Minute No. 563
Report – Executive Policy Committee – October 15, 2019

Item No. 1 Application to the Province of Manitoba for Disaster Financial Assistance

COUNCIL DECISION:

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

1. That the City of Winnipeg apply to the Province of Manitoba for disaster financial assistance in accordance with *The Emergency Measures Act*, C.C.S.M c. E80 and *The Disaster Financial Assistance Policies and Guidelines (Public Sector) Regulation*, MR 178/99.

2. That City Council support the Winnipeg Public Service in its efforts to respond to the damage related to this unprecedented weather event, by delegating the authority to the Chief Administrative Officer (notwithstanding any monetary limits set forth in any policy or administrative standard to the contrary, including the Materials Management Policy) to direct and authorize the Public Service to take all appropriate measures to recover, with respect to the cleaning up of public spaces to ensure public safety and public access, including the following:

    A. Approving secondment of other municipalities' employees under the Materials Management Policy.

    B. Waiving City fees to assist residents and businesses in cleaning up private property and in other recovery measures.

    C. Over-expending budgeted amounts as necessary for clean-up efforts on public spaces and to seek retroactive approval from Council for any over-expenditure.

3. That actions taken to date by the Chief Administrative Officer and members of the Winnipeg Public Service to respond to and recover from this unprecedented weather event be endorsed and ratified.

4. That the Chief Administrative Officer report back to Council, through the Standing Policy Committee on Finance by January 2020 on the operational and financial impacts, including a detailed accounting of all expenses related to cleanup and recovery, to the City of Winnipeg from this extreme weather event, including any request to continue the measures contained in the above-noted resolutions

5. That the Proper Officers of the City do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

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

In amendment,
Moved by Councillor Gillingham,
Seconded by His Worship Mayor Bowman,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has experienced an unprecedented weather event with strong winds and heavy snowfall that continues to require prompt action to prevent or limit harm or damage to the safety of residents, and to prevent further damage to property;

AND WHEREAS as a result of the unprecedented weather event on October 13, 2019 the Mayor declared a state of local emergency for the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS crews continue to clear and remove downed trees and fallen branches city-wide, aided by contractors and crews from other Canadian municipalities, including the Cities of Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary, and Toronto;

AND WHEREAS additional actions taken by the City to date in support of the cleanup and recovery effort include a waiver of commercial tipping fees at the Brady Road Landfill, extending hours at the 4R depots and temporarily closing certain City parks to ensure public safety;

AND WHEREAS it is anticipated that the clean-up effort will take a number of weeks or more;

AND WHEREAS the clean-up effort is required to protect the City's urban forest from and limit the spread of Dutch elm disease and the emerald ash borer beetle,

AND WHERAS the clean-up effort is also required to facilitate required snow removal and snow storage efforts this coming winter;

AND WHEREAS on October 15, 2019 the Executive Policy Committee recommended to Council that the City of Winnipeg apply to the Province of Manitoba for Disaster Financial Assistance to offset City costs related to the storm event;

AND WHEREAS notwithstanding the powers currently available to a municipality under the Emergency Measures Act, in the interest of greater openness and transparency it is appropriate for Council to approve certain measures for the Public Service to undertake in order to recover from this unprecedented weather event.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

AND WHEREAS the Public Service has for several months been engaged in the development of an Emergency Management By-law which would clarify and confirm the powers of the Public Service to respond quickly and appropriately to emergencies such as this unprecedented weather event, which By-law will be brought to Council for consideration in the coming months but which is not yet in place;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Item 1of the Report of Executive Policy Committee dated October 15, 2019 be amended by adding the following new recommendations:

"2. That City Council support the Winnipeg Public Service in its efforts to respond to the damage related to this unprecedented weather event, by delegating the authority to the Chief Administrative Officer (notwithstanding any monetary limits set forth in any policy or administrative standard to the contrary, including the Materials Management Policy) to direct and authorize the Public Service to take all appropriate measures to recover, with respect to the cleaning up of public spaces to ensure public safety and public access, including the following:

A. Approving secondment of other municipalities' employees under the Materials Management Policy.

B. Waiving City fees to assist residents and businesses in cleaning up private property and in other recovery measures.

C. Over-expending budgeted amounts as necessary for clean-up efforts on public spaces and to seek retroactive approval from Council for any over-expenditure.

3. That actions taken to date by the Chief Administrative Officer and members of the Winnipeg Public Service to respond to and recover from this unprecedented weather event be endorsed and ratified.

4. That the Chief Administrative Officer report back to Council, through the Standing Policy Committee on Finance by January 2020 on the operational and financial impacts, including a detailed accounting of all expenses related to cleanup and recovery, to the City of Winnipeg from this extreme weather event, including any request to continue the measures contained in the above-noted resolutions

Carried

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EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 15, 2019, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS *The Disaster Financial Assistance Policies and Guidelines (Public Sector) Regulation*, MR 178/99 ("the Regulation") provides for the provision of Disaster Financial Assistance where eligible costs incurred as a result of a disaster exceed the amount which any one local authority may reasonably be expected to bear on its own;

AND WHEREAS the Regulation defines a disaster as including wide-spread damage to property or the environment;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg experienced an unprecedented weather event in October 2019 that included unseasonal and extreme rainfall, snowfall and wind which has resulted in significant damage to private and public real and personal property, including the tree canopy within the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS a State of Local Emergency has been declared in the City of Winnipeg in order to assist with the cleanup of trees and to enable the City to acquire the additional resources required to deal with this unprecedented weather event;

AND WHEREAS the unprecedented weather event has already resulted in significant financial costs to the City of Winnipeg and is expected to result in even greater costs as the damage to City infrastructure, including the tree canopy, becomes clear, and as the City's Public Service and external service providers paid by the City work to repair damage and restore services to City residents and businesses;

AND WHEREAS the costs incurred by the City to date and those anticipated to be incurred as a result of the unprecedented weather event will impose an unreasonable financial burden on the City of Winnipeg.

AND WHEREAS in order for the Manitoba Emergency Management Organization to consider any municipal application for disaster financial assistance, a resolution supporting the application must be passed by the municipality;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Winnipeg apply to the Province of Manitoba for disaster financial assistance in accordance with *The Emergency Measures Act*, C.C.S.M c. E80 and *The Disaster Financial Assistance Policies and Guidelines (Public Sector) Regulation*, MR 178/99;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Proper Officers of the City do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing;

and submitted the matter to Council.