Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – December 9, 2020

REPORTS

Item No. 16 Winnipeg Small and Medium Business Bridge Grant

COUNCIL DECISION:

On November 26, 2020, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Klein,
Seconded by Councillor Nason,

WHEREAS on November 10, 2020, the Province of Manitoba announced that effective November 12, 2020, numerous businesses would be required to temporarily close their doors to the public or cease operating in order to halt COVID-19 transmission;

AND WHEREAS in an effort to help Winnipeg businesses survive the financial impacts of COVID-19, on April 3, 2020 Council waived penalties on unpaid 2020 property and business taxes for three months, but some small and medium sized businesses have still shut down, or are on the verge of closing permanently;

AND WHEREAS the closing of a businesses not only effects the business owners and employees, but also negatively impacts the City's tax base;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in an effort to help businesses survive the financial impacts of COVID-19,

1. A one time "Winnipeg Small & Medium Business Bridge Grant" in the amount of $ 750 be provided to small and medium-sized businesses that were ordered to temporarily close their doors to the public or cease operating effective November 12, 2020, as ordered by the Province of Manitoba to halt COVID-19 transmission.

2. That this grant be financed from the Destination Marketing Reserve, given that:

    A. The Reserve is in surplus;

    B. Traditional demand for the Reserve to secure or promote tourism and major events is likely to be depressed for many months given the Covid-19 crisis;

    C. That protecting the diversity of our restaurant, retail and entertainment sector businesses is consistent with the mandate of the Reserve, and

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

D. The mandate for the Reserve, which is drawn from a dedicated revenue source, limits its use for other urgent City fiscal needs or priorities;

and that the purpose of the Destination Marketing Reserve be amended as necessary to accomplish this.

3. That the list of businesses eligible for the Winnipeg Small & Medium Business Bridge Grant be determined by mirroring the list of Winnipeg-based businesses otherwise eligible for the Manitoba Bridge Grant announced on November 12, 2020, by means to be determined by the Winnipeg Public Service. These businesses would likely include: retail businesses not on the essential services list, personal service businesses, gyms and fitness centres, recreation and sport facilities, restaurants, bars, beverage rooms, brewpubs, microbreweries and distilleries.