Minute No. 16
Report – Executive Policy Committee – October 20, 2020

Item No. 3 Neighbourhood Economic Development Officer

COUNCIL DECISION:

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

1. That the March 20, 2020 Council decision regarding the Preliminary 2020-2023 Multi-Year Operating and Capital Budget be amended by rescinding Clause 1.U., namely

   "1.U. That Council amend the Business Improvement Zone Procedures By-law 8111/2002 to reflect that Business Improvement Zones, commencing with their 2021 budget, must allocate funds to offset a portion of the costs of the Neighbourhood Economic Development Officer and that the allocation of this cost to individual Business Improvement Zones be based on (adjusted) annual rental value."

2. That the costs of maintaining the Neighbourhood Economic Development Officer and all the duties assigned to this staff position, be funded through business taxes.

3. 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 His Worship Mayor Bowman,
That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted.

In amendment,
Moved by Councillor Eadie,
Seconded by Councillor Nason,

WHEREAS the Neighbourhood Economic Development Officer (NEDO) is an essential position within the city for many reasons on behalf of the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the business improvement zones should not be paying any portion of the NEDO's salary;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that EPC's recommendation on the original motion from the Lord Selkirk West Kildonan Community Committee on 3. Neighbourhood Economic Development Officer to have the 2021 operating budget remove the following clause:

> "1.U. That Council amend the Business Improvement Zone Procedures By-law 8111/2002 to reflect that Business Improvement Zones, commencing with their 2021 budget, must allocate funds to offset a portion of the costs of the Neighbourhood Economic Development Officer and that the allocation of this cost to individual Business Improvement Zones be based on (adjusted) annual rental value."

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the use of business taxes to pay the costs of maintaining the NEDO position and all the duties assigned to this staff position.

The motion for the adoption of the amendment was put.

Councillor Nason called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:

Yea: His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Nason, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Schreyer and Sharma 14

Nay: Councillors Browaty and Mayes 2

and the motion for the adoption of the amendment was declared carried.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

The motion for the adoption of the item as amended was put and declared carried.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On October 29, 2020, Council laid over the matter to its meeting on November 26, 2020.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 20, 2020, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS the 2020-2023 Multi-Year Budget Recommended that Council amend Business Improvement Zone Procedures By-law 8111/2002 to reflect that Business Improvement Zones, commencing with their 2021 budget, must allocate funds to offset a portion of the costs of the Neighbourhood Economic Development Officer and that the allocation of this cost to individual Business Improvement Zones be based on (adjusted) annual rental value;

AND WHEREAS the public service has had discussions with Business Improvement Zones on the necessary adjustments to the annual rental values;

AND WHEREAS more time is necessary for the Business Improvement Zones to work with the public service to find the best solutions to implement these adjustments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Policy Committee recommend to Council:

1. That the implementation of 2020-2023 Multi-Year Budget Recommendation 1.U., as approved by Council on March 20, 2020 be delayed for up to 120 days, namely:

    1.U. That Council amend the Business Improvement Zone Procedures By-law 8111/2002 to reflect that Business Improvement Zones, commencing with their 2021 budget, must allocate funds to offset a portion of the costs of the Neighbourhood Economic Development Officer and that the allocation of this cost to individual Business Improvement Zones be based on (adjusted) annual rental value.

2. That the Winnipeg Public Service consult with Business Improvement Zones on the best solutions for implementation.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

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

The following persons submitted communications in support of the matter:

- Astrid Lichti, North End Business Improvement Zone, submitted a communication dated October 19, 2020.
- Leila Dance, Executive Director, Transcona Business Improvement Zone, submitted a communication dated October 20, 2020.
- Katia von Stackelberg, Executive Director, Corydon Avenue Business Improvement Zone, submitted a communication dated October 19, 2020.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 6, 2020, the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS the 2020 to 2023 budget made provisions in the recommendations to implement the clause below:

> "1.U. That Council amend the Business Improvement Zone Procedures By-law 8111/2002 to reflect that Business Improvement Zones, commencing with their 2021 budget, must allocate funds to offset a portion of the costs of the Neighbourhood Economic Development Officer and that the allocation of this cost to individual Business Improvement Zones be based on (adjusted) annual rental value."

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg's consultations with businesses leading up to the 2002 By-law encompassed the need to have a neighbourhood economic development officer to oversee and assist business improvement zones accomplish the goals of a BIZ;

AND WHEREAS By-law 8111/2002 and each BIZ by-law set out an ability of the City to collect business improvement zone levies on behalf of each BIZ member businesses to further the goals of their zones by using their own money, not the city's money;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has no right to direct the BIZ membership on how it spends its money according to the budgets passed by Council each year;

AND WHEREAS there is a need to have city employees oversee all the by-laws created by City Council including the BIZ procedures By-law;

AND WHEREAS over the years the City of Winnipeg's budgets have cut services directly related to keeping the business environment in the zones conducive to doing business in Winnipeg for customers and owners;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee recommend to the Executive Policy Committee that the rescinding of the 2020-2023 Multi-Year Budget Recommendation 1.U., as approved by Council on March 20, 2020, be referred to the 2021 Budget Process, and that a funding source be identified to fund the Neighbourhood Economic Development Officer position for the 2021 budget year and beyond.