Agenda – Council – April 3, 2020

Executive Policy Committee - Reports

Item No. 2 Declaration for State of Local Emergency

The following motion is being submitted to Council for approval:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,
Seconded by Councillor Chambers,

WHEREAS The Emergency Measures Act, C.C.S.M. c. E80, defines an emergency as "a present or imminent situation or condition that requires prompt action to prevent or limit

(a) the loss of life, or
(b) harm or damage to the safety, health or welfare of people, or
(c) damage to property or the environment;"

AND WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic is a present situation that requires prompt action to prevent or limit the loss of lives and harm to the health or welfare of people;

AND WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a significant impact on the residents of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has taken proactive measures to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19 in our community by temporarily closing public facilities such as pools, libraries, recreation centres as well as playgrounds and picnic structures;

AND WHEREAS the City continues to work closely with the Province of Manitoba and Shared Health to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by encouraging residents to practice safe physical distancing, avoid large gatherings and to work from home where possible;

AND WHEREAS the following cities have declared a state of local emergency within the last three weeks in response to the COVID-19 pandemic including, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba declared a State of Emergency on March 20, 2020 due to COVID-19;

AND WHEREAS the COVID 19 situation is changing rapidly and the declaration of a State of Local Emergency by the City of Winnipeg will allow the City to better support provincial efforts and prepare for the potential escalation of COVID-19 by ensuring that the City has the necessary and unambiguous powers to protect essential services and take measures within the city to prevent or limit the loss of lives and to protect the health and welfare of people within the city;

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Council of the City of Winnipeg declare a State of Local Emergency in the whole of the City of Winnipeg pursuant to s, 11(1) of The Emergency Measures Act as of 4:00 p.m. April 3, 2020 due to COVID-19.

2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer of the City to utilize the emergency powers available to the City as necessary to prevent or limit loss of life or to prevent harm or damage to the safety, health or welfare of people, and to take such measures as reasonably required to maintain the financial stability of the City, subject to subsequent reporting to Council on actions and measures taken.