COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Wednesday, December 16, 2020

The Council met at 9:39 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 Schreyer.

ROLL CALL

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

Madam Speaker: Thank you. There are no announcements as this is a special meeting, but I would like to turn it over to the Mayor for some brief remarks and a moment of silence. Thank you.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good morning, everyone. On behalf of the City of Winnipeg Council and citizens of Winnipeg, I'd like to express our deepest condolences to the family, friends, and co-workers of Master Sailor Dwayne Earl during this most difficult time. As a city, we have a long and cherished connection with Her Majesty's Canadian Ship Winnipeg. We are proud of the men and women of the Royal Canadian Navy who go to sea to safeguard our country's peace and security and their extraordinary skill and professionalism. The news about Master Sailor Earl fills us with profound sadness across our whole community, our extended family of Winnipeggers, both here and around the world. In such a painful and anxious time, our bonds of community have never been more important, and I hope it will help to provide some measure of strength and comfort knowing that our community is grieving this loss alongside the family and friends of Master Sailor Dwayne Earl and all of the members of the Royal Canadian Navy. And I would ask for a moment of silence, please.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Please rise for a moment of silence. We'll now move into delegations. First, shall we read the notice first? Mr. Clerk, go ahead.

Pursuant to Section 79(1) of the City of Winnipeg Charter, I am directed by His Worship Mayor Bowman to arrange a Special Meeting of Council on Wednesday, December 16th, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., to consider the items provided to Council via e-mail. Pursuant to the requirements of the City of Winnipeg Charter, no other subject matter other than those outlined in the notice shall be considered at the meeting. Signed, City Clerk, Marc Lemoine.

DELEGATIONS

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We'll now move into delegations which will all be appearing before Council via Zoom today. First, we'll hear from Mr. Chris Lorenc who's on behalf of the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association in support of Item 1 of the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated December 15th, 2020. It's regarding the 2021 Operating and Capital Budget. Mr. Clerk, is Mr. Lorenc on the line with us?

Clerk: He is, yes.

Madam Speaker: Good morning, Mr. Lorenc

Chris Lorenc: Yes, good morning, Madam Speaker, Mr. Mayor, members of Council, Public Service, ladies and gentlemen. I don't know if you're aware, but viewing the Council meeting, we can't hear any sound, and it's awfully staticky. So I bring that to your attention, perhaps there's a tech solution to that. With respect to our presentation, the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association and the industries that it represents are very pleased to speak this morning in support of the '21 balanced budget update. We know and appreciate the difficult challenges you have each faced in 2020 with falling revenues caused by the pandemic's impact on the economy, but you have weathered them well in part because of your leadership foresight to adopt a four-year balanced budget plan. You should commit to its continuance going forward. This helped enable disciplined fiscal measures and contingency plans executed when the pandemic's impact became apparent, saving the City from even more severe financial harm, and for this, you are to be commended. In the face of that challenge, your '21 preliminary budget has emerged with important features, revealing prudent stewardship of public finances and

serving the broad public interest. And they include keeping the annual realty tax increase to 2.33 to allow your continued investment in the largest asset upon which our ability to sustain jobs and circulate money in the economy is built, mainly, our basic core infrastructure; streets laying, sidewalks, bridges, and sewer and water mains continued payments for the stage two of the southwest rapid transit line. You have preserved largely intact the city's public transportation system, reminding all of us of the importance of long-term investment in transit and of balanced investment in transportation modes. You have increased existing and introduced new funding to support important community services such as libraries and recreational centres. You have increased funding over six years to water and sewer main renewal. The Local and Regional Streets Renewal Program confirms projections for those programs for the period '21 to '24. The budget raises the small business tax credit threshold which will eliminate the small business tax for almost 1,000 more businesses in '21. And the proposed six-year 2.3 billion capital investment plan is estimated to boost the GDP by over a billion dollars in Manitoba and Canada, creating over 10,000-person years of employment while generating incremental tax revenues to the Provincial Government of 11 million and 140 million to the Federal Government. The recommendations we advanced during the public consultation process supported your approach to budget planning. They focused on strategic financial planning to put Council in a stronger position as it prepares for annual and forecasted budgets. They spoke to identifying the requirements of our transportation system and putting in place a sustainable funding model supported by appropriate cost shared infrastructure agreements with senior governments reflecting their greater access to revenue streams than those of Municipal Government. We support the IRPW motion and urge that Council endorse its recommendation that Public Service update the condition and needs assessment of our transportation system and the sustainable funding levels required for their replacement. And you know too well that getting to that stronger position is critical. The necessary focus on economic growth is why the MHCA is particularly pleased to see in the budget Council's intent to prioritize investments through an economic development and growth lens. The reestablishment of the Economic Development Office aside from the immediate benefit its coordination role will provide, will serve to elevate that economic focus. Your commitment to sustained investment in our city's core infrastructure will not go unnoticed by the public, which has again, in city conducted surveys, confirmed its view that the number one action the City can take to improve their quality of life is to invest in roads and infrastructure. It will also be broadly welcomed by the private sector, including the design and construction industries, manufacturers and exporters, importers and exporters of goods and services, the trucking industry and the development community, each of which rely daily upon an efficient connected transportation system. They, too, invest in the future of this city, their company and their employees. These industries employ hundreds of thousands of Manitobans, most in Winnipeg. Their income circulates in the economy that in turn supports local business. They are each your willing partner counting on your continued leadership. We are glad as well to support the IRPW request that Winnipeg joined the Federation of Canadian Municipalities continued call to make the doubling of revenues from the federal gas tax permanent. This recognizes the necessity of other levels of government to support municipal investment in infrastructure through predictable road taxes. There is a very good support in the business community for this in Manitoba and across Canada. We are able and would be very pleased to help marshal get support of engagement. In closing, we urge Council endorse the IRP recommendations, that in advance of the '22 Capital Budget, Public Service update the condition needs assessment of our transportation system and the sustainable funding levels required for their replacement, assuming dedicated funding through annual property tax increases of 2%, and that Council reiterate its support for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities initiatives for a permanent doubling of the federal gas tax. We congratulate the City for investing in the Economic Development Office which will help prioritize capital investments so a growing economy can continue to generate the revenues required to fund the core social, cultural services that create the quality of life Winnipeggers expect. And lastly, we reiterate our support for the '21 Preliminary Operating and Capital Budgets, the update of the four-year budget plan, and the capital program it has laid out in the annual and five-year forecast. May I just at this moment, Mr. Mayor, and all members of Council and Public Service, extend to each and every one of you and your families, loved ones our best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year. Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Lorenc. I'd like to apologize to our viewers. We are having some trouble with our audio this morning, so we need to take an approximate 30-minute recess just to reset the audio and deal with that technical issue on our end. S, approximately a 30-minute recess. Thank you.

Reconvened meeting of
Winnipeg City Council of
December 16, 2020, at 10:31 a.m.

Madam Speaker: Good morning. I'd like to reconvene our Council meeting of December 17th, 2020. I do want to apologize to our viewers. We did have some technical difficulties with audio in our chamber here that have been rectified. We were hearing from our delegations, and I'd like to go back at this time to Mr. Chris Lorenc so that we can have his presentation on the public record. Mr. Lorenc is here on behalf of the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association. He's in support of Item 1 of the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated December 15th, 2020. It's regarding the 2021 Operating and Capital Budget. Mr. Lorenc, thank you for being back with us here once again. I'll turn it over to you for your presentation.

Chris Lorenc: Thank you, Madam Speaker and Mr. Mayor, all members of Council, Public Service, ladies and gentlemen. We are very pleased this morning to speak in support of the ’21 balanced budget updates and this on behalf of the industries that we represent. We acknowledge and appreciate the difficult challenges you have each faced in 2020 with falling revenues as a consequence of the pandemic’s impact on the economy. But you weathered them well in part because of the leadership foresight to adopt a four-year balanced budget plan, and you should commit to its continuance going forward. This enabled disciplined fiscal measures and contingency plans to be executed when the pandemic's impact became apparent, saving the city from even more severe financial harm, and for this, you are to be commended. In the face of that challenge, your ‘21 preliminary budget emerged with important features revealing prudent stewardship of public finances in serving the public best interests. And they include, keeping the annual realty tax increase to 2.33 to allow your continued investment in the largest asset upon which our ability to sustain jobs, circulate money in the economy is built, namely our core infrastructure, and continue payments for stage two of the southwest rapid transit link. You have preserved largely intact the city's public transit system, reminding all of us of the importance of long-term investment in transit and of balanced investment in transportation modes. You have increased and introduced new funding to important community services such as libraries and recreation centres and added funding for our tree canopy. You have increased funding over six years to the water and sewer main renewals. The Local and Regional Street Renewal Program remains largely intact, and based on projections for those programs for the period ‘21 through ‘24. The budget raises the small business tax credit threshold which will eliminate the small business tax for almost 1,000 more businesses in 2021. And the proposed 2.3 billion capital investment plan is estimated to boost GDP by over a billion dollars in Manitoba and across Canada and generate over 10,000-person years of employment while generating incremental tax revenues to the Provincial Government of 111 million and to the Federal Government of roughly 140 million. The recommendations that we advanced during the public consultation process supported your approach to budget planning. They focused on strategic financial planning to put Council in a stronger position as it prepares for annual and forecasted budgets. They spoke to identifying the requirements of our transportation system and putting in place a sustainable funding model supported by appropriate cost shared infrastructure agreements with senior governments reflecting their greater access to revenue streams than those of Municipal Government. We support the IRPW motion and urge that Council endorse its recommendation that Public Service update the condition needs assessment of our transportation system and the sustainable funding levels required for their replacement. And you know too well that getting to that stronger position is critical. The necessary focus on economic growth is why we are particularly pleased to see in the budget Council's intent to prioritize investments through an economic development and growth lens. The reestablishment of the Economic Development Office, aside from the immediate benefit its coordination role will provide, will serve to elevate that economic focus well. Your commitment to sustained investment in our city’s core infrastructure will not go unnoticed by the public which has, again, in city conducted surveys, confirmed its view that the number one step the City can take to improve their quality of life is to increase investments in roads and in infrastructure. It will also be very broadly welcomed by the private sector, including the design and construction industries, manufacturers and exporters, importers and exporters of goods and services, the trucking industry and the development community, each of which rely daily upon an efficient and connected transportation system. They, too, invest in the future of this city, their companies and their employees. These industries employ hundreds of thousands of Manitobans, most in Winnipeg. Their income circulates in the economy that in turn supports local business. They each are your willing partner, counting on your continued leadership. We are glad as well to support IRP’s request that Winnipeg join the Federation of Canadian Municipalities continued call to make the doubling of revenues from the federal gas tax permanent. This recognizes the necessity of senior levels of government supporting municipal infrastructure investment through predictable growth tax revenues. There is a very good support in the business community for this in Manitoba and across Canada. We are able and would be pleased to help marshal its collective support and engagement. And so, in closing, we urge Council endorse IRPW recommendations that in advance of the ’22 capital budget, Public Service update the condition needs assessment of our transportation system, and the sustainable funding levels required for their replacement, assuming dedicated funding through annual property tax increases of 2%, and that Council reiterate its support for the FCM initiative for the permanent doubling of the federal gas tax. We congratulate the City for investing in the Economic Development Office which will help prioritize capital investments so that a growing economy can continue to generate the revenues required to fund the core, social and cultural services and therefore quality of life that Winnipeggers expect. And we reiterate our support for the ’21 Preliminary Operating and Capital Budgets, the update of the four-year budget plan, and the capital program it has laid out in the annual and five-year forecast. And may I just, as a closing observation, Madam Speaker, extend to you, the Mayor, all members of Council, Public Service, our very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Lorenc. Please stay on the line with us as we may have questions for you after the next delegation. Next up is Mr. Colin Fast. He is the Director of Policy, the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce. He is also in support of Item 1 of the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated December 15th, 2020, regarding the 2021 Operating and Capital Budget. Mr. Clerk, is our delegation on the line? Mr. Fast, I see you there. Welcome, and there's five minutes on the clock for you.

Colin Fast: Okay. Hello, councillors. Thanks for the opportunity to speak today. And on behalf of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, I'm happy to voice our support for the 2021 update to the four-year budget. To echo some of what Chris just said, you know, I want to thank you for your work on this budget update, but also on the four-year budget itself. I think these last several months have certainly demonstrated the wisdom of having a four-year budget plan. None of us could have predicted we'd have a global pandemic when the four-year budget process began, but this year would have been much more challenging without that plan in place, and I think a lot more difficult decisions would have had to have been made. So, again, congratulations on having the foresight to adopt the four-year plan. Taking a look at this specific update from a general business lens, I guess there's a few things in particular that stand out. One would be the option to…for those businesses that really, you know, need that assistance, the option to defer taxes without…tax payments without penalty. The business tax freeze and increasing the threshold to take more small businesses off the roll and just that focus on small businesses in particular, and the $1500 grant program as well. You know, in isolation, these might seem like small initiatives, but combined and put together with programs from other levels of government, I think they really have a positive impact for entrepreneurs who are struggling to survive right now, so these are initiatives that we…we all…that we support strongly. We're also encouraged by the funding in place to re-establish the Economic Development Office. Eager to learn more about what the scope of what the office's work is going to be, but even simply having more staff within the administration with the words 'economic development' in their job title, I think is a positive thing especially as we look ahead to recovering from this pandemic. I also want to acknowledge, I know that there have been other ideas to support small businesses that have been suggested by various members of Council over the last several months, and I want you to know that we appreciate those too. I mean, in the end, we understand the City does have limited financial flexibility in comparison to other levels of government, but the support that you've shown…demonstrated within this budget update for, you know, small businesses or small and medium enterprises in particular I think is commendable. And just a general comment about kind of the City's response over the last several months that, you know, I have to say, in my observation, that the City has been very responsive, and you know, even proactive in some cases when it comes to providing support for the business community. Looking at examples, like, you know, the patio program, for example, and how quickly that was rolled out. I think that those steps, again, you know, small little things, but really, they are appreciated and they do make a big difference to small businesses. So, I'll keep my comments relatively brief. And yeah, if you have any questions, then fire away.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Fast. I'd like to ask, are there any questions for either of the delegations, for Mr. Lorenc or for Mr. Fast? Seeing none, we appreciate you taking the time to make your presentations today, gentlemen. Thank you.

Chris Lorenc: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker and Council.

Colin Fast: Thank you, happy holidays.

Madam Speaker: And all the best to you. Thank you. Our next delegation is Ms Marianne Cerilli who is appearing before Council today in opposition of Item 1 of the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated December 15th, 2020. It's regarding the 2021 Operating and Capital Budget. Mr. Clerk, the delegation is on the line, yes. Ms Cerelli, welcome.

Marianne Cerilli: Good morning.

Madam Speaker: Good morning. We have ten minutes on the clock for you.

Marianne Cerilli: Well, I really appreciate the…getting your attention for 10 minutes. And it's my intention to add value to what you've already heard from dozens of other Winnipeg dwellers on the budget. This is our second COVID budget. Really, last year we passed it just at the beginning of the pandemic. And I think it's important to recognize that this year, we're passing a budget in December rather than March, and I'm going to comment more on that later. I think a lot of people in the room, they know my background. I'm a teacher, educator, but I've also worked a lot in the community and community development and taught community economic development and been an MLA, but I'm coming to you now as a small business operator. I work from home operating my community development freelance work, and I'm…my mission is community development for health, sustainability and peace. And my vision is for healthy communities that are inclusive and equitable and prosperous for everyone. And when I read the vision statement for the City, it looks like that's what the City is about, too. The vision statement for the City is to be a vibrant and healthy city which places the highest priority on quality of life for all citizens, and the corporate mandate is working together to achieve affordable, responsive and innovative public services. The problem is there is a disconnect between the budget and that vision and mission and the body of policy that we have at the City that supports that vision and mission. And we really aren't doing development in the city in an affordable way. There's a lot of room for innovation and we're really not working together well at all, I would say, and I'm going to talk about that. So, I do have three main suggestions for you, but first, I wanted to talk about some of the things I hope that we can agree on. First of all, that we need to, I think, start thinking of the budget differently. We need to stop thinking in terms of programs, in terms of just revenue and expenditures, and start thinking in terms of systems, that systems are about inputs and feedback loops, and they're about outputs and what's driving the system. And

they can be mapped and understood and looked for what is leaking out of the system, and we have to keep the money in the system moving throughout to keep the city working. And it's really about thinking holistically and seeing how different parts of our city's system relate and are connected, and understanding both the big picture and then how individuals and working parts fit together, and this has to be reflected in the budget. So, while it's been good that you now have free transit for children, and there is now this COVID wellness fund, it kind of feels like those are programmatic things but not addressing some of the fundamental fiscal and planning systems that are a problem in the City of Winnipeg. So, one of the big things is we need to design for development that it has a relationship to urban form. So urban form and density and taxes are connected, and we need to have that reflected in the budget. So, I think another year I sent a really good paper from a student, Felipe Mogollon I think his name is, that shows the…in Winnipeg, the connection between urban form and property taxes. So, we need to ensure then that the policy that we have is actually driving the budget, that other interests or other assumptions are not what's driving the budget, which I think is what's happened in the past, and that's why we're in the deficit position that we're in. So, never before have we had the kind of EPC that we have, where there are a lot of, I think, progressive councillors that understand this. And we only have 10 years, the climate clock is ticking, we have to get this right. Some of the other big things is where the 300,000 new Winnipeggers are going to live when we finally reach a million Winnipeggers, is really a key thing, and to integrate the transportation, the housing and the urban planning for where those people are going to live is a big challenge, but that's the challenge that you have to face. We need to be able to increase our population without increasing greenhouse gas emissions while increasing equity. This is a huge challenge for any municipality, but particularly for Winnipeg. It's not a business as usual kind of approach that we need. So, how you tackle the infrastructure deficit? How do we keep building the city so we're not just pouring money into an urban form that is unsustainable? We need to move to full cost accounting, but the numbers in the budget actually represent things, they're not just numbers, there's value that represents things that actually aren't in the budget. The social cost of racism, of domestic violence, of riverbank erosion, of the loss of the tree canopy, those things have to be represented in the budget. So, we need to have cost-benefit analysis that actually will show all the true…all the full costs of what we're dealing with in the city. And for example, there has to be analysis on how, for example, the increases in the police budget are actually have an income or the increases in, you know, infrastructure, the percentage we're spending on roads while poverty and disparity are deepening and increasing. So, we have to be able to think upstream, is another big problem and that's longer-term thinking. It's not just short-term balancing the budget year after year, which I would suggest we kind of…we've been cutting our help in a lot of ways. So, looking at, you know, upstream, if all we're doing is pouring more and more money into filling potholes, we have to look at what's going on that's causing that problem and understand the way that we finance depreciation of infrastructure. So, the other area that is, you know, that we have to look at the revenue problem that we had over the city, we can boast we're the cheapest city in the Canada. We have the lowest property taxes in the country. But I was looking at how over the last 20 years, if we had even had the kind of increases in the tax that we're having now, 2.5, 3%, we would have another $500 million in the budget. So, looking at the at the assumptions that are built into the budget is something I understand Council is now going to do, that there's a report to make sure that we're making decisions that are evidence-based, that this isn't a matter of opinion. There's science, there's finances and accounting that are at play. And sometimes the majority is wrong. Sometimes there are dissenting voices that are actually the ones that are…that need to be listened to and looking at everybody's interests. So, I also agree that we need to have investment into some capacity for economic planning. And we have to look at how we redistribute the wealth and investment in our city into a just and green recovery. So, I have three suggestions for you. Those three suggestions are: a new budget tool, better public engagement, and a new participatory budget. My three P's would be: process design, public engagement, and policy and budget coordination, that linking the budget and the policy. So, a new budget tool would mean that we actually create indicators and create a way of showing are we actually investing in the policy that will allow for mode shift. That will increase equity. That will improve density and infill. Are we actually going to have tools that show the indicators and the tracking that we are actually making progress. So, that's what we want a new budget tool to do. We need to be able to have indicators that show that relationship, the direct relationship between urban form and the development of the city and the revenue that's collected in municipal property tax. We know that denser neighborhoods are paying more revenue than less dense neighborhoods, and that the dollars per square metre to the Winnipeg budget needs to be examined, and that can be matched. That's been done. We would like to really bring that to the table. The other area, then, is the budget process. The four-year budget is actually locking in now some of the austerity and assumptions that have been made and locking out the public. So, we have looked at comparing Winnipeg to other municipalities in Canada, and we know that we have some of the poorest public engagement. Passing a budget like this in 17 days is a new record for the City of Winnipeg. I don't think that's something we should repeat. We should be using as many brains in the city as possible to give people real good access to not just coming and making sort of presentations at the end of the process, but being partners in crafting the budget early on. And there are many cities in Canada that are doing a much better job in that than we are. We also need to have better…

Madam Speaker: Just a pause, Ms Cerilli. Councillor Schreyer moves extension of two minutes. All in favour? Contrary? That is carried. Go ahead.

Marianne Cerilli: I am also finished. The other thing is improving public engagement. And I know that Councillor Mayes also just wrote something about the inadequacy of the surveys and the online surveys that were done. And we can do a

much better job of public engagement. I would love to be at a table with Mr. Lorenc and the Heavy Construction Association and really look at how we find common ground, how we develop these budget tools, how we come to an agreement on economic development that is going to distribute for the prosperity of our city more equitably. and it sounds like he's interested in that, too, in talking about the social and cultural aspects of our city. So, I would just say, in conclusion, that there's a lot of people that have come forward that have expertise, that have experience, that have good ideas, and we need to craft a way of engaging everybody in creating a budget that is actually going to meet the challenges that we face. So, I'm here to help. I hope that you will call on myself and a lot of the groups that I'm involved with, and I am really happy to answer questions that you might have. I wanted to talk a little bit more about the assumptions that are in the budget, but that will be...have to be left for another day. Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Ms Cerilli. If you could stay on the line, we'll hear from the next presenter and then come back if there's any questions. Our next delegation is Mr. Steve Snyder, also in opposition to Item 1 of the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated December 15th, 2020. It's regarding the 2021 Capital and Operating Budget. Mr. Clerk, I see the delegation on the line. Thank you. Mr. Snyder, welcome. We have five minutes on the clock for you.

Steve Snyder: Good morning. Thank you, Ms Speaker, Mr. Mayor, councillors. Thanks for having me to speak today. I'm here today to speak against the budget and I'm going to start out by talking about default. Not the default in the financial sense of debt default, but the soft sense in all the other obligations that a local government makes. Things like to properly maintain our infrastructure, to supply clean drinking water and treat sewage, and to adequately fund pensions, and finally, of course, to staff the police and fire department, which, as we know, is taking the bulk of the Operating Budget this year. Failing to meet these obligations is a sort of soft default. A default to your obligations to us, your citizens. We can rationalize it by calling…by not calling it a default instead of maybe a policy choice. We frame it as a choice between cutting transit service to fund free rides for children or a choice between performing maintenance to fund another project, but every one of these policy choices is a default to…on your obligations to some of the citizens. This budget, like many before, has forsaken many of the citizens of Winnipeg. These policy choices ignore the link between the hard default that I mentioned earlier and the debt default and the soft defaults that you're making for the citizens. This link is specifically the…as the public obligation grows as we build more streets, roads, sewers and stretch our coverage services to the outer suburbs, private citizens must keep pace. Without growth prosperity in the community, eventually it all ends in default because a community's prosperity is what pays for our public obligations. Over the course of the budget deliberations heard from 50 or more presentations, almost all of which gave you an idea of what services will help them prosper or will help the community prosper. All of these obligations…to all of these citizens, you've defaulted on your obligations because you've made the policy choice to defund areas where they don't find increases in prosperity. So, I ask you, how will keeping every budget…or every operating budget stagnant except for the police and fire raise the private wealth of citizens so that we are able to overcome our past and pay for these obligations? I don't believe it does, and that's why I'm here to stand against the budget because 50 people or more have spoken to you already in that the choices that you're making with these policy choices are not giving them prosperity that they need. And thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Snyder. We'll now take any questions for either of the most recent delegations. Any questions? Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Yeah. Just one question for Ms Cerilli. And you know, some people leave elected office and we don't hear from them again. They go off and do private things. So, I want to thank you for continuing. You've stayed active, you've continued to ask us some hard questions after you left the legislature. You had talked about if we had not frozen taxes, we would have had another...what I heard you say was…I thought I heard you say there would be another $500 million. There was a 14-year tax freeze roughly '98 to 2012. Had taxes increased at the current pace, more or less, which you were suggesting, that would have been about an additional, depending on how you add it up, 10, 12, $15 million a year. So, you could say, okay, we would have been…you would have been further ahead, you have had more revenue. I'm just not sure where you got the $500 million. I mean, it's pretty easy to say, add another 150 million a year, that would be fair, 14 years, $10 million more a year, that's pretty straightforward math. But were you talking sort of accumulative…if you take those 14 years together, you'd have had 500? That…you'd probably get to that as well, but I just wasn't sure if you were adding it all up or…we wouldn't have had $500 million more a year, I guess is my point.

Marianne Cerilli: No. I think if you look at not only years over the last 20 years where there's been a freeze, but there's been very limited tax increases. But then, it's the increase in having, you know, development pay more tax throughout the life of that property. So, the big point too that I was making is, I think a lot of times when we're thinking of density, we're thinking about people. And some of the things I've been reading are that we have to think about the tax base in terms of how much revenue is the area that we have in the city generating. And that's really what we need to start reflecting in the budget and having budget tools and mechanisms that do that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question for Mr. Snyder. Is it that he's saying that…part of what he's saying is that we have a lack of public consultation when it comes to our budget decisions?

Steve Snyder: I don't believe you have a lack of public consultation, I believe that you are…hold on, buddy. I believe that you're having…you're making choices. And there are hard choices between one choice and another, but all in all, when you make those choices, they end up…the eventual outcome is that the...your obligations to citizens are in default. If you don't raise the prosperity of the community through your choices, then you default on their...the obligations that you've made to them, and if the prosperity doesn't raise, then they'll no longer have the money to fulfill the public's obligation, and eventually, you will get to a debt default, so to speak.

Marianne Cerilli: Schreyer, I am suggesting that we are doing a poor job of public engagement, and I recommended a few tools to improve that. And I'm suggesting that the, you know, the surveys that we have and the methods that are being used, the structure or design of those surveys is inadequate. And there's a lot of people in the neighborhood, in the community that know how to do this really well. I develop social innovation tools, and that's what I'm talking about. That's what…you know, to design a participatory budget process that would really engage the people, engage the business sector, engage the various sectors in the city and develop a budget that everyone can support.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Schreyer, second question.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you. I'd like to thank Marianne Cerilli as well for her comments on that. Comments regarding community development that she's been involved with for decades to which I can personally attest. Regarding…she talks at a pretty high level, which is fine. Fortunately, mixed with that, she also talks about being evidence-based. Combined, I believe, that's how we have to solve these things. In terms of evidence-based, I need to say something. I've published it before. I believe I'm in the only member in this room that's published this statistic, which I would be considered evidence because it comes from who was the Chief Financial Officer at the time…our Chief Administrative Officer, Mike Ruta. Back when I did my first preliminary brief report on construction inflation, I had to do it myself because Council didn't want to do it. I quoted Mike Ruta in saying that a bridge that would cost $12 million in 1990 would cost about $200 million today. That was 2016. At the rate of less than 5% inflation…less than 5% construction inflation per year after that, that would bring it up to $240 million, which means that after 30 years, a bridge costs 20 times more. I don't know whose income goes up 20 times in 30 years, but that's the bridge. There's some evidence to that, Marianne Cerilli. What do you have to say about that?

Marianne Cerilli: Yeah, you're getting at sort of one of the things that we haven't addressed. I like to think of it or the way I make sense of it, is that we put ourselves into this boxed-in situation where we're saying we're not going to raise revenue beyond a certain point now, before we had to…we were saying no tax increases. Then on the other side, we're saying we have to balance the budget, so that leads to tax…or to spending cuts. But on the other side, we've got this depreciating infrastructure, the bottom of the box, and then the top is the increases in the cost to borrowing and the increase inflation which makes it more expensive to replace infrastructure. So, that's the box we're trying to navigate in. And what I'm suggesting is we need new tools and approaches. That we can't just keep cutting, and we can't just keep building infrastructure without a plan for how we're going to repair the infrastructure that we already have and pay for the new infrastructure.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, final question. The question.

Councillor Schreyer: My point…are we aware therefore, in question form, that when we're trying to deal with affordable housing here at the City of Winnipeg, that according to the statistics that I've just saw as a new member of the Finance Standing Committee, that it would cost over a quarter of a million dollars for a single affordable housing unit given the statistics we were offered two weeks ago?

Marianne Cerilli: Yeah, that's a big problem. We know that the cost of building rental housing is often more than the rental market can bear. I was…worked at housing at the legislature for more than a decade, and know that this is a real problem, it's the same…the way…what you're describing for infrastructure. The other thing that we know is that when we invest in those social and health determinants, when we bring the standard of living up for those lowest income people by providing social housing, providing public housing, providing rent supplements, we know that makes a more stable community. And what I'm going to present to you is one of the assumptions in the budget is that it's police that keep the city safe, and we're going to keep paying for more and more police, while at the same time, we're not investing in social security, and people are traumatized, people have addictions, people are living in poverty. That's what's driving the lack of safety, so we need to invest in people, people's health and well-being. And if we invest in their social determinants of health, that's how we all become secure, is when everyone has housing, when everyone has food, when everyone has access to employment that sustains them, when they feel like they belong in the community and they're living in a just society, that's what makes security and social security.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Councillor Browaty. We'll go online virtually to Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Marianne and Steve for coming out today. What do you say to people that say they don't want to engage? They just want the City to work. They want good streets, they want their streets plowed of snow, they call 911 and they want a fire truck, police car or ambulance to show up quickly, and they want good parks, trails, walking paths, libraries, swimming pools. I'm finding increasingly we're hearing from the fringe that has other agendas. How do we ensure that voices are balanced so that people that are too busy working, taking their kids to piano, swimming lessons, et cetera aren't excluded from supposed engagement or should elected members simply represent those peoples' interests?

Marianne Cerilli: Yeah. I think that's a reasonable question because…I mean, I don't think it's the fringe. I think that people that are representing people who have, you know, are living on low-income, and that's a problem, a lot of the people that you heard of…heard from. But I look at it in terms of a lens of privilege. Some people have the privilege not to engage or they're not affected by decisions that are being made at city hall in the same way. They're not being impacted. But I do think we can design engagement tools and strategies that engage all of those people.

Madam Speaker: Just to pause, Councillor Chambers moves extension. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Marianne Cerilli: You know, and I guess for some of those people, maybe the City is working fine for them. You know, the…but we are losing core services like plowing our streets. We don't clean the streets in the same way. You know, we are losing recreation services. Pools are open less, libraries are open less. So, we've been chipping away at the services we support, and we know that we have a policy of complete communities. If we actually funded complete communities, what I was just saying about elevating, it's like bottom up. I teach bottom up community economic development. It's like bring people up, and we're going to…that's how we're going to deal with the crime and the addictions and the...you know, the addictions that are driving crime, basically.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Marianne. I guess the other thing that sort of doesn't square with me is, I mean, everyone talks about wanting housing affordability. If we had gone down that road and increased taxes all those years, wouldn't taxes have been more prohibitive from people owning their own homes? And, you know, in terms of all those other, you know, new priorities, we'll call them, in terms of things like housing that's traditionally been a provincial responsibility…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Browaty, the question, please.

Councillor Browaty: Sure. Does that not take away from doing things like snow plowing and good trails and good parks and swimming pool hours and library hours et cetera?

Marianne Cerilli: What takes away from it? Paying…I'm not clear of the question.

Councillor Browaty: Doesn't it take away if we're going down all these new priorities, things like housing, for example, at the municipal level?

Marianne Cerilli: Well, a lot of municipalities in Canada have housing. I mean, Winnipeg has the Housing and Renewal Corporation and it has a portfolio of about 600 units. So, it's not something entirely foreign. I actually advocate for creating a community housing fund that would actually allow investment from the private sector and the public sector in order to pay for social housing. And that could be also in…there could be...

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

Marianne Cerilli: So, you know, we need to look at mechanisms that are actually going to generate funds to do those things that we want to do like ensure that everyone has housing. So, I think that housing is a right. It's a fundamental necessity to live a decent life. And I think we could address the homeless or houseless problem as some people call it now in Winnipeg, fairly easily if we develop this strategy to redistribute some of the investment income that we have into social housing. And, you know, at the same time, we have a provincial government that during COVID is allowing people to be cut off welfare, they're allowing evictions, they've allowed the rents to go up way beyond the rent control guideline, and they are cutting and privatizing social housing. So, housing is a partnership between all three levels of government, and we need a strategy that's going to actually develop housing for everyone in Winnipeg.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Seeing none, Ms Cerilli, thank you for your presentation today.

Marianne Cerilli: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: And Mr. Snyder, you as well. Thank you for making the time.

Steve Snyder: Thank you, happy holidays.

Marianne Cerilli: Happy holidays, everybody.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. To you as well. We'll now move onto reports. We have the report of the Winnipeg Police Board dated December 10th, 2020. Councillor Chambers to introduce Item 1. First, we'll have the Clerk introduce the item as it's a special meeting.

REPORT OF THE
WINNIPEG POLICE BOARD
DATED DECEMBER 10, 2020

Item 1 – Winnipeg Police Board – Preliminary 2021 Operating and Capital Budgets Recommendation

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Chambers, Chair of the Police Board to introduce Item 1.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today in support of this budget. You know, the call to evolve and modernize policing is something that is a shared vision of our police leaders, the oversight bodies, and the vast segments of communities across our great nation. This call to action is in recognition of two thoughts, two central thoughts: that the Canadian policing model is among the best in the world, and that the reality, sadly, of systemic racism exists in policing as it does in all institutions. We acknowledge and we recognize the recently submitted recommendations to the Minister of Justice regarding the Police Services Act in a response to concerns about public confidence and trust in policing and the criminal justice system. The report had an emphasis on accountability and transparency, and the timeliness of this couldn't have been any more apparent than the reports and social media over these past couple of weeks. This is a testament, Madam Speaker, of this important work that is long, long overdue. We could not simply lobby replies and cast shade, labelling individuals who raise concerns about police reforms as extremists, radical, leftist or fringe. Given the very important work necessary by many essential partners and community stakeholders with police in Winnipeg including mental health and addictions, gang disruption, homelessness and poverty reduction, it is critical that we keep an open mind to hearing feedback from all citizens from across the spectrum. As we move towards a new and better way of service to our community including new strategic partnerships, citizens interest…interested in equity and antiracism must also feel welcome to share their priorities and concerns as we raise the standards of policing and inclusion within our city. There must be an opportunity for all citizens with valuable perspectives to share their thoughts and ideas, and they should be…they should not be excluded or discredited by us, the various…the very leaders responsible for designing public policies. Public engagement is very necessary to…is a very necessary process that governments use to get a social understanding and direction on how to proceed with reforms that are reflective of our population. To use an urban slang, it gives us street credit. I'm in favour of respectful discourse and I believe I'm not unique in this statement. It does not serve anyone, particularly decision makers, to treat citizens with hostility. For Winnipeg to be considered inclusive and visionary, we must not apply demeaning labels to people who want to live their lives safely and have the same opportunities and access to basic public services and feel valued for their contributions. People who believe there's room for improvement should not be perceived as radical or a threat. True consultation means not to be threatened by perspectives that do not align with our own. We can all agree to disagree. As we increase the level of discourse in our community and on issues that are passionate and sometimes provoking such as demand for accountability and equity, we must accept these views are not limited to either end of the political continuum. To expect progress should not be considered political jockeying. So, through this budget process and countless delegations that appeared, whether at the standing policy committee meetings or Police Board meetings or Executive Policy Committee, and the scores of people who shared their vision and sometimes personal experiences, it was done to provide an awareness and provide a perspective for many whom have never shared a similar experience. The recommendations provided in this budget and specifically on policing and engagement are a call to action. These recommendations are a response to the many voices we have heard in delegation who are also committed to Winnipeg. They're also committed to the City of Winnipeg and the values of inclusion, equity and antiracism in all forms. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Chambers. First speaker, Councillor Rollins. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Sorry. I heard Councillor Mayes, and not Councillor Chambers so. Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. Five months ago, I responded to the Black Lives Matter movement in e-mails, in letters, in meetings and within my

community newsletter. And as you may know, among my priorities from the July letter was a 10% reduction or $30 million in the police budget. I wanted to flow money quarterly based on performance and seek a review on Provincial Police Services Act to enhance oversight including, Madam Speaker, long before calls in support of Indigenous, people of colour oversight body, something that my friends who worked with me at the national inquiry and had participated in the police oversight body of this city, had seen a difficult reversal of. Now, we know there is movement on the Police Services Act review, and we are digesting that as we speak with government partners and the Provincial Government and more. But in the intervening five months since I wrote what I did back in July, I watched other city budgets manage this call, and their budget realities with respect to police. For instance, most interestingly to me was Toronto. Toronto had Councillors Wong Tam and Councillor Matlow submit a motion that looked very much, somewhat, like what my letter said, 10% motion, and it failed. It failed in Toronto. Instead, the Toronto city council has an increase in money for body cameras, $50 million, in fact, over the next ten years. Fifty million increase. Ottawa saw an increase, 13.2 million, along, though, with promises to change the manner in which the force deals with mental health calls, neighbourhood patrols and workplace culture. Something that weighs really heavy on me because as I watch the RCMP deal with what they have dealt with this year, I don't think our Winnipeg Police Service and the women that serve in it is immune. I don't think that. And I hold...I hold that every day. I do not think that the Winnipeg Police Service is immune to that which we see in the RCMP. I do not. Ottawa's budget includes 30 new officers assigned to patrol neighbourhoods and investigate cases involving partner assault and violence against women. What a good move. Something we should consider in this city. What a good move. Montreal budget, 2021, sees an increase of 15 million for police services. Halifax; Halifax police originally, actually, forwarded their own reductions. They forward 5 million in reductions through vacancy and salary management. Ultimately, Council's vacancy management proposal excluded the police entirely and their fire department entirely. The St. John Board of Police Commissioners was ordered by the St. John council to find 1.5…1 million in cuts. So that's just a brief scan. Vancouver, no new money for police. Edmonton reduces the budget by 11 million split between the 2021 and 2022 budgets. It wasn't done in one year. It was split between the two. They're spending that money on housing, social and community services, as well as community safety and well-being task force. A community safety and well-being task force. The Winnipeg Police Service sees a record increase at 3% and community services at 1.6%. It stands in a bit of a stark contrast for me literally on our webpage, and yes, I do think structurally that is wrong. That the police in the next three years must find 50 million in savings does line us up with other jurisdictions, it does in a way, for half of the pension costs. It's…we are required to do more. We are required to do more. There is a motion before us in the main budget items, and I'll leave it at that, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Rollins. Next speaker, Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I don't have as eloquent a speech on this recommendation from the Winnipeg Police Board for the police budget as councillor…the Chairperson, Councillor Chambers. But, Madam Speaker, we heard a prayer today that talked about democracy and voting, and I don't like what the Provincial Government is doing right now, but I don't know how we defund that system. If you think it's broken and has elements of racism within it, too, and it does. I mean, it does. The reality is, as eloquently put by Councillor Chambers, every system has an element of racism in it. And if you go to other countries where everybody is of colour, there's elements of racism there, too, because it seems to be part of this human experience that we have that we become biased towards various people. So, I get really concerned when we call for just defunding the police completely or, you know, just take a chunk of money out this year and leave the police to deal with all the calls and put it into community services, Madam Speaker. The reality is if we want to achieve that better policing…but actually, better prevention, elements that we heard from Ms Cerilli, for example, in regard to being safe and ensuring things are good because really the Police Service, it's important that they are engaged with community organizations, various groups of people, to understand who they're working with out on the street. Very important. But, Madam Speaker, the Police Service does not really do any direct prevention other than you could say maybe a School Resource Officer, which I heard everybody wants to get rid of because apparently, they're all racist. But I do know that, you know, some preventative things have been done, and I'm sure there have been some youth redirected into doing better things because they had some interaction with a police officer. So...but the police are generally responsive, and they can do proactive policing and they do. They go to hot spots, and ultimately, the real problem in this city is that we have Indigenous people, people of colour, many of whom are experiencing the bad part of life. They are living in poverty, they have lost hope in many respects because of things that have been done over time to their families, and then they have kids, and it just, it continues, Madam Speaker. And so, when you go and look at a hot spot, it kind of looks like a racist activity because unfortunately, Madam Speaker, this is what we have. This is what's happening in Winnipeg. Winnipeg, you know, it's difficult. And what I keep hearing from people, well, other big cities spend less portion of their budget on police. Look at how much we're spending on our Police Service as compared to everything else. The thing is, in Toronto, have a look at their housing budget. In Ontario, many cities do housing. They actually do it. They're involved directly in it, Madam Speaker. And so, when you try to say, well, the proportioning, well, that's difficult, yeah, maybe a per capita, you could say you could look at that. But ultimately, what I would say was an error in Council following the leadership in deciding that you're going to change the pension plan for police officers just one-sidedly, you know, we have those adjustments, and, you know, people are saying how much the budget's going up now. I think we had...the Police Service has to find 5 million. What had happened, though, is a lot of officers did retire, the higher-paid ones, and

as I've been advised by Councillor Chambers, quite a number, like, couple of hundred. So, and then, if we're going to make sure that we can respond to all the 911 calls, we have to do it. Now, there is a transition, Madam Speaker. I will be voting for this recommendation as a whole. And the reason I'm doing that though is, really, we need to start transitioning. And I know that the Chairperson and the Winnipeg Police Board who have been working on the racist issue, when I was on there for quite a long time. You know, we're trying to make small things, the training, the other things, there's way more to do, absolutely, but we have to look at that. But ultimately, until we can get an alternative 24/7 service to deal with people who are experiencing addictions and come into a bad health situations, until there's a 24/7 out there, to find the kids who are running away from foster care...some of it's by adventure. I was young, I did that. But ultimately, Madam Speaker, a lot of these young people are getting away from a place that's bad for them. They don't like it. So, there needs to be...until the Province starts funding 24/7 out there to deal with it, we have the police. So, you can't just, pop, get rid of them. They need to be able to respond when there is crime. And in my election, Madam Speaker, in 2018, I talked about investing more money in community service-related items, but I also mentioned to continue funding the Police Service because you know what, let me explain this, Madam Speaker; there are a lot of...we hear from the people who say, just get rid of the police. But there are a lot of quiet people out there in my ward who depend and would totally be shaken if we just said, pull the police. They can't be able to deal with any of the crime that's going on out there. And, you know, I just heard from a university student who did a study with seniors. Those seniors that are living out there in some of these neighborhoods where there's lots of poverty and stuff, I have to tell you, they're afraid. They're afraid because they see the drug trade going up, they see crimes happening because of it, they don't feel safe out on the street. They are much older now. They feel even worse. They can't even run away, Madam Speaker. The things that are going on, we do need to have a police service, and I respect the work that they do. It's unfortunate that…anyway. Officers have to be highly trained, and they need to be paid a decent amount because it is profession in which we want them to uphold the best standards for everybody, which means, don't let yourself get biased just because you're seeing somebody of colour. It has nothing to do with how they look. They might be involved in a crime, then you have to deal with it. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll be brief. I'm really...I'm really appreciative of all the comments that have been made so far from my council colleagues. I'm very appreciative and really proud of our Chair of the Police Board and his comments today as well as our Chair of PCSP, both of whom have today and prior to today expressed deep concern about the issues that we're talking about today. I'll be voting to receive the police report as information. I also want to just thank all those Winnipeggers who have and continue to provide their feedback to members of Council and throughout the community to matters relating to how we build a safer community for all of us. You know, for different reasons, I think Council is relatively united in its desire to reduce the increases to the Police Service. The question that we and other councils are increasingly putting their minds to is how do you do it in a safe and responsible way. Some will look at it through the lens of just cost cutting. Others will look at how can we allocate resources to build a safer community to deal with root causes, but for whatever the motivation is, it's a shared objective that we all have. And I just want to remind my council colleagues, while we have, certainly, over the last term, we've reduced the increases, what I would call runaway costs in previous years to policing, we have worked collaboratively with the Chief of Police, with the Police Boards over many years and, of course, with the Police Association and our collective bargaining to really reduce those increases. But in the meantime, we've also increasingly, in this budget and others, put our mind to what can we do as a council to build a safer community for our residents and for our community. And so, I just highlight the Blumberg Initiative which is ongoing, which has brought together different levels of government agencies and organizations to really think creatively and innovatively with open minds to find ways to reduce the dispatch demand on Winnipeg Police, Fire and Ambulance Services. Among other options which we know are being looked as is a Police and Crisis Team or PACT, which pairs crisis workers with police officers. We know work is underway to align the 911 community centre with 211 phone service, the City's existing 311 service, Health Links, Info Santé and the future operational…operationalization of the Downtown Safety Partnership to provide other options to the 911 command centre. Other efforts that I'm really proud of Council for leading on is the Illicit Drug Strategy and the monies that have flowed as a result of the supports for 24/7 safe spaces in our community as well as increased support for addictions treatment including the Bruce Oak Recovery Centre. The long-term financial support for End Homelessness Winnipeg. In this calendar year, we were successful at bringing in 12.4 million for the Rapid Housing Initiative due to the advocacy of a number of councillors around this chamber as well as my own advocacy efforts and mayors across Canada. The Downtown Safety Partnership Strategy, in this budget, we'll be voting on shortly, the Affordable Housing Grant of $2 million. And, of course, one of the things I'm most proud about, and I know others will speak at greater length this afternoon, is the $50 million for Recreation and Library Investment Strategies. All of these and so many others intended to deal with root causes of crime hopefully to reduce the demand on our policing services. But I would argue, the motivation for me is less about just looking at the dollars and cents, but more about how do we just make sure that we get the right resources at the right time to help our residents out. And that is something that I know is a shared concern from every single member of Council, and I want to thank every member of Council for the views today and in the coming days and months that I know will continue to be expressed, and our collaborative work together. I want to, again, just thank the Chair of the Police Board for bringing forward this report today and thank him for his ongoing strong and steady leadership as Chair of the Police Board. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. 2020 has been an interesting year, to say the least. It's been a troubling year. We have residents that are at home more than they probably ever experienced. And it has them looking at their surroundings, what's going on their neighborhood? They have a greater awareness, but they've also been experiencing issues at home, property crime. They've been experiencing vehicle break-ins at an ever-growing extent. What I'm hearing from residents is that they're making the call and being told to file a report. They're not seeing the police come. They're not seeing the challenges of being stopped from a perspective of being violated in some of these ways. Now, these are less violent crimes, some of which that are…other areas of the city are seeing much more violent issues. But it's one that is challenging to them. It's reactive policing. We're not seeing proactive policing. Filing a report, having somebody on the other end of a video screen is innovative, but it's not the same. It's not what residents are expecting from our police force. The challenge that we see year over year, there's a 6% corporate overhead that the City of Winnipeg places on policing, 6%. You know, groups had been lobbying for a 10% reduction. Well, that's more than half way there if the City of Winnipeg just removes that corporate overhead. I know I'm making it simplistic. The challenge that I see, you know, when we talk about the collective agreement, the pension shortfall, the misguided approach that Council went down with regards to violating the collective bargaining agreement that cost an additional $600,000 payment that had to be paid to the police officers as a result of that wrong-headed decision. We have previous councils that approved, in 2017, a 2.5, 2.5, 2.5; there's some playing with numbers on one of the years with regards to the contract. The challenge is that was in a time when we saw a lot of collective agreements going for zero, one, maybe 1.5, but we allowed as a council, 2.5, 2.5, 2.5, 2.5. The fine incentives that we have built into their budget to go out, penalize people, to not give them the opportunity to correct bad behaviours, but more of an incentive to penalize, to bring in revenue on speeding, traffic offenses, not...you know, failing to stop for a stop sign, those types of things that could be learning opportunities, to work together, to have better drivers on the road. But no, it's got to be an incentive on their budget to do that. You know, I drive from Transcona to downtown. I see police cars everyday on Dugald Road leaving that station headed towards downtown. I don't know what they're doing. But when I hear from my residents, what I'm hearing is that they're not seeing the physical presence of police in our community. Now, maybe that's because Transcona isn't seeing the same amount. I don't have all the stats to back up what's going on. All I know is when I hear from residents that they've made a call for service and are being placed on hold, not once, but twice because of an accident, there's a challenge. I know Harvard Blumberg is supposed to have all these answers, maybe it will cause for some better opportunities for people to be able to answer that call when someone's in need, when there's that life critical issue. But we shouldn't be taking that chance. We should be able to answer the calls. The queues are far too long for our police officers, for our emergency responders. We have a challenge in our community, and we can't wait to have more dialogue. I think we've heard from our residents, our constituents that we represent, in all corners of the city. It's time to act. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Nason. Moving forward, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll be brief. Just a few comments based as well on the last meeting we had with Chief Smyth, as he made his presentation to the Standing Committee for Finance. One is that the Police Department did in fact find savings, a significant amount of savings despite the arbitration that we are at with the Police Association this last year. Councillor Nason alluded to that. I'm not here to say, I told you so, but one of those cases where it is I warned everything is on the table when it comes time to negotiate. Everything's on the table that's on the table to negotiate. In between, we have to worry about our conventions and the ramifications. We saw the result of jumping the gun on dealing with the police pensions at a time that I felt...not just me, but I felt was premature and there you go. We went to arbitration. The cost of that, as well, as Councillor Nason pointed out. Now, of course, these things happened, and, of course, we will always pay money to go to arbitration. Think of the question is, when can we mitigate this, when can we minimize it, when should we look to the longer...the longer vision? Bear that in mind, when we talk about the longer vision, Councillor Nason talked about 2.5, 2.5, 2.5 in terms of annual increases for the police and the police pension. Bear in mind, something that I find very important. When I got elected, before I ran, I was told that it's the police and the firefighters. They are the ones…they are the sole ones who are causing these budgetary pressures because of their annual increases. What I happened to be learning at the very same time, given where I was working at the Provincial Government technically as an employee, technically, of our previous Chief Administrative Officer, Doug McNeil, and technically, as his staffer seconded to the Office of the Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, was the high increasing costs, incredibly…incredible…incredibly consistent annual inflation of construction when it applied to, especially in particular, infrastructure and transportation. That's where I was working at the Provincial Government. And so, it needs to be told, it needs to be reiterated every time we talk about the high inflation rates of the costs of police services and firefighters. I'm not denying that, that these things are notable concern for our budget. And that as I just said, at negotiation time, all of these things are on the table. But if we're going to have a true perspective in terms of what's causing the budgetary pressures, bear in mind, many people are wrong, they're misled. The largest pressure on our budgetary problems that makes it unsustainable is not the Police Department and the firefighters. It's not. These statistics are there. It's construction inflation. So, we need to deal with that because I'm not trying to deny what other aspects of our budget I would consider unsustainable in the long-term. What I find unfortunate is when we have a perspective that is misleading,

that isn't true. And on that basis, let's put things into perspective. The highest rate of inflationary pressure on our budget is not the police force, it is construction inflation. And if we're going to solve these things, considering what we were willing to do regarding the police pension, what we were willing to do, which I said wasn't wise, do this in the middle of a contract, and look at the...look at the price we paid. Of course, you know, I'm not saying that I knew that would be the result, that we would lose the case and spend about $600,000 on that. That's not exactly the point. But if…my point is, if we are willing to do that because of what we consider to be the budgetary pressures…inflationary pressures of police pensions, what should we do when it comes to putting our City resources to deal with what is the highest rate of inflation? Now today, we're going to start dealing with that. I already have. I already started putting up my...I already put out a report on construction inflation in the Herald a few years ago. I'm not done with that. Neither is the City. I'm glad to see we're turning around on these issues. Glad to see it's five, six years to see things are turned around. But let's not lose perspective, and I'm just going to say it one more time and then leave it alone. If we were willing to put all those resources and all the communication in talking about the inflationary pressures on our budget due to the police, if we are willing to do all that, even spend $600,000 trying to defend a change in their pension in the middle of a contract, what are we willing to do with what is, in fact, the largest inflationary pressure on our budget? I'll leave it at that. And I'm glad to see, that it looks like I've made after a few years, some sort of contribution to the budget which is worth while, the results of which will be in judgment time. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. Any further speakers? No further speakers at this time? Councillor Chambers, to close. And to move the report as information. Thank you.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate all of the comments from my council colleagues that have spoken on this motion this morning. I want to thank the Mayor for his confidence in me and leadership of the Winnipeg Police Board. And I also want to thank my board members who are very diligent in the work that we are undertaking as we oversee the Winnipeg Police Services. I would like to move acceptance of this motion as information.

Madam Speaker: Okay. All in favour? Contrary? Councillor Santos, Councillor Klein, two in opposition, and that is noted. The item is carried. Thank you. Seeing the hour, would Council like to recess or get into the next item? Okay. So, let's continue. Next, we will hear the report on the Executive Policy Committee dated December 15th, 2020. Mr. Clerk, if you could read out the item, please.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED DECEMBER 15, 2020

Item 1 – Executive Policy Committee – Preliminary 2021 Operating and Capital Budgets – Final Recommendation

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor to introduce Item 1.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm going to defer to our Finance Chair to introduce, and I'll have comments to say in due course along with my council colleagues.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councillor Gillingham, Chair of Finance, you have the floor.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I want to thank the Mayor for deferring his comments. Good morning to everyone. I want to thank those who appeared in delegation as well at the start of this meeting. I'm pleased, certainly, to call for the adoption of the City of Winnipeg's 2021 balanced Operating Capital Budgets. And I want to begin by thanking Mayor Bowman and members of the Budget Working Group for their efforts in developing the 2021 balanced budget. I want to thank all of my councillor colleagues. I had an opportunity to meet with and speak to each one to get their input on this budget. Thank you to the residents of Winnipeg who have provided their priorities for the budget process. And finally, I want to express my gratitude, I think on behalf of all of us here, to members of the Public Service specifically, and they're here today, our interim CAO, Mr. Mike Ruta, interim CFO, Mr. Paul Olafson, Lisa Pablo, Helen Hasiuk, and Howard Falk and Matt Dryburgh from the Mayor's Office. All of those individuals are in the room today, and we just want to thank them for their countless hours in preparing this budget. As has been said before this morning already, we are living in extraordinary days and fighting the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be the number one priority for Mayor Bowman and for all of us as members of the Winnipeg City Council. COVID-19 continues to have significant impacts on the City's finances. No sooner had Council adopted the City's first ever multi-year balanced budget on March 20th of this year when we were hit with the first wave of the pandemic. And as health orders were put in place in March and April, we immediately began to experience a course bounding financial effect on the City's 2020 budget. That was why Council

promptly took steps to develop a Crisis Cash Flow Management Plan. The plan was established to manage the City's finances through the budgetary impacts of the pandemic. The Crisis Cash Flow Management Plan focused on maintaining the City's strong liquidity and solid financial stabilization reserve balance, both of which are critical to see the City through this difficult period. The plan has been effective, and it remains in place. When the multi-year balanced budget was adopted in March, each of the four budget years; 2020 through 2023, was balanced. But in just eight months, the impact of COVID-19 combined with the Arbitrator's ruling on the police pension, meant that at the start of this year's budget process, we were facing a projected deficit of $83 million for the remaining three years of the balanced budget 2021 to 2023. Eliminating that shortfall has been a challenge, but it could have been much more difficult. And here's the advantage of adopting a multi-year balanced budget. At this time last year in the multi-year balanced budget process, the projected deficit for 2021 was $120 million, but Council eliminated that deficit through the multi-year budget process. Had Council not done the hard work of eliminating the deficit through the multi-year balanced budget, we would have been facing a projected deficit for 2021 of close to $185 million. I've described the advantage of the multi-year budget before as being like an anchor. When anchored, your boat may drift a few feet from side to side, but it will not get blown away in a storm. It's held in place and it returns to that place. So, too, with the multi-year balanced budget. Each year, Council will have to adopt the budget and they will have to address the inevitable financial changes that arise over the months, but because we're anchored in a multi-year balanced budget, the return to balance should not be a long distance. The 2021 balanced budget before us is balanced. It builds upon Winnipeg's first ever multi-year balanced budget. It makes important investments in roads, recreation, library and transit services. It will create and sustain jobs. It supports small businesses. And it is responsive to the financial impact of COVID-19. I want to touch on just a few of the highlights from this budget, and in doing so, as I go through these highlights, I want to acknowledge the work of the members of Council on these respective items. First of all, the balanced budget limits property tax increases to 2.33% with revenues raised dedicated entirely to funding road renewal and rapid transit infrastructure. On business taxes, the 2021 balanced budget includes good news for small businesses by increasing the small business tax threshold from $35,700 to $44,200. And I want to thank the Mayor for his leadership on this initiative. This change will eliminate business tax from almost 1,000 more businesses, representing a savings of just over $1,900 per business. Madam Speaker, those businesses affected and who will benefit from this are in our wards. By increasing the small business tax threshold to $44,200, approximately 55% of all Winnipeg businesses will receive the full tax credit on their business taxes in 2021. The 2021 balanced budget includes a record tax support subsidy to Transit of $104 million. There are many transit champions around this chamber, I want to thank especially Councillors Allard and Gilroy for their ongoing advocacy to our transit service. This $104 million tax support subsidy represents a 55% increase from the $67 million subsidy in 2020. And the majority of this increase is necessary to address the projected loss in fare revenue due to lower ridership caused by the pandemic. Many Winnipeggers rely upon transit as their sole means of transportation. This increase in tax support for Transit will ensure that the transit service is there for them when they need it. The 2021 balanced budget sees continued record investment in police services. Councillor Chambers, under his leadership, has just introduced the police budget. The operating budget will increase at an average of 1.9% annually, rising from $294 million in 2020 to $313 million by 2023. And there's very good news in this budget for Community Services. The 2021 balanced budget features a historic $50 million recreational library facility investment strategy. Again, so many councillors have been involved. I thank, especially, the leadership of Councillor Rollins and Santos on this. This is funded by the Provincial Government's capital grant to the City. We want to recognize and thank the Provincial Government for their support. The strategy includes many important projects scattered throughout our wards, $15 million for critical building renewal and repairs at indoor pools across the city including Pan Am Pool, Cindy Klassen, Seven Oaks Pool and St. James Assiniboia Centennial Pool. And I know that the residents in Councillor Gilroy's, Sharma, and Orlikow's wards will certainly appreciate these investments. $5.9 million to redevelop the Old Ex Arena and adjacent site improvements home to the Winnipeg Aboriginal Sport Achievement Centre. Again, a benefit to those who, certainly, live in Councillors Eadie's and Rollins' and Santos' wards. $5.5 million for upgrades to the Millennium, St. James and Westwood libraries. And I know that the people of St. James in my ward and Councillor Klein's ward and Rollins' wards will appreciate these investments in these libraries. $1.8 million for renewal of Turtle Island Recreation Centre. $7 million will be divided into 15 wards so that councillors can work with City staff to determine local ward recreation and library priorities for investment. And I do want to acknowledge the hard work of Councillor Mayes on this $7 million to ensure that there is a distribution among all the wards so that we as councillors can work with the Public Service to determine the priorities for our areas. The capital budget reflects a six-year, $2.3 billion forecast. That's significant investment which will be a major source of local economic growth. It includes $864 million for road renewals including $152 million record investment for 2021. And I want to thank Councillor Browaty for his leadership on that file. $131.8 million for transit bus purchases. $180 million…pardon me, $180 million to continue the City's investment in the combined sewer overflow mitigation program. $60 million for a new southwest sewer interceptor, and Councillor Lukes has been talking about the value of that and the need for the interceptor to be put in. $32 million investment in the renewal and replacement of infrastructure at Assiniboine Park. And I want to thank Councillors Klein and Mayes for their leadership on the board of Assiniboine Park Conservancy. And $29.2 million investment in the protection and enhancement of our tree canopy. And certainly, the protection of our tree canopy is something that Councillor Orlikow has been championing for many years on Council. The 2021 budget also includes a recommendation instructing the Public Service to report back within 180 days on determination methods, assumptions, and other relevant information in calculating the annual inflationary rate including construction inflation rate as it impacts our operating and capital budgets. And I want to thank

Councillor Schreyer who mentioned it again today for his work on this. First, he and I talked yesterday. For six years, he's been talking about this, and raising this and asking us to assess and to make a determination as to what the impact of construction inflation is on our budgets. That report is included…the call for that report is included in this budget, and we will get that report in due course within 180 days.

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

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you. The 2021 balanced budget also includes investments that are specifically a response to the pandemic. COVID-19 has hurt many in our community and the 2021 balanced budget helps ease some of that hurt by providing supports for residents, businesses and City staff including $3.8 million to address the impact of the pandemic on our City departments for the purchase of personal protective equipment for our frontline workers as well as additional cleaning and sanitizing supplies within Transit, Community Services, Police and other departments. This investment will help to keep our City staff safe and also keep our…the users of our facilities safe. And I want to acknowledge the calls that early on, especially Councillor Nason was making consistently, raising the awareness and asking the question about whether or not our Transit staff, for example, had enough cleaning supplies to make sure that our buses were clean to maintain health and safety. The 2021 budget also puts the Federal Government's restart of funds to work. And I want to acknowledge the support of the Federal Government who has provided to municipalities, including the City of Winnipeg, restart moneys to assist the City in managing our finances through the pandemic. Putting these moneys to work will help offset the impact of the pandemic. Firstly, I want to raise awareness to the investment of $250,000 into counselling and other mental and emotional health supports for our paramedics and firefighters. This is an investment in our people that will help our frontline emergency staff deal with the work-related trauma and emotional stress. Many of them are on the frontlines in dealing with the pandemic. I want to thank Councillor Rollins for her ongoing advocacy on this file. The budget also directs federal restart funding to help property owners, small businesses, and non-profits affected by the pandemic, including $3.75 million to extend the property and business tax deferral program in 2021. I've just got two pages left. Almost done.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins moves extension, and also, can we have a motion to go past 12 noon? So, first the vote on Councillor Rollins motion. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Eadie: I'll move that we suspend the rules.

Madam Speaker: To work past 12?

Councillor Eadie: Till he's finished his presentation.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Gillingham: The $3.5 million goes to extend the property and business tax deferral program in 2021. This is similar to the extension that was offered in 2020, waiving penalties on unpaid 2021 property and business taxes for three months following the due date of those taxes for those that need that help. There is $3 million in federal restart funding that will directed to COVID-19 economic support program that will provide grants of up to…for up to 2,000 businesses of $1500 for non-profits, businesses and other organizations that are required to temporarily close or reduce their operations as a result of the pandemic. I've said it before, I've heard from many councillors in this chamber in the budget deliberations calling for a need for offering support to businesses and so that is here in this budget. Thank you to Councillors Browaty and Klein and Orlikow and others for their advocacy. The 2021 balanced budget contains $600,000 to create a Winnipeg Wellness Fund. With the City's recreation facilities currently closed due to COVID-19, this fund will provide grants to community organizations across all city wards for initiatives that combat the emotional and social isolation of the pandemic through the winter months. Thank you Councillors Orlikow, Rollins and Browaty for this work. And finally, I turn to the $3.6 million investment of the federal restart funds aimed an encouraging economic development and growing our city's assessment base. These investments include $2 million to provide grants to developers on affordable housing. And I thank Councillor Gilroy for her ongoing advocacy on this file. $750,000 for additional Planning staff with a focus on handling residential permits, the pre-application process of reviewing existing and developing new secondary plans. This is something Councillor Lukes has been talking about for years and I'm glad to see we're finally making that investment. And finally, $500,000 to re-establish the Economic Development Office within the City of Winnipeg with a direct report of the CAO. This work will foster economic growth. Madam Speaker, these are just a few of the many highlights in this budget. Many good reasons for every member of Council to vote for this budget and I look forward to hearing comments from my colleagues.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. Your opportunity to introduce Motion 1. That's your introduction?

Councillor Gillingham: My introductory comments.

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Gillingham: I can say it all again if you want. Oh, Motion 1, I see. My amending motion. Sorry, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: You're confusing me, Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Confusing you, confusing me. I apologize.

Madam Speaker: That's okay.

Motion No. 1
Moved by Councillor Gillingham,
Seconded by Councillor Rollins,

BE IT RESOLVED That the second paragraph of Recommendation 1. W. of Item 1 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated December 15, 2020 be amended by deleting the words "the Chair of" before the words "the Police Board" as indicated below:

"1. W. As part of the development of the report the public service will (i) conduct a jurisdictional scan of other formula-driven models for police services; (ii) work collaboratively to seek input from the Winnipeg Police Services Board, members of Council and the WPS; (iii) commission a statistically representative third-party survey of Winnipeg residents concerning the funding of the WPS, and (iv) support ~~the Chair of~~ the Police Board, Chair of Protection, Community Services, and Parks, and Chair of Finance through the office of public engagement to hold six events: one city wide event and 5 community committee events (Assiniboia; City Centre; East Kildonan - Transcona, Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan and Riel) designed to collect input from members of the public including Black, Indigenous and people of colour, LGBT2SQ, community groups and associations"*

Councillor Gillingham: Yes, Motion No. 1, Madam Speaker. Thank you. I introduce that. It's a...just a change, a small change in wording to comply with what is required by the Police Board.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. We just had take two of Chris Lorenc's today only. Didn't want to do that of your opening, thank you. Okay, so Councillor Gillingham has introduced Motion 1. Now, we'll move onto Councillor Klein who has asked for the concurrence of his seconder, Councillor Schreyer, to rescind Motion 2 and replace it with Motion 3. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. So, Motion 3, Councillor Klein has asked for a replacement. We'll now circulate it since Council has concurred. Thank you. Councillor Klein, we'll just give a moment for that to be distributed. And Mr. Clerk, would you read Motion 3 or the change into the record? Just as it's...it's just been circulated now, and I just want to make sure all members of Council have the information.

Clerk: Moved by Councillor Klein, seconded by Councillor Schreyer: be it resolved that the second paragraph of Recommendation 1. W. of Item 1 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated December 15th, 2020 be amended by deleting the words "the Chair of the Police Board, Chair of Protection, Community Services, and Parks, and Chair of Finance" and replacing them with "one Councillor from every Community Committee, as selected by the Community Committee".

Madam Speaker: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Clerk. With that, Councillor Klein, your opportunity to introduce Motion 3.

Motion No. 2
Moved by Councillor Klein,
Seconded by Councillor Schreyer,

BE IT RESOLVED That the second paragraph of Recommendation 1. W. of Item 1 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated December 15, 2020 be amended by deleting the words "the Chair of the Police Board, Chair of Protection, Community Services, and Parks, and Chair of Finance" and replacing with "Councillors Chambers, Lukes, Nason and Schreyer", as indicated below:

"1. W. As part of the development of the report the public service will (i) conduct a jurisdictional scan of other formula-driven models for police services; (ii) work collaboratively to seek input from the Winnipeg Police Services Board, members of Council and the WPS; (iii) commission a statistically representative third-party survey of Winnipeg residents concerning the funding of the WPS, and (iv) support ~~the Chair of the Police Board, Chair of Protection, Community Services, and Parks, and Chair of Finance~~ Councillors Chambers, Lukes, Nason

and Schreyer through the office of public engagement to hold six events: one city wide event and 5 community committee events (Assiniboia; City Centre; East Kildonan - Transcona, Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan and Riel) designed to collect input from members of the public including Black, Indigenous and people of colour, LGBT2SQ, community groups and associations"*

Motion No. 3
Moved by Councillor Klein,
Seconded by Councillor Schreyer,

BE IT RESOLVED That the second paragraph of Recommendation 1. W. of Item 1 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated December 15, 2020 be amended by deleting the words "the Chair of the Police Board, Chair of Protection, Community Services, and Parks, and Chair of Finance" and replacing with "one Councillor from every Community Committee, as selected by the Community Committee", as indicated below:

"1. W. As part of the development of the report the public service will (i) conduct a jurisdictional scan of other formula-driven models for police services; (ii) work collaboratively to seek input from the Winnipeg Police Services Board, members of Council and the WPS; (iii) commission a statistically representative third-party survey of Winnipeg residents concerning the funding of the WPS, and (iv) support ~~the Chair of the Police Board, Chair of Protection, Community Services, and Parks, and Chair of Finance~~ one Councillor from every Community Committee, as selected by the Community Committee through the office of public engagement to hold six events: one city wide event and 5 community committee events (Assiniboia; City Centre; East Kildonan - Transcona, Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan and Riel) designed to collect input from members of the public including Black, Indigenous and people of colour, LGBT2SQ, community groups and associations"*

Councillor Klein: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. And thank you for the support to withdraw the first and introduce the revised motion. I think it speaks for itself. I think we're trying to get into collaboration, we're trying to move forward with collaboration, and this motion will allow one councillor from every community committee to be represented if we're going to take this step forward. And I think that's important that every member of Council or every community committee is equally represented as we go forward and not a select group of councillors. And I'll talk more to it after I hear from my colleagues.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. I'll now open up the floor for speakers. Or does Council choose to take a recess?

Councillor Eadie: I'd like to take a recess till 1:00 p.m. for lunch.

Madam Speaker: It's 12:10, Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Gilroy: Can we go till…like, just a half an hour break instead of a full hour?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie's motion is to come back at 1:00.

Councillor Eadie: I'm moving to come back at 1:00.

Madam Speaker: Yes, 1:00 is the motion. All in favour? Contrary? That is carried. There's food in Councillor Gilroy's office.

Reconvened meeting of
Winnipeg City Council of
December 16, 2020, at 1:12 p.m.

Madam Speaker: Good afternoon. I'd like to reconvene our Council meeting of December 16th, 2020. We are on the Operating and Capital Budgets addressing amending Motion No. 3. Councillor Klein, your opportunity to speak to the amending motion and the budget.

Councillor Klein: I'll wait and hear from colleagues about the motion. As I alluded to earlier, I felt that it was a very simple motion in the sense that the change. And I believe it's a friendly a moment saying that if we're going to get a clear representation of what the City wants, if that's what we're truly looking for, then would be I think more advantageous then to include areas of…all areas of the City and we would do that by selecting a member of Council from every community committee. So, I'll wait to hear more and speak to it at the end. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: And Councillor Klein, your opportunity to speak to the budget. And you would also get a chance to close later.

Councillor Klein: I'll close later. I'm fine, thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next speaker, Councillor Allard. Is he online with us? I do not see him on the screen.

Councillor Allard: I am, my apologies. I just put my video back on.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Allard. Just want to make sure you're connected and nothing's going on on our end. Next speaker, please. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Everybody's shy, Madam Speaker. I find that hard to believe here in the fishbowl that we don't want to speak to it. But anyway, thanks, Madam Speaker. Well, here we are, December 16th, 2020, this is the tenth budget that we're voting on, Madam Speaker. For some, it's more, but it's very interesting in that I'm going to start by just stating that the four-year balanced budget that we passed is actually still underlying our vote this year. Although, we have a number of changes as a result of some Provincial money and Federal money. And some slight changes I believe in that balanced budget which I voted against, Madam Speaker because it was developed based on our typical means of doing a budget which always starts out at the idea that it's austerity, not from what Ms Cerelli was talking about, starting out from here are policies. And I heard someone talk about our strategic budget, but Madam Speaker, we have never as a council actually come up with a strategic plan to say where we should prioritize the direction in spending, and that sort of thing. Might have been done through EPC. I do not know if they have a strategic plan, Madam Speaker. But what I do know is I have not participated in a strategic planning session and decide. You know, we kind of do things and each of us tries to push forward some of what we...items that we think are in best interest, Madam Speaker. And that happens at EPC plus two as well as just EPC. And we know…and I know for sure that the budget is really based on the Mayor's commitment that continues to move forward, which is a much needed investment in capital, there's no doubt about that. But when it comes to operating, what we…we continually reduce services. You know, actually, one thing I really can't stand, Madam Speaker, is the word of savings. Tell the people what it really is. Like, I noted…okay, so I am getting complaints from people who don't have technology out there, and they used to be able to look up on the bus stop schedule sign and they could see when their bus was coming, Madam Speaker. You know, unless it was delayed, that is the time scheduled. Well, in the document when they got rid of those, oh, we had $25,000 in savings. It's not $25,000 in savings, it's a service cut to those people who do not have technology. The people we are leaving behind in this city, when you go to Uber and you do that kind of...pardon me, when you do that kind of gig economy stuff, remember, when you are voting for that, you are leaving tons of people behind, lots of them. Because there are a bunch of people who had a hard enough time keeping up to the economy as it was. Now, when you make decisions about the gig economy, like, if you do not have a credit card, you are not taking personal vehicles for hire. You have to have a credit card, Madam Speaker. So here we are. That's discrimination against people who live in poverty. Oh, it's okay, we maintain the regular taxi service. Yeah, okay, that is fine, but you know what about the drivers who drive in that area. You know, the reality is, that is secure payment, a credit card, right? So now we've got all of these people that have to pay more for their licenses, more for this, and more for their insurance, Madam Speaker. So, these are how these gig economy things, they just really annoys…and I still don't know why we are not taxing Airbnb type operations. I do not understand why we are not doing that. It is business. So, and we can direct that money into things that the city needs. So anyway, Madam Speaker, there are a bunch of great things in this budget. And again, I will say that I have a lot of respect for the Chair of Finance and Councillor Gillingham who oversees this thing. And because it was a four-year balanced budget, I think they took the…this is why I voted against the four-year balanced budget, and now we are voting to what's the mill rate going to be. But Madam Speaker, I have to say that what that balanced budget…it didn't prepare us in no way to deal with having to grow economically over the next couple years once we are over this threat to life and health. The balanced budget, the reason...when you do a four-year balanced-budget, there's not a lot of things that are going to change from year to year, Madam Speaker. And as you know, I was quite upset. I do not like when, you know, we have a pedestrian cycling policy that also lays out three different terms of projects that need to be done. And then, oh, yeah, I would like to get some moved up, too, Madam Speaker, but really, in the policy that Council passed, there was supposed to be priorities; long-term, medium-term and short-term. And you know, there was a reason they did that. That's the thing about doing four-year balanced budgets. Unless there is something extraordinary, and I have to say, we had a perfect storm with two extraordinary events happening. One being Water and Waste having to go to the Public Utilities Board, and the other being the whole Planning Commission for the metro region has brought forth things. And we could look at trying to help property taxpayers in methods…ways that I explained that really seriously have to be looked at because ultimately, the reason there is so much money in the contingency fund in the first place is that so-called dividend, which is really just a charge. It's a cost. It's a dividend, you might want to call it, but who is the dividend to? The taxpayers are paying for it and then it comes and yeah, luckily we had some money there to deal with the four-year balanced-budget, Madam Speaker. But ultimately, that's not a good way to budget, from my perspective. So, I am for the Capital Budget. I like, you know…it's great that the Province has come forward with $50 million of money for, you know, those recreation community service kind of items that we need, and it's working good. It's

spread out. I mean, it could have been spread out differently. I don't know, it's still not enough money to meet all of the needs that we actually do have, Madam Speaker. But ultimately, with the Capital Budget, I do support the Capital Budget, Madam Speaker. And because of those investments, WASAC is going to have a really, I will call it, state-of-the-art facility.

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

Councillor Eadie: To be able to provide those services to the youth. And this is…this is long-term prevention, actually. That $5.9 million investment is really great for working with youth, building their confidence, building their ability to respect themselves and others and being able to, well, do well in the gig economy and the economy that is going to be moving forward. And the more young people we provide that and the more young people that we will...they will be less people struggling out on the street. You know, addictions are very hard to quit. Like, I do cigarettes, but you know, like, it's a very difficult thing to do. So, anyway, I won't be supporting the Operating Budget. The cuts, reductions in service from Transit, as an example, they are not going to come back. They will find an excuse not to bring those back without bringing in maybe a more appropriate service which will pay the monetary investment, and I note the Province…I will end on this. I can't believe, I think it is still that way, but it sounds like the Province is saying, you know, we should not use public transit dollars to enhance our public transit. It's very important to Winnipeg to have a very good mass transportation system so that we have people having an ability to get where they need to go. And I don't think the Province really sees that. I don't understand why. But I must say, you know, transit is very essential to our growing city. And I just…anyway. Our Operating Budget across the board is very problematic for me. In the actual direct services through operating, I am not seeing enough increased investment out there to do more prevention work with more than just young people but with others. Thanks.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Next is Councillor Chambers followed by Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise this afternoon in support of the budgets. I want to thank Councillor Gillingham for his leadership and the members of Public Service who work diligently in reaching out to us as councillors in preparation of this budget. I will speak, however, on I guess some of the process pieces and having the opportunity to serve on the Budget Working Group while I served as Deputy Mayor was definitely an alerting portion for me. And Councillor Santos was Acting Deputy Mayor and sat on Budget Working Group. But I want to just emphasize that now that I am Chair of the Police Board and no longer part of the Budget Working Group, it was a different process for me in how the information was disseminated. And again, I thank Councillor Gillingham for reaching out, but I do feel, and it was mentioned in the presentations this morning, that it was much more condensed in terms of time and preparation for us as councillors that did not have the same working knowledge as those on the Budget Working Group. So, as a person that is dedicated towards continuous improvement, I am hoping that this process can be tweaked so that those of us that are not on the Budget Working Group can gain a more fulsome and comprehensive understanding of what is being presented as we are representing not just the taxpayers of our ward but in visionary thinking, the City of Winnipeg. However, in reviewing the contents that I have seen, I am grateful and thankful to the two levels of government; the Federal Government who have put in $12.4 million into rapid housing to address homelessness in our city and the Provincial Government and their $50 million contributions towards our library and recreation strategy that has filled some of the gaps. As well as the Federal Government, again, who are backfilling some of our Transit shortfalls. I think this helps our city. It's working in partnership and collaboration with other levels of government. And I thank the Mayor on his leadership on that as being our Council's liaison between the other levels of government. But again, I want to emphasize the fact that this process can be tweaked, can be updated to reflect the needs of us as councillors and perhaps this pandemic played a part in us being able to get together to meet and network offline, discuss aspects of this budget that could have brought us closer together. And I am hoping that next year as we move towards the update of our next budget that these thoughts I have shared today will be considered. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Chambers. Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise here today to speak in favour of the 2021 budget, but I also want to please note that I will not be supporting Councillor Klein's amending motion. My reasoning behind that is I think it is really important that we have the three chairs be part of this valuable conversation. There is lots of healing that really needs to happen in terms of the community coming together to discuss issues pertaining to the police and also pertaining to community services. And there's lots of work that is going into community services, in our poverty reduction strategy, in our inclusion and welcoming policies, and so there is so much work going on that those people really need to be sitting there and making sure that they are taking part of this initiative. So, that's why I am not supporting that.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Chambers, point of order.

Councillor Chambers: Point of order. Just…and thank you, Councillor Gilroy. I just want to emphasize the fact that as Chair of the Police Board, that I do not speak unilaterally for the Police Board. We come to an agreement as a board itself. So, while I am supportive of the original motion as drafted, I am just recognizing that I am a city councillor that…

Madam Speaker: Thank you for the clarification.

Councillor Chambers: As opposed to Police Board Chair.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: So, I really feel that these are three important people that need to be at the conversation. So, that is why I will not be supporting the amending motion and will be supporting the original motion. And further to discussion on the 2021 budget, I would really like to thank our mayor for all of the work that he has done in terms of the budget and Councillor Gillingham, you've put in a lot of effort. And I really want to appreciate, especially pertaining to working with different councillor colleagues who do not always share the same views and thoughts. You've been very patient with me, and I appreciate that. And I also want to recognize the many staff that has been answering many questions during budget period and want to thank them for their support during this time. This budget really is a light during this dark social and economic times. We all know the financial impacts of COVID on our residents and our city budget. It reflects and recognizes the importance of investing in community. In our Transit budget, we have 40 million that is going into our transit. That is our biggest mill rate ever. Eleven and under will be free on the bus. This exposes a new generation to become familiar with public transportation while easening the financial burdens of parents. We are continuing on with our WINNpass, the affordable bus pass that will continue and be available during these tough times for all of Winnipeggers. And as our city grows, how we move around our city is going to become even more important and keeping it affordable and having among the lowest fares is really vital. These align with our poverty reduction strategies. Towards our effort on climate change, this budget adds 29 million towards our tree canopy. Also, as not as interesting topic but very, very important topic, is what we are doing in terms of the North End Treatment Plant and our combined sewer overflows. In recreation, we have $50 million that are going directly into recreation and libraries. And that's really, really important as we move forward. There has been lots of discussion…lots of discussion on prevention, and that's where these things start. $5.1 million for recreation investment to the Winnipeg Achievement Sports and Achievement Centre to provide recreation programming for Indigenous youth. It no longer…it also provides programming, but it also talks about the leadership skills that these young people are taking as they are employed by this group. And they also are really honoring their natural gifts and talents. We are all working with different community organizations, and this budget really is representing that. We are making tough decisions. We are doing our best to ensure that everyone has a bright future in our city. Housing and homelessness; since I was first elected, I have been fighting for housing strategy. In addition to the 12.5 million from the Rapid Housing Initiative, the City is providing $2 million towards an affordable housing strategy. You've heard me say this before, the United Nations has declared that housing is a human right. Housing is something all Winnipeggers should have regardless of income, race or gender. We are also committing to common decency by providing a place for residents that do not face the dignity so they have the place of going to the washroom outside. We have 24-hour washroom facilities in our downtown Winnipeg. This is a very good development as it pertains to equity and access for our community, and it also provides dignity for many homeless people. We are also committed to funding 24-hour spaces, helping some of our most vulnerable people in the city. Right now, we are having tough conversations, bridging the gap between the police and the people are important. Many people have engaged on that matter. And there is a gap and there is a mistrust. And I want people to know that $15 million from the police pension is not coming out of recreation and libraries. It's not coming out of Transit. It's coming out of the Winnipeg Police Service budget and being absorbed through them. Working on the City's…and we are also working on the City's Newcomer and Welcome Inclusion Policy will allow space for this dialogue to continue. And helping to bridge that gap is $150,000 going towards consultation between the public and the police through community building efforts. This budget will increase transit. This budget will increase community services. This budget will increase urban forestry. This budget is going to introduce an affordable housing strategy. I think those are all valuable for our community and all of Winnipeggers. And I want to thank everybody that came in delegation who has called and e-mailed our office, and I want to know that we are listening to you. We are hearing you, and we are putting the best budget we can forward during this time. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gilroy. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Paris Agreement is a legally binding International Treaty on Climate Change. It was adopted by 196 parties, 196 parties in Paris in December, 2015, and it entered into force on November, 2016. Its goal is to limit global warming to preferably 1.5 degrees Celsius. 2020; this year marks an important 50 year in which signatories must submit their plans for climate action known as nationally determined contributions or NDCs. We have a bit of time to figure this out, but only a tiny little bit as a country. By November, 2021, ours and Canada are due. Also due are nationally determined contributions or NDCs on actions that we'll take as a country to build resiliency to adapt to the impacts of rising temperatures. The Paris Agreement works on a five-year cycle of increasingly ambitious climate action carried out by country...by countries. As a city, we must engage and commit to doing something. We have time, but again not so much time to do this important work. And many would say, perhaps, that we have run out of time. We've failed. I'm just not one of them, Madam Speaker. So why was it, you might ask? For me, in preparation of this budget speech, the Paris Accord was on my mind. It's because at the end of each budget, I reflect, how is our beautiful city of

ours going to contribute? How much more do we have to do? What did we do in budget? Where are we going next? What policy discussions do we need to have to advance the issues that I am here for that, other councillors I know are here for, that I promised my residents and other councillors promise to their residents in this election. Where do we go from here? Budgets like the Paris Accord, too, are not just, you know, fun and games to construct, they're really difficult work. People want certain clauses in, certain amendments, like I do today. They are sought. They are specific things that they want. And sometimes they just don't go far enough to get us where we need to be. Community safety, climate change, protection of the most vulnerable, the poor, the homeless, the health challenges during the pandemic, public toilets, thank you, Councillor Gilroy, housing. Thank you again, and climate change. All things concerned about. So, who best to phone when you are not happy with the negotiations or where they are landing or you are feeling weird about what's just transpired during the budget or you have thoughts and regrets and you have so much, much more to do. Well, you call a friend who had the whole world on her shoulders when she negotiated on behalf of Canada, the Paris Agreement. I wanted to know, had she got everything that she wanted? Was there something that she wanted more work on? And, you know, she commented on the number of signatories, a whopping 196 parties to the agreement, largest of...I think there is only two ore that has that kind of consensus. She reflected that it was an agreement that drives conversations and that it was an accord that required collaborative action and she said, for a country like Canada, the influence it had had on the financial markets was a surprise and also something that likely holds promise for the future looking out into the next five years. In doing the work she had talked to many people, and afterwards not everyone was happy with her. Sound familiar? And still, there is an opportunity every five years to intensify the work on the Paris Agreement. Transit; the transit discussion and debates were really difficult in this budget. It was a difficult year due to the pandemic, and it was a difficult year given all of the policy ambitions this council has on Transit. And I had publicly committed to keeping both hands on the wheel, so to speak, in line with the lobby of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and along with the Canadian Urban Transit Association. Concerned that we were supporting a barrier free Winnipeg, with…it needs to look at Transit Plus, something that my colleague on Council, Shawn Nason is always doing, and Councillor Allard. In this budget, we have 104 million, an unprecedented tax-supported transit figure, continuing on with the blue line investments as well as heated bus shelters and low-income bus passes, student passes, children under 12 ride for free. The work has intensified here, which is why, in part, I can support the budget today. In budget, I consider those structures of equity for all people of all wards that contributes to community safety and well-being. This budget delineates the 50 million of the 75 million basket funding for the Province investing in recreation and libraries and it includes the 5.9 million for WASAC, but it also includes food security, community kitchens, for Turtle Island's kitchen and building systems and for Magnus Eliason Recreation Center kitchen renewal. There is more to do. And I want to recognize my council colleague, Councillor Santos for her support with respect to the allocation of the dollars. With her at the City, we have seen a challenge function to the nameless, faceless pursuits of urbanism in favour of equity-based conversations and community care. The sacrifice and risks she takes are nothing short of courageous, and I want to continue to working with her on climate issues, change infrastructure including, of course, the work she did in this budget at Protection, Community Services and Parks on water features. What do you need for a city that is going to be experiencing the effects of climate change? Well, you need some water features. At its core, I want to say the budget and the pandemic drove many conversations. And Councillor Gillingham talked about the Mental Health Unit of the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service. The investments in non-profits and business that have experienced code red restrictions with 3 million in grant funding, and the wellness...the Winnipeg Wellness Funding of 600,000, where councillors got together during the budget process to really discuss what would boost spirits, what would contribute to mental health, and every single member of this Council did that. And more collaboration like this is needed. And this fund will turn each one of us back to communities in a really structured way that should happen continuously, not only during the pandemic, but beyond. The budget, as Councillor Gilroy stated, puts a structure and words, something that we haven't done before in this city or at least for a few years to our need for affordable housing. When I started, we were not really talking about this as a structure in the City of Winnipeg. The 2 million into affordable housing in order to support the work of those trying to draw down money, like the Rapid Housing Initiative...

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

Councillor Rollins: Will make a dent…it will make a dent, that 12.5 million, but we know more is needed. While there is work underway on many items, there's still more to do. And I hope there is some consensus today on the motion that Councillor Gillingham and I forwarded concerning police, concerning community safety, and concerning what I hope is really the crime prevention through social development. I want to echo some of the comments that Councillor Gilroy made in support of that motion with respect to some of the reasons that we put it forward in the first place, to fundamentally listen and understand some of what the community had said to us and get in front of them again. Sometimes you standalone with your policy ambitions. I'm reminded of last term when Councillor Matthew Allard who sought a steppingstone motion to eliminate fees and fines for children. And he knew it was a barrier, and he lost the vote.

Translation of French Spoken:

Councillor Rollins: And we did it. We made a council that could accomplish a lot.

Councillor Rollins: I'd like to thank the residents of Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry that appeared to talk to us in budget and all those coalitions and people that forwarded their thoughts and ideas. It is with the framework in mind on climate change, the Paris Accord that I reflected on the lessons learned within any negotiation and within this budget to build agreements that drive conversations, require collaborative action and understand that not everyone is happy, think about what holds promise and looks out longer term to intensify the work. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Rollins. Councillor Santos.

Councillor Santos: Thank you, Madam Speaker. 2020 has proven to be one of the worse, most difficult years that most of us have had to endure and it just got worse this winter. 2018, I had to deal with a traffic safety issue when a child was killed while crossing the street on Isabel and Alexander. Last year, we had to deal with police officers shooting teenagers, an intense meth and opioid crisis, random acts of violence against our grandmothers, and a father murdering his own two-year-old son. This year, the less fortunate living in my ward are affected with and/are dying from COVID virus and now catching trench fever, a preventable disease we haven't seen since the dire conditions of World War I. Most of these could have been preventable and even avoidable. All three levels of government have three basic functions: public health, public safety and public education. As a government, we are also accountable to deliver the human basic rights to our citizens: shelter, clothing, public washrooms, food and access to clean water. And we all know we are failing at these expectations. One just needs to look outside our window right here at city hall to see the effects of government neglect. Residents' mental health is deteriorating and people are dying. All of this exacerbated with the disproportionate systems our government has created during this pandemic and for the generations before us. As leaders, how many more illnesses and deaths do we need to see before we wake up and get to work to make the needed systemic changes? Our city remains sick. The data clearly indicates that people who live in poverty are disproportionately susceptible to catching an infection, whether that's COVID, pneumonia, tuberculosis, hepatitis, trench, who knows what else. The most impoverished people in Winnipeg live in downtown and in Point Douglas where basic needs have long not been met. Food deserts, the lack of public washrooms and showers, mental health supports, and housing insecurities have been magnified for all to see during the pandemic. Many of my residents' are essential and front-line workers who work with the public and do not have the privilege of choice to work from home. With the end of many financial supports, families have no choice but to continue to work in public spaces regardless of personal or family health issues. Many of my residents' live in multi-family buildings and in multi-generational homes, which makes space limited and physical distancing within the home nearly impossible. The most aggravating and frustrating part of my role is that Municipal Government is not mandated to make decisions for most of these critical issues that occur in the Point Douglas Ward. I literally have no jurisdiction over the Provincial or Federal Government's budgets or mandates. The only influence I have is this operating and capital budget in front of us today, Police, Fire, Transit, Community Services, Public Works, Property Planning, Water and Waste, just to name a few core City services. Even my influence translates to only one vote out of 16. Even within our own City services, we still are dependent on provincial and federal funding. One just has to look at the finer details to see that we are currently backfilling this year's budget from the annual provincial capital brand of $75 million and the $42.2 million of the restart safe…or sorry, the federal safe restart funding. I've got to be honest with you, this budget is okay. Keeps the light on. It's a status quo budget. And it's been like that ever since I was first elected. Why? Because as a city, we need to make sure it remains balanced. That itself is very important to Winnipeggers that our budget is balanced. I know it was not easy for the Mayor or the Chair of Finance to do the heavy lifting during this yearly update, especially with a pandemic upon us. However, if we listen to our community during this and last year's budget process, we would have heard loud and clear from hundreds of our community members that they want to see investments in community services, in the environment and in the arts. They want to see recreation and transit and libraries. They also want what we want, a balanced budget. But citizens are asking for more than a fiscally balanced budget. They are also asking for a socially balanced budget. Sure, we have some funding in place for 24 safe place, mental health supports for front-line workers and ambulances and fire emergency services, waiver of library fines, $50 million provincial grant for capital investment in recreational infrastructure and libraries, a $2 million federal safe restart money to provide grants for affordable housing, but that is just a drop in the bucket. Since I have been a councillor, the police operating budget continues to be approximately 31% of our annual household tax bill while the community services, recreation, parks receives 19%. I understand people want and need security. Most Winnipeggers prioritize safety in their communities, but they know just as well as we do that the police are not the only answer to mental health crisis issues or domestic violence. And yet, year after year, the Winnipeg Police received the biggest piece of our budget while all other mechanisms that attempt to reduce crime are barely staying afloat. We do need police. I'm not trying to say we don't. There is crime in our communities, and we need the effective response of the police. I'm going to probably ask for maybe a five minute...two minutes. Did you know that the tax supported operational budget for the Winnipeg Police Service has increased by 114% since 2004?

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

Councillor Santos: With a per capita increase of $110. Within that same timeframe, our community services budget has decreased by $19 per capita. We have been constantly under funding our Community Services Recreational Parks Department in favour of the police budget. These are systemic, long-term, institutional issues that we must take the first

steps to beginning to fixing them. And for these reasons I just stated is why I continue to not support the police operating budget again this year. Michael Champagne asked us, are we strengthening families with this budget? I, personally, and wholeheartedly know that we are not investing enough into our people or into the community. Every single councillor has heard that the reduction in library, recreation, and transit services have a substantial negative effect on Winnipeggers. This pandemic has shown us that we can pivot on a dime and find new and better systems and priorities. Rapid innovation is possible. So why are we, as a government, hesitating to innovate and respond to the social inequalities in our city within this operational budget? There are many issues that have converged in Point Douglas and in the downtown that need more budget support. Madam Speaker, the question I want to ask ourselves, are we going to be the community leaders who affected a positive, lasting, and much-needed change to how we as a city develop better outcomes to make our communities safer? I just need one more minute.

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

Councillor Santos: Or are we going to be the council that ignores the needs of our citizens, maintains the status quo, and allows another year to pass by without responding to the needs of the people who live here? Will we permit the continued reduction in community services, libraries and transit and ignore the calls for action to address them? I urge my fellow councillors to think about the future of this city and to create an operational budget that reflects and respects the needs of a socially balanced budget for all Winnipeggers. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Orlikow.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you, Madam Speaker. A lot of passion today. And you know, I think we are all reflecting on the passion that we are feeling in the neighborhood. And in times of passion and stress are also times for us to evaluate where we are and where we want to go. That said, we are the City of Winnipeg. We are not Federal Government. We are not all governments. We are…have our role. We have our revenue constraints on what we can do. We have to respect that. We know there is areas that many of our councillor colleagues including myself, would love the City to have more authority in; from housing to social services to healthcare. But we have to respect the fact that we have our role to focus on what we need to focus on and then also I am very proud of this budget and how it actually does, and some people and some people I've I talked to thinks it does too much of the…looking at the social parameters and dealing with housing and other issues. Really, another level of government's responsibility. And as I say to them, well that's, sure. I value your opinion like we value all peoples' opinions. However, I do agree that someone (inaudible) and it needs some leadership, we can be that first starting point to get the other parties involved. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't, but we can't do nothing. So, this budget reflects who we are. In my years of being here, this budget is farther into the areas of equity than I have seen in the past and I'm very proud of that. We see some of the investments in the rec fund going…facing some of the issues there on equity. I do support that. That is fantastic. We've got to continue to work on that. We have funding going to housing. Yeah, I have always been a big proponent of housing. We need to do that. But we also have to…and we also have to reflect on people about…they are scared. There is some crime issues here. So they have to know that when they call 911, someone will show up to help them. We have to do that. Number one issues in some wards, yeah, we may want to stop building roads and move all that money somewhere else, but again, roads are a major infrastructure piece of Winnipeg. It's a major economic driver. And it still is one of the biggest issues that's facing many Winnipeggers out there that are the conditions of our roads. And we are still addressing that. That said, you know, I understand, being around for a little while, the passion and how we all want to try to do something, but this is a collaborative process. You know, the budget has been out for a whole year now for people to take a look at and talk about. And I do really…I was a little concerned about the four-year budget when we first started, but again, now I'm a full supporter of it. So yeah, the process has changed, but the budget hasn't changed much. So again, that is already out laid out for us. So, people can go there. And again, we can start these conversations. At the end of the day, we are all going to have her own opinions. We are all going to have our own thoughts. The way that it gets done, if you have to get enough people on board to move the agenda items you are away and that's done. Some people do it through polarizing statements. Some people will do it through collaborative statements. There is no one way, but in the end, it's a we way. And that's what we have to work on as Council and continue working on that in the best way forward. We are not all going to agree on every piece of it. I actually really...this budget for me, the three areas that, again, as a ward-centric councillor, in some regards, this budget kept taxes low. It dealt with the roads, insured safety issues. And again, it addressed some of our tree issues. So on that level, the commitments that I put forward to the residents when I got re-elected, we are hitting those on target. That's fantastic. But I also know that we have a lot more work to do. But we're not going to be able to do this as city councillors by ourselves. We're going to need our Provincial Government to be more supportive and work with us and the Federal Government and also private and non-profit groups. The Mayor has taken efforts to bring in non-profit groups in the private sector to help us…aid us. It isn't, again, and I or us, it's a we to try to figure out some of these problems; end homelessness initiatives, many groups. And we've got to continue to build those bridges. It's not going to be easy, we know that. Again, we also know the City has of record infrastructure deficit. We know…there's many things that we have to keep working on, again, primarily right now is the North Treatment Center. That is our number one priority, and congratulations to Council. To put that as your number one priority, a sewage plant, you know, I never thought I would see

that in my days, but we all realize it is our number one priority and we have to get that project done to save Lake Winnipeg and to allow our city to grow. So again, that is a huge change. So, I know people will pick and choose areas of their concern to us and they'll want more effort to go that way, and I encourage them to keep doing that. Collaborate, talk to your fellow councillors, work with each other to find pathways forward. Are we going to give up something else to pay for this? Are we going to find new sources of revenue? Those are all the kind of things we have to talk about, but keep bringing the ideas forward. However, today this budget, for me, both the Operating and Capital, I am very supportive of. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Orlikow. Councillor Schreyer, I see your hand, thank you.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As per usual, I tend not to write out my speeches. I do congratulate those that do. I rely on them. I really appreciate the information that is put forward in these research speeches. I'm not saying I am not researching, Madam Speaker. What I'm saying is, I tend to react to the speeches I hear at the time. And again, I am doing that here. And had I waited to speak later, I probably would have been making a different speech, but I am inspired by my previous speakers, and I am challenged by them as I hope I am to them. I'm going to say a few things. First of all, yes, I thank our administration. I thank all of those involved in the budgetary process. But what we really…who we really have to thank every day for us being here, I thank the taxpayers of Winnipeg for this budget, everything we do. I thank the taxpayers of Winnipeg, because they are the ones who get it done every single day. People thank me for…geeze, Jason, thanks…Councillor Schreyer, thanks for, you know, getting Watt Street done. I think, man, like, thank…you did it. You paid for it. You paid for every member of the administration and the contractors to get it done. So, thank yourself because if I get thanked just because the City does its job, not that it's not important, it's not hard work, that these member of the city hall, and these construction companies are involved with, but I think we get off topic in terms of, you know, who is doing what for whom? Thank you to the taxpayers of Winnipeg. That is why we are all here getting to do what we are paid to do, our jobs. And now we debate, what is our job? Well, we have this big show once a year. Everything culminates into this one day, and it's an important day. It's an important process. To me, every day is budget day because there is nothing we do here that doesn't translate directly into the budget. I don't care whether you are a fiscal conservative. I don't care whether you consider yourself a social progressive. I'm not asking anybody to change their values when it comes to…essentially, when it comes to a municipal budget. There's some things that have to correlate together to do anything. Whether it is a traditional fiscally conservative values of keeping your taxes lower and maintaining a traditional municipal services like our streets, like our community clubs. But we have been reducing services to our community clubs. If you want to look at a more traditional fiscally conservative point of view, we reduced services, traditional services we have had a generation and two ago. So, for fiscal conservative, I would say, well, you know, we have got some problem. There are some problems here. Why aren't we able…why are we increasing our taxes and getting less for it? Now, if I were a…consider myself a social progressive, in terms of those things that I think are really important to maintain the fabric of our society and make it sustainable environmentally, socially, if we are talking about the environment, if we're talking about our social fabric, if we're talking poverty and if we are talking about affordable housing, I've got a few things to say. Our…I have said this before, so t's not a surprise, but our standards have gotten so low that we think we are actually doing something in our society in this day and age regarding affordable housing, and we are not. Because the numbers we are talking about are the proof. And if we think it's something, then what are we comparing ourselves to? Well, nothing, actually (inaudible) better than nothing. That's where we are at. That's not the society that came before us. That's not where we are coming from as a society. We've done better. What's the difference? What's the problem? And I'm not just talking about any particular government, any particular party. But again, I have always said it's not the obligation of the City. I don't put this pressure on Mayor Bowman and the city hall in terms of doing things for affordable housing because it's not really our purview. It isn't. And here's our proof, we talk about doing $2 million for affordable housing. At the same time when we realize that the cost of creating one affordable housing unit at these rates that I have seen, well, how many are we talking about? Twelve? Okay. So, let's put this into perspective. What does that mean, 12 or 20? I'm going to say it again, and I know it sounds corny, and people smile, why is he talking about this? Well, what else are we supposed to compare ourselves to, that which we as a society has done before within our lifetimes. Not some fantasy, not some hypothetical about what the future might be, what we really did. What we really did, what we are living with. We are just legacy of this which has come before. And right here in this province it has been the case that we have been able to pull off over a thousand affordable housing units per year, the majority of over half in Winnipeg. So, hundreds per year. So are we doing a good job? No, I would say, well, just a, you know, a relative analysis, it's kind of simple. A few hundred versus a few. Well, we are losing out. But why can't we do it? We had a provincial government in the 1970s that produced over a thousand affordable housing units per year with a surplus budget every year. How is it possible? Well, don't you want to know? Don't we all have to know? But we don't ask that question until this budget today because I have always said, what are the extra budgetary pressures that are increasing every year that are forcing us to cut back on other things? Okay. So, we had Councillor Santos make an important point. I mean, I love what she was doing. I just had…Councillor Rollins and I just had to read her speech because we just wanted to watch it while she was saying it, some important things. She made a good point. She said that the police budget went up 114%, 112% since 2006, since 2004. Alright, that's important stuff. We know that the police budget has gone up, particularly, advanced in this last...less than 20 years. Bear in mind, what I've already said this morning, was that in the last 20 years, less than 20

years, construction inflation, based on Mike Ruta's comment, which I've published already a few years ago and I heard no remorse, no problem from his office. I thanked him for that, by the way. Not that he didn't say I said anything wrong. Why would I? I was just quoting him. But I would thank him for…I thank him for saying it. Because sometimes fact is all you have to work with before you start even incorporating your values and your priorities in terms of what we are going to do. Because if we can't agree what the facts are, well, how can we even have proper debate in terms of what we should be doing? So, Councillor Santos said that the police budget went up by 114%, 112% since 2004. All right. I'm saying, in less than the last 20 years, the construction budget…the construction inflation has gone up not a…over 100%, 1000%. Put that in perspective when we're wondering why we're raising our taxes…raising our fees, raising our rates and cutting services.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Okay, well, thank you. There's more to talk about. Affordable housing, you know, hats off to Councillor Orlikow. I believe I am the first councillor, not the only councillor, so far to ensure 100% reforestation of a neighborhood in Winnipeg. Highly treed neighbourhood…the most highly treed, oldest neighborhood in northeast Winnipeg, I believe; Glenelm. And appropriately named to assure 100% reforestation. I need to do this through my ward…one of the ward budgets because we are not there as a city. I'm glad to see we have recognized this as a challenge, but I have to do something that we are not doing as a city in terms of maintaining our existing tree canopy, if we are going to talk about the importance of trees, the environment, and what they mean to our urban environment. I am just going to leave this…one more thing. Councillor Gillingham has acknowledged after years of not saying we need it or because we are going to get a report out on construction inflation anyway, putting it in this budget. And I really do appreciate that. But the last time we said there was going to be construction inflation report, therefore, we did not have a need to move my motion we got two sentences. I don't know what this means. I do know that we are going in the right direction, and I support that in general, but I do not know what that report will be. None of us do. What I am saying is, I am glad that I have been heated at this point. And I want to help us out. So, this is what I'm going to do. In the next two weeks, I'm going to put out my second preliminary report on construction inflation in the Winnipeg Free Press. And this will be an open letter to Council and the administration in terms of what I think are the issues that that report on construction inflation that the administration will do that I believe it should contain and start with. And I want to thank Councillor Gillingham and the administration, Mayor Bowman, for dealing with the…acknowledging this issue. And not to be a naysayer in terms of food oases, I want to thank…

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

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you. I do want to congratulate…when we have talked about food oasis. And these issues…and I do want to thank…never got elected here to be a naysayer. You know, just to stand my ground in terms of what I think is really important that we can't deal unless we deal with. Maybe by the next budget we just might be close enough to say it's…because really, I do want to vote for a budget. What I will say in closing is that I do congratulate Mayor Bowman for creating the Winnipeg Food Council because when it comes to…it's not a big budget issue, but it's an important one. Because it has the discussion, dealing with facts, realities with some real specialists and professionals from around the industry and the city from which I am (inaudible) just pleased to work with Brian Mayes on this to see how we can deal with these issues in a way that I don't think we have dealt with before, and that's what city hall is about. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. We will now go remote to Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. There is really never any shortage of great things Municipal Government could do; new roads, new pools, you name it. But really, it's a balancing act at providing quality municipal services and taxes that residents support and can afford. The reality is budgets don't balance themselves. I'd like to thank Mayor Bowman and my colleagues on the Budget Working Group. While this was the first update to the historic multi-year budget, there were still many discussions and even disagreements on how to balance the budget. I don't agree with every decision that was made, but I believe we have come together to produce a budget that works for Winnipeg. Despite the turmoil in the world and many secondary priorities that this budget does address, it also supports what I consider the basics of municipal government; the three Ps: pipes, pavements and policing. Pipes; we are finally making the multi…hundreds of millions of dollar investment in the North End Sewage Treatment Plant. It's not the type of thing that's really sexy politically, you don't see a lot of politicians going for a ribbon cutting at a sewage treatment plant, but it's the right thing to do. It needs to be done for the quality of Lake Winnipeg and for our environment going forward. The southwest interceptor; it's going to allow for the continued the growth of our city. These are important investments in pipes that, you know, most people don't see or really appreciate. Pavement; a record $152 million for 2021 investment to our road network. You know, using the more scientific type studies, this is a top priority of Winnipeggers. We are finally making real progress in terms of my time on council, this is one of the things I'm proudest of, especially when it comes to our regional street. The accelerated program in recent years, we are actually making a difference. There's definitely more to do, and cutting

back during the COVID-19 pandemic is not the right thing. It's really keeping our economy moving forward and people employed and people working. When it comes to police, we have reined in our police budget with lower year-over-year percentage increase as compared to the past, and I believe that is the right thing. I do want to thank, too, residents that have participated in the budget process. At Public Works Committee, at Innovation, at EPC and this morning, your passion and commitment are making serious changes at city hall and in the world. I don't agree with everything I've heard, but I do recognize that our police need to be held accountable. I will be looking to the Winnipeg Police Board to do exactly that. Police need to be seen in their communities as the good guys and girls. If you're committing crimes, you should be scared of the police. I believe there are too many crimes being committed today to be cutting the police budget outright. People deserve to feel safe in their neighborhoods if they are obeying the law. I'd like to thank the Province for the $75 million in annual funding for capital. From this fund, $50 million over three years will be going towards recreation and leisure amenities that we will all benefit from. While I did support allocating a portion of the investing in (inaudible) infrastructure, priority transit fund to the North End Sewage Treatment Plant priority, I do challenge the Province to ensure that we do not lose the remaining ICIP transit funds. The remainder of this historic funding from the three levels of government should be providing over $500 million in transit investments. Canadian cities from coast to coast are getting the support from their respective governments including conservative governments. Our Transit Master Plan will be public in the very near future. The Government of Manitoba must come to the table. Winnipeg cannot fall behind. We are in an unprecedented times. This has affected everyone's lives in countless ways. The mental well-being of our population cannot be ignored this year. With so many facilities closed, finding ways to keep our people engaged is important. I would like to thank Mayor Bowman, Councillor Rollins, Councillor Gillingham and others for supporting the Winnipeg Wellness Initiative. While we need to be physically distanced right now, we do not need to be socially disconnected. I look forward to outdoor and online activities that can be stepped up with the Winnipeg Wellness Initiative in the coming weeks. I also support our record commitment to Transit surpassing $100 million in mill rate. That's code language for taxpayer support, for the first time; over $100 million. While revenue has plummeted at Transit due to COVID-19, we have made the strategic and important decision to not debt our service correspondingly, but to recognize it for the essential service it is and it provides many Winnipeggers. One area of concern right now during COVID is our downtown. Without daytime workers coming in, ensuring businesses and service to survive is top of mind. I am happy that parking support through June with one hour free at our meters is being extended now through June. I would like to thank all members of Council for your comments, debate and passion. I'd like to think our Finance staff including Acting CAO, Mike Ruta, Acting CFO, Paul Olafson and all the Finance Department staff for your countless hours of support. Councillor Gillingham, this is becoming second hand for you. You guys have…you've got this all figured out, Scott. I will be council…supporting Councillor Gillingham's amendment on the composition of the group working on the long-term funding formula for the Winnipeg Police Service. In my mind, the Chair of the Police Board, Chair of Protection, Community Services and Parks and the Chair of Finance is the logical group to be spearheading this group. I will not be supporting Councillor Klein's motion as I do not see why the original makeup of that committee provides a particular benefit. I will be listening to his speech. Perhaps I could be persuaded otherwise, but I don't see it. But anyways, thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Browaty. Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm going to make a few remarks in French.

Translation of French Spoken:

Councillor Allard: So, I would like to explain my reasons for why I am in support of this municipal budget. First of all, thank you to Mayor Bowman for having invited me to participate in the Budget Working Group for the 2021 budget update. This was a difficult process where we had to evaluate lots of different priorities. I would like to give my reasons for why I'm supporting the budget; so, one of my election promises was that if I was elected, I would look to make sure that children under the age of 12 could use the bus for free. So, this was included in the 2021 budget update. Thanks to my colleagues for supporting this initiative at the political level, at the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works who created the report which was finally referred to the budget and was included in the 2021 budget. I would also like to note the investments made to the Bonivital Pool. Since my election this term I have prioritized investments in aquatic services in Winnipeg in St. Boniface. So, this four-year budget with the preliminary budget will see an investment in the Bonivital Pool of about $7 million. So, these are investments in St. Boniface that invest in our regional pools so everyone will benefit in St. Boniface. So, this is one of the reasons that this budget is a budget I can support on behalf of the residents of St. Boniface. Also, it's a balanced budget and I must congratulate Mayor Bowman, congratulate Scott Gillingham who was able to create a budget that was able to satisfy different political views. So, we all come from different political backgrounds but what's more is we represent different areas of the city. And so, to be able to propose a group budget that is balanced is something we have accomplished. So, congratulations to Councillor Gillingham and Mayor Bowman for presenting this budget.

Councillor Allard: So, just briefly, I will be supporting this budget. I will not be supporting Councillor Klein's amendment. As Councillor Browaty mentioned, I do not see a need for regional representation on a committee to evaluate police

spending. I will be supporting this budget. I want to thank Mayor Bowman for the invitation to participate as a member of the Budget Working Group. And congratulations to Scott Gillingham and Mayor Bowman for tabling a preliminary budget that brings together so many political points of view. So many councillors who come representing different parts of the city. It is no easy task. However, it has been almost accomplished subject to this council vote today. So, thanks all around to the Mayor, to Scott Gillingham, to my Budget Working Group colleagues. I hope that councillors who are not part of the budget group can also see that this budget is worthy of support with investments like record investment in mill rate support to support our Transit utility. Kids riding the bus for free, 11 and under, one of my campaign commitments that I am pleased to see included within this budget. And also, it is a balanced budget that is in line with the 2.33% tax increase that was promised by Mayor Bowman. So, for all of those reasons I will be supporting this budget. You know, there's things in it that I like. There's things in it that I don't like as much, but as a whole, it is a package that I can support and I urge all of my colleagues to support this budget update as it…I think it satisfies the needs of Winnipeggers at this time.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Allard. Next speaker, Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. My remarks here today are for the residents I'm elected to really represent. Councillors are elected to serve a dual role. We are here to deal with decisions affecting the entire city and are representatives to the residents in our ward. So, it is through these lenses into the residents of Waverley West I put my comments on the record. Last year the development of a four-year projected budget set the stage for annual updates. Clearly, no one could have ever projected the changes that occurred to impact the City's budget over the last nine months. I want to extend my gratitude to the Public Service and to the entire finance team from all the departments who work so hard on…who work so hard to prepare comprehensive, financial updates and in-depth presentations for the Mayor's Budget Working Group to review and discuss. I want to thank the Federal and Provincial Governments for their financial support to the City of Winnipeg, for without their support the budget would look dramatically different than today. The Mayor's 2021 Budget Working Group, again, consisted of his Executive Policy members and his Deputy and Acting Deputy Mayor, a total of eight Council members. For weeks, for months, the Mayor and the eight councillors met with departments and met with each other and deliberated and debated and discussed the pros and cons and the options and the impact COVID-19 was having to prepare the budget before us today. Difficult decisions, I'm sure, and I'm imagining many compromises made by the Mayor and eight councillors. I want to thank Councillor Gillingham, Chair of Finance, for reaching out to the remaining seven councillors to ask for budget input. And I thank him for acknowledging some of the input councillors provided. But as I was listening, I couldn't help but think, again, how the budget process does truly not engage almost half of Council and how much better I believe the city would be if all councillors were involved and participated in the process. For the public record, I will state that seven councillors who are not on the Budget Working Group were denied access to the same detailed budget information as other councillors and were denied access to the same in-depth briefings by the Public Service on financial departmental issues. And we are basically denied access to the same detailed risk lists for each city departments. And that these seven councillors were denied the opportunity to weigh in in the same venue on the options and ability to discuss the financial future of the entire city and the ability to work with Council as a whole to compromise and find solutions. We hear a lot about compromise, but when you are not at the table there is no ability to compromise. And probably most importantly, we were denied the opportunity to represent their residents in a fair and equitable manner during the budget process. I did meet with Councillor Gillingham on numerous occasions offering budget ideas and suggestions related to the entire city and to the ward of Waverley West. But again, for the record, I will also say, with no detailed budget information presented to me, I felt challenged in my ability to offer any kind of really meaningful input other than I would like to see this, that and whatever. Following months of budget meetings with over half council, the Mayor and his Executive Policy Committee tabled the budget for all of Council to review. The seven councillors who did not have the same detailed budget information were then provided a two hour briefing on the budget, 12 working…12 business days to scrutinize the budget and to add increased pressure to the short window of time, the Mayor who decides what is on the agenda of all Council meetings, placed the opportunity to scrutinize the budget at the end of a regular business meetings that often had 15, 20, 25 items on the agenda. By the time councillors who were not on the Budget Working Group had the ability to scrutinize the budget and ask questions of the department members, it was often at the end of the day and late into the evening. According to a recent FIPPA request in 2019, Winnipeg's mayor met 58 times with EPC members behind closed doors where information was shared, perspectives were presented, influences applied. So, Madam Speaker, there is no way humanly possible that in 12 business days one can review and do justice to scrutinizing the budget. The timeframe presented by the Mayor for budget deliberations does not provide almost half of Council adequate time to review and engage in meaningful discussions and to actually fulfill our role in making decisions for the entire city and will, certainly, adequately represent the residents of our ward. And every year this disrespect towards democratically elected councillors and to the residents of Winnipeg occurs. And the behavior of setting agendas in a condensed timeframe repeats itself. And every year, every year, I think about other large corporations and boards. I think of Diane Gray at CentrePort. I think of Hartley Richardson at the chair…at the Assiniboine Park Conservancy. And I think of Paul Soubry of New Flyer Industries Group. And I think, how would this be if they shared half the financial information to their board when they were preparing their annual multimillion-dollar budgets. The Winnipeg Charter states the Mayor and his Executive Policy should prepare and table the budget, but nowhere in the Charter does it say that almost half of Council be denied access to the same detailed budget information that other

councillors receive. It's the Mayor who makes these decisions. These decisions are made by a leader who speaks about inclusion and collaboration and equity but does not practice this approach amongst the 15 democratically elected councillors equally. And this is possible because the 23-year-old never updated governance model allows the Mayor the rare, in Canada, the rare ability to appoint eight councilmembers to key decision-making positions. And this allows a majority voting block of nine votes, and nine votes is the majority of Council and nine votes moves decisions. And this voting blocks remains intact almost 96% of the time on all issues because these eight councilmembers are provided exclusive access to information weekly. And in the political realm, Madam Speaker, information is power. This does not happen in virtually every other Canadian city, major Canadian city. This does not happen in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, Hamilton, Ottawa and Halifax. In these large cities, the mayor does not appoint Council rules. The mayor works collaboratively and inclusively with all Council members to determine key decision-making positions and councillors rotate these positions. I want to speak briefly to the many delegations that came forward to present their thoughts on the budget. For years, too, I was a member of the public who came forward to present to committees. I think in total over the years, I estimated I came probably 50 times to present in delegation. I know the work that goes into these presentations, the thought, the attempts to try and decipher the budget, and the only ability for the delegations to ask questions on the budget being through either their councillor or 311. And if their councillor's not on the Budget Working Group or they can't get through on 311, good luck. And to the delegates, I apologize for the current system. I hear your frustrations. But I say to you, advocacy groups and citizens concerned about the future of Winnipeg, starting in 2021, we are going to be conducting a governance review of this 23-year-old model. And I will work with you, every single one of you, to help make change to this current system so it becomes fair and equitable for everyone. And so, this outdated governance model cannot be manipulated. I think I will require another minute, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Lukes: Thank you. Council members, every year we hear, there are great things in the budget, not everyone is going to like what is in the budget, and the budget is all about compromise, and this year is no different. In Winnipeg, budget compromise, like I noted before, only occurs amongst the Mayor and the eight appointed Council members over weeks and months behind closed doors. We hear the struggles. Councillor Gilling…Councillor Gilroy, I can feel it in her conversations, the struggles. Compromise in the budget process does not occur with all Council members on issues because we are not at the budget table to compromise with anyone. In summary, again, out of principle, I will not support more of the same behavior in developing the budget. It does not have to be like this, even under the current governance model. It is really important to me, Madam Speaker. I have come to city hall. I've put in long hours. I'm a very engaged councillor. I try and make change. And I know that one of the hardest things to do is to change power, and this is what a budget is and this is what the governance model is, is changing power. And out of principle, and in hopes for equality and collaboration for all, I won't be supporting the budget.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Lukes. Next speaker, Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: You know, there's a lot of words going on the record today. And I had a speech that I wrote, rewrote, sat down with my wife, wrote again, came in early this morning and rewrote again. I had a close and when I talked to my wife last night about it, I'm like, you know, the close kind of speaks to everything I wanted to talk about. You know, on…when the budget did come out, as Councillor Lukes mentioned, not that many days ago, I quickly ran through it, looked at the good, looked at the okay, then I looked at the bad. I tried to find the good in this budget. And there were some items in there, but the challenge is, is we do not get enough time with this. I will be supporting Councillor Klein's motion, amending motion. Unlike Councillor Browaty, I do think situations where there is a citywide impact that our community committees that represent the views of the five different communities should have a voice at that table, should be there for a firsthand account on what our communities are having. Those that would be appointed to that should have the ability to bring that voice back to the other two members of that committee to say, this is what I heard. So that we can be well informed so that we have a voice at the table. The structure of this council, as it has been discussed, before we get here today, have basically nine votes in the bucket, in the four, maybe even 10. And that's based on title, privilege, you know, again, Councillor Lukes alluded to her past history, her knowledge on it. I haven't had that opportunity. I have my two one-hour sessions with Councillor Gillingham plus a few watercooler conversations. You know, send e-mails, it's knowing the question to ask of the Public Service. They also are getting bombarded with questions in this short period of time. And I want to thank them for at least trying to get answers. We talk and we hear about the increase to Transit, the massive increase, but I am hearing from our residents about the cuts. Budget 2020 brought cuts to service. COVID-19 brought cuts to service. There's a further 6% cut to service as part of this budget. With a lot of express routes being cut they say because of the university reductions. But I'm looking at the cuts, there is one, two, three, four express buses that serve Transcona that are being reduced. Some of those buses are important for people who are marginalized to get to work from Transcona. It is the suburbs. It's not the rich burbs. It is the suburbs. There are people that depend on this transit to get to and from those jobs that we depend on. Cuts that have been made through subsequent budgets have reduced the ability for people to take the bus to get to their jobs at Tim Hortons or the grocery stores. You know, grocery stores where earlier this year we were calling those essential workers, those critical workers that are keeping food at our

tables, but yet we are cutting the bus out from underneath of them, making it harder for them to go to work. These are balances. These are discussions that if 15 councillors plus the Mayor were at the same table, why can't the table be here? That we have the Public Service come here to have the discussion, to have the fulsome debate. At the standing committees, we don't have the opportunity to engage with the Public Service. Only the members that are on that committee have the opportunity to engage with the Public Service. It's a challenge. It's not a perfect process. If there is a will, there's an opportunity. We have been doing this budget for many years. And, you know, when I look at the budget, I want to bring the voice of my community to here. I'm hearing from my community, they want better transit. There's a whole new area of Transcona that's behind Costco, if anybody's been to Transcona Costco, that I can't get transit to because of this Transit Master Plan that, oh, it's going to be released. However, my understanding, it's still another year and a half to two years before it is finalized, which may put at risk this extra money for ICIP, the transit green stream, whatever it may be called, because we have a minority Federal Government. The minority Federal Government that has sent all kinds of cash, be it gas tax, be it the restart, all of these different funds that are helping prop up and balance our books along with the additional deficits that we are taking on. We would be having a very different conversation without that. We have a 30,000-foot view of the budget, right. We talk…we hear about the GL, that you can go and you can drill into the GL. We had 12 days with this budget, 12 business days. On the Friday the 27th, the day after our Council meeting that it was tabled, two business days later we were hearing the budget at Water and Waste. How is that...and that's on top of, you know, a good debate about the fact that we are running out of space with our North End water and waste…Waste Treatment Plant. That, you know, will definitely cause a challenge. Glad that it is being looked at. Hopefully, we can get some finalized dollars and get the shovels in the ground and, you know, look at that project. I really want to support a budget that we can all say that we worked together on. I do. I was close to supporting this budget. I brought motion forward…motion, motion, motion. I feel like Brady Bunch. Marsha, Marsha, Marsha. But, you know, I heard what the people sitting as part of those committees stated. Some I don't believe even looked at the motion because they talk about it being precedent setting whereas it had been done before. But I'm not…it's done. EPC decided that it wasn't a priority to invest in our renewal of Transcona parks and playgrounds. That was the decision made, and I'm not going to go back there, for now anyways. But we need to have the partnerships. And I don't see the partnerships on this budget, this update, this best guess because this is the second time this year that we have had a budget, first time for myself and Councillor Chambers to actually vote on it. Due to COVID, we didn't have the opportunity to work remotely like three of our colleagues are today. But there's…has to be a willingness for the betterment of all the residents. I know there is some good for Transcona in here. I know that. I see it. You know, for many years Pandora had been on the list to get done or at least a section of it. It's not the entirety. There was another block I wanted to get done.

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

Councillor Nason: There was a section of Pandora for many years. It was on the list. It was on the list. Probably the number one road that I hear about in the ward is Pandora. Challenge is, it's a truck route. You know, the shaking of the Manitoba gumbo creates a lot of problems for the residents. Hopefully, you know, when they redo the road in 2021, a lot of those challenges will be mitigated, I hope. But the budget should be where we can consider transformation of policing in the city. You know, and I mentioned earlier when I talked about the police funding and that where, you know, the call for the 10% reduction, there is a way; partnerships, and working with the other levels of government. They supply a lot of opportunity to look at ways at…from social reform that, you know, the things that the police are doing that, you know, if the Province fills that void as opposed to, you know, the things that I hear, the downloading of responsibility, well, a lot of times we are downloading the responsibility to our community, to our community centers, to those not-for-profits that are on the frontline day in and day out, Main Street Project. You know, they are opening a new shelter space there that, you know, I'd like to live in a city where we don't have to have that, where we give the opportunity. You know, we voted to move forward with an opportunity for social procurement. There is opportunity out there, but we just have to be together to have equal opportunity to bring a voice to the table, 16 votes not on the day of Council when it is rigid, it's for and it's against, it's not line by line. I'm almost done, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Nason: Thank you. But, you know, the budget that we have here, and, you know, it's challenging because, you know, I started...you know, it is two years in and…for myself. Many have been here for over a decade. But I start to zero in, and I went back and I started looking at budgets, you know, that had 2014 data to look from '14 to where we are at to date. It's intriguing because...and I encourage Winnipeggers, open up some of those old budget books because you can pretty much open to any page in that book except for Innovation and Economic Development because there's years that that wasn't around. But almost every page has a corresponding page every year. And you can look over time. You can look at the service statistics and see. When I look at that and when we have this four-year balanced budget that's…you know, that we use a lot of debt to do it, but it is a copy and paste. The numbers have changed, but it's the same book. 2020 is no different. It's a forecast. It is a one-year budget. This year, 2021 is still 2020, but it's a guess of what might happen next year. We don't have a crystal ball. We don't have a crystal ball in our funding. So, this budget continues down a path, as I see it, of massive debt. And you know, from the respective supporting business, yeah, we did some little

nuances, but yeah, now we are coming to the table to support business. I worry what after December 31st what businesses will still be able to operate in the City of Winnipeg. Small businesses. It's been a trying and troubling year. We've got a rough road ahead when it's based on debt and the other side of the pandemic emerges, but as this budget again is no more than a copy and paste.

Madam Speaker: Can you wrap up, Councillor Schreyer…Councillor Nason, pardon me.

Councillor Nason: Yes, I am. As this budget, again, is no more than a copy and paste of budgets from years gone by, this unfortunately is a budget that I cannot support. My vote is no.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Nason. Councillor Eadie, would you take the Chair so I can address Council now? Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, the next on the list then to speak to the budget would be Councillor Sharma.

Councillor Sharma: I'm at the podium, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are you now?

Councillor Sharma: Thank you. I want to commend Finance Chair, Councillor Scott Gillingham. He's worked extremely hard on the task of bringing a budget forward today. I have watched him over the years diving deep into the budget to learn all he should know as Finance Chair. When I look around this chamber, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I see 15 very dedicated members of Council who care deeply about their respective wards and the City of Winnipeg. I know the process in which we arrive at casting this annual vote on the City budget can be greatly improved. Whether we work within the governance structure that exists today or make changes and work within a new structure, the level of input of all members of Council must be elevated. It is our responsibility to the citizens of Winnipeg to be informed on financial decisions we make on behalf of taxpayers. I think the current process is very hard on our Public Service who really want to provide the best advice to City Council, but are put in a very awkward and unprofessional position with our current methods of sharing information. With all due respect to the hard work put into this budget by all parties involved, I am putting it on the public record today that I believe with elevated conversation involving all members of Council in a more equitable manner would result in improved decision-making. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Sharma. Councillor Klein to close on the…

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There is one more speaker and then we will go to the close. Thank you. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Eadie: Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will…I think my remarks will be a little different than other years. And maybe some of what else we've heard. I'll try and be reasonably positive. Nine years and two days since I first started here, voting on a budget. So, I'm one budget behind Councillor Eadie and yourself. And things have evolved greatly over time. Some preliminary comments first before I get into the real meat of what I wanted to talk about. Councillor Rollins talked a bit about climate change. That should be, I think, more prominent on our budgets. I think we'll try and do some more of that next year because we are doing things and you'll see it soon. A report on flaring at Brady's coming soon. Councillor Schreyer's right, we are doing things on food security. There's a term you never heard nine years ago. We are doing things with the Food Council that has been created on this mayor's watch, so we should be talking about that in the context of climate change. I do not think anyone has mentioned Councillor Orlikow's involvement in the Wellness Initiative and getting money for each ward. Good on you. Thank you for that, Councillor Orlikow. And I mean, one is tempted to say, oh, this just looks like last year, but then you look and you go, oh, there's money here for the first time ever under the future services account. And Councillor Gillingham is too much of a gentleman to come to me and say, see, I told you you'd be able to change things in each budget, but we are able to change some things in each budget. So, that's money I very much hope goes into Councillor Klein and Councillor Chambers' ward. That is, to my mind, where that money should first go under that future services. Get the golden age of chip sealing of roads underway in some of those outlying areas of the city. As others have said, all budgets involve compromise. I will be supporting the budget. I will be supporting Councillor Gillingham's amendment. I will not be supporting Councillor Klein's amendment. But what I really wanted to talk about is a little different in character. And I mean, I'll say this; we've received a lot of feedback over the last few days, and a lot of it had some criticism, some fairly harsh comments, and some situations about our indifference or our hostility, some I think said, toward different communities and their relations with police. And I don't want to dwell on all of that, but I do think...you know, I don't always agree with the Mayor, Madam Speaker. Anyone who has watched this place the last

couple months would know that, but I do think…I think I owe it to the Mayor as a human being on a personal level to say we have come a long way in the last six years in terms of our approach and our relations and our thoughts about the Indigenous community and the journey of reconciliation. I didn't clear my remarks with anyone. I don't…I didn't ask anyone to vet my comments, and I…two days ago wasn't even planning to speak. But I think something needs to be put on the record to say, you know, we have made steps forward. There are very much…there's a lot of thought put into our relations now with the Indigenous community. I think that is a change from when I first started here nine years ago, and I will come back to that in a moment. But, you know, we have the accord. That is a very much part of our dialogue now when we annually report. And our departments do. And there is effort made to do things with a lens thinking about the Indigenous community. I guarantee that program we approved with Mother Earth Recycling, I know my vote back in about 2012, I would not have thought about it through an Indigenous lens. I would have just looked at the dollars. But if you look at it with a different lens the way we have been looking at things since this mayor was elected, I think you came to the conclusion I did, we should do this. And we do and we are doing it. And it is to our credit we are doing that work with Mother Earth Recycling. And there are other things. You know, I…when the whole idea of the naming committee came forward, I think I said to the Mayor, you know, I'm smart enough to know how to name a park. And he said to me, I'm sure you are, but that's not really the point. The point is you should be thinking about the Indigenous community and the history. And I thought, I could do that. I could change on that. That's a good lesson. I should think about that. And we are and it's not going to change the world, but it's another step forward on the journey of reconciliation. We are continuing in this budget to fund the Indigenous Youth Strategy, and I want to point out that did not start under the 2014 term. That was here before I got here. I think former Councillor Vandal deserves some credit for that. I think the former Mayor Sam Katz deserves some credit for that. I think I am sitting in Russ Wyatt's old seat, so I will say, you know, Russ Wyatt, when he was the budget chair in one of those wildly idiosyncratic Russ Wyatt budgets where you are moving left and right and centre, but he very much wanted to put more money into the Indigenous Youth Strategy. That was important to Councillor Wyatt. So, that debate has happened. I remember sitting in EPC with that then Head of Community Services, Clive Wightman, and somebody said, hey, what are we getting for that million dollars? And he just blew up and said, what you're getting? It's the best million dollars you'll spend in the whole budget. And he was rattling things off various thing that had come about from that Indigenous Youth Strategy. Very passionate, very focused on it. So, I remember Clive Wightman talking about this, and it won the day. And so, nobody has tried to reduce it. No one has tried to eliminate it. We've adapted it. It's evolved. Things that weren't being spent have come out, and one of the things that has come in, which we should be proud about, is the…what was called Youth United now called the Inner-City Work-Study with the U of Winnipeg. And, you know, I've got their program from their first year. And on the cover of it, our logo, City of Winnipeg and U of Winnipeg's logo. Hope I'm not bringing a prop in here, Madam Clerk, I will be done in 30 seconds anyway, but on this front page of this document, from the U of Winnipeg, not produced by us, it's entitled, 'Advancing Reconciliation; Building Relationships Through Education and Lived Experience'. And you know, we should take some pride in that, I think, that that is something we have done under this Mayor. We have funded these programs, we continue. It is a journey. We are nowhere near the end of it. It will take generations, but I do think for those who have written into us, and we do listen to the people who come here in delegation as we should, but I just feel it important to note that we have been making progress in terms of our view of reconciliation and some of the money we've spent in the work that we have done. Talked about Youth United. It is an ongoing journey. You know, I make these comments. I don't think I'm going to change anyone's mind. If I get any favour with the Mayor, I'll burn it off by tomorrow. You know I will, Madam Clerk…Madam Speaker. That's the nature of these places. You know, the relationships come and go. So, I'm not doing it for that purpose, I just think it is important to put something on the record to give some credit where, to me, it is due. And I think…I don't think it has been the Mayor alone, but I think the Mayor has led us over the past six years to a much more progressive place on our journey of reconciliation, our relationship with the Indigenous community. I do not mean that to criticize former governments, I think that's been a change in our society. And I will end by saying, you know, we have these…we have these sort of goofball, reach for the top games that we host here, and Councillor Schreyer's terrific at that, he always joins me. And you know, we were playing River East, I think, one year and we wrote up these questions or I wrote up some of the questions and you know, the answer to one was Browaty and the answer to one was me. (inaudible) the Mayor is reading the questions, and the Mayor alters the question slightly because the Mayor…the question becomes, who is Winnipeg's first Indigenous mayor? And I think…and then the kids got it. It was the man reading the question, it was Mayor Bowman. So, I think it was a message though, a little bit of a symbol that the Mayor has taken great pride in being the city's first Indigenous mayor. I think that resonates to what we have been doing. So, I do think to those who have talked to us about this budget, I think we are trying. We are not…we're going to make mistakes on our relationships with Indigenous community. Chambers and I were sitting there two days ago...it's been a long week...two days ago with the Police Board. The incredibly troubling…you know, the stats, the percentage of shootings involved in the Indigenous community is troubling. And then…and I know Councillor Chambers was asking about that. But you know, I think amidst the challenges, amidst the darkness of the…or amidst the challenges, amidst the problems with COVID, we should I think give some credit to the Mayor for showing leadership. I think we are in a better place. I think we are moving forward on our relationship with Indigenous community. Again, I don't think I will change anyone's mind, but those are my remarks. But I think it's important to put something on the record and to give credit where credit is due. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. Next, we will go to Councillor Klein, and your opportunity to close on Motion 3 and speak to the budget in your close.

Councillor Klein: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I will close on the amending motion, first of all. You know, I truly am impressed with the commitment of conformity among EPC to ensure that non-EPC councillors have a seat at any table. Here is what I heard. And maybe I heard it wrong, but here's what I heard. No need to have voices from across the city to discuss public safety or policing. I vehemently…I disagree with that 100%. When you are talking about policing, that needs to include people from all across the city. So, what a better way to do that then have a representative selected from every community club. That's how we get equal representation at that table. And we are looking for equal representation at that table. I heard that the three councillors that were selected in the motion are in the best positions as chairs to do this job. Why? What makes them any different or better than councillors that may not be on EPC? Why are they better choices than Councillor Santos, Councillor Lukes, Councillor Sharma? The people who are chairs of committees with all due respect are not elected to those positions. They are hand selected and put there by one person. Not by the City of Winnipeg, not by the voters of Winnipeg. If you think about the motion and the way that it was written and what you are trying to achieve, and then step back and realize what you are saying here today that, no, no, no, no, no, no, we are going to be excluding and limiting who can be involved in this process. Is that really the message that we want? Is that really the message that we are sending? Because it is to me. We have community committees for a reason so that they represent all the various wards in our city. I think not having people from a community committee represented at the table for this process, as we said, we don't need people from all across the city is wrong. And I think you will find if you walked out of here and said, well, no, we selected the three or four people that would sit on that because we do not want to hear from the other wards. Well, that's going to be an interesting conversation down the road. Listen, I do this a lot and I'm going to keep doing it. I'm going to continue to fight the dysfunctional system that we have inside these four walls. I will continue to fight for full and equal representation at Winnipeg City Hall for all of Winnipeg. Everyone got here the same way, knocking on doors and asking for votes. So, I hope you will reconsider because it is no one person's fault that a select group stands together and votes together. It's each person that puts up their hand. You cannot blame that on a system. You can't blame that on the person leading. It's on every person that puts up their hand to follow suit, that conforms to do that. I will close with that and I will talk now to the budget, Madam Speaker, if I may. We have heard talk of division, and all I would say is that sitting here today listening to everybody speak, I don't think you have to look much further than this room and what we've heard to find division. And it's unfortunate because again I will say it, it's the result of a dysfunctional governance model that we have the power to change. Recovering from the impacts of COVID-19 is a top priority for everyone in Winnipeg. Our Municipal Government must lead with a real commitment to a renewed and strengthened partnership with all communities, all wards throughout the city. The amount of funding that we are receiving from the federal and provincial levels of government has been greater this year than we have seen in years. But the investments reflected in the proposal that we are seeing today, are they equal across the city? Do they answer concerns of residents and the concerns that have been shared with us? I am not confident they do. COVID has impacted every corner of the city. Not certain corners, every corner of the city. Families are struggling in every area of this city. People are concerned about what the future holds for them. They are afraid. How many are living paycheque by paycheque? These people are looking for leadership. They're looking to us for leadership, not a few of you, all of us for leadership. Small and medium-sized businesses are suffering. In fact, some of them are closing. Now, I've heard my colleagues today talk about some of the positives that are in the budget and I'm going to echo some of them. This proposal that was tabled before us today does have some positives. There's financial support for the small and medium-sized businesses. Thought we could have done it together, nonetheless, it's there. Thank you. There is increased road renewal work, construction of a new North End community-based police station, the provision of approximately $150,000 to each ward from the provincial $50 million grant over the next three years. And of course, we have to thank the Province for that. But there are concerns. I think we have to be aware. The hotel industry identified financial issues are not addressed. They are not addressed. The hotel industry, empty hotels. How was the projected accommodation tax revenue actually determined in the budget? It's half. How did you figure that out? Have you considered the long-term impact on future revenues and the risk in 2022 and 2023 based on how the system works? We are adding management positions at a time when we have staff laid off. We are adding management positions that had no objectives, no strategy attached to it, no benefits, no cost-benefit analysis, nothing just hey, we are going to hire this person, spend $500,000, it's going to boost our economy. How? I need detail on that. I'm not blaming any one person. Detail. What are the goals of this position? What is the salary? Because if it's 500 grand, I suspect everyone here is going to apply. Residents will pay more each year for water and sewer rates. I know it's not a part of the proposal in front of us, but that is part of the four-year plan. Then there is vacancy management, the slush fund that I have talked about in previous years that this year I found out from one director was just put into salary and benefits. We took the line out so I couldn't talk about it. Smart, but it's there. And in fact, we have added vacancy management now to departments that historically have never had that requirement. They've never had a need for such a questionable accounting practice. What's the rationale behind that? Why do we need that addition? If we have this balanced budget, why do we need a slush fund of almost $20 million? It's balanced. Where does that money go? The City is negotiating a new WFPS contract, and soon it will begin the WPSCBA. There is no reference to the potential wage or benefit increases or details on new costs associated with the CBAs that are up for renewal. No talk of it, no discussion, nothing. These are questions. You know, if you look at this proposed plan, we are siphoning $20 million from City reserves,

plus we have the federal-provincial restart money to do a buffet of things. Some reversing COVID measures, some not. The proposal suggests replacing half of it over the next three years. That. Please listen to that statement: replacing half of it over the next three years. That is why they are selling you on a four-year plan. More ways to move the money around until we get it. If a non-EPC member on Council requested a million dollars for a project, won't you find it hard to explain why taking $20 million for a buffet of things is easy, but 21 million or 22 is just unthinkable? Because that's what you are doing. A balanced budget, I don't know. You know, thanks to other levels of government, we have more than $150 million in this budget, right? We have the 70, the transit, and then we have the 70, and then we have the 50 for community services. We are talking about how we are investing record numbers. Somebody else gave it to us. So, is it balanced? Is it balanced when you have to go back and have departments come to Finance and ask for more money because they are overbudget? I don't know. Is it balanced when you have slush funds? No. Residents are telling me they are not being heard in this budget that is before us. This proposal that is tabled today, they are not being heard. I received calls and e-mails regularly from residents who have become victimized or who have become victimized by crime. They are now victims of crime. Mr. Mayor, in our ward. Car theft in our ward last month was at a record number. Two months ago. Residents called police to learn nobody is coming. I've been made aware of several neighborhoods across our city reporting increases in crime, no discussion. Violent crime is soaring in Winnipeg in 2020. This proposal provides no comfort to residents who are afraid. We have talked about what's happening in our city. We introduced the idea of body cams a few months ago that would introduce accountability. Provided the facts from the Calgary Police Service. Now Toronto are talking about it how body cams are actually working to provide accountability. No talking. So, let's talk about some of the facts when it comes to how open we are and how we are working collaboratively.

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

Councillor Klein: Thank you. Here's the fact; I reached out to our CFO…our Acting CFO, Mr. Olafson and our Finance Chair, Councillor Gillingham via e-mail on Monday, November 23rd at 10:38 a.m. I requested a meeting. We've had one. And I requested a meeting to review the budget once it was provided to the public, the media, and non-EPC councillors. We get it all at the same time. I explained the time it would allow us to review the budget and ensure I was aware of funds allocated to Charleswood-Tuxedo-Westwood, which is my responsibility. I had questions about allocations that were made city-wide, and I was looking for some reasoning behind expenses. I was doing my due diligence for the budget so that I could actually be supportive of the budget. And I was following what I keep hearing. To date, I have not received a response to that request. Fact. Look, it is difficult and sometimes next to impossible for any councillor to fulfill their duties and responsibilities when information is withheld. Reasoning for decisions is not provided. Senior administration and leadership is elusive. We have to do our job. And that could change tomorrow because you each have a vote. It is not on one person. It's not on a governance model. It could change today. It could change tomorrow. The proposed budget before us today I cannot support because it's not finished. I'm going to need two more minutes. But I did have the motion beforehand, but nonetheless.

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

Councillor Klein: Thank you. The proposed budget before us is just not done. It's filled with a bunch of talking points that appease some to ensure votes, insiders and maybe some lobbyists. It doesn't address identified financial risks. It doesn't reflect the needs and concerns of Winnipeggers. The data and numbers provided are unquantified. As crime in the city soars, it doesn't address public safety and public safety must be a priority before pet projects or before we buy votes. These critical items facing our community require our attention. How can the budget be done? We haven't had discussions about this. We haven't talked about this. There's a lot of work to be done. It's just not finished. I remain committed to working with my council colleagues and the Mayor to prepare a budget that provides clear reasoning for spending, includes actual input from all councillors equally and provides a representative vision for all Winnipeggers. And once we change the way that we truly conduct business inside these four walls, I believe we will have a unanimous budget one day and one that is for all of Winnipeg. Unfortunately, it's not done in my opinion. And I can't support that. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Klein. Your opportunity to close on amending Motion 1 and then we'll go to the Mayor. Councillor Gillingham. Thank you. What did I say? It's getting to be a long day.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank all of my councillor colleagues as well for their comments in my close. I will not be supporting Motion 3. I think there's a bit of a misunderstanding in some of the comments I heard, most recently, Councillor Klein. But it's about having voices on this committee. This is a listening committee. This is where councillors keep quiet and listen and…to the members of the public. And in fact, it says here right in the motion that there will be events held, community engagement, public engagement events held in each of the five community committees. So there will be plenty of opportunity for all councillors to listen to what the public has said in that engagement. I will be supporting Motion No. 1. Madam Speaker, as I said, I want to thank my colleagues for their comments today. There is a lot in this budget that meets the needs of the residents of our various wards and communities. This budget, like all budgets, ultimately, I would maybe like to remind us is actually

not about Council, it's about our residents. It's about the services they need. And our residents could always do with more. Our residents could always want more. We could always try to raise the level of services. There is never a budget that is perfect. The budget process, Madam Speaker, as you indicated and others have indicated could be improved and it was improved this year as a matter of fact. This is the first year that I asked Mr. Paul Olafson, our interim CFO and Ms Lisa Pablo to join us on the call. So, when I met with every councillor, those individuals our of Public Service, they were on the call, and they were willing to answer any questions, get any information councillors wanted. There's always room for improvement, but it was improved this year. The general ledgers were still available to all members of Council...

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gillingham, I just procedurally want to ask, are you closing on the budget or the Mayor?

Councillor Gillingham: I'm closing on…this is part of the budget.

Madam Speaker: Yeah, because you opened…you shared time for the opening. So, are you closing on the budget or is the Mayor? Okay. Okay, because you opened on the budget, right? Sharing time with the Mayor, and you are closing on your amending motion.

Councillor Gillingham: So, I'm closing on my amending motion.

Madam Speaker: Yes, that's what I had called you for at the time.

Councillor Gillingham: Yeah, so I'm closing on the amending motion that is part of the broader budget about engagement in our community.

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Gillingham: As I said, this motion and the entire budget is ultimately about providing services to our residents. And so, what I am asking for then, Madam Speaker, ultimately, is that when we vote on the budget including the amending motion, I am going to ask, Madam Speaker, for a recorded vote. I believe it is very important for the residents of our respective wards to know where each councillor stands on this Motion No. 1 and on all the budget. Residents need to see if their councillor will stand and vote yes to providing...

Councillor Klein: Madam Speaker, can we be asking for a motion when you are closing on one motion that something be done for another motion when we have somebody else closing?

Councillor Gillingham: This would be part of…to have a recorded vote would include the amend…the Motion 1.

Madam Speaker: Yeah, I think Councillor Gillingham was just referencing he would like to ask for a recorded vote when the time comes.

Councillor Klein: For both though.

Madam Speaker: That can be asked for at a later time. I don't take requests early on, otherwise I'd be doing that all day. So, when the time comes, certainly, folks can ask for a recorded vote as I assume they will. Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Residents need to know if their councillor will stand and vote yes to all the things in this Motion 1 and all the things in the budget as well. And I will just close with a couple of comments. Residents need to see if their councillor will stand and vote yes to providing grants that will help small businesses, to raising the threshold that will eliminate the business tax for almost 1,000 more businesses in our city. Residents need to see if their councillor will stand and vote yes to providing relief for property owners, to providing a record $104 million for Transit. To see if their councillor will stand and...

Councillor Klein: Madam Speaker, point of order.

Madam Speaker: Yes, Councillor Klein.

Councillor: I thought this was supposed to be about the motion…the amending motion or the motion.

Madam Speaker: Okay, procedurally, I would like to move to the proper close if we can do that. Otherwise, we are setting the precedents today. Thank you

Councillor Gillingham: Certainly, Madam Speaker. So, when people do vote on Motion 1, I do invite them certainly to stand and be recorded so their residents can see what they're supporting. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. Mr. Mayor, your opportunity to close as the Chair of the Executive Policy Committee.

Mayor Bowman: I would've liked to have heard his full remarks in the same courtesy that was extended to Councillor Klein. The liberties he took with his motion, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor, Councillor Klein did not open during your time. So, I'm just trying to follow procedure that I've observed here for the last decade.

Mayor Bowman: Understood. Madam Speaker, members of Council, I want to start by thanking our Finance Chair. I want to thank Councillor Scott Gillingham for his ongoing stewardship and leadership in helping guide our budget process as well as his unique ability to collaborate with members across a wide variety of political interests and concerns. It would be so much easier if everybody had the same priorities and if everybody just agreed, but that's not the nature of a democratic institution like this, and I want to thank him for his leadership and his efforts and the matter in which he conducts himself on a day-to-day basis. I want to thank all members of Council for their ongoing efforts and input today, which is valued and heard loud and clear. I want to thank the Public Service for all of their efforts with respect to this update. The 2023...sorry, the 2020 to '23 multi-year balanced budget that was passed earlier this year marked a historic and transformative step forward for our city. Balancing multiple years, as was noted earlier today by many speakers on Council, was an ambitious effort that required Council to make some very difficult decisions while looking further into the future than in a typical budget process. And just as we were about to adopt the first ever four-year multi-year balanced budget, we were beginning to see the effects of the global pandemic on our residents, our business and our city as a whole. It's really hard to believe it has been eight months, just over eight months has passed since we already...and we are now at our first balanced-budget update. It's been a busy year. 2020 has been one of the most uniquely challenging years in modern history and we are continuing to see alarming COVID-19 case numbers, and it is a crisis that is ripping our province and our city. It's created stress and anxiety amongst our residents, our business community is suffering, and we have lost far too many Winnipeggers to the virus. Fortunately, Winnipeggers know how to weather a storm. And we are still in one right now. Winnipeggers continues to do their part, and we will get through this. Governments across Canada including the City of Winnipeg have not been immune to the challenges caused by the global pandemic. The prudent decisions made during the multi-year balanced budget adopted earlier this year have certainly put the city in a better financial position than most other cities. However, we know that the pandemic continues to have significant negative impacts on our city's finances. As was noted by our Finance Chair earlier today, the total tax supported budget shortfall to address in the preliminary 2021 balanced budget update was $83.6 million over the next three years, and this is in addition to a $22.9 million deficit to address in 2020. Councillor Gillingham has addressed many of the details as have many other members of Council here today. But I just want to underscore the fiscal pressures this year, which include the revenue losses for Winnipeg Transit, lower permit revenue, lower facility use and increased costs for personal protective equipment and sanitizing supplies. All of this while keeping a close eye on our ability to balance a budget as required by law by the provincial legislation. The COVID-19 Crisis Cash Management Strategy played an integral role in mitigating the impacts to the City's bottom line and protecting our services that our residents rely upon. And I want to thank Councillor Gillingham, members of Council along with our Finance Department, all of whom deserve a tremendous amount of credit for their leadership efforts. That management has been noticed in recent weeks by Standard and Poor. A number of measures were taken to fully offset the $83.6 million budget shortfall and keep the 2021 to 2023 tax supported budgets in balance. These measures along with the federal safe restart agreement funds and a provincial capital commitment to invest in city capital projects has helped the city weather the storm. There were significant lobbying efforts as members of Council will know undertaken at the federal and at the provincial levels, and I specifically want to thank federal and provincial partners for their support during this incredibly challenging fiscal environment. As I have mentioned, many members of Council have spoken passionately about areas of concern and note in this budget as well as their hopes and expectations going forward. And I want to acknowledge and thank each of my council colleagues. I want to just point specifically to certain measures here that speak to the investments in the middle of a global pandemic. 2021 balanced budget update invests almost $15 million in direct measures to help the City respond to the pandemic. This includes an investment of approximately $4 million aiming at keeping people safe, investing $7.6 million from the federal safe restart agreement funds aimed at easing the economic, social and emotional burden of COVID-19 pandemic and a $3.3 million investment from the federal restart funds towards restarting our economy. As has been noted, property taxes are limited to 2.33% increase, all of which is dedicated to addressing Winnipeg's infrastructure deficit. The small business tax threshold will significantly increase, the largest jump since I have been elected from 35,700 to 44,200 which will eliminate the tax for almost 1000 more businesses, saving them an average of about $1,900 annually. This is significant because these are Winnipeggers. These are Winnipeggers who rely on their businesses to feed their families. They rely on this to help support our community. And so, this should not be minimized. Approximately 55% of all City of Winnipeg businesses will now receive a full credit of their business taxes in 2021. The business tax will be frozen at 4.84% this year. This maintains the

business tax rate at 15% lower than when compared to 2014. And I will give you some examples. I just…I dug up a few examples, just because I know a lot of this discussion today is at a high policy level. But I want to make it very real for the businesses that depend on the work that we do right now to get through this storm. Examples like Pollock's Hardware on Main Street I know in the Mynarski Ward. They will save over $1,800 if you add in the additional COVID-19 economic support grant. It's over $3,300 for an incredible institution in our community. The Roblin Grill in my area of the city where my family resides, Councillor Klein's ward, they will save on average annually over $2,000 if you add in the COVID economic support grant, that takes it up to $3,500. I will be supporting them today. The Thunderbird Restaurant, I know Councillor Sharma knows this, an institution in the Maples, they will save over $2,000. If you add in the $1,500, if they are eligible to receive it, up to 3,500...over $3,500. Shawarma Khan on Pembina. I know Obby's a good friend of many people in this Council Chamber, the Pembina location in the St. Norbert Ward, they will receive an annual savings of almost $1,900 if you add the economic support grant $3,300 today with a vote. Is it? I think it's in St. Norbert Ward, the Pembina. All the reason for both. I'm almost done.

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

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, I'll wrap it up quickly. And of course, I wish I could speak it fully in French, but Constance Popp Chocolatier in St. Boniface will receive an annual savings of over $1,800. If you add in the economic support grant program this year, it is over $3,300. And I know in Bridgewater Center, Wyatt Dowling Insurance Brokers, they will save over $1,800. Add in if they can qualify for the economic support grant, $3,373. These and many other businesses who need the support right now need us to stand up and say yes, we are going to do what we can with the dollars and the jurisdiction we have to support them. Overall, the preliminary 2021 balanced budget update sticks to the plan adopted by Council in March and it focuses the City's response to the global pandemic while making incredibly important investments in community services and infrastructure renewal. Most notably a $50 million, three-year recreation and library investment strategy that is long overdue. And I know we all want to do more and we will keep fighting for that as a council and as a community to do even more to make sure that we are building our community and our people up to the greatest extent that we can. For these reasons and others that have been better cited by many of my council colleagues, I will be supporting. I know it was a surprise. I will be supporting both the Capital and the Operating Budgets, and I would encourage my council colleagues to do the same, Madam Speaker. Thank you, merci and megwich.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. We will now vote on the amending motions in reverse order and then go to the budget vote.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, I might ask, make a request to separate the operating from the capital on votes as well.

Madam Speaker: We shall do that. Thank you. So first, voting on amending Motion 3, that was moved by Councillor Klein and seconded by Councillor Schreyer. All in favour? Would like a recorded vote. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Eadie, Klein, Lukes, Nason, Santos, Schreyer and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Nays

Councillors Orlikow, Allard, Browaty, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Chambers, Gillingham, Gilroy, Mayes and Rollins

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 7, Nays 9.

Madam Speaker: Amending Motion 3 is defeated. Onto amending Motion 1, moved by Councillor Gillingham and seconded by Councillor Rollins. Call for recorded vote. Thank you. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Orlikow, Allard, Browaty, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Mayes, Rollins and Schreyer

Nays

Councillors Klein, Lukes, Nason, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 11, Nays 5.

Madam Speaker: Amending Motion 1 passes. We will now move on to a recorded vote for the Operating Budget. There will be three votes; the Operating Budget followed by the Capital Budget, and then there is another clause that we just…short clause that we need to vote on. All in favour of the Operating Budget as amended with the motion, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Orlikow, Allard, Browaty, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Chambers, Gillingham, Gilroy, Mayes and Rollins

Nays

Councillors Eadie, Klein, Lukes, Nason, Santos, Schreyer and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 9, Nays 7.

Madam Speaker: Operating Budget as amended passes. Onto Clause 2, the Capital Budget. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Orlikow, Allard, Browaty, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Mayes, Rollins and Santos

Nays

Councillors Klein, Lukes, Nason, Schreyer and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 11, Nays 5.

Madam Speaker: Capital Budget passes. Onto Clause 3, that the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the foregoing. All in favour? Contrary? Okay. That is carried. We'll now move onto by-laws under Executive Policy Committee for first reading only. Mr. Mayor.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – 1ST READ ONLY

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that By-law No. 133/2020 be read a first time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 133/2020.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor, on the next section for all three readings.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I move that the following by-laws be read a first time: By-law 118/2020, By-law 128/2020, By-law 129/2020, By-law 130/2020, By-law 131/2020 and By-law 132/2020, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 118/2020, 128/2020, 129/2020, 130/2020, 131/2020 and 132/2020.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thanks, Madam Speaker. I move that By-laws No. 118/2020 and 128/2020 to 132/2020 both inclusive be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 118/2020 and 128/2020 to 132/2020.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that the rule be suspended and By-laws No. 118/2020 and 128/2020 to 132/2020 both inclusive be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Councillor Allard, will you move adjournment? Thank you. Councillor Allard moves adjournment. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Thank you. Roll call, Mr. Clerk.

ROLL CALL

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

Council adjourned at 3:33 p.m.