COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Thursday, February 28, 2019

The Council met at 9:34 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 Eadie.

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 Madam Clerk. I would now like to recognize our page for today's meeting. Please welcome Max Thompson who attends St. Boniface Diocesan High School and he resides in the St. Boniface Ward. Welcome, thank you for serving council today. We will move into the morning announcements. Mr. Mayor, you now have the floor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you Madam Speaker and good morning everyone. Morning to those that are watching online, those that are attending in-person here today, and good morning to my council colleagues as well as you, Madam Speaker. I have a few very brief announcements. It's been a busy month for all members of council, myself included. Today, as the last day of February, concludes Black History Month. As members of council will know, we had a kickoff reception in the mayor's foyer as well as a luncheon. Today, the Winnipeg sign will be lit in respect of Black History Month and I want to thank everybody for their support for this initiative in various places throughout our community over the last month. The organizers worked very hard, I applaud them and I want to thank them for demonstrating the pride that we all share in Black History Month and our citizens who are celebrating it, of course. February 10th was the Chinese New Year dinner at Kum Koon Garden. I know a number of us were in attendance there and I just want to again, wish everybody all the very best of the New Year in our Chinese Canadian community. I know a number of my council colleagues attended numerous events throughout the community and I want to, again, just wish everybody all the very best of the Year of the Pig. Also, Festival du Voyageur has been just an outstanding event. I want to applaud the organizers, the staff, the volunteers and the sponsors. Councillor Allard and I have had an opportunity to obviously celebrate the Festival du Voyageur. Fifty years and growing stronger each and every year. And it's an incredible milestone, 50 years. We also celebrate 50 years of Folkrama later this year and would encourage all Winnipeggers to support that incredible multicultural festival that we enjoy. But the Festival du Voyageur, we had a flag raising, we had again, a luncheon, we attended the opening ceremonies at the Voyageur Park and, of course, an honorary street naming among many other things. The snow sculpture has not melted much to our chagrin and it stands outside Winnipeg city hall right now and I would just encourage everybody to check it out as well as all of the other sculptures that we have in the city of Winnipeg right now celebrating 50 years of Festival du Voyageur. And lastly, Madam Speaker, I had the opportunity to travel to Alberta last week. I attended the Canada Games in Red Deer, Alberta. Was appreciative of being hosted by Mayor Tara Veer and had an opportunity to meet with many members of council, including mayors from central Alberta, as well as attend the Canada Games with Mayor Nenshi from Calgary who travelled north for…to cheer on Team Alberta. I want to just thank all of the athletes, the coaches, the parents and everybody that is supporting Team Toba. We should be very proud of the athletes and the coaches' efforts. And I just want to give them all the very best as they continue to represent our province and in many cases, many of the athletes are, of course, from Winnipeg and we want to give them all our very best as they compete. While I was in Calgary, I had the opportunity to meet at city hall with Mayor Nenshi. We had an opportunity to discuss various matters including illicit drugs and the rise of meth in both of our cities and in Canadian cities across Canada and some strategies that we are looking at and they are working towards as well. We had an opportunity to discuss intergovernmental affairs matters and the challenges and the opportunities of working with other levels of government, including provincial governments and the Federal Government. And also, just the growing demands of infrastructure with growing cities. And so I want to thank Mayor Nenshi for taking the time. He did provide an honour of a white hat ceremony for me. I wore it proudly. It was a very nice gesture. I will not be wearing it on game days when the Calgary stampeders are playing our beloved Winnipeg Blue Bombers. But other than that day, it was a tremendous honour. I just want to thank the Mayor for his hospitality. Thank you, Madam Speaker

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. And now Deputy Mayor, Councillor Chambers, for your morning announcement.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just to expand on what Mayor Bowman has said, with regards to Black History Month. It's an honour for me to rise today and provide a statement with regards to Black History Month and the city of Winnipeg. You might be aware that 2019 marks the 21st anniversary of hosting Black History Month celebrations in our city. The Black History Month Celebration Committee has hosted events to celebrate the culture and contributions of black people in Winnipeg and across our great nation. This year, the theme for Black History Month is 'Honouring our Shared History'. This theme is appropriate because black history is an integral part of Canadian history. It's the blending together of two intrinsically similar histories into one Canadian story; the story of overcoming obstacles, fighting for social justice, respecting freedoms and promoting equality for all. Here in Winnipeg, Black History Month raises awareness and contributions that have been made by the black community in Winnipeg…by the black community in Winnipeg. It's a community largely based of individuals who immigrated directly from their home country to our city or settled here over generations. Regardless of their beginnings, they have contributed immensely to our city in arts, sports, government, business and education among others. And their contributions have helped build an inclusive and welcoming city for all Winnipeggers. Today is the final day of Black History Month, as Mayor Bowman has stated, and the month will conclude with an awards banquet that will be held on Saturday, March 2nd. As I look back at the events that were held this month, I want to thank Mayor Bowman for hosting a Black History Month luncheon here at city hall to kick off the celebrations. I was pleased to participate at the luncheon with several of my council colleagues and thank you very much for those of you who attended. I was also honoured to bring greetings on behalf of Mayor Bowman and city council at several events throughout the city and was equally impressed with how skillfully the Black History Month Celebration Committee connected the celebration with I Love to Read Month. They collaborated with several schools and libraries to encourage guest readers to read books to students about black historians. Recognition must also be made to contributions of private and public sector organizations to the success of Black History Month. The Canadian Museum for Human Rights hosted several events to raise awareness of contributions of black people in our society. Events such as the family friendly spotlight on the Nelson Mandela tour as well as the book signing of journalist, author and academic, Cecil Foster, titled, 'They Call Me George: The Untold Story of Black Train Porters and the Birth of Modern Canada'. The Human Rights Museum also collaborated with the Festival du Voyageur to host a Viola Desmond display at Fort Gibraltar to raise awareness of Ms. Desmond's right to protest against segregation. The Royal Canadian Mint also minted the first Black History Month coin that pays tribute to this civil rights pioneer. This evening, as the Mayor's indicated, Black History Month draws to a close and the city will be lighting the Winnipeg sign at the Forks in recognition of Black History Month. The lighting of the sign will occur at 6:30 p.m. at the Forks and Black History Month Committee members will attend as well as Winnipeggers from across the city to enjoy hot chocolate, coffee and conversation. I want to thank sisters, Nadia and Rhonda Thompson as well as Mavis McLaren and the entire Black History Month Committee and volunteers for their dedication to hosting this annual celebration. Winnipeg is stronger because of our diversity and multiculturalism as showcased through celebrations of black experience, perspectives and our shared history. Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Chambers. Councillor Gillingham followed by Councillor Nason.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you Madam Speaker. I rise today to congratulate École Sturgeon Heights Collegiate Huskies on their first ever championship win in the Winnipeg High School Hockey League. Now, Madam Speaker, of course, this final series…3 game series that ran Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday pitted my team against your team…was in the finals. I know the Garden City Fighting Gophers and a fight that they really put up. It was a great…I attended all 3 games. It was a great reprieve from budget, I can tell that you. It was five o'clock Monday, five o'clock Tuesday, five o'clock last night. And the first game on Monday, Sturgeon Heights eked out a win 5-4 over Garden City. Tuesday, Garden City came…pardon me, 4-3. Tuesday Garden City came back and beat Sturgeon Heights 4-3 and last night it was 4-4 with a minute 25 or a minute 28 left in the third period, and Sturgeon Heights scored on a power play to win the game 5-4. But it was really exciting hockey and I want to congratulate both Garden City, their team, their players and their coaches as well, and of course, the Sturgeon Heights Huskies. I've got the list of the names of the team, I'm going to quickly read them into the record today just to congratulate them. So from the Sturgeon Height Huskies congratulations to Colby Taylor, Tyler Sawchuck, Noah Slywchuk, Nathan Gould, Kobe Davis, Blake Duncalfe, Cody Gibbs, Jalen Hoilett, Cole Sykes, Ethan Yewdall, Cayden Onagi, Matthew Meier, Tyler Hattie, Noah Funk, Dylan Morden, Ryan Ostermann, Zach Greenwood, Noah Gilbert and to the coaching staff, Tyler Metcalfe, Brett Watt, Tanner Engel, Brett Bigourdin and to the manager, Nicole Hazen.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Gillingham. Congratulations to the Huskies and to you. Councillor Nason followed by Councillor Rollins and finally Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Nason: Thank you for the opportunity to raise awareness on some recent activities I have had the pleasure to attend in my role as Council Liaison for Veteran and Military Affairs. Recently we were able to attend the Military

Family Resource Centre's Yellow Ribbon Gala where I was accompanied by the Mayor and several council colleagues. Our city's support of our large military family in Winnipeg is very much appreciated by the families and those serving in our military. Our position as a leader and reservist employment is also filling a critical need within our military. The city was also recently lucky enough to enjoy a visit from the crew of the HMCS Winnipeg. And a visit with the Mayor was also followed up with some time at the Festival du Voyageur, which undoubtedly will leave them wanting to come back for another visit, hopefully at our Folklorama. Pardon me. Lastly, I had the pleasure recently of a joint tour of Canadian Forces Base 17 Wing with MLA John Reyes who is the Military Liaison for the Provincial Government. Seeing first-hand the amount of work involved in base operations is an eye opening experience. I was also able to provide my personal thanks on behalf of the residents of Transcona for the efforts of the firefighters that operate the fire equipment that was instrumental in safely controlling the fire last fall in an area just north of our community. Lastly on this tour, I had the opportunity to try out the virtual range and I'm proud to report back to our council colleagues that the City is now leading 2 rounds to 0 over the Province in that regard. Thank you to the base commander, Colonel Charron, and all the members for the warm reception and efforts to strengthen our working relationships with the city.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Nason. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you and good morning. On February 28th, Debbie Ditka and Heather Foster, parent to parent resource co-chairs of the Manitoba Chapter of the Rare Disease Foundation went to the legislature to recognize rare diseases in Canada and in Manitoba. In terms of some quick facts on rare diseases, there are more than 7,000 diseases that are considered rare and the number of Canadians with rare disease is approximately equal to that of diabetes and all cancers combined. 60 percent of individuals diagnosed with rare disease are children and 40 percent will die before their 6th birthday. And with respect to this organization and these parent to parent co-chairs, I want wanted to recognize February 28th, 2019 as Rare Disease Day and recognize their hard work on behalf of the rare diseases. I also wanted to stand and recognize that tomorrow is a special day for the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service, where they will once again be receiving new graduates and recruits. And I wanted to congratulate all the recruits. I unfortunately won't be able to be there as Chair of Protection, Community Services and Parks, I will be spending time with all of you, but I wanted to congratulate the new recruits.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Rollins. Councillor Schreyer

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As the remarks from our Mayor and Deputy Mayor express, we are thinking of more than just ourselves, we're part of something greater than ourselves. Our remarks are about our society in general. And I would like to make the point to acknowledge the election of the federal leader of the New Democratic Party, Jagmeet Singh, finally, to the House of Commons, having won his bi-election in Burnaby South, just a couple of days ago. He is originally from the Toronto area and was a member of the Provincial Parliament in Ontario and in fact was Deputy Leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party before becoming…being elected as the leader of the Federal New Democratic Party a year and a half ago. And, it is fitting to state today that he is the first person of a visible minority to lead a Federal Party in Canada on a permanent basis. And I wish Mr. Singh well and to all of us as we approach an upcoming federal election. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Schreyer.

MINUTES

Councillor Chambers moves that the Minutes of the meeting held on January 31st, 2019 be taken as read and confirmed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. We will now move into delegations. I would like to call forward Mr. Patrick Stewart. He is here on behalf of the Independent Living Resource Centre in support of Item 1 of the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works. The report dated February 5th, 2019 and is regarding vehicles for hire, the annual report. Welcome Mr. Stewart. You have 10 minutes on the clock. Yes.

DELEGATIONS

Patrick Stewart: Okay, thanks very much. I have a written statement I am going to present. I also have copies that I brought which I understand I give to the clerk. Thank you so much. Good morning everybody. I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to speak today on the vehicle for hire annual report and the proposed amendments to the

by-law. I am Patrick Stewart and I'm here representing the Independent Living Resource Centre. We are a community driven, consumer controlled non-profit agency supporting the full integration of Manitobans with disabilities. We originally developed the Accessible Transportation Training Program for the Manitoba Taxicab Board in 2015, which we continue today to deliver as a requirement for taxicab driver licencing on behalf of the City of Winnipeg. This transition has been largely positive, evident in the increased number of accessible vehicles on the road and the improved awareness, understanding and capacity of drivers to provide safe and respectful services to the entire community. We'd like to thank the Winnipeg Parking Authority for prioritizing the concerns of passengers with disabilities in this report and for the recognition that there are still many barriers yet to address. There are three specific recommendations in this report that we would like to endorse. The first is amending the by-law to require taxi dispatchers with at least 50 vehicles to have one accessible taxicab available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Taxi cabs provide an essential service to people with disabilities who today face many barriers to accessing other forms of transportation. Underscored by the severity of our climate, it cannot be understated how vital it is to have vehicles for hire universally available. The survey that was included in the report indicates that extraordinary wait times persist for passengers requiring accessible vehicles. So we would like to recommend that for companies operating fleets of over 50 vehicles who will be required to maintain at least 10 percent available 24/7, that at least 20 percent of those vehicles be accessible for the simple fact that an accessible taxicab can transport anybody, while a standard one cannot. If we desire a universally accessible system this is a simple and common sense step that we can take. Secondly, to improve safety the report recommends enforcement officers ne authorized to enforce the Highway Traffic Act as it pertains to the securement of mobility aids. As the misuse of securement devices represents a potential loss of life hazard for passengers and drivers, we hope that council recognizes the significance of this amendment and takes the opportunity to prevent a future and demonstrably avoidable tragedy. The final recommendation we would like to endorse is the abolishment of the $12.65 service charge that's being levied against people with disabilities. As the report recognizes, there are no other cities in our country that apply a higher fee to passengers based upon their identity as a person with a disability. This fee has been highly despised by the community and the practical application inseparable from abuse, conflict and fraud. The duty for all businesses to provide reasonable accommodations is required by the Accessibility for Manitobans Act and it is a core component of our Human Rights Code which explicitly prohibits additional fees based upon protected characteristics such as ethnicity, language, gender and disability. Not repealing this fee would stand in direct contravention of this law. Presently, the by-law requires drivers to provide reasonable assistance to all passengers upon request. This is intended to cover a wide array of situations but it would certainly serve the public interest to increase the specificity of the language as it relates to supporting passengers with disabilities. The city of Ottawa goes into great detail in their by-law, stating that drivers are required to help passengers to and from the immediate interior of buildings. We recommend that the by-law be amended to include similar language that will serve the public and provide guidance to drivers. This is another example where accessibility can be improved through a very simple and common sense solution. In addition to endorsing these recommendations, we also need to recognize two very important factors that if not addressed, will not only limit our ability to eliminate barriers that have persisted for decades, but could decimate the progress that we've made in recent years. Like many cities, we have adopted an accessibility fund within our vehicle for hire industry to support change. Winnipeg's is presently funded by a 7 cent per trip fee that's levied on dispatch companies whose fleet do not include at least 10 percent accessible vehicles. While the size of the fund is not yet public knowledge, we know that it will be hard pressed to support driver incentives, vehicle renovations, and most significantly, a centralized dispatch system considering the disparity between the present rate and that of other jurisdictions like Calgary and New York that are levying between 10 cents and 30 cents on every single trip, not to dispatch companies but through their metered rates. By adding a nominal fee to the meter, the viability of our taxicab companies are protected while the significant steps required to develop an equitable transportation network are addressed. Once our two largest carriers, Unicity and Duffy's, hit the 10 percent mark this fledging fund is going to be rendered ineffective. Over the past year we have seen the percentage of accessible taxi cabs increase from 9 to 18 percent thanks largely to the most recent vehicle licence lottery that awarded 60 new licences exclusively to operators of accessible taxi cabs. We've also seen an improvement in the quality of service and safety standards through community-based driver education. Over this time, we've witnessed the introduction of ride hailing or PTP services as a transportation option. PTPs have begun to make an impact but the wholesale transformation of our vehicle for hire sector has not yet occurred as it has in so many other cities, frankly, because the big name players, Uber and Lyft, have yet to obtain the concessions that they require to operate in our city. This likely is just a matter of time. As the numerous lawsuits across North America indicate, these multinational corporations generate millions of dollars by undermining and circumnavigating local laws and accessibility standards and unless safe guards are in place ahead of time, a sudden influx of inaccessible PTP vehicles with untrained drivers would instantly roll back the progress that we have made. What we require is recognition that regardless of the business model in place, whether hailed through a phone call or an app, the service required by the community is exactly the same whether it's a taxicab or PTP. We ask council to look now at the examples of other jurisdictions that require Uber and Lyft to provide accessible services with identical rates and pick-up times as their mainstream platforms rather than being absolved through nominals levies that undermine our community's commitment to accessibility. There is one concrete measure that this city council can make today that will ensure the future safety and quality of passengers and drivers and that is requiring operators of PTP vehicles to meet the same training standards as their taxicab counter parts. It's been a tremendous achievement for our community to connect all taxicab

drivers whether they drive an accessible vehicle or a standard vehicle with high level disability awareness training that covers not only support for passengers using mobility aids but also for passengers with disabilities that are sensory-based, cognitive, age related, or otherwise that make up the majority of the one in six Manitobans that are living with a disability. It would be very difficult to hold multibillion dollar ride hail services to our community standards after they have arrived if they are not enshrined in the vehicle for hire by-law today. Regardless of the business model, the transportation service provided is the same. We cannot abide a segregated system that will eventually disenfranchise and put at risk the safety of our community especially when it is clearly avoidable. Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Mr. Stewart. This is an opportunity for council to ask any questions. Councillor Gillingham followed by Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you Madam Speaker. Thank you…through you, I want to thank the delegation, Mr. Stewart, and ask if he has had opportunity to work with the Winnipeg Parking Authority and the development of the by-laws and of the policies around the vehicles for hire and if that conversation continues on.

Patrick Stewart: Absolutely. Yeah, we have, over I guess it would be the past couple of years, developed an incredibly, I think, productive relationship with the Winnipeg Parking Authority and Mr. Grant Heather. They have…we feel that we do have their ear. We feel that we are able to work with them as partners and that the recommendations that they have submitted reflect the concerns that we've raised.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, through you to Mr. Stewart. As…actually, just a little preface, as a member of the Manitoba Taxi Board at the time, we had engaged to improve accessibility in the industry, vehicles for hire industry, and I think we made a very good choice in bringing forth the Independent Living Resource Centre as a trainer of drivers who are transporting persons with disabilities. And so I would just like to say, first of all, to thank them. It sounds like things have really progressed and they are heavily involved in all aspects. But, my question, Madam Speaker, I actually have been approached by a number of people who know that I used to be on the Taxicab Board and such, and I'm wondering if Mr. Stewart can just explain how we're dealing with training people on fastening wheelchairs into vehicles appropriately? I'm hearing that some people weren't trained properly. If you could address that, I would appreciate it.

Patrick Stewart: Sure, absolutely. The use of the four point restraint systems is a really important part of the course. All drivers receive that training whether they're presently driving a standard cab or driving an accessible one. We…well, we cover, you know, according to the Highway Traffic Act what is required, the basic guidelines for using Q'STRAINT Systems, that is the majority of the equipment that's on the road. We have a simulation station within our training centre that gives 3 different examples of not just 3 different mobility aids, but 3 different types of equipment. The drivers work in teams along with an instructor, to secure a wheelchair, according to the specifications of the manufacturers and according to the law. And, is also an important opportunity for them to experience what their passengers potentially could be experiencing when it comes to the use of seatbelts, the invasion of somebody's personal space that can often accompany using this equipment properly. We really stand by the training that we're doing. We feel that it is very effective, and makes up nearly half of the day. It's a full day training course and say the afternoon is spent, the majority of it on how to use that equipment.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Thank you. Seeing no further questions…Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Mr. Stewart mentioned his wish that for fleets over 50 vehicles, that 20 percent of them be equipped for accessibility. I would like to know if Mr. Stewart envisions how many fleets would be upcoming in Winnipeg with fleets with over 50 vehicles.

Patrick Stewart: Sure. Well our understanding that today is that there are two fleets, that would be Unicity and Duffy's, that are over 50. We do also, you know, have indications that we might seeing some mergers between different companies over the next half a year that would likely result in maybe one or two additional fleets that would exceed 50.

Madam Speaker: Second question Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: As well, Mr. Stewart mentioned that there was concessions required by Lyft and Uber to operate in the city of Winnipeg. Does it seem to Mr. Stewart that those requirements, according to Lyft and Uber, have changed, according to what they say our requirements for them to operate here, that they…that those requirements have changed over the last year?

Patrick Stewart: I can't speak, you know, for Uber or Lyft. When I refer to the concessions, what I'm talking about is the insurance requirements from MPI, that Uber turned their nose at and decided that that was too complicated for them. We did have a representative from Uber visit our facility when they were looking at coming to Winnipeg, to see the training the taxicab drivers receive, as well as training that people who operate an accessible PTP vehicle receive as well. But today, drivers of standard PTP vehicles are not required in our city to get the training. It would be our expectation that this is going to change in the future. That conversation with Uber was polite but they were quite blunt saying that they would not endorse any requirement that their drivers would be universally required to take disability awareness training. We really believe that this training's appropriate for anybody that provides a public service, especially an essential service like transportation. I think the perception when people hear disability awareness training their first thought is that we are talking exclusively about mobility aids, about securing wheelchairs. That is absolutely an integral part of our training. It can be a matter of life or death, we take it very seriously. But the training that they receive covers disability myths, stereotypes, communication, customer service, attitudinal barriers that persist today that prevent everybody from accessing our transportation services on an equitable basis. And they receive practical training from members of the community as it relates to supporting passengers that may have…may be blind or have low vision, guiding techniques, how to disassemble wheelchairs, assist a passenger who might be transferring from a mobility aide into a standard vehicle, which is their right, how to do a pivot transfer, how to disassemble a wheelchair, loading into a trunk. It really is a merger of, I guess, attitudes, awareness, communication, but that practical first-hand support that many people need, and it is instructed by the community. It's instructed by individuals that live with disabilities every single day and teach from their lived experience. And that…we really believe that that is the key difference that makes this type of training effective.

Madam Speaker: Thank you for the answer. Mr. Stewart, that brings our question period to a close. Thank you for your presentation to council today.

Patrick Stewart: Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: I would like to draw to council's attention the next two delegations; Mr. Ron East and Mr. Marty Gold have withdrawn. They are not able to make it today. Moving now into committee reports you, Mr. Mayor on the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated February 12th, 2019.

REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED FEBRUARY 12, 2019

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I introduce the report and move adoption of the consent agenda Item No. 1.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Mr. Mayor on the report dated February 19th, 2019, noting we have an amending Motion No. 2 on Item 1.

REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED FEBRUARY 19, 2019

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I introduce the report and move adoption of the consent agenda Items 1 through 6 and I would like to speak to matter 1 so I will pull Item 1 please.

Madam Speaker: Item 1 has been pulled, there is an amending motion. So I'll call the question on Items 2 through 6. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Madam Clerk.

Item 1 – Citizen Member Appointments – Winnipeg Police Board

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor, if you would like to introduce the item and the amending motion.

Motion No. 2
Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,
Seconded by Councillor Rollins,

BE IT RESOLVED that Item 1 of the Executive Policy Committee report dated February 19, 2019, be amended by adding the following new Recommendation 2 and renumbering the remaining recommendation accordingly:

"2. That Councillor Chambers be appointed as the Vice-Chair of the Winnipeg Police Board."

Mayor Bowman: Thank you…thank you Madam Speaker. I just…I wanted to pull this to offer appreciation and thanks to Councillor Klein. He is serving as Chair of the Police Board. It is a…Councillor Gillingham will know as well as David Asper and before him, now Minister Scott Fielding will know, serving as Chair of the Winnipeg Police Board is…takes a tremendous amount of time and energy and I want to thank Councillor Klein who is new to city hall and has been thrust in a very demanding portfolio. There are two names that are coming forward today for council's consideration, both of whom, I expect, will do great work on behalf of Winnipeggers in their role as members of the Winnipeg Police Board. But, one of the things that I should have ensured was part of that motion last week was appointing a vice chair. And so this really just amends that and recommends that our council colleague, Councillor Markus Chambers, who is currently serving on the Police Board, provide assistance in the event that our chair isn't able to make a meeting. And so I know all members of the current and past Police Board, including Councillor Eadie, have done tremendous service on behalf of Winnipeggers. It is an invaluable role that civilian oversight is something that is relatively new for the governing structures. But I want to thank everybody for their efforts and their ongoing efforts, as well as, of course, members of the Winnipeg Police Service. And this is a simple amendment to ensure that in the event that Councillor Klein is not able to chair a meeting because of other duties, he can walk down the hallway, speak with Councillor Chambers and Councillor Chambers hopefully can fill in as needed, if necessary. I know Councillor Klein is working very hard. I don't anticipate that's going to happen if ever, but if it does, we have Councillor Chambers on the board and he can provide that assistance. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councillor Eadie, on the same item.

Councillor Eadie: Yes. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Despite the amending motion I wanted to actually speak to the appointees. Madam Speaker, to begin, I just want to congratulate Mr. Mohamed El Tassi and Mr. Brian Scharfstein who is moving on to continue his tenure on the Winnipeg Police Board. And the service that Mr. Scharfstein, Madam Speaker, has supplied to the Police Board while I was on there, I have to say, is really great. People who are very busy in their own lives still are committed to seeing that our police services meet the expectations of Winnipeggers. And Madam Speaker, and Mr. Mohamed El Tassi spoke to me several times about serving and I was glad to see that he was chosen as a member. And we all know that the El Tassi family are people who care about their community, care about their city, and I think that he'll provide great service. I also wanted to just acknowledge, I really haven't…I don't think we can say enough about the citizens who get appointed to the Police Board and the amount of work that they do. And while the chairperson is a very busy position on the Winnipeg Police Board, I must say, all positions on the Winnipeg Police Board are quite busy and there is a never ending need to communicate to the public and undertake all the duties and responsibilities they do. So, I would like to actually recognize Mr. Barry Tuckett, who served for a number of years on the Winnipeg Police Board and brought to us and to the Police Board, a very valuable experience, in that he used to be the Ombudsman of Manitoba and provided a lot of good, sage clarity and input into all the various goings on at the Police Board. Also, Ms. Mary Jane Loustel, now with a different last name, of course, served quite well and I have to acknowledge, again, how much great work they do and so congratulations to our new appointees. And finally, I would just like to speak to the amending motion. I am not…I am opposed, actually, to the amending motion. And it's not because of who is being chosen per se. My problem, Madam Speaker, is that this Winnipeg Police Board was developed so that there was citizen oversight and governance of the Winnipeg Police Service. And I truly believe that if the chairperson, who is a city councillor and our former mayor chose a citizen to be the chairperson in the past and I think that's great. But, Madam Speaker, I believe that there should be an opportunity and maybe there isn't, the experience necessary, but, you know, our…the Mayor's recommendation for vice chairperson is also a new person on the Police Board, Madam Speaker, and I have to say that I believe a citizen member should be the vice chairperson to fill in when especially when you have, Madam Speaker, a member of council as the chairperson. And so, I'm actually not supportive of the amending motion.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Eadie. Next, Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: I stand in support of the motion, I seconded it this morning. I also stand in support of my colleague who, like myself, have heard from concerned citizens on police. And I've…we know in the city of Winnipeg that we have more work to do. And I also know that Councillor Chambers is getting calls, as maybe many of us are, around the table, in terms of concerns around racialized policing, that we have to stand vigilant against in our community at all times, in

terms of making sure that communities are let in and have a voice. And so, having his eye on that committee, in particular Madam Speaker, is important in terms of answering the call. It's really important to recognize that Councillor Chambers is a first for this city council. And so I stand in support of the motion but I also stand in support of the communities and the community voice that I know he will bring to that table, because I know he is getting the same calls as I am and others are around this table. And, I also know that the…that into a large extent, we do serve at the pleasure of the Mayor, and that that is an annual cycle. So, it is possible that other citizens' voices, and I concur with Councillor Eadie in terms of the citizen representatives on the board, and that next year will be another year, of course. So, those are my comments this morning in support of the motion.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Rollins. Any further speakers? Mr. Mayor, back to you.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you. And thanks, to both my council colleagues for their thoughts. I respectfully disagree on the amending motion with respect to Councillor Eadie's comments. But his other comments and his insights on the Police Board are extremely valuable and I fully agree with. He does offer insight, given his experience and passion for the work of the Police Board. And I want to acknowledge and thank him for that. I also wanted to just make mention of Edna Nabess. She is also one of the nominees who we haven't had an opportunity yet to acknowledge, in addition to Mohamed El Tassi as well as our re-appointment for Mr. Brian Scharfstein. I want to thank both of the two new board members for agreeing to serve in this capacity and again want to thank Councillor Kevin Klein for his ongoing leadership of the Winnipeg Police Board.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor. With that, I will call the question on the amending motion, Motion 2. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Noted, thank you. And now the question on Item 1 as amended. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. We will now move into motions under EPC. Motion No. 3 is on your desks alongside with an attachment and details on the memorandum of understanding with the First Nations of the Southern Chiefs Organization. It's moved by Councillor Gillingham and seconded by Councillor Lukes. It is an automatic referral to EPC.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Eadie: I would like to move suspension of the rules so that we could hear this motion from Councillors Gillingham and Lukes.

Madam Speaker: Alright. Thank you Councillor Eadie. Motion on the table to deal with the item today. Councillor Eadie moves suspension. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Councillor Gillingham to introduce Motion 3.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
MOTIONS

Motion No. 3
Moved by Councillor Gillingham,
Seconded by Councillor Lukes,

WHEREAS representatives from the First Nations of the Southern Chiefs' Organization, Inc. ("First Nations") and Municipalities of the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region, Inc. ("Municipalities") have been meeting in the Collaborative Leadership Initiative (CLI) exploring how they might work together in a spirit of reconciliation to achieve common goals.

AND WHEREAS the First Nations and the Municipalities agree to continue to work together in the Collaborative Leadership Initiative (CLI) on the basis of mutual respect, recognition, co-operation and responsibility to achieve common goals in agreed areas of cooperation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. *That the City enter into, execute and deliver a Memorandum of Understanding with the First Nations of the Southern Chiefs' Organization and Municipalities of the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region in the form attached hereto.*

2. *That the proper officers of the City do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.*

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you Madam Speaker and thank you to Councillor Eadie for moving suspension of the rules to hear this today and thank you to my colleagues to hear this. What we have before us is a motion to participate in a signing ceremony, a memorandum of understanding, between several, I think 24 municipalities including the City of Winnipeg, members of the Southern Chiefs Organization, several of the chiefs and First Nations leaders of communities in southern Manitoba. What is before us and proposed to be taking place tomorrow at Lower Fort Garry is really the culmination of more than a year's worth of work. In my role, I appreciate the role the Mayor's given me to serve on the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region Board. I was served there with Councillor Lukes and I thank her for seconding this motion today, for several years. And so she was there before me, she certainly understands this work. I now serve with Councillor Orlikow on it as well. What has happened is about a year ago, just over a year ago, what was launched was an initiative called a collaborative leadership initiative and I just want to kind of set the stage quickly to explain what is behind this motion today. It was a regional collaborative process between 24 municipalities and leaders from the First Nations, many First Nations in southern Manitoba. It was elected leaders…it is elected readers. It's a reconciliation process really focusing on co-operation and building stronger communities together. There were four meetings over the past year between these groups, very rewarding meetings. Meeting one was just to talk about the fact that for all, municipal leaders and First Nation leaders, the issues are very, very similar. We provide services for our respective communities and we have both the same similar opportunities, different opportunities in some cases, but in in many cases, similar opportunities and similar challenges; challenges of water, waste, waste water. Many of the services we provide are very similar and it's about really learning from one another, committing to working together to tackle some of the challenges that are not…that don't know a municipal or First Nations boundary but are really, you know, shared by all of our communities. And so it's really…it's come to the point of a commitment to continue to work together, and that in essence, is what we have before us. The memorandum of understanding that is being contemplated is a political agreement that allows for these partners to send a signal that we're committed to working together to demonstrate that there is a matter of organization and an intention to think regionally and where possible, to act together. And I think what's been important and very rewarding in this process on a personal level over the last year, is being able to sit with and work with men and women from other municipalities, but also, from our First Nations in southern Manitoba, where we may be…I haven't been in a room where we have worked together like that before. One of the foundational frameworks for this has been to try to learn from one another and understand one another and get to know one another. And that's been very rewarding. And so, what we have before us is a memorandum of understanding that if passed today, the Mayor would be the signatory on it. It's reeves, mayors, chiefs that will be signing this and it's a really, a partnership and commitment to work together in the future. So I encourage my council colleagues to support this motion. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. Any further speakers? Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you. Just standing in support of the motion and want to congratulate and really thank the councillors involved in the work and thank Councillor Gillingham and Orlikow for working with colleagues from across the region. The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People is difficult to implement. Canada has been slow, but this city has seen progress and with this MOU, I find work on the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People difficult to define sometimes, but important to act on. And I see this as an action that falls out of the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous People and the calls of action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission related to Indigenous self-determination, land ownership, implementation of treaty rights and respect for Indigenous law, governments, jurisdictions, all part of the legal foundation, of course, that is this city, this province, this country. And I look forward to seeing the photographs and the celebration that is the MOU, the Mayor's signature on the document, and all the chiefs, reeves and the mayors of the surrounding regions. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Rollins. Any…Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think this is great work that Councillor Gillingham and Councillor Lukes, who also served on the metro group, I can't remember the full name now. I used to call it the capital region, Madam Speaker. But anyway, Madam Speaker, this is a no brainer. This should have…and I'm glad that it's happening now. I first…was first called to my attention about First Nations governments working with our region in order to help us achieve the goals of the metro area in that it's economic, it's about transportation, it's about saving money and purchasing. There are so many things that the various municipal governments around the region and First Nations people are part of Treaty 1. We have Treaty 1 land and they actually have the same stakes that we do as a city and as the other municipalities do, Madam Speaker. And so again, this is a no brainer. It's very important that they are participating in presenting ideas that will make all of our lives, that's Indigenous peoples and everybody, be able to experience the advantages of being part of this region, which really needs to continually improve and move into the future so that we can all experience a good life including those Indigenous people that First Nations government serve. So I will be supporting this whole heartedly.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Eadie. Any further speakers? Councillor Chambers followed by His Worship.

Councillor Chambers: Yeah, I just want to echo the comments that have been made. Since learning about this at our council seminar the other day, again, as Councillor Eadie had said, this is a no brainer. It's an opportunity to work collaboratively together, to work in harmony in terms of environmental issues, leveraging the economic opportunities here and strengthening the Winnipeg capital region. I think it's an opportunity as our city grows and as the region grows we're going to see some great work that comes out of this, in terms of you know, being able to better provide services for our citizens while ensuring that our environment remains strong. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Chambers. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just want to thank Councillor Gillingham and Councillor Lukes and Councillor Orlikow for their efforts with the Winnipeg metropolitan region. This effort has been taking place for some time. I had the opportunity to attend one of the four sessions out at South Beach Casino is where the location of the meeting. And as Councillor Gillingham has indicated, first gathering of its kind where such a broad group of leaders from our Indigenous community as well as through municipalities, gathered together. The reason I support this effort is it really is about providing a framework to go forward for increased dialogue and collaboration. And you know, I'll be very proud to sign it with the approval of council today. I understand there's about…there's over 30 different copies I'm going to need to sign today, so you know, I'll need some extra time to sign them all. But, I want to thank Councillor Gillingham in particular has been keeping me abreast of the development of this initiative, and I want to thank everybody for their collective efforts. The discussion and the dialogue with our partners in the capital region as well as with the Indigenous leadership of the southern chiefs has been really valuable. We have much to learn from our Indigenous community in Canada. And you know, I have been meeting regularly with the leadership of the southern chiefs but also our Treaty 1 chiefs and leadership of the Manitoba Inuit Association, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and just the other day with the president of the Manitoba Métis Federation. There is lots to be gained through increased dialogue and I believe that's what this memorandum of understanding assists with, is providing that framework for dialogue and collaboration going forward. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councillor Gillingham, do you wish to close or I can call the question?

Councillor Gillingham: Just to close with a couple of comments. First of all, just to reiterate too that it also…thank you for everyone for their comments. This MOU supports the actions, really set out in the Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord which many around this chamber have signed on to. Also, I certainly wonder why the timing, why does this show up when we have to suspend the rules? It was, I guess, just because it's so unique, I think that there was not an understanding that we need council approval for the Mayor to, you know, to sign on to this, that was determined kind of late in day here, otherwise this would have come forward sooner. So just to explain why it's here on short notice. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Gillingham. With that we will vote on Motion 3, the MOU with the First Nations of the Southern Chiefs Organization. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. We will now move on to by-laws under the Executive Policy Committee. Mr. Mayor.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mayor Bowman: Thank you Madam Speaker. I move that the following by-laws be read a first time; By-law 4/2019, By-law 5/2019.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 4/2019 and By-law No. 5/2019.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I move that the By-law Nos. 4/2019 and 5/2019 be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law Nos. 4/2019 and 5/2019.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor on the third reading.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you Madam Speaker. I move that the rule be suspended and By-law No. 4/2019 and 5/2019 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. We will now have question period for the Mayor. Thirty minutes on the clock. Any questions for the Mayor? Seeing none we will move into our other reports, the Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works. Councillor Allard on the report dated February 5th, 2019.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
DATED FEBRUARY 5, 2019

Councillor Allard: I would maybe like to pull Item 1 but otherwise move the consent agenda.

Madam Speaker: Three? Okay all of the items have been pulled. Madam Clerk.

Item 1 – Vehicles for Hire – Annual Report

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard to introduce Item 1.

Councillor Allard: I will wait to hear from my colleagues.

Madam Speaker: Item 1, Councillor Klein.

Councillor Klein: Thank you Madam Speaker. I stand opposed to the inclusion of granting authority to taxi drivers to require payment in advance from some passengers. The reasons for this are that there's a little too many questions with that authority, what lies within that line that is at the bottom of the forms. The questions are, how do they choose who will pay in advance, is there a selection criteria for who would pay in advance? And what if the ride got in it early for some kind of reasons, how would there be a refund for those advances? There is all kinds of different questions as well, but Madam Speaker, what if the driver doesn't accept credit cards? I think some of us have experienced that in the past, and how do the drivers determine the cost? We know that some ride share organizations have already developed a method to remove the potential of passengers not paying, and I see no reason why companies in Winnipeg could not follow a similar process that would allow them to control the fares and get their money up front as well. At the very least, Madam Speaker, there should be a set flat fare rate for different parts of the city if they are going to charge an advance. This allows a protection for the passenger, which would be no different than the proposal in front of council to protect the driver. And I am opposed because I don't think it covers the questions that I just posed to…through the Madam Speaker. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Klein. Next is Councillor Eadie, followed by Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Eadie: Yes. Madam Speaker, I'm rising, actually, in support of these amendments that arise from the first vehicles for hire annual report, which involved a lot of engagement as you will see, Madam Speaker. There is an engagement report associated with this particular recommendation, Madam Speaker. Now, and of course, I support actually all the amendments that are going forward. And…but you know, there are some issues, Madam Speaker, that I am concerned with and I will start with why we are actually regulating the vehicles for hire industry. It is a public service…well, the Province told us we had to do it, Madam Speaker. But that aside, Madam Speaker, there is a public interest in that this is a public service to all Winnipeggers and those who are around Winnipeg. And it is essential that there are appropriate regulations in place to ensure that the public interest is upheld and taken care of. Now, unlike public transit, run by the City of Winnipeg, as well as for example, Transit Plus as it's now called, that is service run in the public interest but run by the public in the that the City of Winnipeg is running those services, Madam Speaker. In the vehicles for hire industry, whether you have a personal vehicle for hire or you are in the traditional industry, and you are driving a motor vehicle with the licence and, Madam Speaker, the…it is the private sector who is delivering the service. The companies, the entities that deliver it, the dispatch companies and…are the ones who are also private sector and there was some small amendments I think made related to complaints, but Madam Speaker, my concern is that as business owners, Madam Speaker, customer relationships are very important. Actually, loyalty in the taxi business, Madam Speaker, is essential. I'm loyal to a particular company for good reasons. So I am their customer. If I have a complaint, it is important that you know, I communicate. And being that I am in the position I am, and in the past, they may have…I would like to communicate when I have a problem to the people managing these businesses. But, what I will say though, Madam Speaker, is that we continue to do reports and look at our regulations because they are new and there are things that will arise, Madam Speaker, that we are not even aware of yet today, Madam Speaker. The

issue…well, the issue of, which I dealt with at the Manitoba Taxicab Board, the issue of asking for money up front, for a ride, Madam Speaker, it is my understanding that it means to operate a different way now. But I heard some commentaries about credit cards and issues like that and any taxi driver or any driver who is going to be taking a credit card prepayment, for example, although technically, if you have a credit card you are pretty well guaranteed you're not going to get ripped off, Madam Speaker, and that's the advantage, personal vehicles for hire get to experience. They are lucky. But you know what, Madam Speaker? Do you think that everybody has a credit card? Actually, when it comes to people with disabilities trying to use personal vehicles, you have a look at how many persons with disability have credit cards, because you know what, we have way higher unemployment rates. You can't have a credit card if you can't deal with making payments and you are financially strapped out and you are poor. You don't have…you don't have them. There are days you do have money to take a taxi when you get a cheque or whatever, depending on where your income comes from, there is income, Madam Speaker, but ultimately, you know, there could be discrimination on both sides, because actually, personal vehicles for hire discriminates. It is discrimination, as I pointed out when we brought in this regulation about personal vehicles for hire. We have that problem. For the traditional industry, they have to take whatever we're offering them, whatever we are offering to pay. They have to take it. They have no choice. So, I'm going to leave that out there. But in how you operate, it's not a matter of deciding what individual, as I understand as this moves forward, that taxis will, and there's a lot more exposure more at night time, Madam Speaker. And I would expect, if I was a driver, what I would be doing is I would ask everybody for a prepayment, once you know where they are going. And so, Madam Speaker, we have to realize that there can be discriminatory practices on all sides, and we need to be aware of those. It's a matter of how you actually implement these provisions. So I will leave it at that. But I do know that many drivers, you know, they are not getting a lot of trips all the time. Somebody takes off on a fare…so rather than pick on one person, if I was a driver, I would…I'll take prepayment from everybody. And if I'm using my debit card, then the driver, to reconcile afterwards will have to give me my change back if it was cheaper. If it's more, I'm going to have to give him more. And the rates that are set and there is a schedule here for rates as well. The way the charging for this service works is tried and true. It is the best way. Flat rates don't necessarily work. It's better that we measure it and they earn…or we are charged according to how the meter is charging us. You know, that's the problem I have heard with personal vehicles for hire, Madam Speaker. You know, you can be in a personal vehicle for hire and all of a sudden, wham, all of a sudden it's really busy and you're going to pay more money. You are paying more money. How many times have we heard in the media over the last two, three years about people getting gouged huge amounts of money on New Year's Eve, Madam Speaker, because supply and demand, right. Supply and demand. So, with this metered rates, it doesn't matter what day of the week, doesn't matter if it's a vacation or holiday, whatever it is, it's a fair price, and that's how it works, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Eadie. Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: I rise in support of the motion that's before us today. And I just want to talk a little bit about some of the comments that were raised just because the UN Safe Cities Initiative that looks at violence and sexual violence towards women in public spaces is actually on the stakeholder body that looks at these issues, along with the Independent Living Resource Centre that you heard here today, along with many members of the community, along with the drivers and owners of the companies. So this was a stakeholders that come together to try to figure out some of the complex issues that we're having in the taxicab industry. And just so people are aware, some of the information that I have is this is something that happens in most cities. So this is something that's new. It happens in most cities. And it will be a flat rate…there will be a flat rate that will be charged. And then they will be required…taxicabs will be required to give back change if that…if it's under the flat rate. And it will be only in the evening time. There's going to be a time limit on it. Also, too, there will be cash options so it's not just about credit cards. That is something…I share that concern with Councillor Eadie. There's lots of people in different communities that don't require credit cards. So, I really feel that this action came out of concerns that we were seeing at the time within the taxicab industry and it really brought together so many different stakeholders that really had a stake in how we improve the safety around our taxicabs and in the industry. So, I do support the motion before you and I do want to thank all the committee members that have done a lot of good work on this. This is like citizen people that have come together to try to deal with some of these complex issues, and the City of Winnipeg working together collaboratively. So I just want to thank everybody for that process because I think what came out is a policy that I'm hoping, we're going to try it out and I'm hoping we're going to see the success and hopefully reduce the numbers of crimes that we're seeing in the taxicab industry and assaults. So thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gilroy. Any further speakers? Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today in support of this motion as well. I have met with several people from the cab industry who have made this one of their primary focuses. In terms of levelling the playing field where it comes to ensuring that they will receive payment for the services that they provide, and again, not assessing on the basis of how a person looks, whether or not they are going to charge in advance or not. So again, it does level the playing field. And in terms of, you know, the concerns that Councillor Eadie has raised, regarding you

know, how that fee is paid, whether by credit card or debit card, I'm glad to hear that there are cash options that are available. But, technology nowadays does…can do a lot in terms of calculating what a fee may be based on a GPS point to point system and mitigate a lot of the concerns that were raised here this morning. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Chambers. Any further speakers? Councillor Klein, you have already spoken I believe on the item, yes. Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I share Councillor Klein's concerns about the logistics and that of prepayment. You know, when you're getting on a…grabbing a taxi at the airport, I mean, the first thing you do is like, show me your money. It's going to slow down the logistics of getting people away from busy points like the airport. I'm just not sure this has been completely thought through. I mean, there are payment methods that are changing but…and again, like, if you've given your driver, you know, a deposit or something in cash, will they still let you pay for…with a card later or they're not going to be too happy about it knowing how taxi operators tend to be about using cards. So I'm going…I think I'm going to be voting against the motion today.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Seeing none, Councillor Allard to close.

Councillor Allard: Yes. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes? We are on Item No. 1, year. 3 will be later. Councillor Allard, go ahead.

Councillor Allard: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. So thank you to all for your comments today and thank you to the delegation this morning. I see they have moved on with their day. I think this report, this by-law represents a tremendous amount of work and collaboration with the taxi industry, with the ride sharing industry and we can see the community support that's come out today. There is a lot of good stuff in this report and I would…I mean, I would suggest to my Councillors Browaty and Klein, if you do have concerns about fare payment, I invite you to perhaps weigh in on the next report, which is where fare prepayment is being discussed in terms of the council reports. But, this is a tremendous…this is a tremendous report we are voting on today. The other thing I might mention is just in terms of maybe a collaboration on council, just on this by-law, actually, if I can give an example, Councillor Gillingham had some concerns on this by-law. We talked it out, we came up with a report that everybody could support. So, always willing…my door is always open, always willing to chat about potential amendments. I mean, if we…I'll probably just save my comments on fare prepayment for the next report because it will be more in order. But, please don't vote against this report. It's got tons of good stuff in it. It has new fines for non-compliance. It's got new safety measures. It's a good report. So, I mean, if you're voting against it for something that's not in it, then I would suggest perhaps you should find another reason to vote against it. Thanks.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Allard. All in favour of Item 1? Contrary? Carried. Madam Clerk.

Item 2 – Vehicles for Hire Safety and Security Program

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard to introduce Item 2.

Councillor Allard: So I'll wait to hear from my colleagues.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. This was stood down by yourself, Councillor Eadie. You have the floor.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, Madam Speaker, I stood this down. I actually support this initiative and I guess it won't…from the way I read it, it won't be a separate issue anymore after this and whenever our annual review or review of the whole regulation by-law is undertaken and how we do those things, Madam Speaker, will be considered. I just wanted to rise to bring to the attention, as everybody knows, I was quite opposed to personal vehicles for hire being regulated quite differently than somebody who spent lots of money to buy a business licence and others who are driving in the industry and I understand that some drivers who couldn't afford to buy taxis will probably drive personal vehicles for hire. That's up to them. But the issue of safety, this is about safety and as it pertains to personal vehicles for hire, as I understand it, and appropriate training for those and creating the pamphlet that talks about responsibilities of drivers and customers and their rights and responsibilities. Actually, one of those first not for personal vehicles for hire but when I was on the Manitoba Taxicab Board we created one for the industry, which needed to be distributed more. That's always a big thing. But, the education and bringing this to attention is important. But, I just want to raise something. When you talk about…when you talk about accessibility, I just, as a person, personal vehicle for hire and the way the systems work, basically, if you can see, and you have a credit card. You have to have a credit card, Madam Speaker. There is an image. Drivers can know who we are and we can know who they are. That does open things up for human discrimination. I'm not saying that anybody is doing that, Madam Speaker, I assume that everybody believes what I do,

which is a human being is a human being, it doesn't matter how you look, doesn't matter at all. But, I just wanted to raise this one issue. I don't get to see the picture of the driver of the personal vehicle for hire. Where is my safety? How are you dealing with that in training? How can the personal vehicle for hire industry, in dealing with my safety and my knowing…there was an example when Tapp was first in and actually, a friend of mine's daughter, ordered a TappCar. She is young, she wants to use the newest, the bestest means of transportation and ease of access. Had a credit card. Anyway, viewed a picture of the driver who was to be picking her up, lo and behold somebody else shows up, a different face, a different car and takes her away. She was legitimately afraid, legitimately afraid. And I think that that particular business didn't treat her appropriately in making their statements to the public on the issue. Because, if you are a woman and you are travelling on your own, security, as Councillor Gilroy will tell you, is really an essential consideration when you are vulnerable to abuse. So, I just thought I would raise that. I'm actually supporting this, Madam Speaker. But, I just, you know, this is a chance for me to educate people a little bit about the aspects of personal vehicle for hire that, from my perspective, have can or…can have negative effects. So I'll just leave it at that. I will support the report.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Eadie. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I want to thank our chair as well as staff at the Winnipeg Parking Authority. They have done exceptional work in a very compressed time period. I know previous council had lots of work to do when the Provincial Government decided to move the regulation of the vehicle for hire to municipalities, including the City of Winnipeg. I might add they did so without providing the funding that had previously been provided to the Taxicab Board for the regulation, and I think wisely, council looked to ensure that the necessary funds for appropriate regulation were generated from within the industry itself rather than asking taxpayers coincidentally, a similar approach the Provincial Government is taking to the regulation of cannabis by introducing a new tax within that industry. I think it makes sense as well. But, in terms of this specific report, Councillor Gilroy's comments are bang on. She speaks about UN Safe Cities Initiative. One of the opportunities with the City of Winnipeg now regulating the industry is we can make improvements to an industry that was in desperate need of improvements to customer service and safety for the benefit of not just drivers, but also passengers. I just cite in this report, some of the steps to improve safety include mandating that all taxi cameras record audio as well as video. Finalizing and improving the content of a driver and passenger code of conduct. How many years have Winnipeggers asked for something like this and today we get an opportunity to approve this to move forward. Something that I think will benefit passengers as well as drivers going forward. With respect to the item that I know is being discussed here as well, let's just keep in mind what this report calls for. It calls for the implementation of a mandatory minimum prepayment program in collaboration with the industry on a trial basis as a pilot program. And this would be used to study an anticipated reduction in fare disputes and set guidelines towards expectations of both drivers and passengers. The trial would also include public education campaign to spread awareness and support the industry in its trial and implementation. And so, I just cite again, it's a trial period. It is intended to look for ways in which we can reduce fare disputes and in doing so, hopefully improve the safety for the benefit of passengers and drivers. There are other steps that are laid out in this report. I'll be supporting it. I want to thank everybody for obviously, for their comments here on the floor today, but also their efforts leading up to today. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I could have mentioned this in the last item but nonetheless, just as relevant, Madam Speaker, I could have mentioned it as a point of order but I can see it's much larger than that. We had this discussion last year and we had an unusual lack of consideration for official terminology and it matters, Madam Speaker. Using the word ride share, I don't know why we do it. Madam Speaker, I use ride share more than any other form of transportation except for driving myself, I'm just being straight up. I use ride share more than bus, taxi, maybe I'd include walking because I walk quite a bit to work. And when Uber comes in, including Uber in other cities or whatever, all these things combined, I use ride share as my second most popular use of…mode of transportation, Madam Speaker, and it's really serious. It's important, Madam Speaker. It's so important, Madam Speaker, ride sharing as opposed to car for hire, it's a different issue, Madam Speaker. The City recognizes this officially in our documentation. We sort of bandy about these words like it doesn't matter, Madam Speaker, but there is no reason to trivialize what ride sharing is and why it's important. I ride share, Madam Speaker. I rarely take a cab or I don't think I will be taking Uber or Lyft much. But I will be ride sharing. I'm not going to stop. I might be doing ride share more often, Madam Speaker. It's really important. I don't know why we do this. Madam Speaker, it's so important that we know in jurisdictions in North America, we see that freeways have a designated lane, they get their own lane for ride sharing for people that have more than one person in their vehicle. Why would giant metropolitan and provincial jurisdictions allow for a lane just for people with one…more than one driver, more than one person in the vehicle, Madam Speaker? That's an incredible allocation of resources, including in areas where they've got a lot of traffic jams, such as California, and yet they still have a lane just for people with more than one person in the vehicle. Madam Speaker, it's to encourage ride sharing. It's gigantic. It's important. And yet we bandy about the word here as if it doesn't matter. You know what we mean. Well that's a problem, Madam Speaker. We always have to use the proper technologies…terminology, especially when it

comes to something as important as ride sharing. Am I supposed to assume that ride sharing and car for profit or for hire is similar? No, they are not. Am I supposed to…well, sure they are similar like you using a cab, I suppose. Am I supposed to assume that it doesn't matter what we call it? Well, the City terminology's there, Madam Speaker, throughout North America and then some. And I want to make the point, Madam Speaker, why is it so important? Why is ride sharing so important? Why is it distinct and totally different…it's a different conversation from car for hire. Well, one of it is plain old common sense economics and it's good for our environment. And, these issues are not the issues we are dealing with when we are talking about car for hire. So, why are we doing this? Why do we talk like this, Madam Speaker? Ride share is a really important issue for everybody, for society in general and it shouldn't be trivialized by any means. Madam Speaker, as I heard the terminology here again, I'm not trying to nitpick, Madam Speaker, but, you know, let's hear one for ride sharing, it's really important for our society. You know, we're a smaller jurisdiction so it doesn't mean the same to us, I guess, on a larger urban level for planning, for city planning, inter-urban or intra-urban planning as it does for other jurisdictions in North America, Madam Speaker. But it's extremely important. I'm not going to let this go. I don't ride share merely for convenience, Madam Speaker, I do it for economic purposes and, you know, to some extent for environmental purposes, Madam Speaker. It's economical but the economics has to do with our limited resources, economics and environmentalism tend to have that shared commonality of having to deal with limited resources, Madam Speaker. That's what ride sharing does and let's not forget that as we talk about, you know, how it is, creating and sustaining a practical transportation environment in our city. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Schreyer. Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Again, I do want to thank the public service for their work. I mean, anything we can do to improve the safety of our ride…ride for hire vehicles whether they be taxis or personal transportation providers, is certainly a positive initiative. As the Mayor commented, you know, putting in cameras and making sure that they work and putting in substantial fines if they are not operating I think is the right approach and I'm happy to see those initiatives in the report before us here today. Again, I still do have concerns about the idea of charging up front. I think it just sends a wrong message to people when they arrive in Winnipeg. You go fly to any Canadian city, you hop in a taxi at the airport, it whisks you away to wherever you are going. In Winnipeg now, you're going to get into the taxi and you're going to have to do a transaction. You're going to have to get out your money. I think it just…it looks bad and I think it's the wrong approach. So again, are there things we need to do to make sure that our hard working taxi drivers get paid? Yes. But I'm not sure a mandatory across the board prepayment is the right approach. So again, I did support the last report but this one I will be voting against today. I'm not saying that the majority of the initiatives in there are bad, they are actually very good.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Browaty. Any further speakers? Seeing none, Councillor Allard to close.

Councillor Allard: Thank you. Well, got to say it, I didn't expect to be speaking to this today, but this specific part of the safety program, but let me just read what's in the report through a text search. So in addition, a mandatory minimum prepayment program designed in collaboration with the industry on a trial basis will be implemented with the anticipation that there will be a reduction in fare disputes determined by stakeholders to be one of the most common causes for conflict. So what does that say? It means we want to try it. We want to do a pilot. We're not talking about how, we're…well, we are talking about how. We are talking about talking to stakeholders in the industry in terms of how to best apply this. So we're basically saying we want to try this and we're not quite sure how yet so we're going to talk to the industry and the people most affected by the changes to try and come up with a program that may or may not work. That's why we call it a pilot. So, page 8 of the report, what we heard, it's on key survey findings. The highest ranked objective for safety program was reducing the number of conflicts between drivers and passengers. In previous disputes…in previous and ongoing discussions with drivers, fare disputes were noted as the most common cause for conflict. What is being considered; in order to reduce fare disputes the City is planning to investigate the steps necessary to implement a mandatory minimum prepayment in collaboration with the industry on a trial basis. If the trial is successful, the vehicles for hire regulations will be amended to reflect the change. A campaign to notify residents and the industry will be required for effective implementation. What we heard; the Advisory Committee noted that requiring prepayment would assist in providing profiling of passengers and drivers. What is being considered; the City is planning to investigate the steps necessary to implement a mandatory minimum prepayment in collaboration with the industry on a trial basis. Okay, it's the same language so I'm not going to repeat that. So, I guess I'm trying to emphasize the point that we are talking about trying something and we are not talking about how, so to my colleagues who may be considering voting against this, I think your position is that you are absolutely forever opposed to the idea that there should be prepayments for taxis that are vehicle for hire. I mean, unless you have something concrete to recommend in terms of how we would do the pilot, that's what I'm hearing. So I'll…I mean, if you are absolutely…if it's a fundamental principle of yours that we should never ask for prepayment in a cab then I accept that argument. But, I think that's what I'm hearing here today from my colleagues. And I mean, maybe to Councillor Browaty, in terms of what I believe his political philosophy is, I mean, we have Vehicle for Hire By-law now, we now have choices. You know if the customers want to choose a different mode to get around, like, we are offering them that choice now. And just…maybe just in

closing, we are doing this pilot because this is a safety issue. Fare disputes are one of the major irritants with drivers and the public. We are trying to make it better. So why would you vote against trying to make it better? I mean, we'll have other opportunities to discuss this, but I haven't heard any concrete ideas in terms of how we might try this. And otherwise, I mean, the report, I think, is a very good one. The Mayor highlighted some of the benefits, you know, a customer and driver code of conduct. I think there is things that are tremendous in this report and they will better the customer and driver experience for our vehicles for hire and as Councillor Schreyer, if I said ride share perhaps…if I did say ride share, I probably should have said vehicles for hire. So I may or may not have learned my lesson but yes, we are talking about the Vehicles for Hire By-law today and I will close with that. So thank you very much for your consideration.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Allard. All in favour of Item 2? Contrary? Carried. Item No. 3, Madam Clerk. Councillor Browaty.

Item 3 – Temporary Traffic Control Plan Manual

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard to open on Item 3.

Councillor Allard: I will wait to hear from my colleagues.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you Madam Speaker. I want to bring this to the attention of all council members. In spring of 2017, the Riel Community Committee brought forward a request asking that the manual of temporary traffic control in work areas be updated. The manual was last updated in 2015 and I am very pleased to see that the manual has been updated. This is a…I think this is really important because what this manual does is it spells out to contractors, construction workers, how they properly sign and set up construction area. We are looking to, you know, we are doing record road construction and this manual will be a guideline on the latest practices and policies that will ensure safe workers…safety for workers, and safety for people using the road or the bike lane. We have done a lot of work in the realm of active transportation and we didn't really have any guidelines on how to set up construction zones for cycling routes. So I'm really pleased to see this. I will be asking our chair of Public Works about the number of inspectors and such in question period, but I think this is a very good step forward and I am very pleased to see and I'd like to draw everyone's attention to this because as we are approaching the record road construction season, it is really important to have these construction zones properly signed, identified and made navigable for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Lukes. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, Madam Speaker. I will be very quick. Accessibility…and I just want to echo the final statement from Councillor Lukes who appropriately points out, I'm hoping with these temporary sign locations, I'm not going to experience violations of our universal design guidelines on how temporary signs should be implemented and put out there. Because frankly, Madam Speaker, I'm sick and tired of whacking my head on a temporary sign as I walk down the sidewalk. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Eadie. Any further speakers? Seeing none, Councillor Allard, do you wish to close?

Councillor Allard: Yes, so thank you Councillor Lukes. One of the benefits of being on the Riel Community this last term was sitting with Councillor Lukes so I was…I had the opportunity to vote on the motion that Councillor Lukes moved at Riel and supported it along the way and pleased that we have this updated manual. And I am pleased to see that the considerations raised by the committee have been raised. Councillor Eadie, I would be happy to talk to you further about your experience. Yeah, so anyway, I…you know, I'm happy to see what we can do. But I think this is a…it's definitely a step forward. It's updating our manuals. I think as…I think there is always work to do and looking forward to future collaboration on this. So thanks for your attention.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Allard with that I'll call the question on Item 3. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. We will now move on to by-laws under this committee. Councillor Allard.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Councillor Allard: Yes. I move the following by-laws be read a first time…I'm just….please correct me if I'm reading the wrong thing; By-law 14/2019, a by-law of the City of Winnipeg to amend the Vehicles for Hire By-law. Madam Speaker, I'm reading the right excerpt?

Madam Speaker: Yes, that's correct.

Councillor Allard: By-law 16/2019, a by-law of the City of Winnipeg to impose local improvement taxes in respect of costs installing a 16' wide, 5" thick asphaltic concrete lane pavement in certain public lanes within the city of Winnipeg. Oh, and I've got a better script now. By-law No. 17/2019, By-law No. 18/2019, that's my motion…that would be read a first time.

Madam Speaker: Yes, thank you. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 14/2019, By-law No. 16/2019, By-law No. 17/2019 and By-law No. 18/2019.

Councillor Schreyer: Point of order Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Schreyer: It does mention specifically by-law schedules as a separate item. Do we need…we mention them? Are we voting on them separately or are they…when it bothers to mention in a separate line item, by-laws numbered (inaudible) schedules. Are we voting on that as well?

Madam Speaker: Okay. I'm not sure that I understand your question. Mr. Clerk?

City Clerk: For By-laws 16, 17 and 18 of 2019, each of those does have a schedule that forms part of the by-law. So you are voting for the by-law and the schedule when you vote for the by-law.

Madam Speaker: Okay, thank you for that. Councillor Allard on the second reading.

Councillor Allard: I move that By-law Nos. 14/2019 and 16/2019 to 18/2019, both inclusive, be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law Nos. 14/2019, 16/2019, 17/2019 and 18/2019.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard on the suspension and the third reading.

Councillor Allard: Yeah, I move that the rules be suspended and By-law Nos. 14/2019 and 16/2019 to 18/2019, 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. We will now have question period for our Chair. Any questions for Councillor Allard? Councillor Lukes.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Lukes: Thank you. Councillor Allard, when this motion came forward for the manual of temporary controls and work areas, at that point in time, the Public Works Department had one inspector who inspected the all the City-wide all of the set-ups of the street closures and how it was signed and the sidewalk closures and the Act of Transportation. We had asked that the department either have more funding allocated in the budget to either train or hire and we also ask that if that wasn't possible that possibly the Winnipeg Parking Authority or the Winnipeg Police Service could be brought up to speed on how to properly enforce these construction areas, the signage. So I'm wondering if you know where we're at. It's great to have this manual, it's great to enter, to record construction season but I really think we need more than one inspector, because there's a lot of construction going on. So, if you don't have the answer, I would appreciate that you get it and if you can email it to all the councillors. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: I'll definitely find the information and share it with my Council colleagues.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Klein.

Councillor Klein: Just two points. The first one is more of an fyi. It's not being opposed to having a fare. I look forward to talking to Councillor Allard about it a little further. It's more about the pilot project, about the proposal not being fully complete. We have looked at one side of the people involved, but we haven't looked at the other side. So we'll continue on with that discussion. Madam, our office has received a number of complaints regarding the service of Handi-Transit over the last few weeks. On more than one occasion, residents are waiting on the phone for hours. Some have waited at a doctor's office for hours waiting to be picked up. Most concerning calls of late, have been from more than one resident that they could not get Handi-Transit to get them to a funeral of a sibling or of a parent. When we spoke with the individuals at Handi-Transit, we are simply reminded of the new system issues and with respect with the funerals, we learned that funerals are not a priority. So, Madam Speaker, it's obviously disappointing to see service levels but things do happen. I'm concerned and I'm aware of other Councillors that have been experiencing similar calls. I would ask through you, Madam Speaker, that this Chair consider directing Handi-Transit to provide the reasons the service levels have deteriorated so much and provide maybe some examples of what needs to happen in the next 60 days to resolve the serious service issues that we are hearing about from residents.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Klein. Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Yes, thanks for the question. So first off on the safety report, to my colleague, I would be happy to talk to further. I think the report, the way it was written, was very general and very high level so we did have specific reasons why we needed to pose that report. I would appreciate knowing about it so that I can work with all of us and have the administration to come up with a report that we can all support together. So I mean, right now, you did vote against the report, so you can't really take that back at this point. But I do appreciate your indication that you're happy to talk about this further plus we can address your concerns. On the Transit. I did expect and have been getting inquiries from the public. Some constituents of mine had a meeting with Councillor Nason and Councillor Chambers. We've been getting a lot of inquiries about this and was expecting to get a lot of questions at Council on this question and think I did get some questions on the issue last month as well. And so last month we just started doing the implementations. It looked like it could easily be growing pains for implementing a new system and I think it was just a line of response then. We are a month later, and I do have a further update from Administration. I did meet with them to go into detail. I did meet with members of the community who access the service. They've raised with me a number of concerns. I brought those concerns to our Administration and I do have some answers. And I'm sure there's going to be more questions but I can share what I have for now. This is from a Public Service: We are still experiencing high call volumes and sometimes of the day on the reservation lines. The call volumes are higher than usual but not significantly higher than what we normally have had in winter months. The call volumes and wait times we have been experiencing are highest between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Since 11:00 a.m. is the cut off for booking trips for the following days and between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. As this is the start of the confirmation process, there may still be times during those peak periods for callers to experience busy signals. Overall, call wait times are continuing to improve and we are now experiencing call wait times that are average/normal during this time of year. One of the key factors impacting the service is that higher than normal seasonal rate of "unables". These are trips that have been requested but that we have been unable to provide due to the following reduction of resources. Historically, existing contractors would have had extra vehicles available that they would be willing to put on the road for the winter season. This year they were unable to assist with as many extra vehicles as in previous years, due to a lack of vehicles and trained drivers. Winnipeg Transit Plus completed a training class on February 23rd, that will provide the contractors with trained drivers. We will be contacting them for additional vehicles that they can move to augment the Service's regular fleet. They have been able to provide 2 additional vans and onet car to date. There's also a new contract of 5 additional vehicles that will be on the street as of the first week in March. There have also been questions of the implementation date, because during winter months it's a time where people do tend to use more Vehicles For Hire, Councillor Schreyer, and this is no exception. So people are wondering why January, why February, why the coldest months of the year are we doing this implementation? So the answer from our Public Service is originally the implementation of the new scheduling system for Winnipeg Transit Plus was scheduled for Spring/Summer 18. However, during testing we encountered some issues with the software that required further developments. We continued to move the date as the issues were resolved by the contractor and we started the training process in preparation to Go Live, however, decided to delay Go-Live until after the Christmas Break. Since the contractor had a completed product to implement, delaying the implementation until the Spring would have resolved in a significant additional cost for retraining additional staff, updating computers, reinstall software and process payments to the vendors. Therefore, while not ideal, we initiated the implementation of software in January 2019. Finally, in terms of where do we go from here questions, in terms of where are things heading in a general way, a review of Winnipeg Transit Plus, including its operational model, is part of the scope of the overall development of the Transit

Master Plan. Therefore, we do anticipate recommendations requiring changes to Winnipeg Transit Plus door to door service. Following the recommendations that this service will begin to develop implementation plans for a (inaudible) of the recommendations arriving from the Transit Master Plan. And then finally, if there are any specific complaints that require detailed responses, these can be sent directly to the Director of Transit, if you require further investigation, or to myself, I'll be happy to look into it for you. There are a tremendous number of transactions involved. It is a new system. I understand the system is working, maybe as well as you expect a system of this magnitude to be implemented, with all the moving parts. So it is very important for our Administration to be connected to the individual and the actual event where there has been an issue, so they can look into it and consider what's happened and see if there's any adjustment is required. I hope that answers… that's what I got today on this issue from Administration. Happy to take any more questions on it, but that is the information that I have so far from our Public Service on this issue.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Allard. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, this is the first time that I have been made aware of Handi Transit Plus. Transit Plus what? Aggravation? Sorry Madam Speaker, I digress. Reflecting commentary that would be reflected from people with disabilities who use the service out in the community. That said, Madam Speaker, this is the first time that I heard that a review of how Transit Plus may operate. Now, my real question is, I have vast experience how this system has gotten here today and what the demand will be in the future. With that experience, I would like to know, while our Administration is putting this together, they do have some experts. But I have a different perspective as somewhat of an expert with that. I would like to know when am I going to be consulted about their future look on how they are going to operate, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Yes, thank you Councillor Eadie for the question. I would be happy to learn anything that I can from your experiences and your insight going forward. Perhaps we can take some time to meet. I would be happy to take into account your ideas moving forward. And please, if I haven't answered your question in enough detail, please feel free to follow-up.

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

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Question. Are you writing the report, Councillor or is the Administration writing the report?

Councillor Allard: Okay, so, who's writing the report? As is customary in this Chamber and in the Government structure that we have here today, the Administration writes reports. We vote on reports. I don't write reports.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Final question Councillor Eadie? No?

Councillor Eadie: I just think things have to be considered, Madam Speaker. I am wondering if the Chair of IRPW, is responsible for Transit, will work with the Mayor to convince the Province to go back to their 50/50 share of the now called Transit Plus Budget, which is really experience major problems because we limit the resources we put into providing trips for persons with disabilities.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Absolutely, Councillor Eadie. The Mayor and I will continue to advocate to restore the 50/50 Funding Agreement to Transit and that includes Transit Plus. I have been riding the bus alot lately. People ask me why I ride the bus. I tell them the truth. I say, well the Provincial Government cut Transit back in 2017-18 and reporters were asking, in a Council, where not everyone rides Transit. We're making big decisions on Transit. So I said HEY, I'm gonna ride Transit for a month. So I did. Now I'm a regular rider. But all that to say, every time someone asks me, why I am riding the bus, it goes back to the Provincial Government and the cut (inaudible). Transit Plus is part of the Transit system, and part of that funding is no longer available and is impacting our ability to fund the service, as well as we could if we had a supporting program. So, thanks for the question.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you Madam Speaker. Yes, my questions today are very similar to Councillor Klein's and I echo his concern that he has. My office is one of the many that receives several calls regarding concerns and complaints about Transit Plus. Some of the questions I had, Councillor Klein articulated and Councillor Allard answered. A couple of questions I do have on those, Councillor Allard mentioned the Master Plan that Transit is doing right now or

the review they are doing in (inaudible) recommendations will come forward and that review is complete. We don't know exactly when that will be but it will be many months from now. I'm wondering, to Councillor Allard's knowledge, does Transit Plus collect data on the number of complaints, type of complaints and do they, is that, maybe I'll ask that question first. Does the Transit Plus collect that data and are able to share that data with Councillors?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Yes, I mean I know there's a tremendous amount of data that is collected. I will have to check in with our Administrators to see how that data is gathered and how it can be shared with Councillors. But I would expect that they would be able to communicate on some level in terms of what type of complaints and what is being done to resolve them, so I will follow up on that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Second question?

Councillor Gillingham: Second question? I am wondering if the Councillor then, as Chair of the Committee, can assure Council that he will continue to work with the Managers at Transit Plus to resolve the matter as quickly as possible and resolve these complaints.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Yes, I certainly will continue to meet with our Administration. I mean, I went into a meeting with our Administrators feeling, you know, I guess the last meeting I had, was with members of our Dissability Community (inaudible) Service. I had a lot of their complaints in my bones, so I was able to ask them the questions I felt satisfied.

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

Councillor Allard: I do believe our Administrators are doing everything they can to address these issues. As the text I shared with Councillor earlier today, demonstrates there have been other issues not related to the implementation of the new system that had to do with just overall contracts and capacity. We know that there's new capacity coming online in March. So, I hope and I expect that these complaints that we are all hearing will start to die down as these issues are being addressed.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Given that the Councillor indicated that the new system is coming online in March and in anticipation of that, it would completely die down. I am wondering if the Councillor is willing then, on maybe on a weekly basis, Friday of every week, if he can distribute to all of Council an email just talking about you know, number of complaints of the week and what is being done to address them. I would appreciate that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: I will check in with the department to see what is possible, at what frequency, I will try for weekly and try to do that as soon as possible.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. That concludes our question period. Councillor Eadie, 40 seconds on the clock.

Councillor Eadie: Did you know that the original 50/50 deal was for Handi Transit back in 1998. It was completed. A 50/50 deal for Handi-Transit with the Province, because there's an extra cost for every trip provided with Transit Plus or Handi-Transit and the Province took on its responsibility, in effect, to help us fund, providing service to persons with disabilities. And also did you know that, Pallister will not go back to the 50/50 obviously, but they need to meet the demands for persons with disabilities and share 50/50 on a more costly service.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard, if you can answer the question quickly.

Councillor Allard: Thank you Madam Speaker, through you to Councillor Eadie, yes I am aware because of a conversation with Councillor Eadie in the last couple of weeks. Where Councillor Eadie informed me of the history of the 50/50 Funding Agreement. So my understanding from Councillor Eadie is that 50/50 Funding Agreement started with Handi with the Filmon Government, was expanded to 50/50 for full Transit by the Doer Government, and was then cancelled by this current Government. That's what we are trying to fight to get back. So thank you Councillor Eadie for the information.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Now moving on to the Standing Policy Committee on Finance. There is no reports. Councillor Orlikow? There is no reports, but we will have question period now for this committee. Any questions for Councillor Gillingham? Seeing none, next committee is the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment. Councillor Gilroy on the report dated February 14th, 2019.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON WATER AND WASTE, RIVERBANK MANAGEMENT
AND THE ENVIRONMENT
DATED FEBRUARY 14, 2019

Councillor Gilroy: Yes. I would like to move items 1 through 4 please.

Madam Speaker: Okay. We will be voting on Items 1 through 4 under the Water and Waste. Councillor Gillingham, you have pulled Item 2. Okay. Item 4, was that Councillor Klein? Okay. Alright, we will vote on Items 1 and 3. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Madam Clerk.

Item 2 – North End Sewage Treatment Plant Biological Nutrient Removal Upgrade Project

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gilroy to introduce Item 2.

Councillor Gilroy: I will wait to hear from my councillor colleagues.

Madam Speaker: And this was stood down by yourself, Councillor Gillingham. You have the floor.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you Madam Speaker. Just stood it down to kind of highlight a change that was made back at Executive Policy Committee specific in regards to projects 2 and 3 that are proposed in this overall project. About a $1.8 billion project of a Class 3 estimate right now. Projects 2 and 3 are highlighted in recommendation number 3, the bio-solids facilities and also the nutrient removal facilities. And the reason I stood it down is to kind of impress upon us the need for federal and provincial partners, funding partners in this, which stands to be the most expensive capital project in the city of Winnipeg's history. And so, now that we are in a Class 3 estimate, now, I believe, is the prime time, the right time to continue to work with our federal and provincial partners, in regards to funding…securing funding for this project. At one of our most recent Finance Committee meetings, I asked the Director of Water and Waste specific to this project, as to what the cost allocations were. What is driving the costs of this project? And she indicated something that she has indicated before, that when you take the whole project into consideration, approximately 80 percent of the project costs are related in some form or another to meeting provincial regulations, licencing regulations and licencing requirements. A lot of us know by now that the North End plan as specifically contemplated and articulated and spelled out in the Save Lake Winnipeg Act, a provincial act. The effluent levels are stated clearly and the limits are spelled out in that act, which is one of the reasons, one of the reasons not the only reason, one of the reasons the North End plant has to be constructed. And so, the Provincial Government certainly has interest in and should have interest in this project. And the Federal Government, from an environmental perspective, also should have interest in this project. So I believe the time is right for us to be in greater dialogue with both the Federal and Provincial Governments around securing funding for this project. And so I will be supporting this motion but just wanted to highlight these facts.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Gillingham. Councillor Mayes, followed by Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This, I will support this item. This item did not really get its due when it first was tabled a few weeks ago and then it was also accompanied by the tabling of the water and sewer rates and that got rather more attention at that time than the large step forward that this represents in an environmental sense in the North End plant. It is worth thinking about how long this project has been on the books in one form or another, probably about 17 years. It has winded its way through multiple clean environment commission hearings. It has gone back and forth with various correspondence from previous mayors to the Provincial Governments, to previous provincial governments. So it is worth taking a moment to note that we're actually going to start work on this project after these many years. I wish to commend the Mayor for his role on this. It is not the fashion, but I actually wish to commend one of our provincial counterparts, Rochelle Squires, who has been Minister of Conservation is what they used to call it, so let's just call it that. The Minister of Conservation for some years, and who I worked with for some years when I chaired the Water and Waste Committee here and I want to thank Minister Squires for keeping a firm hand on the tiller on this one and indicating that under her watch she was very much adamant that work would begin on this and it will. Why will it, because our staff have had the presence of mind to divide the project into three steps, all of which bare some discussion. The first step, what you see before you, the headworks, really, not largely due to Provincial Government

requirements, largely due to, as you see before you, plans that date back as far as 1937, additionally, to new growth, growth not just in the suburbs…growth not just in the suburbs but also, infill projects and growth within the downtown area as discussed in various previous reports and mentioned by me ad nauseam at previous council meetings that the growth in this city no matter where it is found has created a certain demand for increased sewage treatment facilities and thus we must take some steps. Councillor Gillingham as usual is correct in his recitation of the numbers indicating that if one looks back some 80 percent of this project is due to provincial regulatory requirement and thus it does make some sense for the future phases to hinge on getting some federal and provincial funding assistance. What is phase 2? Phase 2 is the bio-solids. As I have said before, you build a BRT line for a couple hundred million and you will be in the media every day. You build a bio-solids plant for a couple of hundred million and you'll get no media attention whatsoever. So it's a huge environmental initiative, the bio-solids treatment. It would be a very large step forward with some revenue opportunities for marketing, for the compost that we would get, for the soil blends that we would get. I know Councillor Gilroy, like myself, has actually found this rather a fascinating subject matter to deal with. Very large environmental potential there though the cost is large itself. Final phase, the nutrient removal subject of much discussion over the years, phosphate, phosphorous, the nitrogen and what is best for Lake Winnipeg, we are trying to help Lake Winnipeg. The Mayor has been adamant on that over the years and persistent. So, how that will play out, somewhat ironic, but I remember Councillor Fielding being here and talking about some of those decisions and now the Province hasn't changed its course on that. I wish to point out that under the previous council there was some talk of trying to weaken the ammonia standards. The Province did not take us up on that. I think the Province was correct in that. I think we should be striving to meet the higher requirements for ammonia removal with the North End plant. So it is a big step forward, perhaps one of the biggest environmental projects we will undertake. As Councillor Gillingham has accurately said, this is, when taken together, the largest capital project in the history of the city of Winnipeg. But, let us not focus so much on that, but as on the first step which is in and of itself a $400 million project. Know the technical requirements of the Auditor may not have been followed in all steps, but keep in mind this has been going for years. There have been a number of estimates over the years. There are hundreds of millions of dollars in play. We have hundreds of millions of dollars that we need to spend on the headworks. I wish to commend Moira Geer, our now long serving Director of Water and Waste for her work on this. So it's a major step forward under this mayor and frankly, under this Provincial Government to move forward, to finally get started on a project that has, in my seven years here, always been on the books, always been some time in the misty future, finally, we will begin to get going and start to do something better for the environment. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Mayes. Seeing the hour, I'm wondering if council now wants to break. There is a speaking engagement over the lunch hour that many of you are attending. We will recess now and reconvene at 1:30. Thank you.

Reconvened meeting of
Winnipeg City Council of
February 28, 2019, at 1:36 p.m.

Madam Speaker: Good afternoon. I would like to reconvene our council meeting of February 28th, 2019. We were dealing with reports under the Water and Waste, Riverbank Management Committee. Councillor Eadie, it is your opportunity to speak to the item.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. I almost forgot what I was going to say. That was an excellent…my mind is on economic development which transportation and actually, how we take care of our sewage, is all part of the metro region and the things that we have to deal with, and the better we deal with things, the more we grow economically, the more the challenges are to deal with our environmental footprint. So, I just wanted to echo that I totally agree with Councillor Gillingham spoke quite eloquently to it, but I just wanted to rise and talk about…a little bit more about well, first thing I wanted to say, Madam Speaker, okay, I'm sick and tired of it being called the North End Sewage Plant. It's more than North End sewage going in there. Let's call it the North Winnipeg Sewage Plant from now on, okay, because that's the way I like to think of it. It's serving, what, 70 percent of our sewer needs in this city. So, and it's all serving pretty well the whole north of Winnipeg. So, given that and you know, for the general public, when we release the Class 3 estimate…when our administration released our Class 3 estimates and recommended going in three parts and there is the opening part to the sewage, the first project what is it estimated at $402 million? Yeah, headworks. That is a lot of money. However, Councillor Gillingham noted that…or Councillor Mayes, maybe, 1937, the headworks was created, 1937. So that's like 80 years ago…82 years ago. So obviously, it's still working, but, there is no way it's going to meet the needs of the future and reducing our environmental footprint when it comes to sewage and things going into the river and how do we deal with the leftover solids and stuff that are there. So, but, it is a large amount of money. I just wanted to say though, there is a high cost to building something that's going to last, we hope, over a hundred years, because that's a legacy. This project is huge. As it's been said with the three components all together, it's the biggest

project this city will be doing in the next long time. So, I just wanted to point that out. I also wanted to point out that yes, we do have to live up to our licencing requirements and in order to get there at phase 3 in the final end, but if our headworks is not able to handle the amount of sewage coming through, that causes pressures and causes other problems, leakage, whatever it is. If you don't have the capacity to deal with all the sewage and actually, this plant, I'll remind people, provides…also provides sewer services to the municipality of West St. Paul under agreement. And so that is part of the metro region. So, I have, in my ward, during the campaign and I just wanted to reflect this because a lot of people were very upset about the amount of money, but, there was a lot of people who were saying, well, what are you waiting so long to get this done for? They want us to fix our environmental pollution. They want us to do that. There's lots of people in the Mynarski Ward who want us to move ahead in doing this. And so, when I'm looking at making decisions on this, I think that we are taking all due diligence, we are doing what we can, and I will be supporting the report, and I just wanted to reflect some of the thoughts that I have been having in regards to it and the main reason though I stood up, let's call it the North Winnipeg Sewage Plant. It's more than the North End, please. Thanks.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Eadie. Any further speakers? Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you Madam Speaker. I didn't intend to speak on this issue, waiting for the next item. Nonetheless, Councillor Eadie makes a very good point. The north…that which is referred to here as the North End Treatment Plant, isn't even in the North End. It is in north Winnipeg but it's not in the North End and it certainly does serve much more than the North End. And I do appreciate Councillor Eadie's points on that. In fact, I do believe we should consider…give consideration, serious consideration, to renaming it, given the points that Councillor Eadie made. It is not even in North End Winnipeg but is definitely in north Winnipeg and serving north Winnipeg and north of Winnipeg, given its contractual relationship to West St. Paul and this should be given some due consideration. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. Seeing no further speakers, Councillor Gilroy to close.

Councillor Gilroy: I just want to thank my council colleagues for their comment, this is…all their comments today, this is a really important project. We do need to get other levels of government on board. You know, we have heard that this is going to be the largest undertaking the city of Winnipeg has ever done and the largest in Canada, so it is a very large project. We need to get other governments on board for sure. And I also know that we need to proceed with this project. So hopefully what's in front of us today will help us move forward and I just want to thank everybody for their words of encouragement today. Thanks.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gilroy. With that I will call the question on Item 1. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Madam Clerk.

Item 4 – 2019 Water and Sewer Rates

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gilroy to introduce the item.

Councillor Gilroy: Councillor colleagues.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Klein.

Councillor Klein: Thank you Madam Speaker. First of all, I certainly echo the comments of our council colleagues and my council colleagues that this project is absolutely necessary. There is no debate about that. There's no debate that we have to take the steps necessary. The debate that I stand opposed to is the rate increases still because I believe that because this is the largest project that we've had and because it is probably going to be the largest undertaking in Canada, we need to be mindful of our steps in our approach. The reasons that I voted no during the SPR…standing policy committee remain pretty much the same today, Madam Speaker. It was good to see EPC vote to hold rates at the 2018 levels following the path of both Councillor Schreyer and myself. However, I am a little disappointed that the approval was not for all the rates. They have still…suggesting to increase a number of other rates. Most of those I guess you could say would impact business, but we know that those rate increases will be passed on to residents by businesses and, of course, we will be forced to pay a little bit more. Now, Madam Speaker, the reasons for this are there's far too many questions unanswered in the current proposal before council. For example, the proposal presented an increase of $15 additional costs per quarter. But later in the proposal, that $15 was cleared up by saying that's $15 per person for an average family of four. So that now becomes $240 a year for a family, based on average water use. The daily basic rate, I believe in the proposal, fell closer to a 7 percent increase as opposed to the 4.7. And I do realize that those rates are on hold, Madam Speaker. The proposed rate increases were suggested to pay for the required upgrades which, again, I think we all fully support, but we have to answer the question of the dividends. I understand that this council didn't introduce that practice and that can't go away right away, but I believe this is a perfect opportunity

to start discussing that because it doesn't mean just because we were doing it, we have to keep doing it. Maybe we can find a better way. Then there is the question of interest rates that are stated in the project. One project set for $823 million states that we will pay 123 million in interest. Another project for 553 million states our interest costs will be 27.8 million. And add a little more confusion for myself, there's a project that's 356 million with an interest rate of $4.2 million that we have to take care of. So it's kind of all over the board, Madam Speaker. So, my thought is I'm not…I just can't justify, and I don't know how we can justify, telling taxpayers or even business people, that they must pay more with so many unanswered financial questions. This is not an urgent requirement that we increase rates today. We could certainly wait 2, 5 or 8 months. I believe taxpayers are at their limit on this one. They want to know more information and I think this is an opportunity to provide them more information. There is far more questions that require much, much more detail and it truly is an opportune time to change the way that we do business at city hall, to be good money stewards and devote for more complete financial detail, and I believe that's the least we can do today. So I'll be standing opposed to the rate increases.

Madam Speaker: Fine. Any further speakers? Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As Councillor Mayes did make the point, how long that this has been on the books that we would inevitably be dealing with, well with the previous item which of course is related, Madam Speaker, we are dealing with the rates today but we can't ignore the fact that this item is related both directly and indirectly to the issue of what we will call today perhaps the North Winnipeg Treatment Plant and upgrade project. And as Councillor Gillingham has said, this is going to be the largest project of its kind in Canada and therefore, I would like to know, in fact, in a sense, in terms of sheer engineering resources, than how it would compare to the last great Manitoba project of such magnitude that it was called in superlatives on a provincial and national level and that being the Red River floodway. I would be curious to know about that, Madam Speaker. In this case, it's a lot tougher, Madam Speaker, because we have let construction inflation go out of control. At that time, post-World War II, only a generation afterward, we did have more practical approach, I would say, to dealing with the projects…such project costs, Madam Speaker. But, we haven't been really dealing with construction inflation in the last well, in the last…over the last decade, Madam Speaker, to the extent Councillor Klein did make the point that there are other increases that I would have to say we are not really dealing with, Madam Speaker. In this item, we talk about not increasing the water rates and the sewer rates this year, and I guess a form of compensation of that would be, because part of the amendment, the third amendment was to not to develop the fund for the new meters…for the new water meters. I'm not exactly sure about how those add up, Madam Speaker, but there is more to it, Madam Speaker. And I did mention this at the standing committee of water and waste, to the extent that despite the fact we are dealing with budget line items for the budget of our water rates, which is a separate budget vote, it was almost questioned whether I was wasting our time at the standing committee, Madam Speaker. But my point was, and I will itemize a couple here that we are dealing with, still increases that are beyond the levels of normal inflation, consumer price index inflation. And therefore, it's all very well, I can get these statistics from Statistics Canada, that they have these stats, but, Madam Speaker, we still have not explained we do not offer in our reports, insights to ourselves as a city, or to city council, to the administration, why we have rates of inflation consistently when it comes to these types of costs, that are, Councillor Klein said last…after last meeting, four times higher. I showed yes, from the items that I mentioned and I tried to mention them all, Madam Speaker, looks like three to four times higher…three or four times higher than the average consumer price index rate of inflation, Madam Speaker. And so, we're wondering where our money is going, Madam Speaker. We've all been talking about this now for over four years. Here again, the stats are there, Madam Speaker. We don't discuss them insightfully, we just see the stat. We see, Madam Speaker, that, as an example, total phosphorous, $15 it says per kilogram, $15 raised in one year to $18. Well, Madam Speaker, that's offhand, over a 20 percent increase in one year. So, normally when we have increased costs like this, Madam Speaker, in a home or a business, it's a big deal to talk about that. In this case, it doesn't seem to be, Madam Speaker, that's just one item and that's one of the larger ones. But, you know, there are others we could look at well, just as an example, biochemical oxygen demand, per kilogram, $1.20 to $1.25. Well, you can say, well, you know that's only a 4 percent increase. Well, alright. It's only a 4 percent increase. But, inflation, regular consumer price index inflation, they say, they say, is 1.5, around that. So, why is it almost three times the rate…over twice the rate? Why should something like that be ignored? Why are these consistently being higher than the standard inflation rate? Not just this year, Madam Speaker, not just last year, not just the year before. And by the way, Madam Speaker, I get the impression…and members of council despite the fact that they don't want to talk about construction inflation costs, it's been implied in the limited amount of discussion we've had in this circle here, Madam Speaker, over the last year, year and a half, that construction inflation is going to come down a bit. Well, so has inflation. And, Madam Speaker, that doesn't make it okay, just because it's come down, it's how it comes down relative to consumer price index. And just because it comes down, if it is still notably larger than, how is that all right? So, Madam Speaker, we have a problem when it comes to paying for our engineering projects, paying for our roads, paying for our bridges. Now, it happens to be, Madam Speaker, that I don't talk about it as much when it comes to the things that we have to deal with, when we have to build some bridges like the Louise Bridge, you have to build. And there is no way around that. Talk about an issue that's been on the books for years. Not exactly prioritized in this term, but it's been on the books before almost anybody here was elected, except for a few. That's how long Louise Bridge has been on the

books here at city hall, Madam Speaker. So, these things we have to deal with. We have to build this…you know, we have to upgrade our treatment plant no doubt about it, Madam Speaker. But we're…it comes to projects of this magnitude, Madam Speaker, it worries me in terms of where we think we're getting the money.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer moves extension. All in favour? Pardon me, Councillor Gillingham moves extension for you. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Schreyer: And I took the words out of my mouth. Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. And on that basis, Madam Speaker, still I've got a problem with how we're using water rates as a form of taxation, including here. We know that Winnipeggers have reduced their water consumption over the last 10, 20 years. We also know that it's important for people to use water, it's important to themselves, to their families and to our society in general. Despite the fact that we have notably reduced and have continued to reduce our water consumption almost every year, it's my understanding over the last 10, 20 years. But, Madam Speaker, we can only reduce our water consumption so much at least in terms of the standards we have as Canadians and as Winnipeggers, and I'm not saying there is more we can't do, but, Madam Speaker, when we use water rates as a…to put into general revenue as a form of…it's a form of taxation, Madam Speaker. We're using our water rates as a form of taxation and to me that's a tax on the poor and I think we need to do something about that. I'll put it mildly, I have said that before but I'm consistent with that, Madam Speaker, and I'm not the only one that thinks that. We are using water rates as a form of taxation and then, we have got to deal with…we're taking out of our…from our Water Department, we're talking about building reserves up, we have been depleting our reserves as a matter of fact, Madam Speaker, for the last ten years at least. And I must say, before this term, before the last term, it's important to note, that Madam Speaker, I think when it comes to certain aspects of this we're dealing…we're doing it backwards. We're using our water rates as a form of taxation to do other things that are more superfluous. And Madam Speaker, I'll take the hit on this and to say, unfortunately, a transit corridor, to me, isn't as important as a water treatment plant or building a bridge that has to be replaced. Thank you Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Schreyer. Councillor Mayes, and then on to Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you Madam Speaker. That was actually quite eloquent and Councillor Schreyer made a number of good points. I don't agree with tax on the poor, but I'll come back to that. But he did make a number of good points about the separateness of the water and sewer process really in our budget from the tax supported side. I was meeting yesterday with Morgan Vespa who is our very capable head of the Office of Public Engagement and I said, you know, this has been bothering me for two years but I finally figured it out, Gillingham had sent me this thing two years ago, the results of the phone survey and the results of the online survey and their differences in priorities and something was missing and it finally came to me that the online one didn't have water and sewer. So I'm suggesting they missed that and she said no, because we only are allowed to ask about tax supported. And this long debate, this sort of unreality that creeps into our budget that there is the tax supported and the public engagement is only asking about tax supported so it's as if water and sewer is something entirely separate. And some days I must admit I feel Councillor Wyatt may have been right in saying maybe we should have a different regulator for this because we have the Province setting all of these requirements for us under the water and sewer and yet we are…we are…they are the regulator but we must set the rates. So, why is that? Why are we having a debate under the water and…water committee agenda that, to the Mayor's credit, is something five, six years ago, we would have been buried under the public works agenda exhausted at the end of the day and then get to the water items. It has its own committee now. It's a good thing. Something Councillor Lukes and I both fought for, I have to say, and the Mayor to his credit implemented this whole separate committee that deals with water and waste issues. So, we have the tax supported budget and then we have the water, sewer utility rate, a swirl of capital operating reserves, all coming in together to set the rate. Schreyer is right, this is bigger than CPI. This is bigger than construction inflation, year after year. Why is that? It's a good question. To the best of my knowledge, I think you can say well, we have some very big liabilities here. We have the North End. But, this isn't just the North End. We're not setting a rate for the North End. Remember, we have the combined sewer overflow problem as well. As I have said more times than people want to hear, older part of the city, not a new part of the city expense, 1.3 billion over the next couple of decades doing work on the combined sewer system. So that swirls into our rate calculation as well. There are certainly costs. Councillor Allard would probably justifiably point out there are costs from the new areas as well and new pipes, the servicing and the operating for taking pipes that perhaps developers have built. So it's a complex mix of things that go into calculating the water and sewer rates made even more complicated by the fact that we don't know the degree of help, if any, we'll be getting from the Provincial and Federal Government. Again, not to overpraise my St. Vital colleague, Rochelle Squires, but pretty good co-operation from the Province on setting the lowest of the four options in terms of costs on the combined sewer project. So we have this anomaly in a way, that the Province is the regulator but we must then set the budget for this utility. So it's a fair point from Councillor Schreyer. Why…why, why is this increase year after year bigger? Largely it's not collective agreements at 11 percent or something, largely it's the responsibilities foisted upon us by the provincial regulator. Not entirely. We have some stuff that's running out as we talked about earlier, but to a large measure these big projects are from the Province. Also, we are dealing with some old infrastructure. One of my long ago predecessors, Councillor Pierce, said in

speaking against Unicity, they're going to make us pay to replace those old pipes in the city of Winnipeg, we the people of St. Vital. Well, she was partly right, but we are all paying toward that. We are all paying toward that, all parts of the city, and that is a steady 25 million a year on the water mains, 25 million a year on the sewer mains and then the combined sewer on top of that. So there are a lot of different costs that go into calculating this. It's made perhaps even more complicated by the interrelation of the two. Councillor Browaty's traditionally talked about the flood protection aspects that really should be on the operating side but are under utility. Councillor Schreyer has justifiably referenced the dividend, and the impact that it has on reserves. We have property tax being payable, Councillor Eadie pointed this out once. Well hey, if the North End goes up, not north Winnipeg goes up, much more in value as we invest money, isn't there bigger property tax payable? So all of these interrelations happen. So, in short, I think it's the responsible thing to do to hold off on an increase while we await the provincial and federal decisions. But, I think it's also worth pointing out, some of the problems here are decades in the making. Some of the problems here are provincial and federal in the making and we're doing some good environmental initiatives under this utility as well. So, it's a challenge. I think that's a fair question put forward by Councillor Schreyer, why this increase? Why year after year in excess of inflation? It's a complicated answer but I think we are giving this budget more scrutiny than maybe in the past. If you look back there was a Seine River floodway fund year after year a hundred thousand dollars. We asked, where are you spending that by the Seine? And the answer is, we've never spent. We spent like a thousand dollars. We just keep putting it in the budget and then we close it out. Gives us a thousand dollars to slosh around and fund other things. That's not in the budget anymore because we caught it. So, we are giving, I think more scrutiny to this budget under the current mayor, having created this committee. It's a massive, bigger operating than police, bigger capital some years than Public Works. It's a big budget but we are giving it, I think, more scrutiny than in councils past. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. Councillor Browaty followed by Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. I agree with most of the comments that have been made this afternoon here on this topic. I'll just add a couple quick points to the debate. I do believe that it is finally time that we stop in dealing with all of the capital projects going on, what's going to have to happen to water rates over the years, it's time to end the dividend being tied to a percentage of sales. As the sales go up more and more is going to be scooped off to go to general revenue and I think it's…we're long past the time where that practice needs to stop. Being realistic though, I mean I would love to phase it out tomorrow. I realize the hole it would make. I think, you know, in the short term of these freezes that the amount that it's bringing in right now. The other issue is there is one group that would have been Councillor Mayes who would have brought this up before, the hauled wastewater rate is still increasing. That affects all those people that do not have City sewers but still pay City taxes and such. Whoever is hauling their waste away is going to be paying a higher rate for the waste when they take it to the North End plant for treatment and that rate was not frozen, unfortunately. So that is just one small flaw and it was there, but regardless, it was moving in the right direction. We do need to get the Federal Government and the Provincial Government on side and committed in writing, legal contractual agreements that cannot change. It is time that we get those in place for the work that needs to be done because again, it is hundreds of millions…over a billion dollars' worth of work and we need to push that agenda very hard. But again, good first step. I didn't speak on the other report but those are the end of my comments today. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Browaty. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, Madam Speaker. I guess, Madam Speaker, over time we do change our minds. I just heard somebody say get rid of the dividend who is on the power committee that brought it in in the first place. And, I can't help…and I'm speaking to this report in regard to the dividend and some other aspects of water and waste that I think need to improve before I would be willing to vote in a rate increase. And Madam Speaker, that is I do support…we do need to upgrade our water meters all across and that will actually save our taxpayers a lot of grief in their homes where they are paying property taxes. Even though it's on the water rate and it's an issue, Madam Speaker, better meters, reading them more often, means if there are problems we catch them much earlier. And I think that we need to get that resolved and that's built into the future of water and waste plants and I really applaud that. Now, I want to get into…we're calling this thing a dividend, Madam Speaker. It's a tax. It's actually a tax on water and waste revenue. Let me go back to my business education and accounting, Madam Speaker. I did pretty good, but I might have forgot some of the elements. But, if you're a shareholder and you're getting dividends, dividends are essentially paid out of an account called "retained earnings". And in order to have the money to pay dividends, Madam Speaker, one must have a positive balance in their retained earnings on an ongoing basis. And then you calculate, you might say, well we're going to pay out this year a dividend of a percentage of what's in retained earnings. Not a percentage of revenue. So yeah, every time our values go up for good reasons, like a program to replace old water meters with new technology, which is really good, or you know, eventually when we start having to pay for sewage treatment, paying for water, paying for all the things that we pay for on our water bill. So, I just wanted to point that out that again, we need to have an examination. But not only just the water and waste, it is a utility. Okay, we'll call it a utility. It's like a department though. It just has…happens to have a different revenue source that's all. And we have other departments and divisions and other

places that, you know, would be called utilities, Madam Speaker. And last time they increased the rates, I asked us to treat retained earnings of water and waste more like reserves. As you know, all of you on council, well actually, you are going through your first budget. Anything that goes in that has to do with a reserve, it's reported during the budget cycle. Retained earnings is only reported once a year in the annual report to which the City of Winnipeg has received awards for how it's been prepared and so on and so forth. Well that's fine. But, given the way we tax the revenue from water and waste to bring over into our thing, it was a means of not having to raise property taxes, to pay for cash to capital items and operating cash items. So we are dependent on this thing now. It's a simple thing to just say, well let's get rid of it. Well what is it going to be? I didn't hear the estimate. I'm not on water and waste now, but let's say it's 40 million now…or 40 million. So it's five and a half million that we bring in for every 1 percent property tax increase. So, 1 percent, right? So 5.5. So we're talking a huge hit over on the property tax side. Now, one of the advantages though, and I want to say this, I'm not voting for this report but, just the way we implemented this thing was all wrong. I don't know why we did it that way. I voted against it. But, one of the things that you can do, is control your water consumption. So at least I can control how much of that tax I am paying. But you know, aside from that, although I do need to have water, I don't know. I like to shower every day. But anyway, other people…I know people who live in my ward are making decisions every day to reduce their water consumption and they are not using water for things they really should be needing to. So, I mean, it's not necessarily a good thing either. So, I just wanted to point some of that out. So, if we were supposedly taking a dividend from this utility, to which all property taxpayers are shareholders, actually, Winnipeggers still own, we just govern, our administration runs these things but it's owned by all us Winnipeggers, businesses and individuals. So, and we do need to pay for things. I mean, the reality is, we live in an ecology where we have to treat our environment much better. So, that's all I want to say. I just, I can't vote for rate increases with the way we're dealing with some of this stuff. And I would call and I was going to send out an e-mail after we get to review our budget tomorrow, there's a couple of things I want on the table before we vote for the budget, and that is, I want a report on all our retained earnings for all the utilities we have for the city, because I think before we decide on budgets we should know what's going on. Anyway, while I support all the initiatives we do have to do it, combined sewer…oh, I was going to mention, you know, St. Boniface has a lot of really old pipes too and old St. Vital is pretty old. So I mean, it is a shared cost, before Unicity, whatever. The thing is, the North Winnipeg Sewage Plant, while it solves…serves north Winnipeg, all of Winnipeg is responsible, including us and everybody responsible for doing all these projects and making sure that we have good healthy water supply and so on. Because you know, that's the reality and that's actually the good part of being in a city. And yes, our water rates could be lower. Income tax is a better way to get money to pay for services that we use every day as citizens and people who live in the area. It is much better. But the reality is, we don't have that progressive way to collect taxes. But we can call on the Province and the Feds…well I can't say that here, Madam Speaker. I did say it to the media the other day. I'm not going to say it here. But really, if the Province and the Federal Government…and they do say they take it seriously, they need to get on board and help us keep our water rates down by utilizing a more progressive tax regime to help us pay for it. So I won't be voting for report No. 4 today.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you…thank you Madam Speaker. And I am…I appreciate there has been a lot of discussion on this topic so I will keep my comments brief. I will not be speaking about the cost of construction inflation. I will leave that for Councillor Schreyer who I know regularly speaks about construction inflation. I want to thank members of the committee; previous committee as well as the current committee. Councillor Mayes, as those that are watching these proceedings can appreciate, has put to date a tremendous amount of time in the portfolio. There are significant dollars involved and significant responsibilities that we have for the stewardship of our environment as well as building the infrastructure needed to support a growing city in the context of provincial licencing requirements. I also want to just thank our committee Chair, Councillor Gilroy, has been doing outstanding work and there is a number of reports today that we have voted on already, and that this current report that relate to the north Winnipeg treatment plant, I like saying the North End because I love the North End and we should all be proud of the North End, but I defer to Councillor Eadie's suggestion. The…what we are voting on today, of course, and I rise in support of the report before us, which was amended by Executive Policy Committee to freeze the water and sewer rates for the coming year. I do believe, however, that this is simply a pause, if in fact the vote goes as I hope it will go in a few minutes. I do believe that ratepayers will need to provide investments through the utility for the construction of additional phases for the North Winnipeg Treatment Plant. And what this freeze would do is it would provide additional time for Provincial and Federal Governments to make known their support levels for the project going forward, so that any increase in the water and sewer rates could factor into the Provincial and the Federal contributions. Time will only tell if we will get certainty. We have heard from the Provincial Government more recently that they are a strong supporter of this important project, and that's a positive indication. We don't have certainty or dollar amount going forward, and this would provide us with an opportunity to get that certainty to then build rates in with greater certainty of the other contributors to the project. We will have to see if that can occur in the next year, and if not, I think we will be back where we are right now, having had the benefit of additional time for some of the unanswered questions that are being raised today, to be answered. In the interim, I would encourage all members of council to correspond with the public service and with our committee chair. If in fact we do have a year from now until the next vote on potentially increasing the water and sewer rate, we have a year

from now. So I would say let's get going and get those questions answered now so a year from now we're not saying, well, we need…we have more questions. You know, we've got lots of time to ask those questions, as well as for the City of Winnipeg to try to get some certainty from other levels of government which could be built into here. So, I'll be supporting the freeze at the 2018 levels and look forward to the work that we all collectively have to do over the next year. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councillor Gilroy to close.

Councillor Gilroy: I want to thank all my councillor colleagues for the debate that we had today. I think that it's important that we have the debate like this. It was very healthy and I think we talked bay lot of things like the dividends, which I think is vital. I do support a freeze and I do it cautiously because I do think that we have a lot of capital projects that really needs to be done. And I do want to note that it is important that we replace our old aging meters and I think that that is going to be a huge thing for customer service moving forward. We would be able to detect if there is lines that are broken or leaking, we are able to get that information automated so people wouldn't be having to call in their numbers anymore. And sometimes when they do call in we don't always have the correct information. So, I think we got a lot of work that we need to do on the North End Sewage Treatment Facility but also, on different things that we rely on in water and waste. And I just want to remind everybody that what we're voting on here today is stuff that really does protect our drinking water, that when we are talking about our sewer, that we're looking at dealing with our waste in a sustainable way. So, all in all we do have to have a plan moving forward that tax pay…we have to pay for these services. And so, I hope that everyone supports this today and looking forward to having greater discussions on water and waste moving forward. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gilroy. With that I'll call the question on Item 4. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Okay. there is more than 3 that would like to be recorded in opposition? Okay, so then we'll have to have a recorded vote. All in favour of Item 4, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Nays

Councillors Eadie, Klein, Nason and Schreyer.

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

Madam Speaker: Item 4 passes. We will now move into question period for Councillor Gilroy, our Chairperson. Any questions? Councillor Klein.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON WATER AND WASTE, RIVERBANK MANAGEMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Klein: Recently we have had a discussion with Councillor Gillingham and Councillor Lukes at our Community Committee with respect to the riverbank along Wellington. I think everyone is aware that for some time now we've had an issue with the bike path there and it's been closed off. We just learned earlier today that the Province has now issued a statement that the Spring flood risk is going to be major, probably 2011 levels. So when we have discussion in our Community Committee, we learned how high the risk is, for actually losing the road or maybe having to shut down the road. So I would just respectfully ask, the Chairperson to direct the appropriate office to provide a weekly status update given the high level of risk of any further damage or a possibility of having to shut down that road.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: I'd like to thank the Councillor for the question and also that I'll get back to him on that. I know that with the Flood Report coming out, the department will be looking at that and then looking at what we're going to do in terms of flood litigation, so I will get back to the Council. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Klein, do you have a second question?

Councillor Klein: No

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes?

Councillor Lukes: Yes, through you Madam Speaker, I've had residents contact me and ask me if they could pay their monthly bills, their water bills monthly, versus quarterly and I've been working with the department to see what direction that's going in. And it's not really going in the direction of anytime soon, I guess. So, whether the Federal or the Provincial Government come on board, if they do come on board, regardless, eventually to support and fund this treatment plant, rates will be going up. I'm just wondering if the Chair could comment on moving forward with getting monthly billings or perhaps like the program we have for our taxes, for property taxes, if we can do a program like that. What her thoughts are on that, and if she would pursue that because as rates go up it's more difficult for people to pay quarterly. It's easier for them to understand to pay monthly. I know there is that new system that they can estimate it but I've had residents contact me, well you know, realizing the cost of this treatment plant is quite expensive and they want to pay monthly. So, if the Chair could comment on that and give us some insight?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: Yes, thank you Councillor again for her question. I know that's she's been working for Water & Waste on this issue. I know that there's a business plan that's gonna be coming forward looking at the replacement of our water meters and maybe at that time, maybe there's some questions that we can start asking. Cause I know that the water meters do somewhat impact our ability to have frequent and correct meter readings, coming through. I think that is (inaudible) because 60% of our water meters actually need to be replaced so it's a very large amount that we have that are ageing. So it does impact it a bit but maybe that's something that I can work with the Councillor on and ask further questions regarding Water & Waste.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Gilroy. Any further questions? Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, Madam Speaker. Sometimes we get estimated water bills every 3 months, I'm just giving some context. We get estimated and usually ones quarterly bill is about the same money. My question, I believe I know the answer, but my question is, and I should also preface that Manitoba Hydro will also estimate their meters and every other month, or whatever it is, because they can't keep up to the reading, and as everybody knows, Manitoba Hydro's meters are on the outside of properties now. That makes it so much easier for them to do that, but often they estimate monthly. But my real question is, does an individual have the ability to just make a payment towards the water bill every month, according to what they believe is going to be their monthly water bill?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: I'd like to think I'm (inaudible) to the question and if that's okay if I get back to him, as I don't really know the answer to that. So I can talk to the Administration and get back to him.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions for our Chair? Seeing none, let's move on to the next committee, Standing Policy Committee on Innovation. We'll get right into the question period. Any questions for Councillor Orlikow? Next committee, Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development. Councillor Mayes on the report dated November 19th, noting we have amending Motion No. 1.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT,
HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
DATED NOVEMBER 19, 2019

Councillor Mayes: Noting that and perhaps you could steer me through that then Madam Speaker, as we've got one item and it's being amended.

Madam Speaker: Yes. We will have the Clerk introduce the item. Following that, you can introduce the motion and the main item, Councillor Mayes.

Item 1 – Proposed Sale of City-owned land, commonly known as Murray Industrial Park Spur Line

Madam Speaker: Councillor Mayes to introduce the amending Motion 1 and also speak to the main item.

Councillor Mayes: Do you need all of the motion read out then Madam Speaker?

Madam Speaker: It's been circulated. I think we're sufficient if you wanted to speak to it. It's also an item that's been carried over from the previous council meeting.

Motion No. 1
Moved by Councillor Mayes,
Seconded by Councillor Gillingham,

WHEREAS on December 13, 2018 Council laid over consideration of Item No. 1 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development dated November 19, 2018 for 60 days;

AND WHEREAS the Public Service has determined that a Request for Proposal (RFP) should be issued for the sale and/or operation of the spur line to provide equal opportunity to all interested parties;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Item No. 1 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development dated November 19, 2018 be received as information.

Councillor Mayes: Yeah, this was an…this was an example of where the delegations actually really mattered at a council meeting. And we do listen. And that was…this is the Murray…the business with the spur line and contracting out the work on the spur lines so we are going to move…as the second para of the motion indicates; the public service has determined a request for proposal should be issued for sale and operation of the spur line to provide equal opportunity to all interested parties. So we listened, basically, to people who appeared in delegation and it looks like the admin listened as well and they're going to move to do an RFP so we need, I think then, to receive this as information. My commendations to Councillor Gillingham who waded into this one as well and I think we've…I don't know where we will end up at the end, but we will make equal opportunity to all interested parties.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank Councillor Mayes for the motion. Yes, I echo very much what Councillor Mayes said, you know, this is one of the unique things we talk about. One of the things that we talk about is the uniqueness of municipal government. Certainly, our government's structure here where delegations can appear in…you know, at the beginning of our very live public meetings and raise concerns, make questions…raise questions that perhaps our public service just had not caught. And so this is an instance where the system worked. And so, again, I want to thank…they are not here, but the delegations from a couple of months ago that raised this concern. Went back, took a look at it. Not aware that any other group was in a position to show or had shown interest in it. Nonetheless, it's here before us and so we will take the appropriate steps and an RFP will be issued and go from there. So just again, just to talk about the fact that when delegations come we try to be attentive, try to listen, respond accordingly and in this case it seems that this certainly you know, I'm supportive of this process and this next step. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Councillor Gillingham. Does anyone else wish to speak to this motion? Seeing none, Councillor Mayes do you wish to close? Okay I'll call the question on amending Motion 1 to receive the item as information. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. And there is no reason to vote on the item itself any longer. We will now move into the report of the same committee for January 7th, 2019, Councillor Mayes.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT,
HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
DATED JANUARY 7, 2019

Councillor Mayes: We have 3 different agendas here to work through for the same committee. This one, single item left from the January 7th property committee meeting. One of the many heritage resource matters we are dealing with over the months. This one, the Manitoba Club, a lot of delegation on this one meeting between staff and the operators of the club. Didn't agree on all of the points. Had a vote at EPC. I think I lost 6-1. Certainly a split vote. So people can vote as they see appropriate but I'll be supporting the recommendation at this level. Certainly there have been a lot of time spent on this one by our staff and I think some effort made to clarify what it is that we're specifically naming at the club.

Madam Speaker: Any further speakers? Councillor Klein.

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I do agree with Councillor Mayes. This is one of the many that are being brought forward to council. I guess my question is, is that I'm so…and the thought is, I'm going to be opposed to this because I certainly agree with protecting the outside of our buildings and the character with it, our neighbourhoods and especially when you see some of the buildings when you drive downtown. But the idea of us getting into somebody's home or getting into somebody's business and dictating what they can and cannot do, really, without any compensation for that or thought, I think we have to look for a new way. It may be an opportune time to talk about how we could work more co-operatively with property owners because in the short time that I have been around it certainly does appear to be a very adversarial approach. I believe as adults, professionals, that we could work together and reach a mutually beneficial agreement that will protect our history, protect our heritage, but also, not force businesses to consider whether or not they want to, you know, maintain a building or try to sell it and move on. So I will be opposed to it.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Seeing none, Councillor Mayes do you wish to close?

Councillor Mayes: Yeah, they will…we'll have many of these. Some of them we, I think we bounced one not long ago or it was a very close vote on that one on Notre Dame. Here we'll have a vote on this one. We, at the committee level, listened to the delegations and did some revisions for ones we're going to see in the next agenda, the St. Mary's Academy and one of the MTS buildings. So, Councillor Klein has largely given the speech I gave at EPC, I think, or partly, perhaps. But it's a balancing act and different people will see it different ways. So I mean, I think the good news is we are not simply, blindly following the HBRC, the committee of unelected people. There is an opportunity for the public to come forward and present in delegation and sometimes they will succeed and sometimes they will succeed in part and sometimes they won't. But we are trying to make informed decisions on these and not simply approve everything that comes up from a lower level. And you will see that as you go down, if you read through that MTS report or the St. Mary's Academy report, we did amend at property committee. So on this one, while people can vote as they see fit.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. All in favour of Item 25? Contrary? Carried. Councillor Mayes on the report dated February 14th, 2019.

Councillor Mayes: February 14th?

Madam Speaker: February 4th. There is a typo in one of the documents, sorry. February 4th, you are correct.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2019

Councillor Mayes: I will move Items 1 through 11, inclusive, from the February 4th agenda.

Madam Speaker: Yes. I'll call the question on Items 1 through 11. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Okay, we'll now get into motions, Motion No. 4 on your desks. This motion is moved by Councillor Klein and seconded by Councillor Nason. It's in regards to the surplus declaration at 5014 Roblin Boulevard. This motion is an automatic referral to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development. We'll now move into by-laws under this committee, Councillor Mayes.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT MOTIONS

Motion No. 4
Moved by Councillor Klein,
Seconded by Councillor Nason,

WHEREAS on February 22, 2018 Council declared a portion of the City-owned property located at 5014 Roblin Boulevard, surplus to the needs of the City;

AND WHEREAS the subject property was leased and occupied by the Charleswood 55 Plus Active Living Centre, which utilized the facility for recreational programming for seniors in the Charleswood area ;

AND WHEREAS part of the feedback received from the public engagement on the development of the City of Winnipeg Recreation and Parks Strategies 25-year framework, was a need to provide recreational amenities and programing for the City's increasing seniors population;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to engage with representatives of Charleswood 55 Plus Active Living Centre to explore options to maintain the Centre in its current location, or at an alternate city owned facility located in the Charleswood area;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to not proceed with the sale and or subdivision of the portion of the City-owned property located at 5014 Roblin Boulevard, declared surplus by Council on February 22, 2018, until such time as a permanent location for the Charleswood 55 Plus Active Living Centre is identified.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Councillor Mayes: Thank you Madam Speaker. First up is the by-law…well the Clerk can…I'll have some comments about the Fermor one so I'll let the Clerk introduce.

Madam Speaker: We're not speaking to by-laws, yeah. So just to clarify, this isn't an opportunity to speak to any by-law.

Councillor Mayes: So do I have an opportunity then at third reading, Madam Speaker, to speak to the by-law?

Madam Speaker: No, you do not.

Councillor Mayes: To the relief of all. I will move that the following by-laws be read a first time; By-law 8/2019 and By-law 9/2019.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 8/2019 and By-law No. 9/2019.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Mayes on the second reading.

Councillor Mayes: I'll move that By-law Nos. 8/2019 and 9/2019 be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law Nos. 8/2019 and 9/2019.

Councillor Mayes: I'll move that the rule be suspended and By-law Nos. 8/2019 and 9/2019 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. We will now have question period for the Chair. Yes?

Councillor Eadie: I don't know what to call this, but I have a request. There is a motion that was called an automatic referral, but I believe that…I would like to actually move to debate that now as the sale of this particular property is imminent. And so therefore the content and the need to implement what is in there, needs to be debated today. So if I could, I just…like, it wasn't clear, so I'm just wondering if I'm able to move suspension of the rules to debate that motion?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie, we have already voted on this motion, as you know. So are you calling for suspension of the rules to vote on the motion today?
Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, we didn't vote, you just said it was an automatic referral. We didn't vote to send it automatic referral, I just...

Madam Speaker: Okay.

Councillor Eadie: Had to have an…Madam Speaker, it's kind of a point of order, but…

Madam Speaker: I understand. So you are asking for suspension of the rules, saying that it's time sensitive…

Councillor Eadie: To debate Motion No. 4, yes.

Madam Speaker: To debate Motion 4 today.

Councillor Eadie: Yes.

Madam Speaker: Okay. All in favour? Contrary? We'll need two-thirds.

Councillor Eadie: Recorded vote, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: For a moment on something. Councillor Eadie, just before we have the vote, we'll put 3 minutes on the clock for you to explain why it's time sensitive. Do you wish to do that? Okay, 3 minutes please and if you could rise to say why it's time sensitive to…and you are asking for suspension of the rules today on this motion.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, Madam Speaker. So I rise…and the reason I'm moving suspension of the rules, we have two new councillors moving a motion to try to ensure that a essential service, 55 plus club, that actually is operating and conducting what they do every day in…on that property, and that property was declared a surplus last year. And the sale now is imminent. The previous councillor neglected in saying to go ahead to allow the sale. There was no consideration given to it. And so if this gets referred to committee, given that the sale is imminent, we may not be able to help out these new councillors in trying to temporarily stall a sale so that other…so that the seniors group may operate somewhere else. So, I think it's imperative that we debate it today.

Madam Speaker: Okay. I'll call for suspension of the rule to deal with the item today and it will be a recorded vote. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Eadie, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Nason and Schreyer and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma.

Nays

His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Gillingham, Gilroy, Orlikow, Rollins and Santos.

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 7, Nays 9.

Madam Speaker: The motion is…for suspension is lost. It will be an automatic referral to the appropriate standing committee. Thank you. We will now have question period under this committee, any questions for Councillor Mayes? Any questions for Councillor Mayes? No, seeing none. Let's move on to the…yes, Councillor Nason.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Nason: I'd like for you to ask the Chair of PPD and H, with regards to Fermor Avenue reconstruction, please. So he could give some explanation about what's going forward there?

Councillor Mayes: Thank you Councillor Nason, this is the point I should have made earlier, that there are actually two projects going on Fermor so there might be some confusion with the public. There's quite a big and long running reconstruction project that is a little bit in Councillor Allard's ward and mostly in mine right near the Seine River. This is something else, which was certainly confusing to me and certain maps aren't attached and their attached to earlier in the agenda. This is something that's going to be in Councillor Nason's Ward now with the Ward boundary changes precinct

J is coming to life. This was approved in 2014. This is the area roughly opposite The Mint, East-side of Lagimodiere. So the City is finally getting going on this, expanding Fermor, getting some work done to get that new neighborhood going in precinct J. So, to me it's a bit confusing that, the thing that caused a ton of calls and emails and complaints and praise is the Fermor work that's been done near the Curling Club near St. Anne's Road, near Councillor Allard's ward. This is actually further East, it was actually Councillor Allard's ward and part of Councillor Vandal's ward who voted on the whole precinct J plan and his credit he got money set aside in that plan. But that will be Councillor Nason's to deal with in the future with that Community Committee. So, it's the result of the Ward boundary changes being a little bit confusing, but I wanted to clarify that on the record. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gillingham

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you Madam Speaker. Let me just say, a bit of a preamble to the question here. One of the reasons the motion that was just before said that I didn't support (inaudible) rules on it, because there's a bigger issue going on here rather than just one issue, of one area. So the question I would have for the Chair of our Committee is, to what degree is he and the Committee working with the Public Service to address the several groups that are in several of our buildings for a dollar a lease or for a discounted price? That would be my first question to follow up. Maybe can the Chair update us on what is happening with the Public Service and in relation to all these groups who are in the buildings or City owned buildings for a dollar or a discounted lease? Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you for the question. Yeah a couple of things flow from that. One of the curiosities or historical facts here is that, the sale when zoned in different ways, results in different, results in the proceeds of sale flowing differently. That is, if one sells parklands, (inaudible) park in one's ward. The ward Councillor has traditionally kept those funds. My predecessor, Gord Steeves had a big expansion at one of the Community Centres. But one of the old buildings, Glenlee was to be sold and was sold on my watch, so that money which stayed in the Ward, had to be put into their Community Centre. Here we might have something completely different, I don't know how this particular land is zoned, that is a concern of Councillor Klein's. All of that kind of influences the decision making Ward by Ward to actually answer the question. (inaudible) dollar a year leases which does matter because if we have some people leave certain buildings and they are zoned a different ways, the proceed of sales would flow differently. Nobody has been kicked out, nobody is going to try kicking people out. We are getting a report back to the Committee. I think Councillor Rollins made this motion to get the report on where are the dollar a year leases where the tenants are not paying the operating costs and additionally, we know some of them are getting operating grants from the City of Winnipeg. So, try to get a more complete picture of where these groups are and what grant might be flowing. I know that if the St. Vital Museum were here, they would say, "well we pay a buck a year but we don't get an operating grant like some of the other museums". Then you get in the time machine back to 1974 and there's all this stuff about the museums that were in place about at the time of Unicity. And, a lot of history here, a lot of complexity. Why is the Norwood Lawn Bowling Club in Councillor Chamber's Ward, for example, nowhere near Norwood. Well they used to be in Norwood and then they were moved and they agreed to pay a buck a year to be in South St. Vital. (Inaudible) by the library. A lot of history in these files, so we are moving cautiously I would say and trying to look at, well how do we, what is the right thing to do? What is just for some of these groups? We'll have some challenges with that I think. And to be blunt, for once I can't complain of my Ward getting the short-end. To be honest, there are far more of these groups downtown and in some of the older Wards and I think I have one in my Ward, maybe two. But, I think Councillor Lukes has one maybe, it's a disproportionate impact here. So we're moving forward, we're getting some more information.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gillingham second question.

Councillor Gillingham: I'm wondering if the Chair is willing to have the Standing Committee request from the Department, a report on how, when and what is being communicated to these user groups, if that's possible.

Yeah, I think I agree with Councillor Rollins, we've done some of that, or when we get that report back about who is paying what. There are some, why does is the one group in Maple Grove Park, paying a dollar a year and the other group isn't for different buildings. There's a lot of anomalies here. We'll get that report back with the grid that says who's getting a grant and then I think that's a fair question to raise at that point. What has been communicated. I know we're in year 2 or 3 or so(inaudible) negotiations at Lawn Bowling, for example. I don't know where we are on some of the other ones. So, it's a fair question. We do have to start saying to groups this is … we haven't put a deadline on this and that will be difficult, but at least we'll try and get more information back and we may, ya know, this Council is going to have to decide how they're going to proceed.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Klein followed by Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Klein: Thank you Madam Chair. So I fully support this, especially the questions that Councillor Gillingham had to start digging into these and many of the other items that we find here, at Council, and through the City. I would like to get off the $1 lease thing for a moment, I think we're just talking headlines now or trying to grab headlines with the $1 Lease. The situation specifically with the one I am speaking of and I think some of the ones that Councillor Gillingham is speaking of, but (inaudible) wouldn't speak for him, is that there's some organizations 55plus organizations, that provide an awful lot of services, programs for seniors in our communities. Some seniors that cannot, of course, do that on their own or (inaudible) or they live by themselves. So it's an opportunity to improve quality of life. Something I think we are obligated to do. So given that, I would just put to the Chair, respectfully ask that, you know, that we would, the Chair would stop the sale, any sale of the property right now until the Committee has an opportunity and that Council has an opportunity to vote on it. So it doesn't fall through the cracks.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: I certainly wish I had that power, I very much doubt I do, but the Community does meet Monday and this would be referred, I'm thinking, it will not be referred on the 4th. Perhaps we will try to deal with that on the 4th when Councillor Klein is on that Committee. I sympathize. I've had this situation when something was being sold without, well let me rephrase that…there was momentum to sell the Glenlee Community Centre when I got elected. I agree with that decision by my predecessor. Had I felt differently, I probably would have taken whatever actions I felt was appropriate. I think it's a fair question, Councillor Klein and I assume we can get to that when we meet on the 4th. I guess we'll see jurisdictionally what we can do on the 4th. I don't know the history. I think Councillor Orlikow perhaps has more history on this than I do. We'll take a look at it. This does get (inaudible) people have, there's been a strategy by some people (inaudible) If it's (inaudible) then I can sell it for $350,000 then I can take the $350,000 and do something great in my ward. But if it's not (inaudible) and the money is going into the Centre, then I would sell it for a buck to Habitat, I would sell it for a buck to anybody we can think of. This is, uh, not thinking specifically Habitat example. But you see the temptation of that, well why not sell it as cheaply as possible. My Ward isn't gonna get the revenue. So we face some of this, I think, in the sale of Public Works (inaudible), and ultimately, most of them, the proceeds went into the Centre, because we needed them to pay for the (inaudible). So, I think here, as well, we'll take a look at the facts that are the table and I have to admit that I don't know much about this piece of property, but I do respect what the Ward Councillor has to say and we'll take a look at it.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you Madam Speaker. Well first, it's a real quick question then as a follow-up. As the Chair of PD and whatever, the Chair can request the Committee to move to suspend the rules to hear this motion that's been referred to a Public Meeting that the agenda's already been published. So, did I just hear the Chairperson of that Committee say that they would suspend the rules to hear this motion?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie, that's your question?

Councillor Eadie: That's my question

Madam Speaker: Councillor Mayes?

Councillor Mayes: I would support that for a (inaudible) Committee, we'll see where the ball lands. But we'll support that.

Councillor Eadie: Thanks.

Madam Speaker: Second question?

Councillor Eadie: My second question, sorry, this would be a bit more of a … As I understand it, the reports coming back. Now I just wanted to say in terms of report, I had another meeting that I could not leave so I was unable to come and speak to the…

Madam Speaker: Your question Councillor Eadie?

Councillor Eadie: Alright… You know what, forget it. (inaudible)

Madam Speaker: Councillor Nason

Councillor Nason: My question is relatively quick at least I hope it is. I held a Community Meeting last night on basically, the same situation that Councillor Klein put forward today. It's the fear of the unknown in our communities that's the challenge and I'm wondering if the Chair of the Committee will look to put forward a progressive message to put our community members at ease that are dependant on this program.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Yeah, there's many different groups of many different mandates involved. I think it's still a 1 year lease question and that's a fair question.. We're getting the information back, no one… the desire is not to kick people out. We are following the staff, would say, hey this is a directive from previous council to fully cost recover at these facilities. What do you want from us? This is what you directed us to do some years ago. We're implementing the collective (inaudible) of council, as (inaudible) likes to say. We're doing what you told us to do, so if we change that directive then that will be the change that will be given to the staff. Yeah, I certainly have some sympathy for the 2 groups in my ward in a building that we spent hundreds of thousands of dollars saving and then turned to them and say that their rent is going up 20,000% from $1 a year to $20,000 a year. They're not a seniors group but it's groups with a (inaudible) non-for-profit mandate (inaudible). So, we got to weigh that up I think and, then I think Councillor Gillingham would say "well could you may be fit in the archery folks in the same building as the lawn bowlers, or whatever. Could we do some of this? Could we try putting all the groups in one building?". No. The proposal is, could you combine some groups into some of these buildings. If there are buildings with a great deal of space perhaps you could consolidate to some measure. Hard to combine lawn bowling with, you know, archery or something, but we will be taking a look at all the groups that are on the list.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: J'aimerais prendre la…

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

Translation of French Spoken:
Councillor Allard: Councillor Allard: I would like to take this opportunity to ask a couple of questions to my colleague Councillor Brian Mayes. My first question is about the installation of the cell towers. The former City Council, from before the 2018 election, had approved a recommendation to consider integrating the installation of cell towers to secondary plans and new development plans. I don't expect that you will be able to answer me today. However, I am wondering if you would be able to ask our planners where things are at, in that respect. I am asking this question because it is an important issue, especially in Island Lakes. The installation of a cell tower in this community that I represent was rejected by our planning department. Despite the fact that Island Lakes residents, myself, City Council, the councillor for this area, and the MLA, were all in favour of cell towers, the department rejected the proposal. That is one reason why I proposed to include this provision in our secondary plans. However, there is still bad reception in Island Lakes. So, I am asking you because I have not had any update from the department yet. I do not expect an answer from you today. But I wanted to ask if I could get an update.

Madam Speaker: And that concludes our question period for this Committee.

I would like to move 30 seconds to say something.

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

Councillor Mayes: I will speak in French. It is an important issue for the residents of Island Lakes, so I would like to thank Councillor Allard. A lot of work to install cell towers in Sage Creek. Thank you to my colleague. I would like to speak with the administration about cell towers and secondary plans. Maybe it is not an essential service. My colleague thinks it is an essential service, but it is an important issue for citizens, so I will speak with the administration. It is a problem in Island Lakes. Councillor Allard is working with other government levels and the private sectors to help with the situation in Sage Creek. So, that is a good question, and I will get back to you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie, coming back to you to preamble your question, would you like that opportunity? Okay, moving on to the last committee; the Standing Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks. Councillor Rollins on the report dated February 6th, 2019.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PARKS
DATED FEBRUARY 6, 2019

Councillor Rollins: Thank you. I move the report of December 7th, 2018 of the Winnipeg Police Board that was submitted to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks.

Madam Speaker: Okay. All in favour of Item 1? Okay. Madam Clerk.

Item 1 – Winnipeg Police Board – 2019 Strategic Plan Update

Madam Speaker: Councillor Rollins, do you wish to introduce the item?

Councillor Rollins: I'll wait for questions from colleagues.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor to speak to the item.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And likewise, I will be brief, I know it's been a long day for everybody. I just want to take this opportunity to thank our Chair of the Winnipeg Police Board as well as all of the members, including the new members of the Winnipeg Police Board and members of our Winnipeg Police Service. They do incredibly difficult work on our behalf, ensuring that public safety is protected as best possible. The Winnipeg Police Services Board has the challenging task of ensuring that the efficient and effective use of the sizeable tax dollars that are expended on public safety are scrutinized and are used in the most efficient way possible. I want to thank our chair and members of the board for their efforts to ensure that that value for money is well spent. And I also want to commend our Chief of Police. We are very well served by Chief Danny Smyth and the Winnipeg Police Service. I know they take my comments and the strategic plan of the Winnipeg Police Board to heart and I want to thank and commend each and every one of them for their efforts. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor. Any further speakers? Councillor Rollins do you wish to close? I can call the question? All in favour? Contrary? Carried. We will now have question period for the Chair, any questions for Councillor Rollins? Seeing none, Councillor Gillingham, will you move that we adjourn? All in favour? Contrary. Carried. Roll call Madam 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 3:00 p.m.