# COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
# Friday, March 20, 2020

**The Council met at 9:38 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, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos and Schreyer.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Councillor Eadie, thank you for your comments about social distancing. I also want to thank our Clerk for helping us to meet all of those requirements here in the chamber today including the gallery as we deal with this health risk before us. Also I want to thank our council colleagues who are occupying the seats where the administration typically sit in order to spread out and to protect everyone today. Thank you. Madam Clerk, we have a leave of absence for Councillor Chambers, could you please read it into the record?

## MOTIONS

**Moved by Councillor Allard,**
**Seconded by Councillor Mayes,**

*That Councillor Chambers be granted a leave of absence from today's meeting due to a personal family matter.*

**Madam Speaker:** All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Madam Clerk, a leave of absence motion for Councillor Nason.

**Moved by Councillor Klein,**
**Seconded by Councillor Browaty,**

*That Councillor Nason be granted a leave of absence from today's meeting due to a personal family matter.*

**Madam Speaker:** All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Madam Clerk, will you now read the notice of the special meeting taking place today?

*Pursuant to Section (79)(1) of the City of Winnipeg Charter, the City Clerk is directed by His Worship Mayor Bowman to arrange a special meeting of Council on Friday, March 20th, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. Notice of meeting included a list of all items to be considered was emailed to all members of council on March 19th, 2020.*

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. I'll now call forward Mr. Chris Lorenc who is here in delegation. He is here on behalf of the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association in support of Item 1 of the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 19th, 2020. It's regarding the 2020-2023 Multi-Year Operating and Capital Budget. We'll have 10 minutes on the clock. Welcome, Mr. Lorenc

## DELEGATIONS

**Chris Lorenc:** Good morning, Madam Speaker, Mr. Mayor, all members of council. On behalf of the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association, the industries it represents and the thousands of women and men employed by it, I first want to say thank you. Thank you to all of you, but in particular to the councillors on the Budget Working Group for your considerable effort, focus and disciplined political approach in bringing forth the 2020 preliminary budget operating and capital. What you have achieved is remarkable. A process launched many months ago, culminating with the public release on March 6th of the preliminary budget, followed by intense scrutiny by councillors, council committees and unheard of numbers of delegations at each stage, remarkable, really, when you think about it. Was there...will there be

criticism and unhappiness? Yes, but it's not something you didn't expect. I once heard a nun say, that if you are being kicked in the behind, you know you're ahead. You're ahead. I have been both a privileged participant in these chambers and then a student of its process since 1983. Never have I witnessed as intense a budget process as the one we saw unfold. I wish to single out Councillor Scott Gillingham, Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance, whose persistence resulted in council moving forward with this cycle and Mayor Brian Bowman for being his vocal and leading champion. It is said don't make best the enemy of better. That is an apt application of what you are being asked to adopt today. You have preserved relatively speaking intact core infrastructure and social services, the arts, libraries, public and active transport, through artful, clever allocation and discipline. You listened and found ways to adjust the U-Pass to the relief of its many users and champions. And frankly, kudos to them for their vocal participation in this democratic process, hopefully there are some aspiring political leaders amongst them. As I said, remarkable. I don't propose to recite the reasons for our stated concerns and advice for the continued need to focus on sustained strategic investment in core infrastructure including sewer and water main and the local and regional streets programs. Our observations, concerns and recommendations with respect to core infrastructure, the budget and necessary planning steps forward, presented to IRPW, chaired by Councillor Allard and submitted to EPC, chaired by Mayor Bowman, remain a matter of public record. And we, of course, reserve the right to return to discuss those with you and you know we will. I won't recite them because by now you and, frankly, all of us are no doubt exhausted by the marathon of this budget. This is a day though to acknowledge and recognize a process which endeavored to embrace collaboration, engagement and public input. It witnessed debate, angst and anxiety, and ultimately emerged with a budget that well represents the priorities this city needs to address to help it become the million plus urban metropolis around the corner. That does not mean that your job is done, far from it. Frankly, that job is never done. What it does mean, however, is that you are party to having laid an important financial basis upon which to further plan, examine, consider and evolve. You have provided through this budget a multi-year picture of the priorities of this community at this point in time in its history. And most importantly, you have not locked the door to further examination. I want to leave you with something I learned while serving in this chamber that has stayed with me. You are a council, not a chamber of ideologically driven political parties. It is the expected norm that as councillors, you will collaborate, advance, push, cajole, debate, argue, negotiate. At the end of the political efforts, however, you are also entrusted to counsel the city's future direction. And because you are a council, you have the added advantage of remaining friends and colleagues regardless of what side you end up choosing in any vote. Harness that noteworthy attribute to our collective advantage. So I thank you for your participation, for your investment in the budget's development, and close by saying that given all of the circumstances and the surrounding context, we support the budget as recommended by the Mayor and Executive Policy Committee. Thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Lorenc, if you could have a seat on the bench and we'll take questions momentarily. Thank you. I'd like to now call forward Mr. Colin Fast. He is from the Chamber of Commerce. He is representing Mr. Lorne Remillard who couldn't be here today who is the President and CEO of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce and they are also in support of the same item. Welcome.

**Colin Fast:** Good morning, councillors. I don't know that I have ever seen Chris Lorenc leave time on the clock before, so I'm a little surprised at that. To begin with, apologies on behalf of Lorne, he was called into a meeting with the provincial government dealing with the pandemic issue. And so thank you for the opportunity to appear in his place and the opportunity to speak this morning about the City's new four-year budget plan. I know that there's been some criticism of the City for proceeding with this process. I think it's important that we recognize, first of all, as you all know, you have a legal obligation to pass a budget within the next several days. And I would argue that there's also a...perhaps a moral obligation I think to move past this process and to focus all of our efforts on the urgent need to help this community through the pandemic. This is an unprecedented time in our lives and the economic crisis created by COVID-19 underscores the need for the City to truly define its core mandate, focus resources on critical areas and improve the speed and efficiency of all service delivery. I think each of you received the Chamber's pre-budget submission and I can say our board of directors is happy to see several of our recommendations are consistent with this budget. Including a plan to sell Blumberg Golf Course, repurpose 30% of City golf land, selling buildings or not renewing leases for properties that are surplus to the City's need. An investment in digitizing the permitting process which I think is especially important now. I know that there's I think some announcements about that coming fairly shortly. The small adjustment to external grants that are not directly tied to service delivery, and the development of a new transformative fund to explore how to deliver services in innovative new ways. And finally, of course, an issue that has been important to the Chamber for some time, reductions to the business tax and a commitment to freeze that revenue over the next few years. On that last point I know there's been some discussion about...among some people about whether the business tax should actually be increased and some concern about the…that the overall share of property tax revenue from business has declined. The explanation for that is simple; business growth has not kept pace with residential growth. The suggestion that increasing the tax burden for businesses will somehow address that problem is simply the wrong approach. And this is particularly the case given our current financial crisis. While we're encouraged by many aspects of this budget, we did have a few concerns as well. The first was the proposal to eliminate the U-Pass and we're happy to hear there might be a compromise on this issue. I think the statistics clearly show that U-Pass has succeeded in shifting thousands of students from personal vehicles to transit and is helping foster a culture of transit ridership amongst young adults. We

think it's important to preserve this program and particularly now that the student unions have committed to working with the City to minimize the financial impact. So assuming that that change moves forward, we think that is a positive. Our second area of concern is funding for the arts and the Winnipeg Chamber has been a long-time supporter of public arts funding as we believe maintaining a thriving creative sector improves the quality of life for Winnipeggers, draws tourists to our city, helps with attracting talent to local employers and encourages collaboration between artists, technologists, engineers and business people that can lead to new ventures. We do feel that economic development is a core responsibility of the City and if you look at the financial impact of the creative sector, it's clearly an important part of our economy. At a time when many of Winnipeg's arts organizations are being forced to lay off employees, it would be helpful to at least commit to working with the Winnipeg Arts Council to review the City's arts funding strategy moving forward. And finally, I just want to make a brief comment about parking rates. I know you have heard from businesses in the Exchange District that are concerned about the challenges of the current rate structure it creates for them. Going forward as we try to recover from this economic crisis, this is one of the tools the City has at its disposal. And I encourage you to take a look at how it might be used, especially to help restaurants and retailers as well. In conclusion, I want to commend all of you for your efforts in putting together this four-year budget plan, a special note of recognition for Councillor Gillingham for shepherding this process through Council. I know this first attempt at a four-year budget wasn't easy. I'm sure lots of lessons learned from it, but the Chamber is confident that having a long-term sustainable financial plan will yield significant benefits for council, the administration, the business community and all residents. Thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Fast. I'll now call back both delegations. Are there any questions for them? Councillor Eadie followed by Councillor Mayes.

**Councillor Eadie:** Yes, thank you Madam Speaker. This one's for…I want to call you Harold, but Colin Fast. Madam Speaker, I'm wondering if Mr. Fast knows that if you left the business tax rate at 4.97 and you even implemented the higher ceiling to get the offsetting credit for businesses, that that would raise $1.6 million. And does he know that that indicates that there is business growth?

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you.

**Colin Fast:** I wasn't making the argument that there's been no business growth, Councillor Eadie. But if you take a look at the ratio of, you know, how much business pays, versus how much residents pays, it's quite clear that residential growth has strongly outpaced business growth over the last several years.

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

**Councillor Eadie:** Yes, Madam Speaker. I'm wondering if the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce believes that those houses that have a hard time paying, if they deserve to have a property tax credit.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you.

**Colin Fast:** Sorry, I'm just trying to understand the question. I am sorry, Councillor Eadie, could you clarify that for me?

**Madam Speaker:** Councillor Eadie, could you rise and restate the question? Thank you.

**Councillor Eadie:** Yes, Madam Speaker, small businesses get a business tax credit so that they don't have to pay business taxes at all. And I'm wondering if the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce believes that households of lower assessed values deserve to have a property tax credit?

**Colin Fast:** Frankly, I think that that's a…kind of a separate issue. I mean, the decision to make adjustments to the business tax is an economic development decision. Reality is that, you know, we are the only major city in Canada that still has a business tax. And if you look at the ratio of property taxes that business pays versus residents in Winnipeg, it's roughly somewhere in the neighbourhood of 2.5 times. And that's for less services than residents receive. So I think that this council over a succession of years has made decisions to slowly ratchet down the business tax and in the hopes that it will spur economic development. That's a strategic decision that the council has made.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Councillor Mayes.

**Councillor Mayes:** I have questions for both delegates. I assume I can have a preamble before both. But briefly with Mr. Lorenc, given that there have been very few events around here of late, I've had the chance to start plowing back through all of my notebooks dating back to December of 2011. And it's interesting to look at the ones from budgets of 2012, 20…first vote I ever cast here, the day I was sworn in was on budget 2012. I have to say, there was a reference to Chris Lorenc tax at some point which was the revolutionary idea of actually having a 1% increase. And it's important to

remember the context, many years of property tax freezes under Mayor Murray, under Mayor Katz, and then a breakthrough to say, no, we're going to have a dedicated tax…dedicated 1% tax to local roads. Next year, second tax came on. So I think that you deserve some credit for advocating for that. I don't know for how many years, but certainly for the years I got here. In other years you've said we didn't quite keep the math or keep the faith, yeah, I just want to make sure you are supportive of this budget and you do recognize we are continuing with that...with that pledge, with that strategy, that was first developed back in 2013?

**Chris Lorenc:** Madam Speaker, thank you very much, councillor. I have…I believe studiously followed the decisions that have been made by council on an annual basis as it applies to the local and regional streets reserve program. We have as I noted in my presentation, expressed concerns about the extent to which council has adjusted and moved away from that program. We understand that nothing is ever carved in stone. Our primary concern is that when decisions are made to adjust programs which were at the outset designed to adjust to a problem, that any changes to that program are accompanied by impact assessments. And our primary concern, if you will, or observation, plea, approach, recommendation to Council, is to return to a knowledge-based background so that the program continues to be able to reinvest in a sustainable manner in Winnipeg's local and regional streets.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Second question, Councillor Mayes.

**Councillor Mayes:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Very odd to be on this side of the chamber. We've heard from a couple...we've heard I think five things from the business community in this budget. Don't increase the business tax. And Mr. Remillard who has been very professional, very polite throughout this said, you've got to cut back to core services. On the other hand, we've had business groups coming in and saying…and Mr. Pensato's great. He said, yeah, I consider public art a core service. Obviously, there's a debate in this city about what or what is not a core service. I'm very pleased we're putting some public art money back in. But the request was to spend more. You've talked today about spending more on the U-Pass. We listened when the business community said, restore the business liaison position, which we did. A number of them all said, but don't make us pay for it. So I guess Councillor Eadie makes a point, and I think a good one, that if it isn't coming from business, then it is coming from homeowners and under our current system we can only set one mill rate. But the real question I have is I wanted you to clarify a remark you made which was the reason you're not getting more out of the business tax is because business assessment growth hasn't grown at the same pace as residential. That's simply not factually accurate. You do continue to pay a property tax if you own a business. That is undeniable. The business tax is separate. It is undeniable that it was $60 million in revenue in about 2003 when we were getting about 300 million on property taxes. Now it's 600 million and that number is still at 60. So the question is...I'm not sure I understood your point, but it is not surely that business growth hasn't kept pace. That hasn't affected the business tax rate. That has been a decision that's been made by the Council.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you.

**Colin Fast:** I think it's when you look at the overall growth of the assessment base. So I guess maybe I'm factoring in, yes, the property tax that commercial properties pay as well that the residential assessment base has grown at a higher rate than the commercial assessment base. So yes, acknowledging yes, we pay…commercial properties do pay property tax.

**Madam Speaker:** Third question, thank you.

**Councillor Mayes:** Third question; the…you had indicated correctly, Winnipeg, only city…the only major city with a business tax. Are you aware that our first briefing on this budget from our staff was the percentage of revenue from business is 35%, in Winnipeg that is the lowest rate across the country in terms of total revenue?

**Colin Fast:** Yeah, and, again, that...you know, that figure is going to be impacted by the size of your business community. Obviously, you can…I mean, I guess there's a couple different ways of approaching it. You can try to tax higher or you can try to grow that piece of the pie. I mean, our recommendation would be, take a look at steps so you can make that are going to, you know, grow the assessment base for business and you're going to derive more revenue from that. And ultimately, I guess, you know, bring more people into the city as well. And just generate more economic activity and more tax revenue as a result.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Councillor Schreyer. Pardon me, Councillor Klein was the order first, my error. Councillor Klein followed by Councillor Schreyer.

**Councillor Klein:** Thank you, Madam…thank you Madam Speaker. Good morning gentlemen and thank you both for your presentations. I think your words were well stated and your feelings towards the budget are clear. I have a couple of questions and these questions will be for each of you to answer with Madam Speaker's approval. First and foremost,

the question would be do you support the spending plan that has been put forward for the next four years, considering gas tax money is being directed to non-road and ATR projects? Instead we are borrowing more money to do road repairs.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Mr. Lorenc.

**Chris Lorenc:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Councillor, budgets are all about choices. And projections will change, depending on emerging sets of circumstances. At the outset, I think everyone in this chamber is aware that there was no prescription attached to the federal gas tax revenues that the government shares with municipalities. And that historically, the practice of the City of Winnipeg has been to apply the federal gas tax to core infrastructure. And we support that approach. Part of the circumstances...

**Madam Speaker:** Councillor Lukes moves extension of five minutes. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

**Chris Lorenc:** One of the circumstances that were imposed upon the City of Winnipeg over which it had no control was the decision by the provincial government to cancel a $40 million payment arising from a five-year agreement that ended in 2018. And that resulted in a $40 million gap that Council had to find. And fortunately in 2019, there was a doubling of the federal gas tax which resulted in a $44 million payment to the City of Winnipeg which the City decided to allocate over two budget cycles. The $20 million to which you refer has been found or has been backfilled, if you will, through additional borrowing. That is frankly not inconsistent with some of the discussions to which Councillor Mayes alluded back in 2010, 2011 and '12 as to the purposes to which the dedicated levy could be put. So the circumstances sometimes are beyond the City's control as was the case with the example that I have given. Along with the provincial decision not to renew five-year funding agreements through which it cost shared investments in infrastructure. And so we have been a consistent voice saying that the City of Winnipeg should be mindful that the provincial government has a responsibility to cost share investment in Winnipeg's infrastructure, that the nature of access to revenues for municipalities is turn of century. It's inadequate to the tasks that now cities are asked to shoulder and that there should be a realignment of roles and responsibilities including access to revenues to reflect that reality. And that message has been stated repeatedly in the most recent report was the infrastructure funding council report of 2011.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Mr. Fast or pardon me...

**Colin Fast:** I think I'm good.

**Madam Speaker:** Okay, good. Second question.

**Councillor Klein:** Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. I certainly respect the answer provided by Chris and his experience with this. But do we really feel moving forward and setting out a four-year plan that has taken our debt in just 10 years, from 700…roughly $700 per resident, per capita, right…per resident, from approximately $700 to $2,100, which means we are quickly growing to a city of $2 billion in debt with no real plan to pay it back. And the fact that S&P has that stated on their website that Winnipeg...Winnipeg's tax-supported debt will increase 90% of its operating revenues in the next couple of years. Is that the budget that you support?

**Chris Lorenc:** Madam Speaker, through you to Councillor Klein, the City has a policy, a debt ceiling policy that it adheres and follows. I'm less worried about the size of the debt than I am worried about and mindful of the extent to which the City can reasonably, accurately project revenues and growth. And that is why we have been saying to all three levels of government that the number one responsibility as governments is to grow the economy without which there are no revenues to be able to invest in programming that includes core infrastructure, that includes social infrastructure, like the libraries, parks and related services that this particular budget addresses. Simply in isolation extracting numbers and throwing them out with the implied message that the City is irresponsibly borrowing I don't accept. I think that the City has had a very good and long history in terms of managing its debt. It has a stellar history in terms of balancing its budget. This is a level of government that is charged by legislation to balance the budget. It does so. And we need only look to other levels of government for bad examples of how not to manage finances.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Final question...Mr. Fast, would you like to…

**Colin Fast:** I'd echo a lot of that answer. I mean, I'd say, I mean clearly, is there any concern about debt? I'm sure that everyone in this room has some concern about debt, but as long as the City is operating within its...within its parameters, I think that is encouraging. And frankly, the fact that we brought forward a four-year financial plan I think is important as well. If debt was soaring in one year and we had no plan going forward, I think that would be a bigger concern. But I think coming forward with the four-year plan provides some level of assurance.

**Madam Speaker:** Councillor Schreyer moves extension. Two minutes…three minutes. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

**Councillor Klein:** Thank you both…through you Madam Speaker, please thank both our speakers for their answer and feelings towards the debt. The City has had a report that says 55% of the City's credit rating report now is 69% so we are above what we stated we would be. My final question would be, you're both in the private sector, you both have done very well in this community and helping us understand the needs and growth areas and you have been passionate about the success of our city and I appreciate that from both of our guests here today, Madam Speaker. My question would be can we realistically sit here today and with good conscience, agree that this plan, given the mathematical error that has been admitted to now is the right way to go and just write it off as while these things happen?

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you.

**Chris Lorenc:** Madam Speaker, our unequivocal answer is yes, we support the budget as proposed.

**Colin Fast:** I'd say the same.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. We'll move on to Councillor Schreyer.

**Councillor Schreyer:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. In the last term, we moved twice to increase the threshold of income at which a business pays city tax, and it went from around 10…12,000 up to a threshold of 30. Both Councillor Eadie and myself were among councillors that supported that increase in the threshold at which businesses should pay their city taxes. It happens to be as well that my understanding is Mr. Fast said that business growth has not kept up with residential growth. Now I'd like to mention something that was mentioned in the last federal election. I don't think anyone was disputing it per se. It's just that what it means is the issue. My understanding is that increase in economic growth, the increase in wealth in Canada in the last number of years, in fact, if not in the last number of decades, the majority of that increase in wealth goes to a small minority. Not to the majority of residents or Canadians and, thus, not to the majority of residents of Winnipeg. Mr. Fast...can Mr. Fast comment on that given the fact that he said that business growth is not kept up with residential growth. How do those two facts fit together?

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you.

**Colin Fast:** I think the challenge there is that you are looking at different levels of government and obviously, the tax tools that are available to civic government are fairly limited. So when you're looking at property tax as opposed to the wide range of tax mechanisms that are available to a federal government, I just...I don't know that I see where a city is equipped to address the gap as you talked about.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Second question.

**Councillor Schreyer:** I only have 25 seconds. We talked about how the City is balancing its budget, yet there is no contradiction to Councillor Klein's remarks that our debt is increasing at $700 per person to $2,100 per person. How do we explain to the people of Winnipeg how we're balancing our budget, yet the debt-per-person has tripled in the last decade or two?

**Colin Fast:** I think it's clear that the budget itself is balanced. I mean, yes, he's borrowing a tool that's available to the city to do that and to move forward with critical investments then, yes, absolutely it is. No different than, you know, in our own households that sometimes we're forced to borrow to make a big purchase or invest in a home. These are things that we do because of the benefits that we get from them. Yet we still…

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. And that ends question period. Mr. Fast, we'll wrap this up. I'd like to now move on. Thank you for your presentations today. We do appreciate that. I'd like to call forward Mr. Michel Durand-Wood. He's in opposition to the same item, the 2020-2023 Multi-Year Operating and Capital Budget. Following that, we will hear from Ms. Stephanie Jeffrey.

**Michel Durand-Wood:** Good morning, Madam Chair, Mayor, esteemed councillors. By now you know who I am as I have appeared before you either at council or committee many times already. Some of you have even taken the time to meet with me and for that I'm very grateful. However, in looking at today's proposed budget, I still get the overwhelming impression that I have not gotten through to you. I have tried coming at it from many different angles, many different perspectives. On top of that, over the past five months literally hundreds of Winnipeggers have also come here asking for much the same thing and yet it looks like we have barely moved the needle. So in preparing for today, in trying to figure out still one more way to explain the same thing to you in a way that might finally spur you to action, I decided to go back to the beginning. You see today, March 20th, marks the one-year anniversary of the first time I came to speak

to you. I had come to speak to council in opposition to the 2019 proposed budget. To refresh your memory, let me give you a few highlights of that presentation. We have $35 billion in infrastructure. At 4%, that means we need to set aside $1.4 billion a year for infrastructure replacement, every year, forever. So even if we cut every single service, fired all the staff and forced all of you to work for free, we still don't have enough just for infrastructure replacement. Austerity can't save us. The math tells us we're already way past that. And that's why I can't support a business-as-usual budget where we make difficult decisions on which services to cut and which infrastructure to neglect this year. It's time to have a real honest conversation about how we got here and how we'll proceed going forward. And we have to do it now because next year you'll be approving our first four-year budget. And missing this window means kicking the can down the road another five years and hoping it doesn't all go south before then. We have nine months to have the most important city-wide kitchen table conversation in generations if not ever. That was last year. So did we have that conversation? Nope. And what kind of budget did we put together? One with difficult decisions on which services to cut and which infrastructure to neglect. The same business-as-usual budget but now in a four-year package. We are stuck in a never-ending cycle of decline where every new-year presents a new list of services to cut from and a new list of infrastructure to neglect or abandon. Breaking out of that cycle will take a new way of doing things. Business-as-usual won't cut it. But we should already know that. Despite many repeated warnings from our accountants since at least 2014 regarding our unsustainable budget practices, why is it that we're being presented with yet another budget that draws on the same old unsustainable bag of tricks of expenditure reductions, increased debt, transfers from reserves and deferral maintenance? And I'm not trying to be a jerk here, but if you need to change the rules governing the emergency reserve fund so you can withdraw from it, like you're proposing to do today, can you really claim that this budget is balanced? Like the City's accountants told us back in 2014, it is clear we can no longer continue doing the same things in the same way. Doing so is guaranteed to keep making things worse with more cuts every year, further and further, into the cycle of decline we go until there's nothing left but the crushing financial weight of massive unfunded police pensions and an ever growing number of crumbling roads. That was Detroit and it will be Winnipeg. Detroit just got there first. Yet instead of a plan to improve things, we've doubled down on doing the same things the same way. Quadruple down, actually. And in doing so, we will continue to make our city worse in every measurable way including financial. Are you finding it too easy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% in 10 years? Good. Now we'll only have six. Finding it too easy to fund all of our services on current revenue? Good, now we'll have an extra 200 million in debt to pay interest on. Finding it too easy to pay for unpredictable emergencies like the October storm and COVID-19? Good. Now try it with an emergency fund balance that's 15% lower. The most frustrating thing about all of this is that a lot of the hard work has already been done. We've already put together OurWinnipeg, a complete communities direction strategy, sustainable Winnipeg, sustainable transportation, sustainable water and waste, a financial management plan, a climate action plan, pedestrian strategies, a transportation master plan, a public art policy, an economic opportunity framework and many, many, many more. And yet, we have before us a budget that is completely disconnected from all of these. Rather than letting our policies, values and stated priorities direct our budget process, we have just relied on the same things, the same way ensuring that we will meet none of our goals as a city. Just more decline, more cuts, more neglect to come in the future. Our city's vision is to be a vibrant and healthy city which places its highest priority on quality of life for all its citizens. And that sounds great, but service cuts do not improve quality of life. Increased debt does not improve quality of life. Deferred maintenance and spending our rainy day fund when it's not even raining, do not improve quality of life. So what do we do about the complete dumpster fire that is this budget? While at the 11th hour like we are, I think the best we can hope for is maybe a mulligan for year one. We can increase taxes by enough to avoid all service cuts and dipping into our reserve funds. And we can reduce road spending far enough to avoid borrowing money. It won't make us a better city, but at least we won't be worse off than we were last year. And then we can get right to work over the next 10, 11 months to fix the other three years all together. But what do I know? I'm just one guy from Elmwood. Well, a very wise person once told me that for every person that shows up to speak to their elected officials, there are a thousand others who do not have the will or the means to do so. So I'm wondering if one person can really make a difference, always remember that I don't come here to speak for myself. My voice is the voice of a thousand people. And when we look at the hundreds of Winnipeggers who have come here throughout this budget process, they are the voices of hundreds of thousands of Winnipeggers who are saying that this budget is a failure because it fails to address climate change. It fails to address the structural deficit. And it fails to place its highest priority on quality of life for all of our citizens. Hundreds of thousands of Winnipeggers are saying that you have failed in your role as our elected officials. So is anybody in this room listening? Or did last year's cuts include the cord on this microphone? Thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Durand-Wood. We'll now hear from the next delegation and then take questions if you could stay on the bench. Ms. Stephanie Jeffrey is here with us. She is the Executive Director of the Manitoba Fitness Council and the Chair of the Physical Activity Coalition of Manitoba. We'll have five minutes on the clock. She's also in opposition to the capital and operating budgets. Thank you.

**Stephanie Jeffrey:** Good morning, thank you for allowing me to speak this morning. I'm here representing a number of organizations, though I'm not just one lady standing in front of you. I am representing Manitoba Fitness Council. We have a thousand fitness instructors here in Manitoba. The Physical Activity Coalition, which has members like the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Green Action Centre, Recreation Connections, Lifesaving Society, Active Aging in Manitoba,

and the West Broadway Youth Outreach, so there's a lot of groups that have kind of come together to give this presentation today. Budgets are about choices. And I thank you for some of the choices that it sounds like you have committed to at this point. I'm just here to make sure that the budget choices that I have heard on the news and that things that you've said you've committed to, that you're actually going to commit to. These are things that are really important to the community. Parks, recreation centres, pools and programming are important. Parks, recreation centres and pools provide a number of benefits to our community. They help strengthen families. They help strengthen communities. They improve the quality of life for all Winnipeg residents. They encourage the healthy development of children. They provide opportunities for youth to learn how to swim, increased independence and function in older adults, increased healthy social opportunities and cohesion for community members. Why are public facilities and public programming required? They are more accessible in community areas, often have programs that are intended with those with limited income to be able to attend. They are less intimidating than private clubs. They are located in community areas. People can often walk to these programs. They have a mandate to support newcomer families. They have programs to ensure equitable access. We feel the City of Winnipeg has an obligation to provide these core services to its communities. We want to make sure that the life expectancy of those in Winnipeg, so that our children will live at least as long as we do. We want to ensure that we have an age-friendly community. We want to provide access to groups like Special Olympics, Boys and Girls Club, older adults and other community groups. We want to provide equitable access and inclusion when no one else will offer these services. We want to provide an opportunity for development for community identity and gathering places. So we talked about some of the areas that...well, they've been coming in the budget, you know, saying that you're now going to be changing the number of leisure guide programs that were being hosted, and now we've brought that down to a 14% decrease. I feel very strongly about leisure guide programs. I have been driving across Winnipeg for 10 years teaching for leisure guide programs. So I'm the Executive Director of the organization during the day, I teach leisure programs for the City of Winnipeg in the evening. I have created such a community connection that when it was time to downsize because all of our kids moved out, we actually chose to move closer to the community centre that I have been working at for 10 years as opposed to staying in our community area. I have a couple quotes that I would like to leave with you from organizations and people who participate in these programs and at these community centres. One of my participants, her name is Suzanne, says, "I suffer from depression. Three years ago I almost died. The pool and leisure guide programs are so important for my physical and mental health. I live in Transcona and the pool is crucial for me." Another quote, "Aquasize means everything to me because of my cardiac rehab. It is much easier to work in the water. I would be lost without the water and these programs. I come here because there's a social connection to the pool. The large group of ladies that I work with have become my friends and because the pool...some of the other pools are so packed I just can't get in. So this is my opportunity to exercise. If it's gone, I don't know where I'll go." The West Broadway Youth Outreach is a non-profit drop-in recreational and life skills programming providing broad range of free year-round programming to children and families in the West Broadway area and beyond. The families we serve face a diverse set challenges including poverty, unemployment, unstable family and living situations. Many of the families we serve are single parent households. Many are newcomers to Canada. Each winter and summer for the past 29 years, they have taken between 40 and 90 youth, age 6 to 15 to the Sherbrook Pool for swimming and fun. We have been fortunate to receive free entry to the pool and it would be such a loss if that pool closed, I don't know what we would do. The Lifesaving Society says access to swimming lessons is vital for Manitobans and especially Winnipeggers to develop swimming and water safety skills. In Manitoba with our short summer season, indoor swimming pools are essential for access to swimming lessons year round. There's a new program coming to Winnipeg and coming to Manitoba called Prescription to get Active Program that links exercise with fitness facilities. If the fitness facilities, public facilities are not available, this program will not happen. Did you know that in some countries like Australia low adherence to exercise and low levels of cardiac fitness are actually classified chronic disease?

**Madam Speaker:** Councillor Klein moves extension two minutes. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

**Stephanie Jeffrey:** So the groups that we have targeted by these cutbacks would be Special Olympics, Manitoba Fitness Council, our members, our fitness participants, the Lifesaving Society and all those little children that learn how to swim. The West Broadway Youth Centre, Masters Swim, Gordon Bell High School, Greenway School, Hugh John Macdonald School, Friends of Sherbrook Pool, Kids Swim, All Body Swim Groups, Trans Non-Binary Swim, in case you didn't know that we had that program, Broadway Neighbourhood Centre, Spence Neighbourhood Association, John M. King School, Bushido, water polo, hockey programs, learn to skate, figure skate and free skate participants. That concludes my presentation. Thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. We'll now take questions. There are some. Councillor Mayes followed by Councillor Klein. If I could ask the delegations to come forward and also keep your distance. Thank you.

**Councillor Mayes:** I had a couple questions for the first delegate. I have sat in this chamber and heard…the late David Sanders was a very active guy, say he spoke on behalf of at least 10,000 people, but then he had the courage to put his name on the ballot, he received I think 1% in the same election where the current mayor was elected. I have sat here

and heard Garth Steek who's been very decent with me, I have to say. Garth Steek said, we had to have a zero percent property tax increase and he then took action and stood for election and did not succeed. So I have to say, if you feel you speak for hundreds of thousands of people, please do what all of us did, risk the humiliation and the expense and the time away from your family and put your name on a ballot. But I think elections still matter. And the device we have chosen in western society to measure that is not Twitter. It is not Facebook. It continues to be elections. So I did receive, I don't know, 18,000 votes, something along those lines in the last election. So I'm wondering why...you're simply suggesting that we should not listen to the people who elected us, we all ran on certain platforms, mine quite different from the Mayor, it's different than Councillor Gillingham's. We should…you're saying not listen to you…them, but listen to you because you're saying you speak for hundreds of thousands of people if I understand your position?

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you.

**Michel Durand-Wood:** What I'm saying is that the City should follow its own policies. What I'm saying is I don't want to do your job. I want you to do your job.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Second question Councillor Mayes.

**Councillor Mayes:** I remain troubled by the math that you used at EPC the other day which was the Mayor's mandate doesn't really equate to what it is because we should include all the people who didn't vote, all of the people who weren't eligible to vote and if you keep driving that down it gets to single figures somehow out of 114,000. Should we use that same math on the U-Pass calculation? Should we say, well, a bunch of students didn't vote, that counts as no. A bunch of people who weren't eligible to vote also didn't vote. I use the U of M, great facility, proud to have helped it over the years, but I didn't vote because I wasn't eligible. So should we then discount the percentage of the vote received in the U-Pass referendum just as you were discounting the share of the vote that some of us got in the last election?

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you for the question.

**Michel Durand-Wood:** Councillor Mayes, I really appreciate how citizens who take the time to inform themselves, research, prepare, come take time off work, arrange for child care come here to speak to you, and you wave them off. Are you aware of that?

**Madam Speaker:** Mr. Durand-Wood, bring your comments through the Chair, if you don't mind. That is our policy, thank you.

**Michel Durand-Wood:** Madam Chair, thank you. It is...it's basically what you're saying is that you don't want people to come out here.

**Councillor Mayes:** No sir, actually, point of order; if you're going to put words in my mouth, what I'm saying is, I do take face-value the results of that U-Pass election. A certain number of people had the eligibility to vote. Some of them showed up to vote beside carried debate, we listened to those people. You didn't say anything other than that. No, I didn't say people shouldn't come up.

**Madam Speaker:** Councillor Mayes, it's Mr. Durand's opportunity to answer the second question.

**Councillor Mayes:** I didn't say…I came here myself. I have been here. I have listened to a lot of people. I listened to you say we are...

**Madam Speaker:** It's his opportunity to answer, thank you, councillor.

**Councillor Mayes:** Please answer the question.

**Michel Durand-Wood:** I just have to say, I have come here several times and in a lot of cases I have been prevented from speaking or at least tried to be prevented from speaking. Now what is it that I'm saying that you don't want to hear. What is it that I'm proposing that makes you so scared? The reality here is that...

**Madam Speaker:** Mr. Durand, let's address council as a whole or an individual member through me.

**Michel Durand-Wood:** The reality is that our city is functionally insolvent. Yeah, it's making its debt payments, but it is breaking every single obligation it has to the citizens of this city. We are not maintaining the infrastructure that we promised we would. We are not delivering the services that we promised we would. And so you can one hand get on the

podium and point fingers at delegations that have taken the time to say that the emperor has no clothes, to say that you should be doing your job.

**Madam Speaker:** Okay, we'll move on to...third question, Councillor Mayes.

**Councillor Mayes:** The question was about the U-Pass referendum, not if I'm scared or not, okay? So the question was about your math was, your mandates aren't as strong as you say they are because all of these people didn't vote and they were eligible to vote. I think the U-Pass referendum should be taken at the percent the students counted or should we use your math where people who don't vote are counted as against?

**Michel Durand-Wood:** That math was clearly just to make a point. But further to that, the Mayor's mandate, his platform that he ran on had a caveat, 2.3% if the Province keeps the step…keeps stepping up. The Province has not stepped up. They're at the doors wide open to a higher tax increase so that you can untie your hands, be unshackled by the promises of the past and actually do what you're supposed to do which is to implement our policies, which is to execute on our strategies on our vision. That is what council is supposed to do, not decide on whether you're going to get re-elected or not.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Next speaker, Councillor Klein. And just to be clear and fair, both councillors and delegations shall bring their comments through the Chair. Councillor Klein.

**Councillor Klein:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you to both our delegates, thank you for taking the time to speak their voice. Please thank them for taking time out of their day to join us here today to practice their democratic right and please through you, Madam Speaker, thank them for paying our salary. I would…have one question for both of you...actually I have two, sorry. We mentioned…we talked about infrastructure, Madam Speaker, and I'm wondering if they are aware the PP&D budget from the staff actually states a risk of one of the cuts that we're making is to our very core infrastructure. I want to make sure I read it accurately. So there's a very poor infrastructure is unacceptable with widespread signs of advanced deterioration. Many assets in the city system exhibit signs of imminent failure that cut paths through the system. Are they aware of that and is that what they're talking about…or are both of them aware of that that's the…is that the greater issue, I guess that one of our speakers has which also speaks to maintaining pools and such.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you.

**Michel Durand-Wood:** Yes, we are aware that all our infrastructure is failing. And we are aware that some of the choices that Council has decided to make is to abandon some of that infrastructure as a failure of meeting obligations to the citizens of Winnipeg. But to go even further on that, there's some infrastructure we cannot abandon. There's been no talk of closing this street or closing that street or capping off this pipe. Some of those things we can't abandon and that's 88% of our infrastructure, 88% of $35 billion that we have to maintain no matter what, and there is no $1.1 billion a year that we have lying around to do it. What is the plan to get out of this mess? What is the strategy? I don't see it in the budget. It's not there. This is just status quo, business-as-usual budget that will continue us down this downward spiral. And we're not fancy bankers from New York that can come and tell you to meet your debt ratio thresholds. We're not. We're the citizens of Winnipeg. And we're here to tell you that we want you to uphold your promises to us.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you.

**Stephanie Jeffrey:** Madam Speaker, we recognize that the infrastructure is failing. I am in City facilities at least four or five times a week. A couple weeks ago I had to teach at a pool where the ventilation system was not working. Anyone who has ever jumped on a deck, being an aquatic fitness instructor for two, three hours in a row when the ventilation system is not working, it's about 35-degrees in there, I recognize that. I also recognize that the choice to close it is not a fair one. It puts the liability on the back of the people who are coming to those programs, who are getting the benefits from those programs and those shouldn't be the people who are dealing with the infrastructure deficit.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Second question, Councillor Klein.

**Councillor Klein:** Through you Madam Speaker, thanks to both of our delegates for their answers and as citizens, Madam Speaker, I would ask through you if they have confidence...not personal opinion, not getting the who did this or who did that, but do they have confidence that the spending plan that is being put forward for the next four years, given the mathematical error that has been admitted to, do they have confidence that the rest of the budget is factual and all of the data is...has been confirmed?

**Madam Speaker:** Councillor Schreyer moves extension of five minutes. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

**Michel Durand-Wood:** Madam Chair, if the question is that do I believe that this budget solves our problems? The answer is emphatically no. There will be more cuts to come. There will be more infrastructure to abandon in the future. We have done nothing to fix that.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you.

**Stephanie Jeffrey:** Madam Speaker, I hope this…this plan that we are looking to pass this year gives us some time to look at capital planning so that we can look at some of the opportunities to build new facilities or at least plan for the development of new facilities before we have to close the old ones. So, yes, I feel confident in the budget as it stands in what I feel that I know about the budget. Just with regards to what's in the news and that sort of thing, I'm not 100% sure, but thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Councillor Klein. No? Councillor Schreyer followed by Councillor Rollins.

**Councillor Schreyer:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. This conversation for me is fascinating. This is what I've been talking about since I was elected. In the very first budget we had, my very first season as a city councillor, I'm the only member of council here today that did what wasn't fun. I voted against the bus corridor, I had to do it. Because I didn't see how we could even afford our existing infrastructure. How could we afford greater infrastructure that I thought would decrease…well I thought, we wouldn't have enough money for transit, therefore, we'd cut bus services. People didn't believe me and now we're cutting bus routes not only downtown but in the suburbs. And well, I was right, okay. I saw it coming, I said so. Now it happens to be that my neighbour, Michel Durand-Wood, last year not only did he talk about the issue of debt...infrastructure debt per person but he gave us a specific ratio. And of course, these things are dynamic, it doesn't sit at a certain point, it moves. And today it gives us a percentage point. He says 1.4 billion increase but he says at 4% per year. Now, I have been saying last term, sometimes for years, even decades, we are at 50% more than that. We are 6%, even sometimes more than 7.5% construction inflation. I'd like Mr. Durand-Wood to explain himself on…because he's essentially right; where we disagree? Well, that's a good conversation. But he did say 4%, and I'd like to know...I'd like to give him the opportunity to explain this because we don't just think in terms of a moment in time. We think of a dynamic, how things have changed over time in the past and where we're going.

**Michel Durand-Wood:** Yes, so 4% is obviously a rough number. It's meant to represent a 25-year replacement rate as an average. Obviously, some of our infrastructure lasts longer than that, like sewage pipes can last 85, 90 years, fire trucks maybe 10. On average 4% is a standard rate that is used by most developers when presenting their development agreements and their cost benefit analyses use 4% as the infrastructure replacement rate that is why I use 4%. I'm just a guy from Elmwood. I do do a lot of research. I do try to inform myself, but I'm just a guy. And so despite what certain councillors in this chamber might expect of delegations coming to council to know an 825 page, three volume budget, inside and out, line-by-line, I do my best. I use simplified ratios. My math may not be exactly bang on all the time, but it's close enough to give you the direction we should be going in.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Second question.

**Councillor Schreyer:** I appreciate Mr. Durand…I appreciate Mr. Durand-Wood's comments. He actually gives information that I think is so pertinent to how we have to make decisions. How I've been making decisions, I'm just glad he's here to explain these things. Now it happens to be last year because of our pre-commitments in terms of our capital...our capital investments, we spent half a billion dollars on a bus corridor. And then Councillor Allard said and he clarified, he said he doesn't know when we'd be able to build…rebuild an old bridge. He didn't know if, and I don't think I am putting words in my mouth, but I certainly don't mind being corrected. Not a question of when, he said if. And he clarified to say if. So that's an important point. I still believe it's when. You know, we're not giving up on our city, the fact that the Chair…the Public Works Committee had to say that we don't know if we'll be able to replace the next 100 year old bridge, so I'm...

**Madam Speaker:** Councillor Schreyer, the question.

**Councillor Schreyer:** I mean, I knew we were going to have this problem. Could we have extra superfluous infrastructure or maintain the existing old infrastructure...

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you.

**Councillor Schreyer:** I'm asking Mr. Durand-Wood what he thinks would be more important; a new bus corridor at the expense of buses or...

**Madam Speaker:** Councillor Schreyer, unfortunately, our question period is finished now of the delegations. I do thank you for your presentations today. We do thank you. Okay, we'll now move into reports. Councillor Klein, you have the floor on the report of the Winnipeg Police Board dated March 16th, 2020.

**REPORT OF THE**
**WINNIPEG POLICE BOARD**
**DATED MARCH 16, 2020**

**Councillor Klein:** Thank you Madam Chair. I will move the report of the Winnipeg Police Board dated March 16th, 2020.

**Madam Speaker:** You're moving it for information?

**Councillor Klein:** I'm moving it for information...or for acceptance and information, yes.

**Madam Speaker:** Okay. All in favour? Yes? No one put their hands up. Mr. Mayor, followed by...sorry, Mr. Clerk. Okay, Madam Clerk, being a special meeting, yes, let's read out the item.

**Item 1 – Winnipeg Police Board – Preliminary 2020-2023 Multi-Year Operating and Capital Budget Recommendations**

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Councillor Klein to introduce the report.

**Councillor Klein:** I…I'll wait to hear from my colleagues.

**Madam Speaker:** Okay, thank you. Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

**Councillor Klein:** I don't know why that's not part of it, but okay.

**Mayor Bowman:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just want to thank Councillor Klein and each of the members of the Winnipeg Police Board as well as members of the Winnipeg Police Service. They do incredibly important work helping to protect the safety and well-being of our residents. I want to thank them for their deliberations in the preparation of the budget materials as well as the officials within the Winnipeg Police Service including our Chief of Police who continues to provide us with the confidence and the professionalism that we would expect of a professional police service. And I just want to thank everybody for their efforts to get us here to this day. Thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Mr. Mayor, thank you. Councillor Rollins, did you...no? Okay. Councillor Eadie.

**Councillor Eadie:** Thanks, Madam Speaker. I wasn't going to speak to it necessarily, but I rise to speak to this report. I'll let you know right off the hop. It's my intention to vote against the recommend...I guess it's the recommendation of the Winnipeg Police Board which I know was actually...it is the working group and EPC that really makes that budget work. And because Council is the one who...I'm sorry...Council is the body made up of 16 people who vote on what to provide to the Winnipeg Police Service. I'm hoping that the Chairperson of the Winnipeg Police Board who is much more privy to all the work with the police service, that he could explain some of the risks that's built into the Winnipeg Police Board budget. I would have come in delegation, however, we were in other meetings at the time that the Winnipeg Police Board was presenting their recommendation to the City, this report that's before us, Madam Speaker. I am quite concerned, Madam Speaker. I have spoken up before in terms of the difficulty about where to build the new district 3 police station. It's my understanding that some things have been worked out, but there's a delay here, Madam Speaker. Because the capital program of the Winnipeg Police Service is part of the city-wide capital program and the parameters put on it, Madam Speaker, pulls some problems, I'd imagine. I'm not sure why the delay, but the district 3 station where it exists today...I walk by there quite often. And you can't even fix the driveways into the parking lot on that thing. Not that it's a big parking lot, Madam Speaker. But that building, it's pretty sad. And there are initiatives to take and, Madam Speaker, I don't know any details because the money set aside for this district 3 police station was sourced and is in the past. I don't know if there's a need for extra money Madam Speaker or anything like that. But I do know that if they're going to locate where…here they might, I do know that, you know, there is a cost to land. And that cost of land, if it is the City's land, that cost of the land should be passed on to the other department that it's been taken from so that repairs can be done. And there's precedence actually in this budget, and in past budgets in regards to giving up property asset and then finding the money from elsewhere to enhance the area in which was lost. So I'm not sure where that is, Madam Speaker. But so I know there's got to be a bunch of risk in here. I know that Council made a very…I think monetarily, I

guess it was a good decision, but the reality is, it was a bad decision because I think...and I'd like to understand again, Madam Speaker, so when the Chairperson of the Winnipeg Police Board closes, I'd like to understand the risk of what's happening with the police service. I also understand that, yeah, there's a big enhancement for downtown, but the other districts are paying for it. And I think that's a huge problem as well. I don't like that in this budget because we have policing response needs and policing community needs all over the city. And, yes, downtown is a problem. But there's a number of councillors here who can tell you that there's a lot of problems elsewhere as well. And so I would like to understand this four-year budget a little bit better. So when the Chairperson closes, I'd like to hear. But I have a good…I'm not going to be voting for the report anyway.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Any further speakers? Seeing none. Councillor Klein, your opportunity to close.

**Councillor Klein:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. And thank you to Mayor Bowman for his very pleasant comments about the service and the board. They are a hard-working bunch of individuals. To Councillor Eadie's point, I don't know protocol allows me to answer any of the questions that were raised in my close, Madam Speaker. I turn to you for that answer or to our clerks that have much…understand the protocol better than I.

**Madam Speaker:** In your close, you can certainly address comments that were made. That's our practice here.

**Councillor Klein:** Thank you. The motion itself that passed the Police Board did identify some risk. The service, when they presented their budget to meet the requirements of the city, did identify risk. I think some of the larger ones, that is no secret. It's part of the public record were infrastructure and technology. Another risk are the unknowns and that would be what we're experiencing today, not just as a community, a city, province, country, but globally when things unfortunately such as COVID come from out of the blue if you can use that term. The other risk of course are the pension of…pension issue that is still in front of an arbitrator. I think it's one of the risks that we have identified or that the Chief, sorry, identified and the service identified that is a risk either way. Should the pension be...the decision of the City be supported in arbitration, there are a number of officers that will retire and replacing them, training them and getting them back on the street is a risk. Should the association land in favour of the arbitrator, we are as a service and as a city, are at risk of finding that money to put back into the police budget. These risks were communicated, I understand from the service to the administration. So those are the risks that, again, as I alluded to earlier, Madam Speaker, that all of my colleagues could find going through the public records of our meeting on March 16th. That said, I would move the motion as it is written to be received as information.

**Madam Speaker:** Okay. Thank you, Councillor Klein. I'll call the question. All in favour? Contrary? Recording in opposition, Councillor Eadie and the other was? Councillor Santos and Councillor Schreyer. Councillor Klein, I think we need a recorded vote, Mr. Chair. So all in favour, please rise.

**A RECORDED VOTE** was taken the result being as follows:

**Yeas**

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

**Nays**

Councillors Eadie, Klein, Santos and Schreyer

**City Clerk:** The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 10, Nays 4.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Clerk. Report 1 passes. Okay, next we will deal with the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 19th, 2020. It's the capital and operating budgets. We have some amending motions to go with this item. We have Motion 1 which is moved by Councillor Gillingham and seconded by Councillor Mayes. It is making some numerical corrections. And also Motion 2 which is moved by Councillor Gillingham, seconded by Mayor Bowman, and it is dealing with the impact of COVID-19 and examining measures to provide leeway on payment of taxes. Those are the two motions. Mr. Mayor to...yes.

**Councillor Eadie:** May I ask a point of order? Madam Speaker, I've just...if I recall, there's only two amending motions allowed on this report, is that correct?

**Madam Speaker:** That's correct. And we can suspend the rules if we have any additional.

**Councillor Eadie:** And does it say when these amendments were submitted for making changes?

**Madam Speaker:** We can certainly ask the Clerk to clarify that…to answer the question.

**City Clerk:** Yes, thank you Councillor Eadie. The motions were submitted to us last night.

**Councillor Eadie:** On a point of order, so we have...let me get this straight...we have the budget committee, EPC...

**Madam Speaker:** Councillor Eadie, that will be during your speaking time...

**Councillor Eadie:** EPC…we have EPC moving two amendments, and there's only two amendments allowed.

**Madam Speaker:** Okay. Councillor Eadie, please order in the chamber. Councillor Schreyer.

**Councillor Schreyer:** Point of order, it does not state that there's only two amendments allowed. We use by convention as already established here by the previous Clerk to state only two amendments that we use a clause used to explain subordinate or sub-amendments and we use it as a convention to state...to say that we can only have two amendments, but it does not state that in the rule book. You can check it for yourself. We've discussed it before on the floor.

**Madam Speaker:** That has been our practice here in the chamber. Thank you for that, Councillor Schreyer. I'd like to call on the Mayor to introduce the Item 1.

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED MARCH 19, 2020

**Mayor Bowman:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am going to speak briefly and then I'd like to defer my opening comments to Councillor Gillingham. I first want to start by thanking Councillor Gillingham. It's only through his persistence, his collaborative approach and confidence that we have a four-year balanced budget for consideration by Council. And I do want to acknowledge and applaud his leadership and stewardship in the portfolio that he continues to provide. I'm honoured to serve with Councillor Gillingham as well as all members of council and I really want to thank him for his leadership. I also want to thank all members of council and the public service as well as all of the delegations and individuals from every corner of our city who have participated in this budgeting process. I'll have more in-depth comments about the budget itself in my concluding remarks. But I do want to thank the Clerks, all members of council and media and members of the public for their understanding regarding the need to reschedule the meetings. I'm pleased that we were able to continue the budget process this week without having to cancel any meetings. But I do appreciate the fact that we are voting on this budget five days earlier than we had anticipated. It is obviously crucial that the resources for the public service continue uninterrupted over the coming weeks as we deal with the pandemic. And that is why I think it's incredibly important that we vote on the budget today. I'll have again more comments on the contents of the budget in my concluding remarks. But I'd like to defer the rest of my time to Councillor Gillingham.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, if we could just pause the clock for a moment. I'd like to go back and procedurally just have the Clerk introduce the item for the record because it is a special meeting. And then we'll move on to Councillor Gillingham.

### Item 1 – Executive Policy Committee – Preliminary 2020-2023 Multi-Year Operating and Capital Budget – Final Recommendation

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Mayor for your opening and Councillor Gillingham, on to you to finish the time here on the same topic.

**Councillor Gillingham:** Thank you Madam Speaker and thank you to Mr. Mayor for this opportunity. I am very pleased to stand and to move the adoption of the report of the Executive Policy Committee of March 19th on the preliminary 2020-2023 multi-year operating and capital budgets final recommendation. Today marks a turning point in the...for the City of Winnipeg; for the first time in Winnipeg's history we have presented operating and capital budgets that are balanced for the next four years. It is important and it is timely. As we've heard a couple times this morning from councillor colleagues, these are challenging days. The presence of COVID-19 pandemic has many Winnipeg residents experiencing feelings of anxiety and fear. The status and the impact of this pandemic on our community changes daily. There's much uncertainty. There's uncertainty as to how long this pandemic will last. There's uncertainty about the

health impacts on loved ones. There's uncertainty related to the impact on business and personal income. Our departments need funding authorization and funding certainty to access their budgets and to do their jobs. And so now indeed is the time to be here and to pass this budget. If there's ever a time for a city budget that provides a measure of certainty for Winnipeggers, I believe now is the time. And I believe this budget does that. In previous years, our city budgets were balanced one year at a time with significant forecast to deficits. At the start of this budget process we were facing an operating deficit of $89.6 million for 2020. And that projected deficit was set to increase to $175 million by 2023. Those deficits represent uncertainty. But this multi-year balanced budget tackles the uncertainty by tackling tomorrow's deficits by eliminating them today. Madam Speaker, can you imagine if we were here today only adopting a budget that balanced 2020? With only nine months left in this year, we would be faced with the challenging task of eliminating a deficit of over $100 million all the while trying to combat the pandemic that is having a financial impact on our city. By eliminating next year's deficits today, we've created the financial capacity to respond to this crisis. This multi-year balanced budget provides a strong, responsible and stable financial plan for the City of Winnipeg, and it's been a long journey to get here. Back in 2017, I began discussions with our Corporate Finance team with Mayor Bowman and with my council colleagues about moving to multi-year balanced budgets. The Mayor included the establishment of a multi-year budget in his mandate letter to me and I want to thank the Mayor for his support and his leadership consistently over these years to get us to today. Adopting this multi-year balanced budget will bring the City of Winnipeg in line with what is deemed to be best practice by the Government Finance Officers Association. And Winnipeg will join several other Canadian municipalities that have also adopted multi-year balanced budgets. This multi-year balanced budget process will also provide Council with the opportunity to make adjustments annually and to adopt our budget annually as in accordance with the City of Winnipeg Charter. I too want to spend the bulk of my time expressing appreciation and acknowledging the good work of several people who were involved in making this budget a reality. First, an appreciation to members of the public who we've heard from for months, from stakeholders, from my council colleagues around this chamber and those who couldn't be here today, and I respect them for making the choice to not be here. I want to especially acknowledge members of the Budget Working Group for their commitment to this process and their willingness to make difficult decisions and the countless hours they have put into this budget. Special thank you to the Corporate Finance team for their countless hours of outstanding work, and I want to make special mention on record of Mika Ruta, our interim Chief Operating Administrative Officer and his chiefs, Dave Wardrop and Michael Jack, to Mr. Paul Olafson, interim Chief Financial Officer and his team of Lisa Pablo, Helen Hasiuk, Howard Falk and Judy Rakowski…Ryzowski, pardon me. And many thanks to Matt Dryburgh from the Mayor's Office for his outstanding hours of work. This multi-year balanced budget process began with several goals, Madam Speaker, including the goals of investing in priority services, controlling expenses and seizing the opportunity for transformative change. And I believe that this multi-year balanced budget achieves those goals. Let me highlight a couple of the key investments; transit, with $13 million invested for a new spine and feeder service model that will serve the southwest rapid transitway set to open next month. Implementing Winnipeg's first low-income transit pass and I especially want to acknowledge Councillor Gilroy for her tireless efforts to make this low-income pass a reality. To further enhance affordability starting in 2021, children under the age of 12 will ride the bus for free. Many thanks go to Councillor Matt Allard for his work in seeing this initiative come to pass. Significant investments are in this…included in this budget in transit plus; first, to eliminate the 500 metre rule. Councillor Brian Mayes deserves so much credit for that effort. And over the last several weeks and days, especially, we've seen a change and the ability to restore the U-Pass. And so I do want to thank again Councillor Allard for his work. In our community safety has this key...has key investments in this budget. Our police service will continue to grow by 2% annually. At 27%, of the Winnipeg Police Service remains the largest share of the City's annual tax-supported operating budget. And I want to thank Councillor Markus Chambers and Councillor Kevin Klein for their work on the police budget. Community services, there was a lot of talk about community services, a lot of discussion about the investment in community services and there are many councillors around this chamber who work so hard and so diligently on our community services budget. First and foremost though, Councillor Rollins; her voice has been strong and steady in advocating for all services under the purview of her portfolio. And we do see significant investments in our Community Services Department. Other councillors who work so hard on this are Councillor Gilroy and Santos, Councillor Nason gave voice to this, Councillor Sharma and Councillor Eadie as well expressed their desire to find ways to make sure we invest in our Community Services Department. This budget represents significant investment in our tree canopy. Councillor Orlikow deserves so much credit for his work in ensuring our tree canopy is getting increased investment. And I want to thank Councillor Schreyer as well for echoing those sentiments and wanting to see our tree budget increased. I want to acknowledge the work of Councillor Browaty to ensure that the Terry Sawchuk Arena has the opportunity for perhaps a third-party investor to step forward or a third-party, pardon me, group to step forward and to run the arena. He also expressed a lot of desire to see our roads budgets maintained because that is a key core service. Thank you to you, Madam Speaker, for your ongoing commitment to our libraries and for your work to ensure that the residents of northwest Winnipeg will have a library in their community to serve them in the future. I want to thank Councillor Lukes for her advocacy for a new fire hall in Waverley West. That's critical as the community grows. This budget also reflects a commitment to expenditure control. And the multi-year balanced budget limited operating increases to an average of 1.5% annually net of capital investment. When you take inflation plus population growth, the average budget increase is 2.6% annually. These are key investments, but they also control expenses and that is critical that we're controlling expenses at this time especially with all that we see going on around us and the impact of this

pandemic. Finally, I want to take the remainder of my time, and I think I'm going to need an extension, Madam Speaker, in a few seconds. But I want to highlight the transformative initiatives contained within the 2020-2023 preliminary budget…the 2020-2023 balanced budget. Again, I want to thank the remarkable work…outstanding work of Councillor Orlikow who brought many of these ideas forward…

**Madam Speaker:** Councillor Browaty moves extension of two minutes. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

**Councillor Gillingham:** I believe that these transformative initiatives really are one of the most important features of this balanced…multi-year balanced budget. In 2020, the public service will bring forward recommendations on the establishment of a new transformative fund. And this fund will be financed from the sale of assets deemed surplus to the City's needs and will support investments in recreation, public green space and Winnipeg's tree canopy. We also are calling upon our public service in 2020 to bring forward a plan to sell or to enter into a joint venture on the Winnipeg, pardon me, the John Blumberg Golf Course. The public service will also report back with a plan to repurpose up to 30% of all City-owned golf lands. The budget also calls for a plan to reduce the number of City-owned and or leased building assets including those leased to third-parties. And this budget calls for a wading pool and a splash pad reinvestment strategy to be developed. And I want to acknowledge especially Councillor Santos. Since being elected in 2018, she has been talking about this, advocating for this, calling for a redeveloped plan on our splash pads and wading pools. I thank you for her effort. In conclusion, Madam Speaker, this budget balances four years of operating budgets. It has taken a remarkable amount of time and effort but I believe it's been worth it. Is it perfect? No. There's adjustments that will be made each and every year as there should be because the budget is a forward looking...it looks forward and so we don't ultimately know what comes. But by balancing four years of budgets we have positioned ourselves to be prepared for and to be in the place where we can adjust accordingly as needs be. And I believe council owes it to the citizens of Winnipeg to establish longer term balanced budget that focus priority investment on services that are core to the city's mandate at levels that are sustainable and predictable for residents. I ask everyone to join me and to join the Mayor in voting for this budget.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. Next is Councillor Orlikow.

**Councillor Orlikow:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm going to...in light of what is happening today...

**Madam Speaker:** Just...a lot going on today. Councillor Gillingham to introduce the amending Motion 1 and 2.

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

*BE IT RESOLVED*

1. *That Recommendation 2.A.i. be amended by deleting "$369.542 million" and replacing it with "$369.452 million".*

2. *That Recommendation 2.J. be amended by deleting "$1.471 million from the Land Operating Reserve" and replacing it with "$1.471 million through External Debt" and deleting "$2.0 million through External Debt" and replacing it with "$2.0 million from the Land Operating Reserve".*

3. *That the table in Recommendation 1.M. be replaced with*

| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 4year Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Transfer (to)/ from Financial Stabilization Reserve Fund | ($5,380,067) | ($6,911,945) | $4,515,491 | $24,776,521 | $17,000,000 |

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

*WHEREAS the global COVID-19 pandemic has already had a significant financial impact on property and business owners;*

*AND WHEREAS other cities including Toronto, Ottawa, Saskatoon, and Edmonton have either implemented or are in the process of implementing tax and fee deferrals for property owners and/or business owners;*

*AND WHEREAS Business and Property Taxes are due on May 29, 2020 and June 30, 2020 respectively;*

*AND WHEREAS a 90 day deferral for property and businesses taxes in the City of Winnipeg can contribute to other relief measures for residents and businesses in the City of Winnipeg;*

*AND WHEREAS options to assist with waiving late charges for any fees imposed by the City of Winnipeg will also contribute to financial relief for individuals or businesses who are experiencing financial hardship;*

*AND WHEREAS due diligence is required to ensure sound fiscal management while recognizing the financial hardships that some in our community are facing;*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:*

1. *That the public service report back to Council within 30 days with a financial feasibility review and, if feasible, an implementation plan for a City of Winnipeg property tax and business tax deferral program for all individuals and entities that pay property taxes and business taxes, including local businesses and not-for-profits.*

2. *That the public service report back to Council within 30 days with options to the property tax and business tax deferral program in Item 1 that could alternatively or also provide financial relief to individuals and businesses who make fee payments to the City of Winnipeg.*

3. *That council delegate to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), or the CAO's designate, between March 20, 2020 and June 30, 2020 the authority to waive late charges on fees imposed by the City of Winnipeg for individuals or businesses where the late payment is due to changes in City of Winnipeg payment procedures brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.*

**Councillor Gillingham:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, thank you Madam Speaker.

**Madam Speaker:** Because you did not incorporate that. Thank you.

**Councillor Gillingham:** Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, we have two amending motions; one is...is a motion to correct some matters, the first one. The second one I'll maybe speak to for a moment.

**Councillor Schreyer:** Point of order, Madam Speaker. He gave an extension to speak on the…it was his opportunity to introduce them during his 10 minutes, was it not?

**Madam Speaker:** No, that's not the case. We were…I was going to call on him at…following his introduction. So I don't believe Councillor Gillingham that you covered off the amendments so if you can do that at this time.

**Councillor Gillingham:** I did not, but I thank Councillor Schreyer for his clarification. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce both motions, I want to speak to Motion No. 2. A very important and timely amendment to the multi-year balanced budget today. Mayor Bowman and I are introducing a motion that directs the public service to explore what may be done to assist those who pay property and business taxes who are being financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. And want I thank the Mayor for his leadership in this time of crisis here and his efforts that he's putting to lead the city during this time. As I mentioned a moment ago, we are living in challenging days and I have heard from residents and business owners that have already been financially impacted by the pandemic. They're concerned about their ability to pay their bills on time. And so last Sunday on March the 15th, I had sent an email to Mr. Mike Ruta, our Chief Administrative Officer, and the email started thinking ahead…hi Mike…thinking ahead, if the measures across the community to combat the COVID-19 pandemic start to have a significant impact on residents' incomes and may impact property and business owners, can we discuss this, can we be prepared with estimates, analysis and a plan to offer property and business owners some sort of assistance if needed. And so over the last week, many of my council

colleagues have talked about both the need for the City to find a way…to try to find a way to do something for our residents and business owners in an effort to mitigate the financial impact of this pandemic and I certainly agree. But rather than rush ahead with un-vetted offers of assistance, we must provide sound financial management by conducting our due diligence on what kinds of assistance the City may be able to offer residents without jeopardizing our own financial position and that ultimately is what this amendment is all about. The motion states, and I'll read it into the record, "Be it resolved that the public service report back to Council within 30 days with a financial feasibility review and, if feasible, an implementation plan for a City of Winnipeg property tax and business tax deferral program for all individuals and entities that pay property taxes and business taxes, including local businesses and not-for-profits. That the public service report back to Council within 30 days with options to the property tax and business tax deferral program in Item 1 that could alternatively or also provide financial relief to individuals and businesses who make fee payments to the City of Winnipeg." Ultimately, what we are expressing here is that we want to try to find a way, if we can, to do something but we need to make sure that we do our due diligence before we come forward with an offer. We don't know how long this pandemic will last, but we do know that we will come out of it. And in this present time when many Winnipeggers face financial challenges due to the impact of COVID-19, we are exploring ways to offer some relief. And so I ask my council colleagues to join me and unanimously support this amendment that is before you. Thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. Councillor Orlikow and others, this is your opportunity to speak to the budget and also the two amending motions.

**Councillor Orlikow:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm going to...in light of the situation that's going on, I'm going to definitely keep my comments short. First of all, I want to thank all of the public service including my fellow councillors, the administration, our frontline staff that are working diligently to keep Winnipeg safe and running in these difficult times. I also want to state for the public record that I respect and understand the reasons why two of my colleagues are not here today. I will be supporting both the operating and the capital budget. The four-year budget highlights for me are, one, that the over $700 million structural deficit is eliminated. Key investments in protecting our tree canopy, public safety and roads are addressed, limits taxes to 2.33% in fee increases at the rate of inflation. And it really lays a foundation for Winnipeg to be able to move forward. I'll be providing a more comprehensive list of…and reasons why I will be supporting this budget on Orlikow.ca later today, but I just wanted those comments on record.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, Councillor Orlikow. Next is Councillor Rollins followed by Councillor Allard.

**Councillor Rollins:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. With final amendments, the Executive Policy Committee and Budgetary Working Group has turned over this multi-year budget for debate at Council here today. It has been a very long road since the initial November direction to City departments with budget presentations and operating expenditure reduction options that considered closures of pools, libraries, assorted austere expenditure reductions. And upon hearing those reductions there was a very swift Winnipeg dispatch to City Hall. And I'm very grateful for that. Coalitions like Functional Transit, Budget for All, Millennium for All, Youth Agency Alliance, library boards, student associations from U of W, U of M, Red River College, Trees Winnipeg, beloved former city councillor, Jenny Gerbasi, labour partner CUPE Local 500, Social Planning Council, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternative, Winnipeg business community, BIZ Economic Development Zones, artists like the formidable Wanda Koop, Glenelm neighbours, OurWinnipeg, Bike Winnipeg, the students of Oak Park School, and more produced music videos for this budget. The attending at standing policy committees were staggering and produced many Winnipeggers at this city hall. Top of mind for them were calls against austerity, fundamental to their resolve was leaving no one behind. To encourage that expression of our shared values found in our city motto, one with the strength of many. In this multi-year budget and going forward in every budget we need to work together as council. Budgets should fund plans of priorities and this multi-year budget was challenged more so and for the absence of strategic policy, more so than its inclusion. So on the other side of this budget, having received delegations, I will paraphrase Ghandi's words that, "Democracy is not a mechanical thing to be adjusted by abolition of forms, but instead a change of heart." Moving beyond budget, we need to ensure as a council we are not mechanical in form that there is no obfuscation, but enlightenment on priorities and plans. And to that end, while I have already named so many, I want to bring together important moments, Madam Speaker, that shape this multi-year budget debate. Where that one voice from delegation, one, two or three councillors came together, and in doing so strengthened the debate and reflected the many. Speaker Sharma, you did some heavy lifting, not just supporting my preoccupation on libraries, library hours, but kicking the whole library redevelopment strategy back in with major plans to create a new three-year recreation library facility investment fund. You along with Councillor Gillingham and the Mayor deserve praise for that wisdom. All Sunday hours is great, a new West Kildonan Library, even better for young, old, established and newcomers. You, Councillor Gillingham and the Mayor are important architects of this and I want to acknowledge that. One element that OURS-Winnipeg, Madam Emma Durand-Wood and others asked us to consider further with our urban canopy and I want to thank the Mayor for his vision of one million trees that inspired a city, 140,000 in this budget to ramp up efforts this year to meet the million tree challenge this year. My colleague, Councillor Orlikow never left the urban forest's side. And that's already been acknowledged. The focus on public green space and protection of our canopy is notably though first amongst priorities of the transformation fund that

he argued for in this budget. If Councillor Mayes and I are like a river, we are both dancing wavelets and at times dangerous white waters. Mayes and I have a serious vision of green space and the river that we share and in this budget with a capital project of the pavilion at Crescent Park underway across from St. Vital Park and the ross rooms in Churchill Park that are founded in this multi-year budget, taken together with that $41 million St. Vital bridge from Osborne to Dunkirk, we will continue this unique brand that we have of city building with each other. Speaking of water, Fort Garry residents have basement flooding from time to time. This combined sewer overflow, basement flood management strategy contained in this budget will help mitigate that. Councillor Gilroy and I celebrate not only this, but the climate change elements still in this budget and the first step before a curbside program, the source separated organics pilot project. There is also discernible funding for housing in this multi-year budget and I want to acknowledge that and the work still left to do with Councillor Orlikow, Councillor Gilroy and I on the Housing Steering Committee. I look forward to continued policy work on community. The Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service and Janice Lukes perhaps got everything they wanted in this budget. And I want to thank Councillor Lukes. Also not mentioned oftentimes in budget was the sim mom and I look forward to celebrating with you that postpartum maternal simulation doll that is found in this budget. It should be talked about more, and what a photo-op with councillors that will be. Functional Transit did an incredible campaign and thanks to Mathieu Allard, Madam Speaker and Councillor Gilroy, I have a window to a time where we will host the next debate that free at the point of use transit because three structures towards that end are found in this budget: children riding for free, U-Pass and the low-income pass. In terms of sustainability, over the week I was thinking that I couldn't write the Finance Chair one more time with an ask, a financial ask. And I brace myself and considered that I was going to do it anyways and little did I know that Councillor Gillingham had also considered that same Winnipeg Fire Paramedic risk list with me. Two new FTEs are being considered for emergency management and public information and business continuity and I am really grateful for Councillor Gillingham and I to be able to work together on this. So to him through you, Madam Speaker, I want to recognize his leadership. This multi-year budget is an important structural reform. Many structural solutions have been created that we can feel confident in, there's much more to do. I want to thank all of the civil servants that assisted us with budget, the whole Finance team for their efforts once more from literally their chairs that I'm so proud to sit in today. I see their passion every day and I'm lucky…lucky and humbled I get to serve the city I love in this manner. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I support the multi-year budget.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, Councillor Rollins. Next is Councillor Allard followed by Councillor Santos.

**Councillor Allard:** Thank you. So I prepared a statement, I hope will end in 10 minutes. So councillor colleagues, I will be supporting the capital and operating budgets as amended. I wish to begin by reading a prepared statement from Jakob Sanderson from UMSU who I have been privileged to work with these past two weeks. He had intended on coming to speak today, and requesting a waiver of the rules, however, he is staying home in the interest of personal public health. I feel his words deserve to be read in this chamber on a subject which has become so central to considerations of this budget. So Jakob's remarks, not my remarks, for the record, this is Jakob speaking. So "Dear members of council, I regret not being here in person today but it was not until quite recently I had interest in speaking in favour of today's budget. By the time my feelings on the budget changed, all the delegations in favour had been taken. The last 13 days has been an absolute whirlwind of information and emotion. In the midst of a global pandemic, my colleagues and I were tasked with the unbelievable job of trying to deliver to my constituents a $15 million budget amendment in under two weeks. That could have been deeply deflating, but as I said to you this Wednesday, I instead chose to take that as a challenge. I had studied this program from all angles and the idea could be a $15 million differential struck me as quite unlikely. But by the time we got the clear breakdown of the financials Transit had used and I was able to begin my digging where we eventually found and could prove the error it was just two days before the budget was to be finalized and I worried it may be too little, too late. Perhaps it may have been, if not for a couple key factors. One, while I was focusing on these financials, students were mobilizing in a way I have rarely seen before. Over 8,000 signatures on our petition in the first 24 hours, 71 delegations signing up to speak just through UMSU's forum. Every day I get overwhelming messages of support from people I never met. If it wasn't for this outpouring of passion from students across Winnipeg, I don't know that any crunching of the numbers I did would have been backed by the wave of public pressure needed to carry this to shore. Chi-miigwech to all of you students who made the difference. Two, this council had people willing to listen. Councillor Lukes, you heard us loud and clear from the moment the budget dropped. You told us you'd fight with us every step of the way. Before this started we agreed we had a 1% chance of victory but we knew we'd have fun along the way. We were right on one of these counts. Councillor Allard and Gillingham, when faced with the evidence the numbers were wrong, you didn't shrug us off, you didn't turn us aside, you listened, you adjusted and you were honest to myself and the public. That's all we can expect of anyone and I thank you. To members of council, we think you should seriously consider making the budget process more open and transparent to avoid future errors like what occurred. And it's possible, after all, it's a rate that is simply too high for the student body to accept. It is a significant increase and one that reflects the students having…saving own program, not the City putting up their money to save it. However, at the end of the day you have done your duty and listened to your constituents and you've returned the U-Pass as no longer in your hands, it's where it belongs in the hands of students. For that I thank you. I say today that I do hope students keep this program alive. This remains a vital program at a rate lower than any other product and it's a program that will continue to make a positive impact on mode shifts towards a

greener future. If you take this deal, you can be proud of the part you played in creating a legacy of climate action for the years to come. But to those students who earned this with every fibre of their being during this fight, all of you, no matter how you feel about the end result of this, you should take today to reflect and to stand a little taller because this week proved your advocacy matters. Four million dollars in revisions in a City budget don't happen often and they couldn't have happened without you. (Speaking Indigenous language) I am truly eternally grateful to all of you." Jakob Sanderson, President of UMSU. So thank you, Jakob. I'll reiterate that we don't always agree on everything. We don't agree on all of the numbers and we didn't agree on how this process was supposed to work, but we did agree enough. We found enough common ground that we're able to work together and accomplish something which is much the same as the way that this council works. Now for my own remarks, I'll start...I'll start things the way that I like to at a high level. The City of Winnipeg is facing the fiscal wall. Every department from Police to Parks and Water saw a mandated budget increases for their departmental proposals capped to at most 2% which does not keep pace with inflationary pressures and departmental budgets. The City of Winnipeg's fiscal situation is serious and a balanced budget is required by law to be adopted before the end of this month. In order to address the fiscal shortfall being seen across all departments and to increase spending to the level many of these services deserve including Transit, we could need an annual tax increase in the double digits; the elephant in the room…the elephant in the budget. So I'm going to get to my infill intensification speech...ultimately, the answer to our fiscal challenges is above all else, in my view, a greater focus on infill and densification. Our city's urban footprint has been growing at a much higher rate than population growth for decades. This has created huge new demands on taxpayers to build more roads, new community centres, fire halls and police stations, run new transit routes and provide other services which must be duplicated. New capital liabilities associated with green fill developments is placing tremendous strain on our budgets. After we pass this budget today, we must turn our attention to the ongoing OurWinnipeg review and infill strategies. We must take advantage of the legacy of our existing assets and sunk costs that are in place in our mature and existing communities. Municipalities across Canada are facing similar challenges to us and municipalities across Canada are recognizing this prescription. I will continue to fight for this vision of fiscal, environmental and urban sustainability in the long term. In the meantime, however, we must pass this budget. So this is a good budget. Despite these challenges, this is a good budget. Transit is a big winner. We're seeing mill rate support of transit increase by 35% from 2019 to 2023. For the first time, Transit will have a low-income buss pass, children will ride for free in 2021, and the U-Pass has been restored at no new cost to the budget at a rate that is in line with the low-income bus pass. Transit operating hours are going up by 40,000 hours, the largest increase I've seen since my election on council. I am absolutely thrilled that this budget delivers on my number one campaign commitment, which is that children under 12 will now ride the bus for free in 2021. I believe this policy will be a tremendous help for parents of children and this targeted rebate will help one of…with one of Winnipeg's most terrible statistics; the very high child poverty rates. The Jesuits used to say, give us the child and I will show you the man. This quote is a fundamental belief of mine, by bettering the conditions of our children our collective future becomes brighter by the day. Right now, Winnipeg Transit is free to use for kids for under the age of six, however, the law in Manitoba states that no child may be left alone unsupervised until they're at least 12 years old. This means that for a single parent or parent responsible for child care while their parent is away at work, if they want to get around by transit they must pay an additional fare for their child aged 6 to 11. If they have to make an extended trip, must pay more than one fare or have multiple children 6 to 11, they may be looking at a significant cost just because they're required to bring their kids along for necessary errands. At $3 per fare, riding the bus with one parent and one child could cost more than $10 per round trip, only going up from there. On facility closures; the Budget Working Group also cancelled St. Boniface facility closures which I am grateful for. There are, however, major infrastructure deficits that will need to be addressed and the risk of forced closures are going to be higher for some of our cherished facilities like wading pools…can I have…can I have five more minutes?

**Madam Speaker:** Two minute extension at one time.

**Councillor Allard:** Two minutes? Okay.

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

**Councillor Allard:** So I'll continue, the risk of forced closures are getting higher for some of cherished facilities like wading pools, outdoor pools, arenas and other facilities. Sunday operating hours have been restored to libraries, including the only bilingual library in the city, the St. Boniface Library. I'm also happy to see a collaboration with Councillor Jeff Browaty concerning the Terry Sawchuk Arena, to hopefully avert what would otherwise have been the only facility closure in this budget. I believe this accomplishment cannot be overstated. On active transportation; funding has been protected in this budget. We have held the line on something badly needed to meet our mode shift objectives, climate goals, safer streets and a healthier population. On Bonivital Pool; it is getting major upgrades, $5.3 million in 2020 to 2023 budgets. This re-investment joins $1.76 million previously budgeted to rehabilitation work already completed or underway. Together it brings us to over $7 million invested in Bonivital Pool. This undertaking will leave us with a legacy of a beautiful and much improved Bonivital Pool for southeast Winnipeg for decades to come. This has been a huge priority for me in the last two years. Thank you to the Community Services Department, Mayor Brian

Bowman and in particular to Councillor Mayes for your ongoing support. And looks like I almost made it. In conclusion, this process has been very hard on everyone. In the last two weeks, I have seen and heard and received some very strong criticism from many of the same people who I consider to be supporters, philosophical and ideological allies and friends. In some cases, I'm not sure we see each other in that same way anymore, but municipal politics is the art of the possible. It is a place where good people with diverse backgrounds, ideas and priorities come together to find some kind of common ground upon which to build a city. Do I love every part of this budget? No. I don't know that any politician in history has said that about any budget or policy. One minute?

**Madam Speaker:** I'm sorry Councillor Allard, you have to wrap up.

**Councillor Allard:** I'm almost done.

**Madam Speaker:** We need to suspend the rules to have additional time and you also did read from a delegation, so that was quite good.

**Mayor Bowman:** Just a point of order; wasn't the last two minutes a suspension of the rules?

**Madam Speaker:** No, that was just a regular suspension, now we need two-thirds for additional suspension. Is that correct, Mr. Clerk?

**Councillor Allard:** Can I move for suspension of the rules? Like, I've got two sentences left.

**Madam Speaker:** So suspension of the rules, okay. All in favour to suspend the rules to add additional time?

**Councillor Allard:** Thank you. I think that passed.

**Madam Speaker:** All in favour of the two…so the suspension passes. Okay, I'm voting nay for that. All in favour of additional two minute extension?

**Councillor Allard:** Thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Contrary? Carried.

**Councillor Allard:** So do I love every part of this budget? No. I don't know if any politician in history has said that about any budget or policy. However, I believe that this budget accomplishes many of my, many of our goals. Transit funding is up, active transportation funding is protected, my community's recreation facilities are safe. As we head into an extremely uncertain time in the midst of this global pandemic, which is already impacting our budget in a significant way, I know that the work is not over. We will have to continue working with each other, with the public, with great leaders like Jakob Sanderson, Tanjit Nagra and many others. I will be voting for this budget today, the work continues, and if I missed any thank yous, thank you to all my colleagues, this has been a really…this has been a really…I think, probably the toughest budget that I've ever lived through and in the end, I'm much…you know, I'm much happier with the outcome that we have…that we see today that we've all worked on together. So thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, Councillor Allard. Yes?

**Councillor Klein:** Point of order, I'm wondering if we should take a few minutes break. The Province of Manitoba has just declared a state of emergency for Manitoba for the next 30 days and I'm wondering if we should take a few moments to allow all of us to see how that impacts our ward, see how it impacts the committees that we're on and how it impacts the city. Surely we can come back in half an hour and deal with it.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you for that. I will defer to the Mayor on calling…on a call, on a recess right now or we will be recessing shortly, I believe in 20 minutes. Okay, moving on, Councillor Santos, your opportunity to address council.

**Councillor Santos:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. This multi-year budgeting process over the last few months has taken a toll on all of us. This has also been extraordinarily strange as well because we are now dealing with a world pandemic. I want to take this time to thank all the frontline workers who are out there taking care of all of us and dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. I will be forever grateful and indebted to your service. I also want to take this time to remind Winnipeggers that this virus is not racist and can infect anyone. It doesn't care about your colour. This is not the time to react on our fears of the unknown. So I implore Winnipeggers that if you see any form of racism against our Asian of Filipino community or any other culture, as a matter of fact, please remind them that we're all scared and that you should be coming together to ensure our neighbours are safe and healthy. I want to thank you…thank Councillor Gillingham for

your amending motion and I will be supporting it. I also want to thank my council colleagues and Winnipeggers for meeting with me to discuss your frustration, their ideas and suggestions, and most of all, their advocacy for better city core services. It was not an easy task. There were some difficult decisions made and unfortunately, not everything has been allocated the resources. And just like how we manage our own savings in our personal homes, the City's budget decision made were about what we need, and not about what we want. Community services and supporting our families still remains a top priority for me. There's still missing aspects that need to be resolved such as our crumbling community facilities, infrastructure, redevelopment of our green spaces to be family friendly, more investment into our after school and leisure guide programming. We still need to build new community facilities to support our growing neighbourhoods. But I am pleased to see that there is a recommendation for public service to report back with a wading pool rationalization and splash pad reinvestment strategy, a motion that I brought forward last year. This is such a great strategy to invest in a community space that allows Winnipeggers to enjoy during the hot summer months for free. We should all be looking to create more policy that is similar to this. I know I will be continuing to work and develop policies that will generate more revenue to our tax base because that is what we were elected to do. We councillors are city builders. I will also be advocating and pleading with my council colleagues and the Mayor to really examine our infrastructure roads budget. I know there were a lot of you that had promised Winnipeggers to fix our roads, and this budget definitely affirms that as we are still spending a record amount of money towards our roads over the next four years. I believe it's just as important to realize that our community facility infrastructure and operations are just as important to Winnipeggers, as you can tell from the many delegations that have come to City Hall over the last few days, even weeks, and months and even today. I'm also going to plead the Winnipeg Police Board to really scrutinize, analyze and dissect police operational budget to the best of their ability, to honestly and vigorously question and ask the Chief of Police to find cost-savings in his operational budget. We all know that the police budget is the largest and probably the most exasperated budget of them all. You can see from this pie chart of how the average annual municipality…municipal property tax bill is spent on tax-supported services. We just cannot afford to keep spending 31% of our property tax bill on police services while community services and recreational only receives 19%. This is actually quite disappointing and most of all, disheartening. These are the reasons why I voted against the recommendation earlier today. To the delegations and councillors who have advocated for a property tax increase, I'll have to respectfully decline your suggestion. My residences who are hard working families, families who live in poverty, single parents and seniors have told me not to raise property taxes. A 20 to $50 increase means less money for food on the table, something we can all appreciate during this COVID-19 pandemic. I appreciate the Mayor's leadership with holding firm on the 2.33% increase for the next four years. In closing, I will be supporting this multi-year budget, as I see many investments that address what Winnipeggers need like Rainbow Stage, West Kildonan Library, St. James Civic Centre, Bonivital Pool, 24-hour community safe spaces, another four year commitment to Winnipeg End Homelessness, Waverley West Fire Paramedic station, public arts strategy, the purchase of 182 new transit buses, heated bus shelters, low-income buss pass, free transit for 12, the U-Pass, food waste collection pilot project and upgrades to the North End water treatment plant. We also have many other strategic plans that are forthcoming this year that will also help pave the way for Winnipeg such as the OurWinnipeg plan, Transit Master Plan, three year recreation library facility investment strategy, on-street paid parking strategy, road safety and strategic action plan. I'd like to remind Winnipeggers that the budget is a living document. That means amendments to the budget can be made. This process is not over. It's never over. We will be back here in 12 months debating again, I guarantee you. So I will continue to work hard for the residences of my ward in Point Douglas to ensure that their hard earned tax dollars are spent wisely and effectively. Thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, Councillor Santos. Councillor…

**Councillor Klein:** Point of order, Madam Speaker. I believe that the actual percentage for the Police Service with the budget is around 29%, not over 30% as stated.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, Councillor Klein. This is not the time to correct colleagues though. No. I'd like to move on. Councillor Gilroy, and then we'll have other speakers, thank you. Councillor Santos, we're moving on. Councillor Gilroy has the floor, let's respect that. Thank you.

**Councillor Gilroy:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm here to rise today in support of the operating and capital budget that's in front of us here today. And I do want to take the opportunity, like my other colleagues, to really thank our staff, the emergency personnel that are out there working hard during COVID-19 and a lot of essential workers that are working in our stores, that are doing essential services to everybody here in Winnipeg and all of Winnipeggers that are doing their part during this difficult time. And I just wanted to take a moment to acknowledge that. And I do want to also…I have lots of people to thank in terms of the budget process and I want to thank firstly my councillor colleagues around the table. It was really great for me to hear the different diverse views on the budget. I think that that's important for the public to hear. I think it's important for us to hear. And I think it's important for good public policy. And for my councillor colleagues on the Budget Working Group, I want to thank you. It's not always tough being in those rooms. You have people with very, very different point of views than yours and you've got to challenge yourself and you challenged

me. So thank you for that, I appreciate that. To our Mayor, thank you very much for allowing me to lend a voice, especially from the inner-city. It was important for me to learn that voice and I want to thank you for that. And to Councillor Gillingham who is one of those people we don't really see eye-to-eye on some of the ideological issues that we face, but you know what, we did it with respect and I appreciate that and I do enjoy working with you. You do lend yourself to a different debate that I'm not normally here in my realm of people that I talk to, so…and I need that. I need to hear the other sides of things, so I appreciate that. And I want to thank our public. Overwhelmingly, whether people came in delegation or whether they wrote in, our public did provide us some really, really good feedback. And I think what's really different with this budget compared to other levels of government whether you're talking about the legislature or the parliament is, as you can see, the public has shaped this budget. It wasn't just the Budget Working Group, it was the public coming in delegations, e-mailing our offices, and as you see about the recommendations that happened when we first started to where we are today, the public shaped that. And I really appreciate their voices, and I think this is one of the most important things about civic politics that I really enjoy. And the second would be that it isn't the ideologies have to mix. So there has to be some compromise. And I know that some people might feel outside of that process and I can understand that, but I think for the most part, you are getting those appointing views and I think what makes city politics great is that Winnipeggers from all different backgrounds are being represented within this budget here today. And so I struggled. I struggled when the recommendations first come out because man, I did not want to support what was moving forward. Massive cuts to things that I really treasure, rely on and fight for. So I'm glad to see that we've come to some compromise through this budget process and we brought back a lot of the community services that I think are core services and that the public asked us for and demanded for. And I'm really proud that we brought some of those things back. I'm really proud that we're doing the low-income bus pass. Oh, I'm just so excited about this one. Of course, it's something I've been pushing for. I know the Mayor's been pushing for it and I'm really, really excited. And with Councillor Allard, with your addition to the 12 and under, now a single mom can go to Wal-Mart or any grocery store, pick up her groceries and just have to pay for one pass. Like that's going to be huge for a family. So I'm really, really excited about that. I do want to talk about the U-Pass. I think that that was something overwhelmingly. And what I really liked about the young delegates that I heard, some of them, man, they were so smart. And what I heard was, we want to work with you. I thought, wow. Like that's the government I represent. That's how I try to work as a politician. And I'm glad to see that there's other young ones that are going to be in this seat and they're wanting to work together. So I'm glad that we were able to work with the youth to get this U-Pass. I think it's really important for mode shift. And they really shaped my thinking on some of that moving forward. So thank you very much for all those young people that came out in delegation. I also want to talk about things that, you know, aren't really talked about, the End Homelessness funding continuing. That's critical. Mother Earth Recycling; this is an Indigenous organization that provides mattress recycling. Almost 80% of our mattresses are taken out of our landfill and not only…this is a social enterprise. So these people are learning the trade. And one of the stories that I got from Mother Earth Recycling is when women that were being incarcerated are taking the mattresses and re-using them and making dog beds and repurposing them. So there's a lot of great work that we don't understand some of our policies are doing, the underlining work. And I just really appreciate that those kind of funding is continuing. Our food waste collection pilot project; getting that started. I mean, we're the last city in Canada. This is really, really exciting that we're going to have the funding to be able to do that. Mapping; mapping is important for climate change and we're moving…we're moving on that. And so, I do want to thank my councillor colleagues because I think for the most part we are…I liked Councillor Eadie's intro, we are trying to work together. I mean, sometimes things get heated. Sometimes it's hard, but unlike what you see at the legislature or the parliament, we are respectful. And I'm hoping that this budget process here will mean something to residents. And we're not always going to agree with what's in this, even I. I have trouble with some of the things that are in this. I mean, I am somebody who is in favour of raising taxes, right? So there are things that we are going to struggle with, but at the end of the day, this was a very…a process that allowed different voices to be heard. And I appreciated the new process through the standing committees that allowed some of the other councillors that maybe haven't always got that voice to have that voice. So I just wanted to thank the Mayor, Councillor Gillingham and all of our staff that…in our departments and our Finance crew, you worked hard and we made you work hard so thank you very much. Thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you Councillor Gilroy. Councillor Lukes. Well, we are going to be recessing in about six minutes.

**Councillor Lukes:** Mine's like 10 minutes.

**Madam Speaker:** I think we can have one more speaker. That would be reasonable. Councillor Lukes.

**Councillor Mayes:** Sorry, Councillor Lukes. Given that we have two meetings today, I would be…half an hour, would seem…

**Madam Speaker:** Forty five minutes or…45 minutes would be good? And we do have lunch on-site today. I just want to remind everyone. Councillor Lukes.

**Councillor Lukes:** Okay. Thank you Madam Speaker. I intend to aim to keep my remarks short, but I'll try. So I'm going to talk about councillors' involvement in the budget process. So I know that you've heard this before, but I just feel I need to put this on the record. It's impossible for a member of the public or a councillor who's not been part of the Mayor's Budget Working Group to properly scrutinize a four year budget in less than nine business days. I have been elected or acclaimed to represent over 56,000 residents' interests at City Hall. I can assure you their number one interest is how their tax dollars are invested. Madam Chair…Madam Speaker, I know the Mayor and the Chair of Finance believe this budget process is more open and transparent than ever before, but I want to take a look at the bigger picture on the openness and transparency made available to those who are elected to vote on behalf of residents and to vote on decisions involving hundreds of millions of dollars. A recent Freedom of Information request conducted in December of 2019 revealed that the Mayor and his Executive Policy Committee and the Deputy and Acting Deputy Mayor met 58 times in closed door, private meetings in the Mayor's office. At these meetings, I'm sure they consisted of the directors and staff of various departments providing in depth briefings on financial issues and business matters. And at these meetings, councillors were able to freely ask questions of the public service face-to-face and discuss issues amongst themselves, influence decisions and move forward with their own ward agendas. The remaining member of councils, almost half of council was not part of these meetings and are required to e-mail CAOgeneralinquiry@winnipeg.ca for any questions they may have after reading public reports. I still fundamentally believe that this 20 year old, outdated governance model that we operate under that allows the Mayor to restrict information to almost half of council simply does not allow for good decision making or use of tax dollars. As you know, Madam Speaker, and to be clear, a mayor has every right to connect business and restrict information in this manner as he or she so chooses under this outdated governance model. So I know, I keep bringing this up time and time again, but I want it on the record that this budget process does not allow for good scrutiny or decision making and in my opinion, is not open and transparent to the people elected to represent citizens' interests. I'd like to speak about the public's involvement in the budget process. As a person who's been certified by the International Association of Public Participation in a couple of levels of public consultation, I have never seen a consultation process, in my opinion, that has ripped our city so apart and created more negative energy with citizens. For sure, people came out. For sure, they were engaged. I believe, actually no, I know it would have been a much better process to capture city building ideas and challenges. One could argue that that was done. I just really know there's a better way. I will say, the one budget item that was proposed to be cut, the one item that I literally solely focused my energies on was the U-Pass. And through my requesting and chairing of Transit through my requesting and sharing of Transit information, an incredible error was discovered and a program was saved. What we witnessed was outstanding work by Jakob Sanderson and Tanjit Nagra to challenge the numbers being presented. To find millions in miscalculations and to ultimately negotiate a deal to save, allowing a win-win for everyone. This was remarkable. And this is the kind of public engagement and scrutiny that we should be having on the budget. This is allowing openness and transparency of public funding. I posted an overview of the entire U-Pass process on my website at janicelukes.ca because I wanted to capture the timeline of the astounding series of events that occurred during the start of a global pandemic, incredible work by so many. I will be bringing this experience forward to the Innovation and Economic Development Committee to look at ways through the open data process and other processes to somehow enable better public scrutiny of the budget process. And I'll be sending a report to the Chair of Finance including some recommendations on what I think could be improved. So the budget itself and what is being presented to vote on; again Madam Speaker, I've known all along I would never be able to properly scrutinize the four year budget in the timeframe we were given and even more so in the condensed timeframe, so I will only speak to a high level. While initially I did not support a multi-year budget process due to the governance model we operate under and the restrictive sharing of information, I do agree that laying it out over four years attempts to set a more stable future for planning and operations. I am more in agreement with key actions than not. Balancing the four year budget, reducing the business tax, reducing grants, dealing with golf lands, doing a cleanup on buildings and dollar leases, stabilizing the active transportation investment, digitize the permitting process, funding high frequency transit service, funding a fire hall plan and developing a transformative fund and keeping IT in the budget. There's a lot of positive things in the budget. I do agree. But I do have concerns about the debt we're placing on future residents. I'm concerned that we are spending the least amount of all major Canadian cities on planning and planners in a city that's growing. And now you know we don't know what the future will hold, right? But I look to addressing this through future committee work. I am very concerned that we're not investing in a comprehensive plan to address water or sewer capacity evaluations within the City of Winnipeg. This is concerning as it hampers the Planning Department and where growth will actually occur. But Madam Speaker, I know this…in this recent horrible turn of events are unfolding in the world that will have a dramatic impact on our city in so many ways, on our growth and financing, that this will impact our current and future budgets and they will be changing. And I will continue to work with council to ensure we provide the best decision making possible with the information I am provided. I want to thank Councillor Gillingham for taking my calls and e-mails, very persistent, and for the patience and professionalism he always offers. I'd like to thank Councillor Rollins who rises to the occasion when I call her and we have just unbelievable conversations and for Councillor Allard for the ongoing dialogue. I'd like to thank the public service for the extensive amount of work they've put into the budget process. I will be supporting both the operating and capital budgets and the amendments. And Madam Speaker, in my final closing remarks, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the students who spoke up against the U-Pass cut and who shone such a bright light on the budget process

when the world seems to be imploding. I want them to know they were incredibly inspiring and they give us all a great hope for the future. And that really, we all can make a difference if we work hard at it. Thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you Councillor Lukes. Councillor Mayes, by way of motion we had discussed breaking for 45 minutes instead of the usual 1.5 hours. All in favour of a recess now and we'll reconvene at 12:45? All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

**Reconvened meeting of**
**Winnipeg City Council of**
**March 20, 2020, at 12:53 p.m.**

**Madam Speaker:** We are now debating the operating and capital budget, the preliminary budget. Who would like to be the next speaker? Councillor Mayes.

**Councillor Mayes:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Earlier today, the Mayor said, well, last year's budget meeting didn't go on and on, and I said, yeah, that's because I didn't speak. So this year though…last year I wasn't too pleased, this year I'm much more pleased with the budget. I will say I continue to have concerns about the multi-year process. I'm told, well, tweaking will be allowed with no legal definition of tweaking. I have some fear that my suggested changes will be seen as not tweaking and other multi-million dollar decisions will be seen as tweaking but we'll cross that road when we come to it in seven or eight months, I suspect. I want to thank Councillor Gillingham. There's this quote, "Cometh the hour, cometh the man", which is this variation of John 4:23. So Councillor Gillingham has certainly been the man for the times here under some very difficult circumstances to get this thing through in his very measured way and I appreciate all that he has done. As I was saying earlier, I've had the chance now to look back through some notebooks from the past eight years and it's really quite an exercise to look forward and look backward. And we have come a long way and it's worth commenting on that. I was looking at the 2013 budget document that talks about this new idea of the 1% for roads and we are still doing that. The Mayor and I sometimes joust about whether everything was a total mess in 2014, and of course, I haven't been here prior to 2014, I don't think everything was a mess, but we have continued on now. We've in fact carried on every year with that commitment of dedicating the 2% property tax increases to roads. It's just worth taking a step back. When I was elected in 2011, the big debate at the door was, well are…do you want to keep the property tax freeze or do you want to put something into infrastructure? And I said my preference would be, I want to put something in infrastructure. I think that's the responsible thing to do. That decision and Mr. Lorenc was part of that whole process that led us into what Councillor Wyatt first brought in, what Councillor Morantz continued, what Councillor Gillingham has continued in these budgets. So we increase roads funding not because we are at the…we got the cow tow to Chris Lorenc as one speaker said, but rather because, year after year as Councillor Lukes pointed out, year after year this item comes to the forefront when we ask the public, what are your priorities. So we have continued to invest in infrastructure. We have continued that commitment we made to keep that tax dedicated. So we are continuing our commitment to roads. It's also interesting to look back, in 20…my request of 2013 budget included more money for transit safety and we haven't touched on that in this budget. We haven't talked about it because we've come a long way. With Councillor Allard then Councillor Gilroy in particular joining in on that to say, we need the shields, we need more funding spent on transit safety and security, so we've done that. Also back in 2013, you would have heard…talked about should we proceed with the BRT. Yourself, Madam Speaker, several of us who are here today, a few actually, voted to carry on with the BRT project. It was referred to as a $550 million roadway the other day by one advocate. No, it's a bus rapid transit way. There are no cars on there. There are no trucks on there. It's for transit. It is meant to be the single biggest capital investment in the history of the City of Winnipeg and it was devoted to transit. It may open on April 12th or not, I'm not sure. Councillor Lukes was talking about that over lunch, but we have made a huge investment in transit with that BRT and this mayor has continued that commitment that was started by the previous council. Another thing in this document, you'll be pleased to know is the library strategy, last time I'll refer to it because you'll call it a prop if I keep doing that won't you. So anyway, the library strategy is referred to in this document from 2013 and it had bothered me that we were going to stop that partway through. Thanks to your efforts Madam Speaker, we are going to carry on with the West K project. I think that's only fair and that's right to keep going. Councillor Gillingham may yet require some funding for a library project in his ward and I would not begrudge that. So we carry on that work on libraries. I look forward to meeting with Councillor Klein whenever we're back to talk about arenas. He quite rightly, I think, has said we need to do some thinking about arenas. Previous council back in 2013, 2012, in fact, I found my press release from 2012 about the library RFP…or about the arena RFP. We do need to turn our mind to arenas. I think we can try to do that in a cooperative fashion. I don't know exactly where it will land. I think we will do…make a serious commitment to that. And if you look back, great acrimony in this room back in 2013 and talking about golf and the golf courses. We are doing a better job on that. I firmly believe that with what's in this budget. We are going to look not just at privatizing, not just at condoizing the golf courses. We're going to take a look at repurposing. Councillor Orlikow's put a lot of work in on this. Repurposing some of the land, some of it could be development, but some of it could be other sports. My one

regret in this budget is the money I fought so hard to get to reimagine the Canoe Club Golf Course. We're using it on other projects largely in my ward. But we had a good idea at the Canoe Club which was not necessarily develop it, but to look at other sports that might be able to take over some of the land. So I look forward, I very much hope to be part of that discussion. And this council is very much ahead of previous councils on our vision to preserve green space and to work on the golf courses. There are some major projects I'm pleased to see in this budget that did not get taken out. As Councillor Rollins has been terrific to work with on the St. Vital Bridge. It does connect two different places. It doesn't just benefit my ward. It also benefits other wards including hers. The St. Vital Park, long awaited repair of a building there and it's taken years to get that back in the budget so I'm pleased with that. Councillor Allard mentioned and he probably should take a lot more credit than me on reinvesting in the Bonivital Pool which will be important for the people of St. Vital. A couple of other quick notes; Councillor Chambers who's not here deserves some credit. He inherited a ward…brand new ward that had no money in its Land Dedication Fund. The River Park South joint venture, as Councillor Lukes and I never tired of pointing out…that River Park South joint venture funds $18 million into the city coffers, two of which got sent in St. Vital, so we are putting some of that money back into Councillor Chambers' Land Dedication because he literally had a zero balance when he came in with a new ward. So pleased to see the citizens of River Park South getting back some of the money that they helped generate. A couple of other items that if you look back on your notebooks for five years, you see the arc of time. The Food Council begun under this mayor. We are finally getting a full time person to do that, very proud of that. The Youth United now called the Inner City Work Study at U of Winnipeg. I was struck going back through my notes how much time that had occupied and how much effort that required so I thank the Mayor for his faith in that. We are investing in that student program for another four years with our partners at U of Winnipeg. The thing I would probably want to end with and this may take me a little bit, Madam Speaker, is I did find in my notes from 2012, the woman who called me from south of the Perimeter almost crying into the phone saying that her husband could not get then Handi-Transit service to take him to Cancer Care because they lived south of the Perimeter. And I said that can't be right. That's got to be wrong. You're paying your tax, let me take care of this, and I couldn't take care of it. So there was a policy in place, thanks, that said if you live more than 500 metres from a bus stop, you can't get Handi-Transit. And I got what turned out to be an inaccurate costing from Transit on that when I moved in 2012, and I'll be hiring my new forensic accountant, Jakob Sanderson to help me cost out whenever we turn to some more Handi-Transit issues. But the 500 metre rule has been in place since 2012. And finally, and my thanks to the Mayor and Councillor Gillingham on this…I'm going to need the two minutes, I think, Madam Speaker.

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

**Councillor Mayes:** I want to thank…and Councillor Nason who isn't here has certainly…basically the enforcement of this rule started tightening up a few years ago to within the Perimeter and then people started appearing at my door, Councillor Nason in particular, Councillor Gillingham and others. So we are…there was someone who said, well this is an inch of progress. No, no, this is not an inch of progress. This is meaningful. This is bringing Handi-Transit service to a lot of people who didn't have it before. So I'm very proud of that and thank those, and Patrick Stewart from Independent Living Resource Centres, really one of the only voices from outside this building who really did help fight for that. So I want to thank Patrick. When I was asked in the 2018 campaign by CBC, do you have a passion project? And I said, yeah, I want to eliminate this rule that means you can't get Handi-Transit if you're more than 500 metres from a bus stop and we are eliminating that. So I'm very pleased to able to stand here and there were times I didn't think I would be able to do that. So I'm very pleased to do that. So I think it was Councillor Rollins mentioned her university's motto, at Carlton's University was, "Ours the Task Eternal". And there were days on that 500 metre rule where it seemed to be a task eternal so I'm very pleased to finally get that taken care of. Final comment is, I was listening to Dire Straits, that's about my musical taste, on the way in this morning and there's a line about we're going to get you out of the darkness and into the day, we are in the darkness now and there will be a day when we come out of that, on the other side of COVID-19 and we're going to have a lot to be proud of, I think, and a lot to move forward. We are certainly going to have a number of challenges for our citizens but I think we have done the responsible thing in moving forward with this budget. I'm very pleased to support it. I support the amendments. My thanks again to Councillor Gillingham. You know, there's some ecclesiastics about all things must pass, and I think that's some wise words here. So I am pleased to talk today and I will be pleased to support the budget. Thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, Councillor Mayes. Councillor Browaty.

**Councillor Browaty:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I rise today to put my comments on the record about the 2020 budget, the first four-year operating budget. I would like to start by recognizing my colleague, Councillor Scott Gillingham, Chair of Finance, Mayor Bowman and the Budget Working Group for the work you did. Do I agree with every decision you guys ended up making? Of course not. I don't think any of you do. So I appreciate, you know, it is an exercise in making decisions and that. Certainly want to recognize, for the all the hours you spent, even more hours were spent by the Corporate Finance team; interim CAO, Mike Ruta, Paul Olafson and Lisa Pablo, and your teams for all the work you do to get you guys ready and to make decisions you have to do. First of all, the good; I know there's a

lot of pressure when it comes to increasing taxes. There's probably people around the Budget Working Group table that want to increase taxes a lot more to provide a lot more services. There's others that you know, would say, hey, maybe we could look at some things to cut back and you know, we could go to zero. I would like to commend Mayor Bowman, 2.33 I think is a responsible number. Knowing that that money's going towards our roads and to the phase two of southwest rapid transit I think is a responsible way to go forward. I think largely, this budget focuses on Winnipeg's priorities. Again, we're seeing record investments in our roads. It's not the most sexy thing in the world. You don't go for a ribbon cutting for each and every local street that gets done. But in my time on council, I can say that, you know, we've made meaningful improvements to our roads. I think we're actually getting ahead of where we were in the past. That's what's important. That's why, you know, this large investment is so necessary. We can't neglect our existing roads. It's out there. We're making meaningful increases in transit operating hours with this budget. That's huge. I mean, it is maybe a little unbalanced to southwest Winnipeg this time around, but we're on the right track I think when it comes to transit overall. We're investing in our tree canopy, especially after last October's massive storm, I think this is a very responsible thing to do. I fully support Mayor Bowman's Million Tree Challenge and it's certainly a legacy we can leave for future generations of Winnipeggers to come. We're taking a responsible means to continue to fund the Winnipeg Police Service. Crime, unfortunately, in the city is a reality and making sure that we have a properly resourced police service is important. Taking the savings that we found last fall and re-investing the vast majority back into our police service is the right path. Our city is growing and finally, we're investing in a new fire hall for Waverly West. It doesn't help one resident in North Kildonan, but this is the right thing to do and I'm happy to see that. We're also combining some fire halls and using technology to make a more effective fire hall in Windsor Park to replace two stations, also I think a needed investment. I'm really happy that at the end of the day we found a way to maintain library hours on Sundays. Locking up books, locking up a safe place in the community for people to go, I think was a mistake, so I'm happy to see that you know, between September and May, the library hours were retained. I'm also excited to see that there's a transformative fund and that we have tasked our public service now to find opportunities to take underperforming assets, take investment assets that we have that perhaps we don't need to have anymore, find them, identify them and perhaps roll the savings there into new recreation and other opportunities out there. Taking a look at Fleet I think is overdue as well, and we saw a huge savings and realized that the Province of Manitoba when they did a similar exercise recently. Quite often, if the right tools and the right means are done, there could be some really important savings there. Again, I was a little…the process we started last fall was a little bit of a problem. I mean, we always go to the departments, you know, before there was a more public process with that first round of budget exercises to give them mandates. You know, you get 1%, you get 1.5%. I mean, going to street lighting, for example, and giving them a zero. I mean, unless you're doing something completely different, the answer of the public service came back was going to be, we're going to have to start turning off lights. The fact that, you know, that public piece came out the way it did, I would have probably handled it differently if I had my say on that particular matter. Same thing when it comes to, you know, the widespread closures of pools, libraries, rec centres, again, probably not the way I would have handled it. Again, as it was made very clearly, we're not closing any City facilities that are currently not open. The one facility city-wide, when it comes to rec and leisure that was at least we all thought temporarily closed was the Terry Sawchuk Arena. Now, the Terry Sawchuk Arena is part of the whole Valley Gardens complex. It's technically located in Councillor Schreyer's ward, but Valley Gardens actually, the community centre, right across the parking lot from it is actually the only community club in our quadrant that actually has catchment from three civic wards. It has catchment from Councillor Nason's Transcona Ward, my North Kildonan Ward as well as Councillor Schreyer's ward where it is. So it is really a regional type of piece of City infrastructure. I would like to thank…you know, I think Councillor Klein was on the right track when he identified, I guess last month, I'm catching up on the details this morning here, but on the right track that perhaps we should look for third-party involvement in the community clubs since the budget came out and the idea was to keep Terry Sawchuk closed, I've had some very meaningful conversations with some different groups in the community. Valley Gardens Community Club is looking at a new facility potentially there with a couple sheets of ice. They have been doing things, talking to the Province that maybe has potential. The other group is Gateway Rec Centre. They have two sheets of ice but they're finding now that they're, perhaps, they're at a disadvantage to some of the other new private facilities that have three, four sheets of ice. There's some tournaments that they can't complete for because there's bigger facilities. Having Gateway take it over and make it sort of a third rink for Gateway, gives them an opportunity to bid on and host some bigger tournaments and they're certainly interested in working…looking at partnering with the City to, perhaps, take it over. They've been very successful many, many years, running a facility there. So I would like to, you know, recognize Denis Van Laeken, the General Manager at Gateway, President Tammy Harper and then over at Valley Gardens, Geoff Archambault who have been, you know, really taken things by the horns here. Oh, as well as Barry Bonni, General Manager of the River East Royal Knights that uses Sawchuk and is currently displaced and all over the place. I'm happy to see that the…from the original proposal that garbage pickup for multi-family properties got maintained. They pay…again, when it comes to the garbage collection before the waste minimization program, the entirety of the garbage and recycling bill went on people's general mill rate supported property taxes. When the minimization fee came out, and we did the first version of the rolling carts, I believe it came in as a $55 per door fee. So that 85 or so dollar part came from general mill rate support was paid for by everybody including the multi-family properties. That $55 additional piece was brought in and it only made sense that…well anyways, apparently there are some multi-family properties that aren't paying that. The reality is, they probably should and we'll have to look at…it's a version of making sure it is completely

fair and equitable across the board. But the point is the single-family properties and the multi-family properties were paying that base piece. If you take away that service without compensation, it was not fair to multi-family properties. If we really support density and those things, it would not be fair to pull it on multi-family properties in my mind.

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

**Councillor Browaty:** So I mentioned a couple of my challenges with some of the process, some of the…you know, putting out some rather unpalatable things in the public that probably were never going to see the light of day. That was a little unfortunate. Surprised the way the whole U-Pass piece played out, and I'm a little disappointed that we'd go out to the, you know, post-secondary institutions with a proposal that we approved in November and then by February, pull it away from offering it to them. To me, that was a little disingenuous. I mean, they were likely voting on it when the Budget Working Group had already pulled it off the table. I know you're making decisions and these things are fluid, but the way it played out was less than ideal. Disappointed at this point, I mean, year four of the budget shows no more community incentive group financing…community incentive group program money. I'm hoping that between now and then, there will be an opportunity to put that back in in those out of years. Again, considering the impacts of the world changing around us right now, spending the PST savings, the 1% for July and August may be a little irresponsible. We have to, you know, move towards a higher reliance on debt for short term infrastructure repairs. If you're building something that's brand new and multi-generational, I would like the idea of using long-term debt for it, road repairs and that. Under previous merit, there was a small increase every year in cash to capital for roads. We've gone the other way now. I understand money is cheap right now and there are some reasons to do it, but not necessarily an awesome policy. This year, I mean, last year I gave a lot of credit for lowering the dividend out of the Water and Waste utility towards the general budget. There was no cap and no decreases here so there is a little bit more money going from the water and sewer utility into general revenue. Again, I think right now the accomplished trial was an unnecessary expense and something I would have preferred to have seen the money roll back in. I'll leave it there. I have some thoughts on the impacts of COVID-19, but my time is out and I'll leave it right there.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Councillor Schreyer.

**Councillor Schreyer:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. First of all, I'm glad we went to a multi-budget process. I supported the initiative to move to a multi-year budget process in the first place. I believe we were sort of always supposed to be doing that. I feel that I certainly was when I was first elected. And the administration did give us certain indices in terms of forecasts that I thought were important for us to work with every single year. However, I guess we feel it…in the first term it wasn't adequate enough, we moved to multi-year like other municipalities, and I'm fine with that if that's going to help us, if that's what it takes. Also, I have supported like I do almost every single year, supported the budget recommendations coming through my standing committee before it hits council because I do believe that a lot of real work, a lot of real thought, effort or not, whether we do effort or not, it could be bad work, you know, through bad effort. It's not merely to applaud effort. It's to applaud good work. It's to applaud some real thought and a lot went into the respect of budgets of the various standing committees as we combined them into our operating and capital budgets for the year. I also support the amendments today and usually I do support amendments to motions if I think they make the main motion a better motion even if I can't support the main motion. That's just pure logic. I know Councillor Allard asked me once, how could you support the amendment and not vote for the motion? I said, because it made the motion better, that's why I did it. I didn't like the motion, but I knew it was a better motion, I knew it would pass. So at least I could vote for the amendment to make it better. In this case, I've done the same thing, Madam Speaker. I voted for a multi-year budget process. I've been supportive of the process since then, supportive of the process through standing committees, voted in favour to give a majority vote for the budget recommendation to pass through Water and Waste a few days ago and I support the amendments today, Madam Speaker. And I think I've done due diligence on being sort of self-honest in that, Madam Speaker. However, that doesn't say I could vote for the budget as it is. And having said that, I'll say again, if I felt this budget wasn't going to pass, given the unusual circumstances of today, given that of the COVID-19, if I felt because of circumstances that it wasn't going to pass because I feel we need an operating budget right now, I would vote for it. But as my understanding, due to political circumstances, the budget is going to pass. And so, if I'm wrong, well, I'll apologize, we'll have another vote next week, but this is my understanding. By the way, Madam Speaker, you know, when it comes to unusual circumstances, which we might be facing again in another year, we don't know, bear in mind that we don't have to pass the operating budget at the same time. In fact, we have all year to do so. That is not my recommendation. I'm just saying, when we have to take into consideration unusual circumstances such as what we might be dealing with very soon, we must take that into consideration, what the options are for council in terms of how we deal with these very serious issues. But we are nonetheless still increasing taxes. Still haven't reduced levies from last term. Fines, rates, our debt continues to increase but we're decreasing services and yet, we wish to increase access to our reserves all at the same time. This is at the very same time as we are looking…we say we're looking towards a longer term perspective, in terms of our budgeting and what we're trying to accomplish. And so, I'm at odds yet again with what we say we're trying to do and what we're doing. However, I'm not here to be a naysayer, never was. But I would like to say that in terms of transit, some aspects of transit, in terms of this budget are good. And we have to make

use of our bus corridor. Making the U-Pass palatable to the students is what we have to do to make use of the corridor and we're doing that. Having a low-income bus pass, I wish we had this decades ago and I think that's excellent. But bear in mind, I'll explain to you why I don't believe that unto itself is a burden on the budget. And I'll explain that right now, as a matter of fact, because it looks like I'm already running out of time, I can't believe it. Madam Speaker, you know, we talked about how, you know, there was a point in the last decade you know before a term ago when we had a zero net increase in taxes. Well, that's a zero…that wasn't a zero increase in property taxes. That was a zero net. And Madam Speakers…Madam Speaker, constituencies like mine and like Point Douglas, we had a major property tax increase over the decade. We had a tax increase of over 50%, that some would say over the last 20 years, it actually doubled in some areas including my area across the river, Councillor Eadie's area in the North End, across the river from me as well, Point Douglas. And Madam Speaker, I would say that areas like ours, we've had a tax increase 100 times greater than others. I've said before that we've had a regressive tax…property tax system and one councillor's pointed out, well, it's not regressive because it's on a percentage basis, the more affluent neighborhoods actually had a larger actual increase in their property taxes. But the fact is that's not exactly the case because in some neighborhoods, we've actually had at one point a zero percent increase for years. And on that basis, Madam Speaker, by definition, any way you look at it, the property increase, the burden went on the poorer communities. So the issue is, are those communities getting their…getting results for their increase and their proportional contribution to the tax base, Madam Speaker, through their property taxes? And Madam Speaker, it isn't the case. We are cutting services. We are cutting services, community services. We have a crumbling community service infrastructure in parts of our city where, in fact, we've had the largest tax increases in the last decade to the last generation. And if anybody wants to challenge us on that, well look, we'll have it out. It's…I would love to talk about it further, but I don't have time right now. And on that basis, you know, I'd like to say as well in terms of Terry Sawchuck dealing with the people at Valley Gardens, and dealing with the community centres, I was always in favour of looking for some positive alternatives. I could not do so by myself. This had to be a larger regional effort and to have the support of Jeff Browaty and North Kildonan is very important for the future of Terry Sawchuk. In terms of…

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

**Councillor Schreyer:** We talked about the elephant in the budget and we talked about the issue of density and how we create efficiencies through density. Madam Speaker, I think we've thrown the administration under the bus because they're saying in terms of climate action and greenhouse gases, our solution is density. Well, I'm not saying it can't be part of the solution, but as it causes consternation on the quality of life of neighbourhoods such as…especially on St. Vital, as an example, Madam Speaker. When I've asked the administration, when they talk about reducing greenhouse gases in their forecasts, how do they talk about the transition from using natural gas for heating houses and buildings to using electricity or from going from fossil fuel burning, greenhouse gas emitting vehicles to electric vehicles? We're in Manitoba, one of the very few places in the world where you charge your car in Manitoba, you're charging with 100% eternal hydro…clean burning hydro, whereas in Alberta, despite what they say, when you charge an electric car in Alberta, you're charging with 90% fossil fuels burned to charge the electricity grid. When you put your house to electricity in Manitoba, you're putting it to 100% hydro. That's not the case in the rest of North America. Only a few places and that is our responsibility in this province is different from the rest of the world. We have to think in terms of conversion to hydro and saying density is our solution isn't true at all. It's not. It's conversion to electricity unlike any other place you can think of. And that's our responsibility as Winnipeggers when it comes to climate action and when it comes to greenhouse gases. But we have not instructed the administration to incorporate that, but that is by far the largest. So when we take a look at percentages, I won't have time this time, Madam Speaker, but there will be more about this following the budget. These are really important issues. I'm glad we're dealing with them here and there's more to discuss as we go about our longer term budgetary considerations and vision. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. Councillor Klein.

**Councillor Klein:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. And I'm not sure what the odds are that I'm voting in favour or opposed. But I do want to stand today and express concerns that are not mine. They are that of the residents that I work for, that I represent, maybe not all of them. I'm sure not all of them. And maybe they have ideas that haven't been heard but that's why I'm here today. COVID-19 has changed the world we live in. I want to start by saying how proud I am of the ward that I represent who just last night came together to find a way to establish a network of volunteers to help people in Charleswood-Tuxedo-Westwood during this time of need. An e-mail went out, the responses came in, we had this done in a matter of four hours. I'm sure we would all rather dedicate our time to that effort today. But I respect the institution we serve and the rules that govern it. That said, I didn't agree to run for office simply to sit back and not offer up the concerns I've heard from those residents I represent. I, too, appreciate some of the changes and effort that has been made in the budget to maintain the identified cuts that enraged our citizens. I know that some will do their best to use my opposition vote against me to discredit ideas and alternatives over the next year, but I have to be true to what I feel and I have to represent those that pay me. I stand opposed to the four year spending plan not because we are offering bus fare for free to kids 12 and under, but because it's not complete. It contains mathematical errors still today.

In fact, the new data we just received for the U-Pass continues to be incomplete and engineered. Still lots of questions being shared by all councillors, yet here we are voting on it. It's not the people I'm opposed to, Madam Speaker. It's the risk. It's the risk that our city will now face. It increases the per capita debt from 700 to $2,100 just within the last ten years, with no explanation, no strategy to address the debt, no long conversation. I stand opposed not because of the organic waste trial that I supported for Councillor Matt Allard. It's because there are many violations of the Winnipeg Charter that led us to this moment today. I stand opposed not because of the low-income bus pass that Councillor Gilroy has worked tirelessly for, but it is because the residents that I represent don't feel this budget is a full reflection of Winnipeg. Rather, it's a reflection of some because not all council was involved. There's an interesting quote that was shared with me by one resident from an interview. It's a…and I quote, he said, "EPC traditionally has been a breeding ground for patronage and comfortable top-ups that fosters division on council and mistrust among the public." That quote was from the Free Press article and interview from 2014 with candidate for mayor, Brian Bowman. I am opposed to this budget not because libraries will remain open but because the Chair of IRPW respectfully admitted to mathematical errors in the U-Pass program. Any mathematical error in a budget of a million dollars or a billion dollars is a huge problem that seems to be dismissed today, because here we are voting on it. It's critical. How can the residents I represent be confident there's not more? I can't show them that because there's no time to review. I vote opposed not because arenas will remain open, because this plan before is leveraging our future financially, socially and environmentally to play out the narrative of a political success story. I truly believe, and I want to say, I respect people that were picked to be on the Budget Working Group. I respect the governance of this building. I may be opposed to it, but I will respect it. But I believe in my heart and having a good relationship with many on that group, some, I know John, sorry. I believe the Budget Working Group, if they did their due diligence by seeking advice from outside experts to fully understand financials and budgeting processes and to fully understand the implications of what was being presented to them, they would have been horrified by what they would learn. Imagine, Madam Speaker, this less than 12 days, a few councillors and a group of university students found a massive mathematical error that the Budget Working Group had five months and the full force of the public service behind them to find, but it was missed. Again, Madam Speaker, how can the residents I work for be confident? There are other errors. The details provided are questionable and incomplete. Real costs are mixed with those that are theoretical. Budgets are facts. They're data driven. I vote opposed not because the Budget Working Group found ways to reinstate programs in response to the public demand, but because questions that I've sent to the administration for answers have gone unanswered even to this moment. Would you vote on a spending program of over $1 billion if your questions weren't answered? And if you did, how do you explain that? Madam Speaker, I ask would you approve a budget knowing the following simple items, uncontrolled growth of debt with no plan to pay it off. S&P's 2019 outlook states the tax supported debt in Winnipeg will increase to approximately 90% of operating revenues. Please, go read about that. It's all online. Nothing has changed. The City continues with outdated budgeting practices and they continue to be done behind closed doors. I vote opposed not because of the plan to repair and rejuvenate our tree canopy. John Orlikow…Councillor John Orlikow did a great job and always is talking about that and is passionate about it because he believes it. I vote opposed because we've heard students…because of claims that say we've heard students loud and clear and we found a way to save the U-Pass at a slightly reduced discount. I vote opposed not because we are…

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

**Councillor Klein:** Appreciate that everybody, thank you. I vote opposed not because we are investing in the arts, but because our new reality is that we are a city that is quickly growing to a $2 billion debt. How can our children and their children and their children's children and so on and so on afford that? I believe my responsibility as an elected official is to bring out the greatness in our city, to encourage an environment for growth, sustainability, business development, quality of life, residents granted not just me, all of us, the privilege to manage their tax dollars. And I believe I'm obligated to be accountable to them and I am sorry. There's nothing more that I would like to do than stand united with everybody on council about a budget going forward that is best for the city with differences but where everybody had something to put forward and they were heard. They were heard. But that's not what we have before us today. The City has some accounting issues that have to be addressed in order for our community to truly reach its potential. Madam Speaker, for the record, I do appreciate all the work that has gone into this in five months. And I appreciate that mistakes happen. But when it's a millions…when it's a mistake of millions in a billion dollar budget, someone should have pressed pause and we should have taken some time to go back and find out if there were other areas or errors, I'm sorry. I didn't vote…I'm not…my vote opposed is not because of the multi-family garbage pickup that created a lot about crime. I'm opposed to agreeing to something that I can't honestly say I was a part of. One minute is what I need.

**Councillor Eadie:** Move to suspend the rules.

**Madam Speaker:** Councillor Eadie moves suspension. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Councillor Orlikow moves extension, one minute. One minute, Councillor Orlikow moves that. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

**Councillor Klein:** And I vote opposed not because of the funding for pool repairs in certain wards and not because of funding that's not in other wards. I vote opposed because I don't feel like I was a part of it. I don't feel like I could honestly sign a document that I had no true input on. Thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, Councillor Klein. Any further speakers? Councillor Eadie.

**Councillor Eadie:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Almost fell asleep in my chair. Trying to work at moving an amendment, Madam Speaker, all night. Good thing I stopped at 9 o'clock this morning and gave up on trying to move an amendment that would be too complex. Anyway, I digress. As I, well…first, I'd just like to start off by saying, you know, this COVD-19 thing came along sort of in the middle of the process of this multi-year budget and, again, I'll say it publically, I voted to go with a multi-year budget process because I thought it's good to plan for the future and what we're voting on now is actually a budget that is not taking into context the difficulties that people will have with cash flow. And cash flow is the issue. That's the issue. Difficult for everybody. It's just like when you buy a house, you can only buy a house based on your cash flow. If your cash flow doesn't say you can buy this much of a house, then that's what it is. So really, people with those lower valued houses are the people with the least amount of cash flow. And you have to use long term debt to buy that household. There's no doubt about that, Madam Speaker. But I would be remiss to say the administration and the Budget Working Group, everybody has put in a lot of work, done a lot of listening, been a lot of frustrated in that, yeah, it was open, but we went back to the regular hit which is behind closed doors, the Budget Working Group, which is based pretty well. You know, seven of them are EPC, two of them are outside. So this policy that's going to come through, you're just cementing in what I think is an inappropriate budget working group. In the past, it was EPC who was the budget working group and the budget committee and the chair of the…person who usually handled the budget committee was the Chair of Finance on behalf of the Mayor as the Mayor's appointment, which is good. So in this policy, you're cementing that. But there are things and were…and our current interim CAO who's been the CFO for a very long time for the City of Winnipeg and was very good for this city when he came in and he got rid of that really high interest debt. Helped us work at that. We went to pay as you go or as we call it, cash to capital, big programs like that, those kind of things happen. And I heard when the budget was presented, the City has a lot of liquidity built into its balance sheet so as you move forward and the Mayor will be, I'm sure, bringing forth ideas, I hope, to maybe allow people to defer making their property tax payments or their business tax payments until the fall. If we've got that much liquidity and we look that good, then I think maybe we can pass and try to do something in that manner. There's not a lot the City can do and the Province has most of the huge levers to help people through this time. But I digress. I want to go back to this four year budget, which is…would have been the crisis' we were dealing with are the ones as explained by the presenter who is opposed to our budget. That person is correct. We are in a spiral down to no services and it might take another ten years or whatever. But we're on a spiral down to no services because we've got all this infrastructure and you have to have ideas what to do. Now, I hate to say this people of Winnipeg, but taxes. I'm sorry, that is it. So what would I have done? What was I working on? I introduced the idea of a property tax credit. Now, what I would have done was taken the 1% that was going to go into local roads and utilize that $5.9 million to do what has been assisted in me calculating at a $5.8 million item. Now, moving into the future, looking at it and working out the numbers, and I didn't have the whole team with me, the whole team of administrators counting and working it all out, okay. But you want ideas and things, and you say, well you didn't try to amend and you want to do this. You know, actually, I say it's a competitive advantage having a business tax with a 65% apportionment on business property. That is actually a competitive advantage in this country now, Madam Speaker. I can argue it with it, Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, if we want to have a debate, we can go for it. I'll bring some more numbers because in our short question period, you can't deal with it all. But so what I would have done is maybe used some of the growth at 1.32% which I did get that calculation, thank you administration. We have a very good economist there. He does a lot of work, calculates it out, it's good. So I was looking at that. So you could use growth because that is what we do for the business tax credit. We use growth to raise the ceiling so that those small businesses don't have to pay business tax, they get an offsetting credit. And then we hear from one of the advisers to our leader that, oh, it's apples and oranges to give a property tax. It's a different story. Well, a lot of those businesses are hiring people and they work for lower wages, Madam Speaker. So anyway, I want to get this across, though. So you could have used growth to expand that property tax credit to higher value houses because yes, people with 300 350,000, those kind of house, yeah, they're struggling, too. I get that. I know that. But we do have to raise property taxes if we want to continue providing services. And the grants we cut, Rossbrook House. Like what we've been doing over these years is giving grants to like Boys and Girls Club who's flat and out, that's good. I think that's really important. But a lot of the grants we give are to groups, organizations that are doing something cheaper than we can do it. It's good to give them grants. Actually, I think we should increase their grants, Madam Speaker. They do it for cheaper. I'm not saying taking away City worker jobs. What I'm saying is we have a crisis that we had to deal with, but like a $5,000 grant ain't going to cut it. Putting 35 cops on the street in downtown ain't gonna solve the problem.

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

**Councillor Eadie:** So another frustration. Over a billion dollars of budget and you get ten minutes plus two, plus maybe one if you're lucky. Like, really? Anyway, there's so much I could have done. Just keep the business tax at 4.97, raise

the ceiling for those small businesses. I'm all cool. It only costs a few hundred thousand, but if you keep the…there's growth in business. You might say, well, it doesn't grow as fast as property. But you know what? You're not going to have a one for one business to every household. That's not how it works. How many customers does it take? Well, actually, we could ask, what's the shawarma guy's place down the way there? Let's ask him, how many customers does it take to make a business? Of course they're not growing as fast. Like, really. These are the people who advise the leader of Winnipeg. They listen to him, Madam Speaker, I can't believe it. Anyway, we could have used that $1.6 million that it raised to get rid of the 50 cent extra on the metre. We could have done that. We could also use that extra money to actually to…we're cutting a whole bunch of grants to business related items, Exchange District items, Downtown BIZ items, all kinds of things, business. We could have used that money…community incentive grants. We do need to raise the property tax. I forgot to mention, I'd replace the 1% for the roads with a $1 frontage levy, but only if you bring in $110 property tax credit to help those people with low cash flow to…those people who get hurt most by non…by fixed chart…

**Madam Speaker:** Councillor Schreyer, you're suspending the rules for additional time. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

**Councillor Eadie:** So the wealthy who have the million dollars houses benefit from a frontage fee, but the realization is…

**Madam Speaker:** We need to actually have a vote to add more time as well. Yeah, Councillor Browaty moves extension of one minute. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

**Councillor Eadie:** Anyways, that 11.5 which could do, is it raises more than the 5.9 million, it raises it $11.5 million. You could have reduced the long term debt because this is one idea that I was suggesting to our budget person that we use long term debt for reconstruction of roads that are going to last 30 to 50 years and you use 20 year money for that. That is smart debt when the interest rates are as low as they are today. But you're going to be using 20 year money for a road that's only going to last ten or 12 or 13 because it's only being rehabbed and here we are, we'll still be making payments, Madam Speaker. Still be making payments. And we're going to have to fix that road again. Geeze, eh. Anyway, thanks. I'm going to conclude. I am not voting for this budget. I appreciate all of the work that was done on it. It is balanced, but there is a lot of organizations that are going to be hurting and you're going to hear about it. You're going to hear about the crisis, Mayor that you think you're going to....

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Thank you. Your time is up. Councillor Gillingham, it's your opportunity to close on amendment 1 and 2.

**Councillor Gillingham:** Okay, thank you very much, Madam Speaker. And I thank you for the comments of all my council colleagues and once again, the input. I will limit my comments, obviously, as you said, to the amendment that is before us. Again, specifically the second amendment that has been put forward, we do recognize it in the present time that there are residents, property owners, business owners that are being affected by this COVID crisis and financially impacted, but we want to find a way to offer some assistance but it's really important that the City do its due diligence and it's incumbent upon us that the City do its due diligence to determine what the financial impact would be on the City as well. Councillor Eadie is right. He just mentioned a moment ago, what is really important is cash flow. That's important in our own homes. It's important for the City of Winnipeg too. So we really need to determine where our cash flow will be at through the coming months. So we've asked our staff to go and do its due diligence through this motion and I trust that all councillor colleagues will support this motion.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. Mayor Bowman, your opportunity to close on the item.

**Mayor Bowman:** Thank you, Madam Speaker and thank you to all of my colleagues for their comments today and for their efforts to get us here. As everyone knows, Winnipeg is on its way to grow steadily over the coming decades to a population of a million people strong. It is absolutely critical that we support this growth by investing in the right infrastructure and services at the right time so these investments are in place when we need them. This years' multi-year balanced budget marks a historic and transformative step forward for our city. For the first time in Winnipeg's history, we are presenting balanced operating budgets for the next four consecutive years and balancing multiple years is a bold, ambitious effort. The first ever four year balanced budget process began more than four months prior to the budget…to the budget being voted on today. And many had been calling for a more open and transparent process that allowed greater input and there is no question that this multi-year balanced budget process accomplished that. Some even said it was too open and too transparent. While I know many found it difficult, even shocking to see some of the options that were provided by our public service to balance the budgets, these were the type of options that in previous years would have been made by the public service behind closed doors. Councillors…all councillors, citizens and community groups let their voices be heard and those voices have helped shape the budgets that are being voted on today. And this new process has forced all of us as a council to plan for the longer term. The multi-year balanced budgets provide a blueprint for transformative change in a way that we deliver key services and invest in infrastructure. It also provides greater

certainty and predictability for ratepayers. It represents a fiscally disciplined approach to controlling expenses and driving efficiencies so that the City can chart a course towards greater fiscal and environmental sustainability. Keep in mind that at the start of this multi-year balanced budget process, there was an operating deficit of nearly $90 million in the tax-supported budget for 2020 that was projected to increase to nearly $175 million by 2023. Many of the public service options to balance included closing pools, libraries and other civic facilities along with the elimination of important civic services. I'm pleased that the multi-year balanced budgets we're voting on today ensures that civic facilities that are open right now do not close. The budgets also ensure that multi-family garbage collection continues. There are, however, operating expenditure reductions that included many of the options presented by the public service. Notwithstanding some of the amendments made yesterday before capital related expenses, the tax supported operating budgets will increase by an average of 1.5% per year over the next four years which is amongst the smallest increases in our city's history. After capital related expenses are included, the next four years would see an average annual increase of approximately 2.6%. This is lower than the projected rate of growth and the consumer price index and population growth over this period. These multi-year balanced budgets prioritize investments in transit, community safety, community services, roads, fire protection and our tree canopy. For example, over the course of these budgets, the tax supported transit subsidy will increase by 35% from $70.5 million in 2019 to 95.5 million in 2023, thanks to the ongoing leadership and advocacy by Councillor Allard and our council colleagues. For the first time in our city's history, we'll be implementing a low-income transit pass. It's absolutely historic and we should be very proud to be voting on this today. Advocacy by former Councillor Jenny Gerbasi, Councillor Cindy Gilroy and many other council colleagues around the chamber here today. And beginning in 2021, children under 12 will ride for free. The budgets will increase the Community Service's operating budget. Again, thanks to the leadership and the advocacy of our committee chair, Councillor Rollins, Councillor Santos and many others around this chamber. The budget will increase annually for the next four years in order to keep key City facilities open. The budgets include historic investments in public safety including an increase in the operating budget for the Winnipeg Police Service by an average of 2% annually from 289.4 million in 2019 to over 313 million by 2023. It will support phase two of the downtown public safety strategy, funds for the community connection space at Millennium Library and the budgets also act on a key recommendation of the illicit drug strategy with a new investment of $1 million over the next four years to support an expansion of 24/7 safe spaces. Our UN Safe Cities leader on council, Councillor Cindy Gilroy has been an absolute champion to protect our most vulnerable in our city. The multi-year balanced budget continues our record investments in roads, a projected total of almost 847 million or an average of 141 million per year will be invested in regional and local road renewal over the next six years. The balanced budgets also include capital investments of over 25 million to construct two new fire paramedic stations beginning in 2022 and 2023. These are initiatives championed by many members of council including Councillor Janice Lukes and Councillor Matt Allard, new stations in both of your wards. The multi-year balanced budgets also have made the protection and the enhancement of trees a priority by increasing the operating budget for tree planting, pruning and Dutch Elm disease control from 11.8 million in '19 to 12.5 million in 2023, an increase of 6%; again, championed by Councillor John Orlikow and many of my council colleagues around the council floor. Total capital investment in the Urban Forest Enhancement Program and Reforestation Improvements over the next four years is budgeted to be over $25 million, an increase of 10 million…almost $10 million or 60% increase from the previous four year capital investment in this area. Some other notable items in the budget's property taxes limited to 2.33%. The business tax reduced, no new fees, no increase to the water and sewer dividend rate, no increases to the frontage levy, no increase to on-street parking rates, significant capital investments for combined sewer overflows. Overall, the balanced budgets represent a responsible plan that strike the right balance between fiscal and environmental sustainability while making investments in key services and infrastructure that will build our growing city for the future. And I'm very proud to support many initiatives in this budget. Of course, it's easy to criticize, but collaboration takes leadership and it is the only way that we deliver results for the citizens that we serve. And I look around this council chamber and I see a lot of leaders that have got us to this point today where we're voting for the first ever four year multi-year balanced budget. In my neck of the woods in Charleswood, very proud to live in Charleswood with my family, I'm going to be able to look at my neighbours and say I voted for Roblin Boulevard road reconstruction. It's an investment from Dieppe to the Perimeter of $8.45 million. It's a major infrastructure project in Charleswood. I'm going to be able to say I voted to keep the Westwood Library open. I voted for a three year recreation in library facility investment strategy of up to $50 million.

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

**Mayor Bowman:** Thank you. Starting in 2021, to be funded from the City's anticipated annual strategic infrastructure allocation from the Province of Manitoba. I'm going to say I voted for historic funding for the Winnipeg Police Service and other community, safety and crime prevention initiatives. And I want to be able to say, also, that Councillor Chambers couldn't be here, he asked me to put a few things on the record for him. So I'm going to be very quick. I know he and members of council fought to keep garbage pickup from multi-family dwellings. I know that was important for Councillor Mayes, as well as of course, eliminating the Transit Plus 500 metre rule, something that he had championed. I don't know how many times I've heard about it, I'm really hoping I can stop hearing about it. But today is a historic day and I appreciate his comments and his leadership in that respect. The libraries, Councillor Sharma has been a champion to save a library redevelopment plan. Each of you championed different things. Councillor Chambers worked really hard

with Councillor Mayes and I think Councillor Lukes as well on…with respect to Save Our Seine, Margaret Grant Pool, libraries, the new fire hall in Waverly West, for transit services among many other things. And I want to acknowledge and applaud his leadership and his efforts to get us to today as well. And last but not least, I want to thank our Finance Chair again. His leadership is something that had led to us having the first ever four year multi-year balanced budget in the history of the City of Winnipeg. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Mayor. With that, we will call the vote on the operating and capital budget. There's call for a recorded vote. Okay, all in favour? Pardon me, first we'll get to your amending motions, councillor. Okay, so we have…and we'll vote in reverse order. So this is Motion No. 2 that had the numeric changes. We'll vote on amending Motion 2. All in favour? This is a recorded vote. All in favour, please rise. Yes, amending Motion 2 regarding the numeric ordering changes. All in favour? Sorry, the numeric changes. All in favour, please rise.

**Clerk:** His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard…

**Madam Speaker:** I'm sorry, I want to take back what I just said about amending Motion 2 as it was outlined by Councillor Gillingham.

**Councillor Eadie:** To fix an error in digits?

**Madam Speaker:** No, that is the main motion. That is the motion on COVID and regarding property taxes. Okay, thank you. Sorry for the confusion. All in favour, please rise.

**A RECORDED VOTE** was taken the result being as follows:

**Yeas**

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

**City Clerk:** The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 14, Nays 0.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Clerk. Motion 2 passes unanimously. Now onto amending Motion 1. And there's been a call for a recorded vote. All in favour, please rise.

**A RECORDED VOTE** was taken the result being as follows:

**Yeas**

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

**Madam Speaker:** Amending Motion 1 passes, Mr. Clerk. Yes, all those opposed, please rise.

**Nays**

Councillor Eadie

**City Clerk:** The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 13, Nays 1.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Clerk. Amending Motion 1 passes. Now we'll vote on the main item, Item 1 – The Operating and Capital Budget. All in favour, please rise.

**A RECORDED VOTE** was taken the result being as follows:

**Yeas**

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

**Nays**

Councillors Eadie, Klein and Schreyer

**City Clerk:** The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 11, Nays 3.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Item 1 – The Multi-Year Operating and Capital Budget passes. Mr. Mayor, on to you now for by-laws.

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

**Mayor Bowman:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. And thank you to my council colleagues. I move that By-law 38/2020 be read a first time.

**Madam Speaker:** All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

**Clerk:** By-law No. 38/2020.

**Councillor Eadie:** Record me in opposition,

**Madam Speaker:** Councillor Eadie's been recorded in opposition. Mr. Mayor.

## EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
## CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

**Mayor Bowman:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that By-law 38/2020…my apologies, I move that the following By-laws be read a first time: By-law 30/2020, By-law 32/2020, By-law No. 33/2020, By-law No. 34/2020, By-law 35/2020, By-law 36/2020 and By-law 37/2020.

**Madam Speaker:** All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Yes.

**Councillor Eadie:** I lost the list of by-laws. What number is the business tax credit?

**Madam Speaker:** Is that 33, Mr. Clerk?

**Councillor Eadie:** Is it 33 or 4?

**City Clerk:** Madam Speaker, By-law No. 33/2020 is to set and impose the 2020 rate of business tax, No. 37/2020 is to create a small business tax credit for 2020. By-law 37/2020.

**Madam Speaker:** Okay, we've got that, thank you. Madam Clerk.

**Clerk:** By-law No. 31/2020, No. 32/2020, By-law No. 33/2020, By-law No. 34/2020, By-law No. 35/2020, By-law No. 36/2020 and By-law No. 37/2020.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

**Mayor Bowman:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that By-laws No. 31/2020 to 37/2020 , both inclusive, be read a second time.

**Madam Speaker:** All in favour? Contrary? That's been noted, Councillor Eadie and Councillor Schreyer, 37 and 35. Noted, thank you.

**Clerk:** By-laws No. 31/2020 to 37/2020 both inclusive.

**Madam Speaker:** Mr. Mayor.

**Mayor Bowman:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that the rule be suspended and By-laws numbered 31/2020 to 37/2020, inclusive, be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

**Madam Speaker:** All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Councillor Gillingham, you move adjournment?

**Councillor Gillingham:** I do, thank you. So moved.

**Madam Speaker:** All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Roll call, Madam Clerk.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. This meeting is adjourned. We will reconvene shortly. Mr. Clerk, the timing? Pardon me? Pardon me? We're going to reconvene at 3:00 o'clock, there is administrative paperwork that needs to be completed so we can run the meeting appropriately. Thank you.

**Council adjourned at 2:06 p.m.**