of people, I appreciate that, per month for a pass. But again, the administrative report was against it, and we are not the level of government that should be providing this. I would love to you know, invest further in transit where available, but this was not my priority. And of course, the biggest of disappointment of all, the decrease in the local roads program this year. Municipal Government, the three priorities of local government; pipes, pavement, policing. This is…pavement being…the three Ps of Municipal Government. It's a saying, it's out there, you can Google it, it's a thing. If it's on the Google, it has to be true. We have made so much progress. I mean, when I started on Council, the amount of money going into roads period was small. And baby steps over time, it's gotten to the point where you can actually see an improvement being made in the overall street network in our city. Whether it was more regional streets where most of the movements happen or even into our local streets. So it's disappointing to see that we have gone backwards. I will be supporting Councillor Eadie's motion to throw $10 million and more. Debt isn't my preferred means. We do have, in my mind, if you look at the projections for the general purpose reserve, at a 6% target that's required there or we've required it to be at 6%, there is over $30 million in room projected by year end for additional space. I think cash to capital would be the preferred way of using some of that reserved space that was available there to do additional roads. That would be my preference.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Orlikow moves extension. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Browaty: But again, I will support Councillor Eadie's motion to find $10 million in debt to do some local roads this year. I guess those are my general comments. So again, I'm going to support Councillor Eadie's motion, but at this point, do I support everything this budget? Absolutely not. I am actually going to vote in favour of today's budget.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Browaty. Councillor Klein.

Councillor Klein: Thank you Madam Speaker. And through you, I did want to not have the debate, but since we wanted to go on, I though it's an opportune time to address a few points that were made. I acknowledge, Madam Speaker, that Councillor Rollins had said that she did feel not having the debate was not democracy, and I think that you heard from Councillor Lukes that democracy is being questioned there as well. But I want to make sure that it's very clear, my opposition is not about who is sitting at what table. It is not personal. It is a business decision. It is time that we stop doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. Over the years, councils have made decisions that we are paying for today. There's agreements that we're paying for today and we'll pay for for a long time. It's no fault of any member of Council right now, Madam Speaker, but this is an opportune time to change that. It's a time when you have many people that step forward for Council to put their name out there and ran that said fiscal responsibility is important. It's a time to take the group, sit down as a whole representing the entire safety, and make the change, not talk about the change, make the change. We hear about the ropes, and my heart goes up to the construction…heavy construction group. I appreciate Councillor Eadie's pledge of borrowing the money, but we know we are near our debt ceiling. So why wouldn't we look at a more reasonable approach to find the $10 million as a 1% reduction somewhere in the budget? One percent of savings. We are all intelligent people, we all have something to bring to the table. Surely, we can find 1% savings to put $10 million towards roads. We are responsible for core services, and again Madam Speaker, we may not have made the decisions that got us to where we are today, but it's

time to stop and focus on the basics, to focus on the basics for taxpayers, to get back to spending the money and working and spending our time on what they anticipate, what they want from their municipal government. I too have a lot of respect for all of the members in the Budget Committee. I'm sure it was a very difficult process. I'm not saying it was them. I'm not saying decisions that were made over this budget coming forward is personal or wrong. There are some good spots. There are some good things. But unfortunately, without the access to data, to actual financial information, one cannot drill down, which is necessary with a billion dollar budget, $1 billion, more than that, quite frankly. I think we owe it to taxpayers, and I think it's our obligation to drill down into this budget and say, we need to make changes today that will help us all in the future, that will make Winnipeg better every year going forward, and not put us behind every year, because we are waiting for someone else to hand us money. I think that we could take a different approach, and I hope that we can take a different approach, and I hope that my council colleagues understand it is not personal. For me, it is a question of budgeting and business. If this was our home, we would treat it differently. This is not our money. It's taxpayers' money. And we were elected to be good stewards of that money, not just put out projects, but to be good stewards of that money. That's why I got into this and I'm sure that's why everyone did. Because I believe that everyone at this table and in this building and across the court way want what's best for Winnipeg. This is not what's best for Winnipeg. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Klein. Councillor Santos or is it Councillor Rollins? Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you very much. And I would like to thank, first and foremost, all those who stopped me on the streets at events or in e-mails or at the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks to substantively advance ideas in budget and deliberate the Preliminary 2019 Budget. Despite hyperbole from members who would curtail debate today, favour perhaps stunt over substance and ideas and simply omit the governance structures we do have in terms of the standing policy committees, hours of special committees open for all to attend, those Winnipeggers that advanced ideas at committee were welcome. Winnipeggers do not want symbols, they want hard work, I would challenge, and we have heard from hard workers in the form of our delegates today, Mrs. Speaker, our delegations from Winnipeg Trails for the 2019 budget, and Manitoba Heavy Construction and more. Anders Swanson of Winnipeg Trails spoke in favour of the budget. Today he reminded us really of a little six year old boy in Winnipeg who is without his four year old sister today because a street close to the Dufferin School in the Winnipeg School Division is thought of improperly. The cars are going by too fast and the intersection is tragically unsafe. A whole immigrant and refugee community organization in Manitoba is suffering, as well as a school community, as well as Eritrean community, and that was just one of three this week. And we have a chance to do our roads right, and he reminds us the challenge in budget that is rightly before as each and every year as councillors working out a term. And in speaking in favour of this budget, he further validated the time needing…and what is needed to get good policy and get a good policy direction on what could be spent on roads…invested in roads, invested in complete communities, invested in, yes, healthcare outcomes, climate change outcomes, equity and the interests of those that are not in the room like children. The speakers against the budget like Manitoba Heavy, we are frankly, Ms. Speaker, in the wrong room. While flooding city councillors inboxes with e-mails expressing disappointment in the provincial government, in their own words, they characterize the provincial budget, the subsequent provincial infrastructure budgets as a mangling. Given that ministers of the crown are bizarrely writing councillors and arguing with us, this means that the city is quickly becoming the open door to which all people are coming in. My door remains open to members of the heavy construction industry. I agree on economic multipliers of the heavy construction industry. That is not in dispute. But what others like them including not-for-profits and social services, addictions, daycares, you name the provincial space that is being vacated, what that means is that there is absolutely pressure on the City of Winnipeg, pressure that we deserve to take a pause on when we get good news like that which was in the federal budget gas tax news of yesterday and we look forward to those monies flowing. Mrs. Speaker, I am positive about the protective moves in community safety, and the community service actions that we make as a city today, and I would like to stick to those two themes to conclude. Protection and safety, number one. The capital budget when passed will invest 60 million in the Fire and Paramedic Service including over 10 million in a new computer aided dispatch system. Innovation, as my contiguous colleague in Fort Garry knows, and I hope all councillors know that this will save lives. It will save lives and it will also save money. The operating budget for Fire and Paramedic Service honours those that work every day, every day investing over 2 million in the Fire and Paramedic Service funding, negotiating increases, joint with our labour partners in their collective agreement. That is good news. Good news like Jeff Browaty…Councillor Browaty, representative of the good people of North Kildonan knows when he looks at parks and playgrounds, noting that as a reason to vote for this budget. And finally, there is a serious infrastructure deficit within the City and within community services specifically. It has increased significantly over the last ten years, and it is a deficit that is told of in over 400 million. So exciting in this budget. And where community centres take their rightful stage in community safety and prevention, in community services, is that beginning this year, we are more than doubling to $2 million as a recommendation in this budget, and the rational and why we should…one of the fine reasons why we should pass this 2019 budget, that it recommends that that community centre programming be increased so that community centres, whether 50 to 100,000 can flexibly undertake projects to better their envelope, to house our good citizens of Winnipeg. Budgets point out the continued need to city build, to do what we need to come together strategically. And I look to Councillor Lukes, who literally has certification in strategic

planning, and I too look forward to the report in 60 days where we can, together, come together and dive deeper strategically together. And as Councillor Klein points out, come together as the good stewards that I believe we are, that I believe is demonstrated through the co-creation of budget 2019, and I absolutely look forward to budget 2020. And so, in support of budget 2019, I want to thank my colleague, Councillor Gillingham. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Rollins. Next speaker, Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: I would just like to point out that I don't have experience in strategic planning, but I have it in consultation. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Next speaker, Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: I would like to point out that I have also done strategic plans, just if we are on the topic.

Madam Speaker: Any further speakers on the budget, yes, and the amendment? Any further speakers?

Councillor Schreyer: Can we speak on the budget and…

Madam Speaker: And Councillor Eadie's amendment, that's correct. Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you Madam Speaker. I rise today in support of the budget. I just would like to start off with saying a few thank yous; thank you to all the staff in the Finance Department but all the staff in all of the departments. They have been working really, really hard answering all of our questions. I have been seeing the questions and the e-mails going back and forth so I know that they have been working hard answering all of our questions. I also want to thank Councillor Gillingham as our Finance Chair. And you know what, I really want to say that I really respect the role that you played this year in bringing us all together, but also too, I also did want to note that he really did bring the voices of people that weren't in the room, that weren't on the Budget Working Group into the room. He highlighted many times what the wishes aware of other councillor colleagues that weren't there, and I have been somebody that has not been in the room before so I understand some of the frustrations that we hear today. But I think this is the first time I really saw the connection between those that weren't in the room and their thoughts and ideas and wishes being brought into this process. So I wanted to really thank him for that because I heard that loud and clear. And I also wanted to thank him…we are difference on the political spectrum. But he was very respectful in the debates that we had. And I think that that's important. Some of the things that people don't realize when they hear us talk about the budget is, we are very, very different from other levels of government and I think that there's some good things. I think that we do have stuff that we have to fix in terms of our process but some of the things I do like is right now we have people from all political spectrums sitting around the tables and making decisions, and that wouldn't happen at the provincial and federal table, and that allows for some really, really great debate, and you know what, it makes as have to sometimes support things that we wouldn't normally support and challenge us on some of our values and our ideas. And I think that that's an important thing because not other levels of government have that. I also like the fact that we all have access to our public administration, and I think that that's an important thing. In the provincial and federal governments, they can't just call up the financial departments and get all that information. We all have access to that. So you know, those are things that I think that we need to keep and hold dear because I think that that's important. And I also like the level and style of debate. I think we have all kept it…we don't agree and this budget will highlight some of that. You will hear some of that today. But I think we have kept a good decorum on the level of debate and I think that that's something that our colleagues provincially and federally could learn from at this council. So I just want to talk and highlight some of the things that I really appreciate about this budget. And first I'm going to start with water and waste, the reduction of the dividend. We all heard that. I think that that's something we have been hearing for many years and we are finally taking action on that. That money will be staying within Water and Waste. I also think that we are doing really…we're starting on the north Winnipeg treatment plant. Councillor Eadie, thank you for sharing that with us. We are finally starting on that work. That's a key work. We have talked about that lots and combining sewer overflows. So we all know how important that is. I do want to highlight transit. Me and Councillor Browaty do not share the same view on this and that's okay. We have good debate here. I think transit is a core responsibility and dictating the prices is our responsibility so I am really, really happy to see the low-income bus passes. This is something I have been championing since I was elected. I have worked with people from the Province, I have worked with many stakeholders and it really warms my heart that this is going to happen. This is really going to impact a lot of residents here in Winnipeg, and that's all over Winnipeg. That's just not my ward. That's just…you know, it's going to really impact a lot of different residents, and when that comes in in 2020, 2021, about the third year in, that's 50%. And you know what I think that there's room for improvements. I know that there's been people that have criticized but this is a start people. We are finally getting a low-income bus pass, and we can work on improvements from there. I'm really happy with the safety measures in transit and I want to thank Councillor Allard and Councillor Mayes because they have done a lot of great work on safety. And you know what, these are our staff members that we are protecting with shields and vests and that's important to me. So I

want to thank them for their hard work. An increase in our fleet, that's important. I'm somebody who really believes that transit is going to be the vehicle moving forward. We have the climate change action plan. We must look at transit and active transportation as a means of dealing with our climate change action plan. So I'm really happy to see that we are investing in that. The Community Service Renovation Grant, vital, vital for community centres. We all know how important community centres are. We're talking a lot about crime these days and some of the issues that we are having around addictions, poverty, mental health, and really a lot of what the work that we do in our community centres are really important for that. The Indigenous Youth Strategy, making sure that we are committing to that I think is important in terms of prevention. And our commitment to end homelessness I think is another key thing. I'm really happy that we did make some changes to some of the things that we saw coming out of the presentations that we heard that came forward in our delegations at EPC. And some of the things that we changed is I am really happy to see that we are having a strategic plan, and I know that that's something Councillor Lukes and I really do share and I know that's something she has been championing over the years. But I think that that will really help us moving forward as a city. We've got a lot of complex issues that face as right now, a lot of different realities. The Provincial government cuts is impacting us, it impacted us last year, it's impacting us this year. It really is going to impact us moving forward. So we need to work together and try to figure out how we're going to deal with that and have some hard discussions. And I think that that's the right place to do that. I also want to make sure that I talk about the arts funding. We did hear from lots of different people from the arts community. I'm really glad that we were able to keep that position and just change the funding model for the next two years. I think that that was important, but I also really think, you know, the speakers that talked about our trees, we need to do something about our trees. And that is, we need to start seeing our trees as infrastructure. It is key and it's something that I think we really do take for granted here at the City. And so I'm really glad to see that we did add a position in because I think that's important when we talk about that plan of our urban forest. We need someone to take that on. We need a lot of work to be done in terms of our urban forest. So I am really happy to see that put back in. I am probably missing something, but I've been talking…oh, active transportation. The enhanced snow clearing and active transportation paths for sidewalks starting in the 2019 snow season, that is really, really key. I mean, we heard the speakers talk about active transportation, and I really believe that this is going to be the vehicle for us moving forward in terms of our climate change action plan, in terms of congestion around the city. We heard about the health benefits, I think we all know that. So I look forward to seeing this enhancement. I think it will be really, really good for all citizens. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Gilroy. Councillor Santos.

Councillor Santos: Please bear with me. I have had…I am a type of person, I can't speak off the cuff, so I have written some notes down. Thanks again for letting me speak. My recent experience during the Budget Working Group was very fast and it felt like I took a crash course in accounting. I have very little time to disseminate the information and had to learn a lot by myself. I'm very grateful for those councillors who have taken the time to listen to me rant and help me understand the budget process and as my new role as a city councillor. I truly believe that all councillors have a different vision in priority on where the City should go these next few years and I truly believe that we can all come together within the next few months and find a common ground. I'm happy to see that there is a recommendation that we undertake a strategic planning session involving all members of Council and I look forward to participating in that. While I have worked at City Hall for several years, these last few months of being a city councillor, I have learned to…I have had to learn quickly on how to operate and understand several difficult scenarios, one of them being the decommissioning of Norwood Pool and most recently, the senseless murder of Jamie Adao. While neither of these scenarios happened in my ward specifically, there are still moments where I realize what really matters to me, what I am really passionate about and what I have been hearing all along when I was campaigning last year; our communities matter. While I am actually hesitant to support this year's operating and capital budget, as I feel it does not fully meet the demands of my ward, my constituents, the people who voted for me on October 24th, 2018, to represent them here inside this council chambers. From my perspective, this budget is an average one. It's not the worst, and it's not the best. Overall, I actually still believe that this is failing many Winnipeggers. Our city is literally busting at the seams with decaying and neglected recreational infrastructure which has now become a reality. Our City departments telling us they are literally in a survival mode. Newcomers who arrive in Winnipeg for a better life are telling me they do not feel safe with the methamphetamine and the effects of persons who are addicted to it are now breaking down our neighbours' doors randomly. In a time when we are all trying to grasp at what we need to do with our community and our families to make them feel safer, what are the steps towards making our communities feeling whole again? I have two young children who are so impressionable nowadays. As I watch them grow older, wiser, and understand what is happening around them, I start to feel the need to do something tangible with the outside world to protect them and to make them love and stay in Winnipeg, a place where I am actually really proud to call home. I am a firm believer in keeping our children busy, whether it is involving them in after school or leisure programs, sports, dancing, music lessons, whatever your family can afford these days. A healthy, active lifestyle makes us stronger, not only for our soul and mind, but for our families, our loved ones who we have to take care of every day. But the reality is, the cost of living goes up and so do the fees. We have community centres that need redevelopment, athletic fields that need TLC, wading pools that are over 50 years old and are coming to the end of their service life, playground structures that need replacing, green

spaces that are great for adding something new, most importantly, we need transportation and an infrastructure that supports the North End and inner city. These are vital elements to the north and inner city. It is literally the heartbeat of Winnipeg, and if this ends and if we do not support it, we will again, feel forgotten, neglected, and as the saying goes, who goes to the North End anyways? Not laughing matter anymore. Arlington Bridge is so important to Winnipeg for transit services, walking, biking, because people who live in that area are hardworking families who earn a hard living wage and care about their dollars. They either take the bus to work, walk their children to daycare or bike to school. These people rely on affordable means of transportation. You take that away, you are now asking these people to bike or walk to Salter or Keewatin to drive further to Salter and Keewatin, do you know how much gas costs these days? I guarantee it, this will affect their day to day lives. For me, it wasn't so much of the budget process that irritated me, while in the beginning it did, it's the number of capital investments over the last years that upsets me. So analytical person that I am, I started to review all the capital projects invested for the last three to four years. I thought it would have been fair to actually break it down into quarter sections of the city, northwest, northeast, southwest and southeast. I was baffled by the list of projects that have been occurring in the south end. But then, I didn't think it was fair to separate the north versus the south, so I decided to break it down even further and even be more fair. I created a list of projects in the community committee level. I'm really hesitant to share these numbers because I want to respect all the councillors here and I don't want to start debating who is getting what and where, but as a city councillor for Point Douglas Ward and one of the representatives of the north, I think it's important to shed light that at my community committee, Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan, has only $22 million of capital projects invested. And to put things into perspective, one of the other community committees that represents the west, and a bit of the south, has approximately $582 million of capital projects invested. Yeah, you know what, it does include the southwest BRT. So if I took that away, it is still $115 million, which is five times more investment. So as you can all appreciate, the area that I mostly represent, these numbers are very bleak. I'm not happy, and I'm definitely disappointed. When I went door knocking in my ward, the residents will tell me that they are the forgotten neighbourhood or these councillors don't care about the North End. And that is sticking with me to this very day. But you know what, I believe the North End is beautiful. It's got great, long time, hardworking residents, mature neighbourhood, and has such a rich culture of diverse peoples who have a lot of pride in their home and the things that they do. In closing, while I am supporting this year's budget because there are a few good things on a city-wide level which I believe that our role as councillors, not only do we have to represent our ward, we have a duty to represent the entire city as a whole. Some of those investments are low income bus pass, protective shields for buses, better accessibility and heated bus shelters. There's an increase to community centre renovation grant program, the enhanced snow clearing, the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic's CAD upgrade, and I am very happy to see the recent amendments to the public art strategy for the Winnipeg Arts Council. While some of these are good investments, on a city-wide level, I want everyone here to know that I will be continuing to make every effort to have more investments in the north and while we move forward to the strategic planning sessions, I will continue to be the voice for those who do not have one. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Santos. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you Madam Speaker. Hats off to Councillor Santos, I thought that was an excellent speech. She is voting for the budget. And in the process of doing so, she gave, what I would say, a rather objective analysis and honest expression of her concerns and I truly appreciate that. My…I hope all Winnipeggers appreciate it. In the very first budget in which…that I had to vote for four years ago, I did something similar. I voted against the budget, but I said positive things about it. I'm just trying to be objective. I'm trying to be straight up in terms of what the problems are. In fact Madam Speaker, that's what we have to do to make the City work. Madam Speaker, and in this case, I am trying to do the same thing. My remarks I guess in this case will be primarily about the amendment that Councillor Eadie have provided here, and that is for the small increase of $10 million to go directly to street renewal. Madam Speaker, it was called taking on massive debt, $10 million, Madam Speaker. Well you see, the first budget that I had to vote on, I said some constructively positive things about the budget, but I couldn't vote for it because in that budget, we took on massive debt. I'm not talking about $10 million, Madam Speaker. I'm not talking about doubling that. I'm not talking twice as much. I'm not talking about $20 million. I'm not talking about five times more, Madam Speaker. I'm not talking about ten times more. We are talking about 40 times more. That was just because of one thing. I couldn't vote for the bus rapid transit or the…I couldn't vote for the transit…the bus corridor, Madam Speaker, something approaching, you know, a half a billion dollars. I couldn't do it because that's massive debt. We are talking about $10 million, which was referred to, in this case, in terms of Councillor Eadie and my motion of increasing street renewal, $10 million, we were talking about real massive debt. And we did that, Madam Speaker, when we knew, and I knew, we all knew, that we were coming up to necessary increases in our budget and taking on massive debt for existing infrastructure that were coming up like our upgrades…our necessary upgrades for our North Winnipeg Sewer Filtration Plant, Madam Speaker. We knew that was coming up, and that's meant to be one of the largest…it will be the largest capital project in Canada when we do this. We knew that was coming up, but we went ahead on something extra, as opposed to dealing with replacing bridges that have to be replaced. They have been here for a long time, Arlington Bridge, Louise Bridge. They are like a hundred years old so we knew we had to replace them. They're there for a reason, Madam Speaker, but we decided to take on…well what can I say, Madam Speaker, if $10 million to go towards street repairs is called massive debt, what do you

call a half a billion for a bus corridor? For a new bus corridor. Not fixing an old one. What's the term? And I want to know the term. If $10 million for street repairs is called a massive debt, what do you call half a billion? Especially when you know we're going to go into massive debt when it comes to our North Winnipeg Sewage Treatment Plant, Madam Speaker. And when we know that we have to replace the Arlington Bridge. We know we have to replace the Louise Bridge. Madam Speaker, if that's massive debt of $10 million is massive debt, you know, I don't want to talk like this, but for those who are proponents of Portage and Main, how much was that going to cost? Did someone say…did someone say when they called this $10 million for street renewal, for fixing our streets, which I hear every day, if that's massive debt, what did that person say about Portage and Main? Was that going to be $10 million? It was going to be more than $10 million, ma'am. What was the term they used to explain that debt? I need to know, Winnipeggers need to know. Because look, Madam Speaker, calling $10 million for street renewal, that is massive debt, come on. Words mean something in this room. They're supposed to. Do I exaggerate, Madam Speaker? Well, that is not even a rhetorical question. I am on record here for four years, I do my fair share of speaking, I say my stuff and people can judge me every council, every month, at least, Madam Speaker, $10 million is not massive debt. It is a very small debt. Now it happens to be that Councillor Klein talked about that's not being his preferred way of doing it, I respect that. It is not my preferred way of doing it either as Councillor Browaty pointed out. In this case, we are dealing with Winnipeggers consensual top priority; fixing our streets and infrastructure, and it's for what? Not a lot of money, $10 million over 30 years. Madam…Councillor Klein talked about trying to create efficiencies by 1%. Fair enough. But bear in mind, in this case, we're not talking about 1%. We're not talking about .1%, okay Madam Speaker. We're talking about less than .05%. So put that into perspective. Madam Speaker, it would be one of the very lowest budgetary increases I guess to deal with in terms of a single motion, in terms of doing something positive. In the short term to deal with, again, what is a stopgap solution, short term solution, but at least we know where the money is going, Madam Speaker. You know, I didn't want to go here. I wasn't going to talk like this today, Madam Speaker, but I am constantly, almost always when I make my presentations here, because I am inspired, influenced by the speeches that came before me. It's an important time, Madam Speaker, and I'm constantly influenced by what we say here at the council chamber. Madam Speaker, you know, I did not want to say this. I wasn't going to. I've got…I wrote it down now. You'll see, I wrote it down now because we've talked about how $10 million is considered massive debt. But Madam Speaker, if you consider that the communications budget and the Mayor's Office and the CAO's budget and if you consider the communications budget going into the Innovation Department…what part of it is communications, and to me that is really nebulous and ambiguous because I don't know where the money goes, and we've got record budgeting for these new communication departments over the last four and now five budgets, Madam Speaker. Just the increases alone, Madam Speaker, I don't mean to say this Madam Speaker, just that alone would pay for this $10 million increase. So if that is massive debt, Madam Speaker, let it be said what massive debt is. And I guess I'll leave it at that. It's a good amendment, Madam Speaker, very realistic and very small.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Schreyer. Councillor Nason. Just before we get into your remarks, I'm just looking at the hour. Is it the will of Council to continue or now recess? There is no food services on site, I want to remind everyone of that. So we will take a break and reconvene at 1:00 o'clock. Councillor Eadie, are you putting that motion forward? All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Thank you.

Reconvened meeting of
Winnipeg City Council of
March 20, 2019, at 1:11 p.m.

Madam Speaker: Good afternoon. I would like to reconvene our council meeting of March 20th, 2019. We were deliberating on the Capital and Operating Budgets. And our next speaker is Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. After lunch, it's going to be a little hard to digest this, but I will try. You've got to bring some levity to the stress of the moment. The challenge I face first standing up at this point of the day, when everybody's said thanks, I have passed around to the people who have spoken and worked on this budget. I will however, say thank you. Thank you for all of the people that have worked in this budget document; the Public Service, the CAO, the CFO, Mayor and his staff, EPC chairs and those also serving on the Budget Working Group. We have heard people present state that this was the budget I was told to put forward. I've seen the hours you were in meetings leading up to the day. There were many. I have seen the stresses on your faces with the choices had before you. Now, while not party to those discussions, the Chair of the Budget Working Group and Finance Chair, Councillor Gillingham, representing sunny St. James, although Transcona sees the sun first in Winnipeg, I might add, along with our mayor, have time and time again indicated I'm sure to all of us, if you have questions, the door is open. While I appreciate that, however, my approach to improving things is through committee and consensus building. In November when we were sworn in, it was a first time for some of us. For others, it was a restart, reset, fresh, clean start. Clean slate, open, transparent, all the words that get overused, like back in my project management days, synergy, I know, it was a

buzzword in I think the '90s but…was it the '80s? Oh, you're old. But I was open minded, thinking if change was to happen, it needed to happen right out of the gate. Alas, I feel it's fallen a bit short in my expectations. From comments online of hatched egg fake news, to more salacious and conspiracy theories of background deals and quid pro quo, the Province in itself is trying to pick up from being battered by conflicted future of carbon taxes, global trade issues affecting commodity trades, so they are being penny pinching to the extreme to ensure all things are accounted for and fit within their vision of a better Manitoba, along with trying to balance their books. Then yesterday, and you guys might like this, the magic money…magical money train and balanced budget unicorns dropped gas tax cash to municipalities to rescue us at the behest of the Mayor to find there's a $40 million dispute. This drama, this specific drama has played out so many times of a mom saying no so I will go to dad and see if I can get him to say yes. I will add my kids are pretty good at this, but thankfully, with texting, mom can head off those requests with the kids. Notice I said it isn't dad because I can be convinced to say yes to my kids. Kids is an important factor, not just the ones here and now, but future generations. We have a chance to have this clean slate, break down those long standing barriers to open, transparent and collegial workspaces that we believe…that I believe that we all want. Working together, we can make a wonderful place to call home, a place everyone wants to call home. I also want to say that I think the first cut when we consider budgets should be in our own backyard. From all Council members, we should be considering equal cuts to our own budgets and payrolls so that we then realize, equally, what our decisions mean to our communities. Sorry, too much wild cherry diet Pepsi. Sorry. My vote in this budget is no, but not solely because of the content in numbers, but because of the barriers. We need to be at team and where we are only as strong as our weakest link. We can support each other and bring new thinking to this chamber. One day, I will be comfortable in speaking. I want us to be a breath of fresh air so please consider this. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Nason, Councilor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you Councillor Nason. That was very moving. I admire your passion. These last few months for me have been some of the quickest moments and the slowest moments at the same time. The learning process provided to me by my councillor colleagues has been genuine and sincere. As we oft whine about ideology and the direction that our city is moving. I am rising in support of this budget and I'm confident in the process that we undertook to reach this decision. I was impressed with the talent that was at the table and impressed with the years of experience that were at the table on both sides whether it was us as elected officials or the administrators that sit at the table here behind us. Is it a perfect process? Some strenuously argue no. Can it be improved? Only governance review will determine. But I am excited about the amendments that were proposed that include a strategic planning session where we can link our budget to qualitative and quantitative outcomes which will increase accountability and transparency. This is something that I campaigned on. This time, I want to single out Vivian Santos who earlier spoke and commend her for being passionate about her community. I had the opportunity over this last past week to take a drive along with the Winnipeg Police Service. We drove around in the core area where…in the central area of our city, and I've seen the effects of what methamphetamine is doing to our city and I've seen the exceptional work of our Winnipeg Police Service who are still treating people with dignity and respect as they discharge their duties. And I want to commend Chief Danny Smyth for his leadership and direction that the Winnipeg Police Service is taking in this regard. I also wanted to take the time to acknowledge my dear colleague, Scott Gillingham for spending time with me and the rest of us newbies in bringing us up to speed in terms of this budget process. You spent a countless amount of hours with me. Knowing how busy your schedule is, I greatly appreciate that. It's really helped me and will help my ward and that's bigger picture thinking on your behalf that allows me to represent the constituents of my ward effectively. I know that there's finite resources that we have to balance against infinite interests so we take these decisions that we make in this council chamber or in the Mayor's Office in the Budget Working Group very seriously. And I'm hoping that as we move forward as a council, as we move forward together as citizens of Winnipeg that we do so respectfully, we do so earnestly, and we do so with the knowledge that we are all in this together. Thank you for your time this afternoon. I'm hoping that we can pass this budget for the best interests of the City of Winnipeg.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Chambers. Next speaker, Councillor Eadie, you did introduce your motion earlier. That's right, so go ahead.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you. Madam Speaker, I rise…well, I want to express…do I have frustration. No, Madam Speaker, I am rising to express that contrary to my physical ability, I do have a vision of Winnipeg into the future. Madam Speaker, prior to the election, we were moving into…it was very clear to me and was made clear by administration that there's a lot of difficulties in dealing with our operating budget as well as actually our capital budget as well, Madam Speaker. However, there are some ways to improve on that if we have to. But ultimately, anybody actually who had had the experience, there are people who are on Council now, they are still learning, they're still seeking information, Madam Speaker, but having been here for, this will be my ninth budget that I'm voting on, and I'm quite aware of all the problems and issues. From the outside, sometimes and the pontificators continually say that the City of Winnipeg has a spending problem, Madam Speaker. That is not true. As a matter of fact, since the 1990s, there's been a lot of move to reduce expenditures, reduce many, many things, become more efficient, that has been happening, Madam Speaker, to

the point that we also had to utilize all of our reserves. What reserves we have left are dedicated to important things that this city needs to complete and accomplish. For example, Water and Waste, they have a huge retained earning as well as reserves. That money, as we know, will be used for the important work that has to be done for our environment. So when I'm looking at this budget today, and you know, looking back to the last election, what I talked about in my campaign, I had six commitments. One of the main commitments, Madam Speaker, was the discussion and talk about what is fair city financing and how do we accomplish that. Because again, we don't have a spending problem and I'll speak shortly in a bit about that, but I just wanted to say the way we have been doing budgets doesn't work. It's been going on for a very long time where it's let's make a deal, you vote for the budget. I was very disheartened and I will always regret having voted to save some pool hours and vote for an operating budget that actually looked at getting full cost recovery from seniors groups who were utilizing buildings because they didn't have money and the City supported them, and they raised money for the programming which they can barely find as it is. And so, when I look at these kinds of things, and I, you know, I hear about, where is the plan? Like, I am hearing there's a million dollar investment, we talk about decommissioning…we sold that off for whatever, decommissioning various facilities. Where in the plan does it say, for all of the decommissioning and going to EOI, for example, the old Ex Arena; where is our overall city plan when it comes to that because you know what, we're decommissioning the old Ex Arena, we're looking at a lease. Nobody's putting a million dollars on the table, Madam Speaker. Nobody. This is one symptom of deal making. We need to look at the whole city. And the way it works now, it's just wrong. And so I appreciate all the work that our new Finance Chair, not so new anymore, but our Finance Chair is doing work on, and you know, I support it. But you know, moving forward and talking about strategic planning, but there's also involved a discussion about core services. You know where that leads, it leads to the building report of 2006 or '07, I believe, where it talks about the city is going to, you know, should be in the recreation business. Well, you know what, in my campaign, all six commitments, everybody in this city wants those things, they expect those things and they think their money is to pay for those things. So now let me move to fair revenue, let's look at the property tax. We have Councillor Lukes who is new last year, she represents a brand new area in Waverley West, but what this city has been doing for a long time has been all the new money coming in from all those new houses built, they are going into cash to capital to offset our, not taxing or not finding other revenue to continue operations. So what are the symptoms of that, Madam Speaker? The symptom is, her grass isn't getting cut, the bushes are not being taken care of. Their streets are not being taken care of, Madam Speaker. So what happens is, they said, well I'm paying property taxes for that. Well what happened is Council had been making these decisions, and they decided that we are not going to increase the ability of Parks and Open Spaces to do their work, we are going to just let them continue, and we will bring in the stuff to handle our internal inflation within the City of Winnipeg, Madam Speaker. That's all that…one of the problems we have. So I will just leave that. But fair taxation on property taxes, so we have an increase coming in of new cash from new properties, although that seems to be slowing down. I don't want to talk about the impact fees at this point, I do support them. But you know, you'd think that was for something new, when it comes to operations, public work, you are paying those taxes. Fair taxation. Now business tax which I will get to shortly, there is a tax credit program in the City of Winnipeg Charter. I heard during the election, no, the City can't do it, we need permission from the Province. Well we do, to deal with property taxes which are not progressive, well they are in a way, but they are regressive when we do reassessments and various other issues. And so in our Charter, we have the ability to do tax credit programs on property tax, on business tax, and on other items as well, Madam Speaker. We have that ability, and that is one option that I don't see…we are going forward with four year budgets, Madam Speaker. I supported that. You know why I supported that, Madam Speaker? Because I have a long term vision, and in order to achieve that long term vision, we have…and it's the long term vision of the people of Winnipeg too, Madam Speaker. I'm not just…it's not just me. I hear it every day from the people. I hear reports about forestry dying off. It's happening. You can't keep up the grass cutting. Our recreation and our parks facilities are deteriorating. Nobody is willing to try to find the revenue. Yes, we've got the Province and the Feds, it's really hard to work with them nowadays. Thank you, Federal Government, I will speak to that a bit later. But you know, ultimately, Madam Speaker, we have a real issue going on here, and that is when we have difficulties with the Province, we are stuck. And we are not overspending. The rhetoric from there, from that new government, Madam Speaker, offends me. The City of Winnipeg...

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gillingham moves extension. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Eadie: The City of Winnipeg has been frugal for many years before the Province. We have to balance our budgets every year, they don't. I know that's their newest problem they're trying to do that, but ultimately, Madam Speaker, most of the taxes in this province are paid by Winnipeggers. So on the business tax, we're giving…this is an austerity budget, we are hurting people, well, I wouldn't say hurting people, but it's an austerity budget. We are cutting, we're keeping things flat, we're only raising property taxes to pay for our capital program which is very important, but Madam Speaker, $2 million is lost. We should have just left it where it is, 5.7% business tax rate and left a ceiling for the credit at what it is, which was $33,300. Leave it flat. At least they're not looking at cuts. What we are cutting, we are cutting the funds that pay for business improvement zones to make their streets look better so customers feel safe and want to come there. We are not supplying them money for ambassador programs to help us deal with the meth problem that was eloquently mentioned, Madam Speaker. We are not dealing with all of that. And I'm just going to conclude, there's a whole list of things that $2 million could have went to including…this is business, development, building

houses, that is actually business, that's economy. And you know what, we should have spent the $650,000. Let's get the infill guidelines done ASAP because I am worried that people aren't going to invest in our older neighbourhoods anymore. That's not good. And so I will just leave with on…just mention on the police budget, I was aware of it, I don't…I never agreed with it in first submission we did, I'm not really agreeing with it this time, but I want to say that I believe that the Winnipeg Police Board made a great decision in hiring Chief Danny Smyth, there is no doubt about that. He is the perfect chief for the times.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. We will now move on to closing. Councillor Gillingham to begin. Councillor Allard, do you wish to speak?

Councillor Allard: I was going to.

Madam Speaker: Okay, go ahead.

Councillor Allard: Is that all right?

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Allard: Okay. So thank you to all my colleagues for the attention today and I'm going to throw in a bit of French into this speech, so it will generally be complemented by English language of the same text. But anyhow, I'm planning on doing some French in my speech. So budget 2019, my comments to City Council, I have posted this speech to social media if anybody wanted to refer to it which I'm sure you'll all do. I'm just kidding. So anyhow, today is budget day and I'm thinking of my kids. It's been the toughest budget I've ever seen. The biggest challenge with the budget was how to find…to find out in 2019 that the provincial government arbitrarily skipped the $40 million payment to the roads budget. We had to adjust our budget accordingly so we cut $40 million of road spending for this year and future years, and as a result, we will not have the money to fix any local roads this year. I had the honour to participate in the Budget Working Group, a group of nine city councillors who make a recommendation to Council for the 2019 budget. On a ward level, this budget has been a tough one, but it has some great news for my community, there is plenty to support. There is money to study and implement an eastern active transportation route through north St. Boniface. There is nearly a million dollars for Marion Street to give a new direction to the street since the rejection of the Marion and Archibald underpass and road widening project. There's money to fix the water station at the end of Despins Street and money to look into the riverbank in the back of St. Boniface Hospital which will support the riverbank adjacent to the Taché Promenade project. Perhaps most exciting, there's probably the largest investment in St. Boniface aquatics since Unicity with a grand total of $7 million, an investment over five years lined up to make that pool viable for a generation. And I have more information on a previous post on that on my social media. The most difficult part of the discussion on a ward level has been the discussion around the Norwood Pool decommissioning. The pool is at end of life, and it no longer make sense to run it with its maintenance costing 25 to over 40% of the entire outdoor aquatics facility budget. And that budget supports over 100 facilities citywide. Ground water and the pool's awkward location has compromised it. St. Boniface has three other outdoor pools and they share that same budget. Deferring a decision that will have the same outcome without significant third-party support tied to this project doesn't make sense if we don't want to put other pools and splash pads at risk.

Translation of French Spoken:
Councillor Allard:
Councillor Allard: So the most difficult part of this discussion on a ward level was the discussion of the decommissioning of the reservoir of…the Norwood Pool. The pool was at the end of its life and it no longer made sense to keep it running. Its maintenance costs 25% to over 40% of the entire budget allocated to outdoor aquatics facilities where there is more than 100 facilities in the city of Winnipeg. The ground water and basins were compromised by the convenient replacement. St. Boniface has three other outdoor pools who share the same budget. Deferring a decision that will have the same outcome without significant third-party support tied to this project doesn't make sense if we don't want to put other pools and splash pads at risk.

Councillor Allard: So there's been a recent request to defer the decision even further on the Norwood Pool that there would be…and the suggestion that there would be no cost to the deferral. Unfortunately, that is not true. The estimated incremental costs associated with deferring demolition of the pool for one year would cost anywhere from $25,000 to $35,000. That's a similar amount of money to what was used to touch up Happyland Pool two years ago. So that's one of the pools in the ward. A similar amount of money that could do a lot of good and is needed in other aquatic facilities in St. Boniface Ward and across Winnipeg. I have a more detailed explanation on the Norwood Pool that could be found in this post in an open letter to the Norwood West neighbourhood, which is hitting our doorsteps today. If this budget passes, this will be the final council direction to decommission the pool. I look forward to more discussion about how to go forward from here with the community of the Norwood West neighbourhood about what recreational amenities could

take the place of the pool for future budget years. The wading pool could be converted to a splash pad, the playground needs to be replaced, and when the pool is demolished, there will be a green field there with new opportunities for recreation. I will look to find a project for the community, Council and the public services aligned so we can all fight together for precious recreation dollars.

Councillor Allard: Alors si cette budget est adopté, ce sera la derniere directive de conseil pour le mis hors de service de la piscine. J'attends avec intentions de nouvelle discussion par rapport a comment aller de l'avant avec la communauté de quartier de Norwood West sur les équipements de loisir pouvant remplacer la piscine pour la prochaine exercise budgetaire. La pataugeoire pourrait etre converti dans un parc (inaudible). Le terrain dur doit etre remplacer une fois la piscine démoler un terrain bellevoyant offrira de nouvelles possibilités au niveau de la récréation. Je vais chercher un projet qui est alligné au niveau de la communauté, du conseil municipal et de la fonction publique afin que nous pussions lutter ensemble pour obtenir les précieux investissements en loisir.

Translation of French Spoken:
Councillor Allard: So if this budget is adopted, this will be the last direction of council to decommission the pool. I am looking forward to a new discussion about how we can go forward with the Norwood West community about recreational equipment that could replace the pool in the next budget process. The wading pool could be converted into a splash pad. The playground needs to be replaced once the pool is demolished and the new space will offer new possibilities for recreational opportunities. I will look for a project that is aligned with the needs of the community, council, and public services so we can all fight together to obtain precious recreational investments.

Councillor Allard: The 2000 budget…the 2019 was tough, the 2020 budget will be tougher. We have had several cuts over the last few years from the provincial government. I guess that would be mom from Councillor Nason's presentation. They froze the transfer to the City to 2016 levels. This is a de facto cut to the City because unlike the Province, our revenue tools don't rise with the economy and the cost of living goes up for the City in the same way that costs go up for families every year. Transit is getting tougher to provide every year since the provincial government arbitrarily cut the 50/50 funding agreement to Transit. Despite the Province putting the PST cut on the backs of Winnipeggers, we are still making transit a priority with 3.1% increase to operations in the '19 budget and 6.3% increase from the City's subsidy to transit operations. That is over and above CPI or cost of living in both of those…from both of those measures. There are also a number of improvements to Transit including 34 new buses, safety shields for drivers, heated bus shelters, high speed modems for our bus fleet, a replacement of the supervisor radio system, safety vests for inspectors, funding to study safety best practices in our fleet, and that's not even an exhaustive list of what's included in the '19 proposed budget for Transit. Winnipeg fiscal…Winnipeg's fiscal challenges are a serious matter. We have seen in this budget and we will see again in future budgets what its impact will be. We have heard from members of the public and stakeholder organizations coming to City Hall to discuss their requests and the need for additional spending on areas ranging from forestry to arts, to roads, to dog parks. And yes, there is more than three Ps there Councillor Browaty. I also know we must balance our budget every year, and I know that Winnipeggers don't want…don't want huge increases in their taxes. So where do we go from here? I ran on continuing to move towards leveraging our land planning powers to create a more efficient and sustainable urban environment, infill and densification which increases the value of specific land without dramatic increases in capital cost and taxpayer liabilities. I have seen infill proposals during my time on Council where a single lot, paying only a few hundred dollars in taxes, has been transformed into one which pays thousands. I have seen some larger projects where a lot paying a few thousand dollars in taxes per year is redeveloped and then is paying tens or even hundreds of thousands more. These increases to our tax revenues are accomplished…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Santos moves extension. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Allard: These increases to our tax revenues are accomplished without raising taxes of any property owner. They are accomplished in a respectful, context sensitive ways which add minimal new costs to service to these new residents. We have seen how single development can bring in thousands in revenue every year to replant hundreds of trees, to repair an entire road, to hire a new transit driver, to provide all the services we need. This is a path in which I think we need to move towards for fiscal stability and fiscal strength from our city and from our taxpayers. I met with our Urban Planning Division recently and expressed my desire for us to priorize infill and densification in our planning documents as we update these to plan our city for the future. I look forward to these discussions to our various land planning meetings and through the various processes working their way through the Planning, Property and Development Committee. I want to thank everyone for their attention, for their commitment, for their activism and for their passion. Most of the delegates who have come to speak before our committees and this council have spoken in favour of or fighting for good things, policies and investments that we want and need. I thank all of them and commit now into the future to work with them and this council to make Winnipeg the best city it can be. And with that, merci beaucoup, thank you for your attention.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Allard. Councillor Gillingham to begin the close.

Councillor Eadie: Do I close on the amendment first?

Madam Speaker: Yes Councillor Eadie, I apologize, if you could close on your amending Motion No. 2.

Councillor Eadie: I will be very short, Madam Speaker. This motion is not about just the Mynarski Ward. It is about our old neighbourhoods who have deteriorating streets and back lanes. Federal gas tax increase helps solve our 2018 problem of 40 million with the Province providing that that's all confirmed and when the money comes in. But in this, actually from their…from our projections from 2018, local roads are down by 43 million. That's roads, sidewalks, streets, back lanes, and so on. The whole package is down by 43 million. Again, the Province didn't commit to a new five year funding agreement on…that included our local roads. Yes, they got an accelerated regional road program, which is good, but that's what we have. The…and finally, I just wanted to say, that this ensures that actual street works that people were expecting, not all of it, 10 million if we restore the 20 million for the…that was coming out of the reserve to pay for 2018 roads, we're still going to be short doing a lot of work that again, expectations are there. We heard from the active transportation people but it goes beyond that, Madam Speaker. So please, I encourage you, this is not…this is fiscally prudent debt, it really is. The debt ceiling, just so everybody remembers, our Chief Financial Officer, right now we have $200 million worth of borrowing that we could do according to our fiscally prudent debt by-law and policy. So this is a small…and it's not using operating money again, I will just remind you. This will go to reconstruct roads, not to do what we have been doing a lot of actually under the local road program is we've been doing a lot of rehabs that only last 20, and we borrowed 27 million in the past on this reserve, and guess what, a lot of that money went into rehabs and only last 20…20 years but we borrowed 30 year money. Not good. This is only borrowing 30 year money for assets that will last 30 to 50 years. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Eadie. Councillor Gillingham for the close, and we'll move on to the Mayor in the same time period.

Councillor Gillingham: Right, thank you Madam Speaker. I just wanted in my closing comments thank every councillor for really good comments here today. I want to just highlight as I close a very important and unique feature of this project, is contained in the recommendations related to the transition to next year, to the multi-year budgets. The developing multi-year, balanced budget's going to be a very challenging exercise. It will require Council to take a long term view of what our priorities will be and how we will fund those priorities. That's why the budget before us includes a response to the calls that have been made by so many and provides funding for strategic planning session involving all members of Council with the goal of establishing City-wide priorities and a process for developing the multi-year budgets. It also directs the Public Service to report back to Council, an analysis of the City's core service responsibilities, a plan for an evaluation framework review to review current and future City grants and a review of the City's unfounded capital projects with an effort to prioritize those projects. And so, the budget before us is most certainly about 2019, but it's also a budget that looks ahead and proposes a substantial shift by inviting all council to work and to plan together. And with that Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask all of my council members to support this budget and I will turn to the Mayor. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you Madam Speaker. And thank you to each of my council colleagues for their efforts as well as, of course, their comments here today. As has been mentioned, this year's budget was a challenging one. Like any budget, there's hard work and difficult choices that need to be made. I do believe that this budget presents a balanced and a responsible blueprint for the coming year and years ahead. And I would urge all of my council colleagues to support the budget for that reason. I want to acknowledge and I want to thank Councillor Eadie and Councillor Schreyer in particular for bringing forward a thoughtful amendment. I appreciate the fact that they are putting words behind their sentiment. I will not, however, be supporting it. I am concerned about the capacity of our debt ceiling and moving forward to fill the vacuum as Councillor Gillingham eloquently stated to pull out our credit card to pay for the provincial bill is something that I would not support. But I appreciate the sentiment and the intent which is to help fix our roads, and there may be in fact opportunities as a result of the proposed federal budget to try to look for those opportunities for the benefit of all areas of our city. Also I want to acknowledge and thank Councillor Lukes who appeared…she was the only member of Council who appeared in delegation at EPC last week and had a number of requests, two of which, most notably, were accepted by EPC and are now put into the budget so that she and others can vote for them. The first one, of course, was monies for strategic planning sessions, something that has been called for by many members of Council. It was not something that I ran on, but in deference to my councillor colleagues who want to have a more collaborative approach to multi-year budgets, I think it's an opportunity for us to increasingly work together and I would urge everybody who has called for that kind of dialogue to put your vote behind that sentiment. I also want to just talk about accountability. With all of the talk and all of the efforts that we have, today is a day where we are held accountable. All of

us fought very hard to be around this council chamber floor, to have the ability and privilege to serve the citizens of the city we all love, to have that opportunity to cast your vote in favour or against a budget and other deliberations that we have throughout the year, and that vote matters. It is the one way throughout the year when we look at our spending plans, in which all members of Council, myself included, are held accountable. And I want to let you know and remind all members of this chamber of what we are voting for or against, and what I believe Winnipeggers will hold us accountable for our vote today. Today is a historic day. There's been much talk for many years about a low income bus pass. History will look back at this moment and these votes to see who supported, and who didn't support a low income bus pass. History will look back and see who voted for and against a freeze on transit fares. Who voted for and against improved accessibility on our bus stops, improved safety measures for transit drivers and riders, more heated bus shelters, among other improvements to transit including steps to the further electrification of our fleet. These are historic decisions, and like I said, today is the day in which our votes demonstrate whether we support these things or not. The transit in particular is worthy of note. I know it has been highlighted by members of Council, but I think it's the most significant item in this budget. More work to do on transit definitely this year as I've mentioned before as the year of transit, and we have further work to do beyond these steps. But the low income bus pass is something I'm going to be very proud to vote for and I'm going to be able to look back at today and say, we started it today here in this chamber. The other things of course that you are voting for or against is the highest level of funding ever proposed for our Winnipeg Police Service, now over $300 million, a significant increase. A 4.2% increase to the Fire and Paramedic Service. Calls for many years for enhanced snow clearing on the City's growing active transportation network. Today, you can vote for or against that and be held accountable for that vote. A decrease in the water and sewer dividend rate, long called for. Again, members of Council can vote for or against that. The business tax rate; to continue powering the economy, reduce the burden on small businesses, the business tax is proposed to be reduced from 5.14% to 4.97% and the business tax threshold increase from 33,300 to 33,900. This is to help the backbone of our economy, small business owners in every corner and every ward of our city. You will either support that or oppose that. Millions more to address combined sewer overflows. There were significant investments in the last term, I think about $78 million, significant investment in combined sewer overflows to protect the health of our lakes and our rivers. The property tax increase is limited to 2.33%. I know during the course of the deliberations of this budget there were calls for it to be increased. This budget holds a line on property tax increases, freezes the frontage levy rate, and a number of other fees and charges. It also calls on the Province to be open and transparent and accountable with how they have arrived at their determination that they've met their funding obligations under the $250 million roads program. Members have asked for greater clarity, as have I. And this is an opportunity for us to stand together and call on the Province to be open and transparent with how they've reached that decision. There's funding for the CHAT Program, for the End Homelessness Winnipeg initiative, very important initiatives in all areas of our city for our most vulnerable citizens. I would urge you to support the budget for these reasons. I would urge you not to oppose these progressive moves to build a community we can all be proud of and to build Winnipeg for the future. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. With that, we'll be voting on the amendment first and then we will be voting on Clause 1, 2 and 3. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: I would like to move that we have a separate vote on the Capital and the Operating.

Madam Speaker: That's what we shall do. There is no reason we need to vote on that, just by request, we can do that. And we will vote on Clause 3 separately as it requires a two thirds vote of Council. All in favour of Clause 1, the Operating Budget? Pardon me, the amendment first, Councillor Eadie's amendment. Recorded vote? Okay, all in favour of Motion 2, please rise. This is the motion that Councillor Eadie brought forward, seconded by Councillor Schreyer.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Browaty, Eadie and Schreyer

Nays

His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Chambers, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Nason, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 3, Nays 13.

Madam Speaker: The amending motion to the Capital and Operating Budget, Motion No. 2 fails. All in favour of Clause 1, the Operating Budget? All in favour? Recorded vote, all in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Gillingham, Gilroy, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Nays

Councillors Eadie, Klein, Lukes, Nason and Schreyer

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 11, Nays 5.

Madam Speaker: The Operating Budget passes. All in favour of Clause 2, the Capital Budget, please rise.

Councillor Eadie: So the motion on the reserve to expand it, that comes after this?

Madam Speaker: That's right.

Councillor Eadie: Okay.

Madam Speaker: This is Clause 2 of the Capital Budget. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Gillingham, Gilroy, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Nays

Councillors Eadie, Klein, Lukes, Nason and Schreyer

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 11, Nays 5.

Madam Speaker: Clause 2, the Capital Budget passes. Those in favour of Clause 3 of the Capital Budget, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Nays

Councillors Klein, Lukes, Nason and Schreyer

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 12, Nays 4.

Madam Speaker: Clause 3 of the Capital Budget passes. We will now move on to by-laws for the first reading under the Executive Policy Committee, Mr. Mayor.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – FIRST READING ONLY

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that By-law No. 30/2019 be read the first time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Eadie: Please record me in opposition.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Clerk.

Clerk: By-law No. 30/2019.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor, on the third reading.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mayor Bowman: Sorry, third reading? Just let me see.

Madam Speaker: Move onto the next section of by-laws.

Mayor Bowman: Yeah, I think we are on the By-law 23, 24.

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Mayor Bowman: Yeah, thank you. Sorry Madam Speaker, I move that the following by-law be read a first time; By-law 23/2019, By-law 24/2019 and By-law 25/2019.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 23/2019, 24/2019 and By-law 25/2019.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you Madam Speaker. I move that By-law No. 23/2019 to 25/2019 both inclusive be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 23/2019 to 25/2019 both inclusive.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor, on the suspension and the third reading.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you Madam Speaker. I move that the rule be suspended and By-laws No. 23/2019 to 25/2019 both inclusive be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Councillor Gilroy, will you move adjournment? All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Roll call, Mr. Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Nason, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos and Councillor Schreyer.

Council adjourned at 1:57 p.m.