Minute No. 486
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – July 10, 2020

Item No. 4 Funding for Vulnerable Populations in Response to COVID-19

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks and adopted the following:

1. That of the $670,000.00 already gifted to the City from the Community Response Fund for Vulnerable Populations (CRFVP), up to $620,000.00 be allocated to the creation of one or more permanent public washrooms and hand washing stations as follows:

    A. The design, construction, and installation of permanent public washrooms that would be accessible to the public 24 hours a day / 7 days a week / 365 days a year;

    B. Location(s) to be approved in consultation with the EHW and the Public Service; and

    C. Construction to be completed by February 2021.

2. That operational costs associated with these permanent public washrooms be determined and any amounts that cannot be defrayed through funding or revenue from other sources be referred to the 2021 operating budget process.

3. That the remainder of the $670,000.00 gifted to the City from the CRFVP be allocated for the immediate rental of temporary, portable washrooms and hand washing stations in areas of the city which will best serve the needs of homeless individuals, with locations to be identified through consultation with EHW and the Public Service.

4. That, if additional funds become available to the City from the CRFVP, authority be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer to determine whether to allocate those additional amounts to either the creation of permanent public washrooms outlined in Recommendation 1 or the immediate rental of temporary, portable washrooms outlined in Recommendation 3.

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COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

5. That authority be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer to apply for funding from the ECSF through Francofonds.

6. That, if any funds are made available to the City in 2020 from the Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF), authority be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer in consultation with the Société de la francophonie manitobaine ("SFM"), Entreprise Riel, Festival du voyageur and Division scolaire franco-manitobaine ("DSFM") to:

    A. determine whether to allocate those additional amounts to either the creation of permanent public washrooms outlined in Recommendation 1 or the immediate rental of temporary, portable washrooms outlined in Recommendation 3; and

    B. if these funds are allocated to the immediate rental of temporary, portable washrooms, to approve suitable locations for these washrooms within Francophone communities in Winnipeg.

7. That the City of Winnipeg enter into, execute and deliver such agreements as are necessary to implement the foregoing and that the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of said agreements, including such terms and conditions as are determined by the City Solicitor to protect the interests of the City.

8. That the Public Service report back in September 2021 on all outcomes resulting from the initiatives proposed by this motion, including a summary of ongoing budgetary requirements for continued operation of any washroom facilities constructed.

9. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On July 15, 2020, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On July 10, 2020, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services, and Parks passed the following motion:

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, supported by an unprecedented $10 million philanthropic donation from the Canadian Medical Association Foundation, has created the COVID-19 Community Response Fund for Vulnerable Populations ("CRFVP") to directly fund cities and communities to support vulnerable populations struggling with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including our Francophone communities;

AND WHEREAS the stated intent of the CRFVP is to "empower municipalities across Canada to better reach, protect and assist the most vulnerable among us—including those experiencing homelessness or grappling with mental health and substance use challenges";

AND WHEREAS the CRFVP will direct allocations to communities with homeless populations according to needs, based on the Designated Communities and Indigenous Homelessness Streams of the federal *Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy*;

AND WHEREAS the Public Service has received confirmation that $670,000.00 from the CRFVP has been allocated to the City of Winnipeg ("the City") to fund initiatives and/or projects within the city that will further the stated intent and meet the criteria of the CRFVP, as long as funded projects are completed by February 2021;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

AND WHEREAS Francofonds, Manitoba's Francophone community foundation, is contributing $140,930.00 to support vulnerable populations within our Francophone communities in Manitoba responding to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis through the federal Emergency Community Support Fund ("ECSF");

AND WHEREAS the ECSF is a $350 million investment by the Government of Canada to help vulnerable populations deal with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic;

AND WHEREAS Francofonds is now accepting applications for funding from qualified donees within Manitoba's Francophone communities to carry out community projects that serve vulnerable populations particularly affected by COVID-19, which can include:

- registered Canadian municipalities; and
- registered municipal or public organizations performing functions of government in Canada.

AND WHEREAS funds from the ECSF can be used to adapt frontline services for vulnerable Canadians during the COVID-19 crisis, including "persons from an official language minority community";

AND WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic, and the resulting closure of City facilities, non-profit community agencies and private businesses, has clearly demonstrated the need for, publicly accessible washrooms and hand washing facilities in the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing has published "A Human Rights Approach: A National Protocol for Homeless Encampments in Canada", which outlines 8 fundamental principles, including Principle 6: *Ensure encampments meet basic needs of residents consistent with human rights;*

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

AND WHEREAS an elaboration on Principle 6 provides as follows:

> "Access to hygiene and sanitation facilities - Homeless encampments must be provided with sufficient resources and supports to ensure access to hygiene and sanitation facilities – toilets, showers, hand- washing stations, for example – within the encampment, or within very close proximity… Facilities should ensure the hygiene and dignity of all residents irrespective of needs or identity….Hygiene and sanitation facilities should include:
>
> - Washing stations, including showers with privacy and safety for women and gender diverse peoples, stocked with soap, water, paper towels;
>
> - Adequate numbers of toilets based on the encampment population which must be accessible for residents with disabilities. Every toilet station must also have a hand-washing station…"

AND WHEREAS the need for public restrooms has been identified by End Homelessness Winnipeg ("EHW") and other community organizations including Main Street Project, West Broadway Community Ministry, Resource Assistance for Youth ("RaY") and St. Boniface Street Links, who have installed temporary public toilets in key areas of the city during the pandemic;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following be submitted to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That of the $670,000.00 already gifted to the City from the Community Response Fund for Vulnerable Populations (CRFVP), up to $620,000.00 be allocated to the creation of one or more permanent public washrooms and hand washing stations as follows:

    A. The design, construction, and installation of permanent public washrooms that would be accessible to the public 24 hours a day / 7 days a week / 365 days a year;

    B. Location(s) to be approved in consultation with the EHW and the Public Service; and

    C. Construction to be completed by February 2021.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

2. That operational costs associated with these permanent public washrooms be determined and any amounts that cannot be defrayed through funding or revenue from other sources be referred to the 2021 operating budget process.

3. That the remainder of the $670,000.00 gifted to the City from the CRFVP be allocated for the immediate rental of temporary, portable washrooms and hand washing stations in areas of the city which will best serve the needs of homeless individuals, with locations to be identified through consultation with EHW and the Public Service.

4. That, if additional funds become available to the City from the CRFVP, authority be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer to determine whether to allocate those additional amounts to either the creation of permanent public washrooms outlined in Recommendation 1 or the immediate rental of temporary, portable washrooms outlined in Recommendation 3.

5. That authority be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer to apply for funding from the ECSF through Francofonds.

6. That, if any funds are made available to the City in 2020 from the Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF), authority be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer in consultation with the Société de la francophonie manitobaine ("SFM"), Entreprise Riel, Festival du voyageur and Division scolaire franco-manitobaine ("DSFM") to:

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7. That the City of Winnipeg enter into, execute and deliver such agreements as are necessary to implement the foregoing and that the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of said agreements, including such terms and conditions as are determined by the City Solicitor to protect the interests of the City.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

8. That the Public Service report back in September 2021 on all outcomes resulting from the initiatives proposed by this motion, including a summary of ongoing budgetary requirements for continued operation of any washroom facilities constructed.

9. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.