COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Thursday, January 28, 2021

The Council met at 9:41 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 Browaty.

ROLL CALL

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

INTRODUCTION

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Mr. Mayor, I'll turn it over to you for your morning announcement.

Mayor Bowman: Sure. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Speaker and good morning to everybody. I hope everybody's doing well today. I want to welcome all those that are joining us remotely including a couple of our councillor colleagues. Madam Speaker, I want to wish everybody all the very best of the new year as we embark and chart a course on 2021. I know many of us celebrated our respective holiday seasons and New Years celebrations in a different way than we're accustomed to. I hope members of Council as well as Winnipeggers who are watching these proceedings today enjoyed their holiday celebrations. We have more recently had many of our citizens celebrating Orthodox Christmas on January 7th as well as many other holidays throughout the holiday season. In terms of just some noteworthy dates, I want to flag for everybody, January 19th, 1874 was the first meeting of Winnipeg City Council, 147 years ago. We…yesterday marked International Holocaust Remembrance Day. I want to thank members of Council for marking this day as well. I think it's important that we never forget and we do all that we can to combat anti-Semitism, which we know continues to this very day in our community and sadly around the world. Today is Bell Let's Talk Day. I know members of Council as well as City Public Service and others in our community are raising awareness today as a result of Bell Let's Talk Day. And I want to thank everybody. I think mental health and the stigma around mental health is something that we need to be talking about, not just on Bell Let's Talk Day, but throughout the year to help ensure that our residents that are affected by mental health issues feel just as comfortable raising them as they do if they have a physical ailment which has less stigma. And so, I want to just recognize today as Bell Let's Talk Day. In terms of some things going on in the world in the next month, next month is Black History Month presented by the Black History Manitoba. I know Councillor Chambers has been very active. I just get the plug in now for members of Council to support his efforts and the efforts of many in our community to raise awareness about Black History Month. More recently, we've also seen a change in the presidency with the inauguration of President Biden. I just want to reinforce Winnipeg…Winnipeg's strong ties to our US friends and neighbours. We have very strong ties with the United States, many of the cities in the United States, including our sister city. We have and will continue to build strong ties for the benefit of our residents and businesses. And I'm looking forward to supporting our Federal Government and Provincial Government's efforts to strengthen those ties with the new administration going forward. And I want to thank members of Council for all that they're doing to make sure that the ties are strong culturally, but also with our business community, with respective ties. Many local businesses here have operations in the United States and we'll look to continue to support their business success here and abroad in the United States. That's it for the opening statements. Thanks very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councillor Mayes, followed by Councillor Klein.

Councillor Mayes: There we go. Thanks, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to rise to take note of a change that took place on January 1st of this year. Unfortunately, not really publicized, I'm not sure why by the City of Winnipeg. But that was the elimination of the 500-metre rule. This is the rule that was in place for years that restricted Transit Plus or Handi-Transit from servicing some pretty wide areas of the city; areas that were more than 500-metres from the bus stop. It's something I've fought for for years. I don't know why it wasn't even on the City website on December 31st. I called in. It wasn't on the "what's new" section which dates back…we did pass this in March of 2020. I'm not sure why it was still not on the website by December 31st of 2020, but we have made the change. I think that is important to note. And apologies to the disabled community for not making more note of that. I do want to thank the Mayor who throughout said to me, at one point, you may have to wait a year, but we're going to get there. And he kept his word on that and I really appreciate that. I want to

thank Councillor Gillingham who said at one point, that's all this is going to cost? Why are they giving you such a hard time? And he was right and supported it. And Councillor Nason voted against some of these budgets, but I think in that cold conservative heart of his lies a great advocate for disability rights. I know he cared about this. I know he's talked to me about it many times. I know he takes pride in that...in the elimination of that rule. And I should thank Patrick Stewart from Independent Living Resource Centre, Josie Fernandes of our staff, I think, cared. I think really did care and wanted to see this one. And lastly, I want to say, this would not have happened without the help of Dave Wardrop when he was still with the civil service. This would not have taken place. It was Dave who said, yeah, I think this number is too high that we've given you. There is something not adding up here. So, Dave Wardrop is no longer with the City of Winnipeg for whatever reasons. So, I just want to thank Dave as a fellow son of St. Vital and a graduate of Dakota Collegiate. Without Dave's help on this, we would not have expanded service to help thousands of disabled people and we would not have been able to serve areas like Fort Whyte or south of perimeter in Councillor Chambers' ward. It mattered. It matters still. So, I appreciate the help from various parties on this. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. Councillor Klein, your morning announcement.

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I acknowledge through you, Madam Speaker, the Mayor mentioning International Holocaust Remembrance Day. And I just wanted to rise and, again, recognize International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The Holocaust is the murder of 600 Jewish people and hundreds of thousands of non-Jewish people by Nazis and their collaborators. January 27th is the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, this year marking 76 years since the allied troops arrived at the gates of Auschwitz. This is what happens when hatred goes unchecked and there is collective silence among our society. As the Jewish Foundation…Federation of Winnipeg reminded each of us in this council, it is our responsibility to make sure that the lessons of the Holocaust are not forgotten. We must continue to share the stories of the victims of the Holocaust and the brave survivors, many of whom have enriched our City of Winnipeg and our entire country. And I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many members of our Jewish community for their contribution over the years and into the future.

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

Councillor Chambers: Good morning Your Worship, Madam Speaker and members of Council. The month of February here in Manitoba and throughout North America is known as Black History Month. Black History Manitoba 2021 will be celebrating its 40th anniversary for our local organizing group. While the global 19…COVID-19 pandemic will have an impact on the ability to host in-person events throughout the month of February, organizers have been working to ensure events will take place in a virtual form and true to form, have planned a full month of engaging activities. Celebrations, of course, kick off this Sunday, January 31st, 2021 through a virtual event. And we welcome all of you to log in and participate in sharing and celebration of black history. 2021 has been a tumultuous year. And during the death of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and others which has touched off some of the largest social justice movements in modern day history. These deaths are now woven into our collective history. And as we seek further understanding and education to span the bridge of intolerance. As the recently renamed Black History Manitoba celebrates its 40th anniversary, I would like to take time to individually acknowledge and thank the organising committee for their diligence and efforts to share and enlighten every Winnipegger who has the desire to learn towards diversity and inclusion. The members include Mavis McLaren, Rhonda Thompson, Calvert Layne, Dr. Brian Archer, Laurel Todd, Anthony Charles, Victor Vaughan, Nadia Thompson, Honorary Member Reverend Milton Chambers, Dami Ojo, Andre Sheppard, Jay Sumpter and Donna Costello. Thank you very much for your hard work in planning these events. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Chambers. We'll go virtual to Councillor Allard for his morning announcement.

Councillor Allard: Yes, I think I want to recognize le Festival du Voyageur happening again this year. In the context of COVID-19, le Festival will be having…will still be occurring. They are going to be capitalizing on virtual events. And wanted to...it's my tradition to invite everyone to participate in the Festival du Voyageur, which is the…Canada's largest festival in the west of Canada. And so, it is still possible to participate and the Festival will be nimble in terms of their conforming to public health rules, but I am assured that the Festival is happening this year. Some of it will be virtual and more to come. But please, participate in what is our biggest winter festival in western Canada and I invite you to do so.

Translation of French Spoken:

Councillor Allard: I would invite you to participate in the Festival du Voyageur this year. This is the biggest winter festival in western Canada. And so, yes, I believe that the Festival will happen this year in the context of the restrictions of COVID-19. So, thank you for your consideration.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Allard.

MINUTES

Councillor Browaty moves that the Minutes of the meetings held on December 16th, 2020 and December 17th, 2020, be taken as read and confirmed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. We'll now move into delegations. All of our delegations are joining us remotely by Zoom today. First, we'll hear from Mr. Scott Jocelyn, President and CEO of the Manitoba Hotel Association. He is in support of Item 11 of the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated January 20th, 2021. It is regarding an Amendment to Economic Support Grant Program. Mr. Clerk, our delegation I see is on the line. Mr. Jocelyn, welcome.

DELEGATIONS

Scott Jocelyn: Good morning. Thanks for having me on.

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

Scott Jocelyn: Thanks very much. So good morning, everyone. I'm Scott Jocelyn, President and CEO of the Manitoba Hotel Association. Our association represents hotels in every municipality in the province, including just over 100 in Winnipeg. Our members range from small independent properties to large corporate hotels. In normal times, hotels in Winnipeg employ approximately 5,500 people generating a total annual payroll of over $130 million. Unfortunately, we know these are far from normal times and that's why I'm here speaking with you today. I want to thank members of Executive Policy Committee for approving this motion for your consideration. I believe the Winnipeg COVID-19 Economic Support Grant Program was originally intended to include hotels and I appreciate that the wording is being clarified to ensure hotels are eligible. The devastating economic impact of COVID-19 on the hotel industry can't be overstated. Last week, a reporter asked me how many hotels in Manitoba have closed. The reality is that all hotels are essentially closed. When so many components of our business model are shut down, how can we possibly…how can you possibly say we're open? Think about where we are…think about where we are today. Our hotel banquet rooms are entirely off limits to any type of events. Our beverage rooms are closed. Our restaurants are closed. Our VLTs are turned off. Our pools and fitness rooms are closed. We can rent guest rooms, but the reality is, nobody is travelling to or within our province. When all of our revenue streams have been shut…have been shut down, how do we pay our bills? This summer I spoke before EPC about the urgent need for the hotel…for a hotel property tax assistance. Very few people understand how hotels are taxed. It's one of the most misunderstood issues that I have to deal with. Hotel property taxes are normally based on their revenue performance from two years prior. Now, it will be three years prior because the Province made a regulatory change adding another year to the current assessment period. So, in 2020, and for the coming two years, hotels are paying based on their performance from 2018. I think you'd be very hard pressed to find any hotel in Winnipeg or anywhere else in the province that is seeing the numbers anywhere close to that…that they were seeing in 2018. How can a hotel pay taxes or any of their fixed costs when all of their revenue streams are shut down by public health orders? At the beginning of this month, we were able to convene a meeting with the Province and Councillor Gillingham to discuss our property tax crisis. Councillor, thank you for joining me on that call. We continue to wait for relief. I'm not going to debate whether or not hotels should be allowed to reopen at this time. Our reality is, we need to be open and if we can't, we need relief to pay our bills. This $1,500 grant that some hotels will be able to access from the City is not the level of relief we need, but it's appreciated nonetheless. I look at the $1,500 as an acknowledgment from Council that you are aware of our dire situation. On behalf of the hoteliers, thank you. I want you to understand that I'm knocking on the doors of all levels of government for assistance. We need sector-specific support. I'd like to wrap up my comments today with a look into the future. As I do this, I think it's important to remind everyone of the unique relationship that exists between the City of Winnipeg and the hotels. You just passed the City budget that contains an expectation of accommodation tax revenue. You need the hotels to get back to normal because you depend on those funds. What we need is for more funds from the accommodation tax to be spent on event attraction. Attracting some significant events to Winnipeg is going to be essential for our post pandemic recovery. Our association and our hotels have a great relationship with Tourism Winnipeg and we thank them for their continued efforts in trying to bring events to our city. Competition for events was a fierce and competitive business prior to COVID and I would think as cities all across the country look to attract events, the competition will only intensify. Bringing people to Winnipeg benefits all types of businesses and attractions. And of course, the City benefits from increased accommodation tax revenues when more people stay in hotels. In 2018, Mayor Bowman initiated a change that allocated more money from the accommodation tax for event attraction. This change increased the attraction portion to about 12%. At that time, the Mayor also set the future goal of 25% of annual accommodation tax proceeds going to event attraction. We really appreciated that change. And we believe now is the time to take the next steps toward achieving the 25% commitment. This could go a long way towards helping hotels in our recovery. We would be pleased to be a part of those discussions. Finally, as I wrap up my remarks, I have not had a chance to speak before Mayor Bowman since he announced he would not be seeking re-election. Mayor Bowman, I wanted to go on record by saying that I have always

been provided a fair opportunity to speak with you about our issues impacting the hoteliers. You've been very fair with your time and I've appreciated your interest in our issues and have always felt I was treated with respect by you and your staff. During these incredibly challenging times, I have to tell you, I love what I do, but this has not been easy being the guy representing all of the hotels in the province. Having said that, I can't imagine how challenging it must be to the mayor…to be the mayor of our city as we navigate through the pandemic. I would like to thank you, Mayor Bowman, for your leadership during this difficult period. In my opinion, I believe you leave very big shoes to fill. In the meantime, I'm glad we still have some time to work together on the recovery of our industry before your term is up. I look forward to those conversations. To all councillors, thank you for your time today. I am happy to answer any questions that you might have.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Jocelyn. Yes, we have questions. First is Mr. Mayor, followed by Councillor Gillingham. If we can bring questions and answers through the Chair. Thank you.

Mayor Bowman: Sure, I wasn't planning to speak. I appreciate your support today for the motion that has been supported at Executive Policy Committee and I'll obviously be supporting it. As well as look forward to the ongoing dialogue. You mentioned the fact that, and I'll paraphrase, that you're stuck with me for the next two years, but I would just ask the question if you'd be prepared to put your name on the ballot and run?

Scott Jocelyn: That's hilarious. Like I said, I think your shoe size is significantly larger than mine, so there is not any chance of that happening. I'm flattered that you think so, but I believe that everyone should have an opportunity to lead for a day. I think that sometimes things look significantly easier until you're actually in that position. So thank you for those comments.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you, thank you, Mr. Jocelyn for your presentation. Can you maybe just let Council know what the status is regarding your discussion with the Province on assistance and relief to the hotel industry?

Scott Jocelyn: Thank you very much for the question, Councillor Gillingham. You know, we've had lots of conversation. I think they've given me an opportunity to make the case that the challenge that we have is that, you know, some of the programs the Province has put in place are helpful for some other sectors and we're happy to see that people are moving towards recovery and I wish that we weren't different. I wish that, you know, our business model is that we need…there is so much face-to-face interaction. We need people to gather. So, I guess kind of a long answer to your question, you know, we still are trying very hard to make the case with the Province that we need sector-specific…sector-specific help. And as you were aware, you were at that meeting with me, you know, I believe that, you know, all levels of government have to help. I think the City is trying to help and I think the Province, you know, the Province at this point in time isn't looking to help us with any kind of adjustment to how we're assessed tax-wise, but you know, we're hoping those conversations continue. And since I'm not going to be running for Mayor any time soon, I've got lots of time to continue to make that case.

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

Scott Jocelyn: Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Our next delegation, Ms. Karen Taylor, is not able to join us today. She had registered previously. Next, we'll hear from Ms. Trudy Turner. Is she online, Mr. Clerk?

Clerk: Yes, we're just bringing Trudy Turner into the room. Can you hear us, Ms. Turner?

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Turner. She is here in support of Item 11 of the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development, the report dated January 18th, 2021. And it's regarding Creating Affordable Housing Opportunities in Housing Improvement Zones. Welcome, Ms. Turner. We have five minutes on the clock for you.

Trudy Turner: Thank you very much. Good morning, Mayor Bowman and members of Council and administration. My name is Trudy Turner and in my work life, I'm a realtor with RE/MAX Performance Realty. I'm here today, though, as a longstanding volunteer board member with Housing Opportunity Partnership, better known as HOP. To begin, we'd like to sincerely thank all of you who have already supported our motion or our...I'm lost for the word, anyway. The proposal for us to be able to purchase six lots for the price of $1 from the City of Winnipeg. And I'm here because I thought maybe some of you need a little more information before we...before you throw your support behind this initiative. So, by enabling HOP to obtain City lots at a dollar, we will be able to build lovely infill, affordable homes and these will be sold to low-

income families and this is the only way that we will be able to provide these homes. Despite having obtained funding already from several other sources for which we are extremely grateful, the Winnipeg housing market has soared in recent years and is not truly affordable anymore. Most recently, the pandemic has done some very strange things to our economy. While its negatively impacted many businesses and we're very sad about that. Our friends and family members with their shops and restaurants and hair salons and the hotel industry and many others, the housing market has actually boomed as a result of the pandemic. We kind of joke that mom and dad are trapped at home with the kids, the dog and trying to work all day and home school and they've just realized that the house is just not big enough. So, prices have followed that boom. So, with the increased cost of the boom in building supply, many people have been renovating and it's caused a shortage in building supplies, and the cost of the building supplies has also increased. So, without your support, these homes really could not get built and HOP is very committed to developing inner-city neighbourhoods. Our homes are located in the West End and North End neighbourhoods such as Spence, Daniel Mc, William Whyte and Weston. And we're very happy to tell you that we've now built 94 affordable homes in these communities. So, in order for a family to qualify, their family income must be under $75,592. This is the combined family income. Owners are not allowed to rent out their homes and they must...

Reconvened meeting of
Winnipeg City Council of
January 28, 2021, at 10:17 a.m.

Madam Speaker: Good afternoon…good morning. Thank you for your patience. We just had a technology glitch there. I'd like to now call back Ms. Trudy Turner. She was appearing in support of Item 11 of the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development. The report dated January 18th, 2021. It's regarding Creating Affordable Housing Opportunities in Housing Improvement Zones. Ms. Turner, welcome back. We've added some time to the clock here. If you could continue with your presentation.

Trudy Turner: Thank you. I'm not sure exactly where I have left off. But anyway, I would...I thank you for allowing me to be here and we will continue. I just wanted to sort of, I guess, review the last little bit. That despite having obtained funding for…from other sources that we are very grateful for, the Winnipeg housing market has soared in recent years and the affordability factor is just not there anymore. And the results of the pandemic has caused very strange things in our economy. And while it has negatively impacted many businesses; shops and hotels and restaurants and hair salons, the housing market has actually boomed, which we believe is as a result of mom and dad being locked down and working from home with two kids and the pet and they've just decided that the home is not big enough. But what's happened is, it's caused a fairly significant bump in housing prices. Another thing that has happened as a result of the pandemic is the renovations that people are now doing on their homes are significant and it's caused a shortage of building supplies, which has also increased the prices in that respect. So, we really cannot afford to build our homes without your support on obtaining these lots for $1. And I just wanted to reiterate that HOP is committed to developing inner-city neighbourhoods. Our homes are located in the West End and the North End, in neighbourhoods such as Spence, Daniel Mc, William Whyte and Weston. And we're very happy to tell you that we have now built 94 affordable homes in these communities. So, the homes that we build are attractive two-storey, three-bedroom, two bath homes with full basements, unfinished. We leave that up to the homeowners decision. But they are fenced and…for safety and they have a ramp package so that they're visit-able. And in order to qualify, a family who wishes to purchase a HOP home cannot exceed a maximum family income of $75,592. The owners are not allowed to rent out the homes and they must qualify for a mortgage on their own. Manitoba Housing provides a down payment assistance and there is a forgivable second mortgage in the amount of that grant that is placed on the home. In addition, they have to commit to live in the home for at least 10 years as the grant is forgivable over that period of time. And with very few exceptions, all of these conditions have been met by our very happy homeowners. So, we are really thrilled that we have 94 families that are contributing to our tax base in the City of Winnipeg and also contributing to really upgrading our communities.

Madam Speaker: Ms. Turner, thank you for your time. Do you require a little bit more time to finish your presentation? There is a councillor that's willing to move extension, Councillor Chambers. Or we can move to questions, would you like to take questions now?

Trudy Turner: Certainly.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Are there any questions for Ms. Taylor? Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I really support HOP and I'm really appreciative, Madam Speaker, that a number of the properties that they're moving to develop and have ownership of homes in the William Whyte area, for example, where others are not building more inexpensive opportunities for people to own homes, which

is important for neighbourhoods and continual improvement. My question is just related to if Ms. Turner is aware of any...if the houses they've already built there, have they had difficulties with vandalism and that sort of thing preventing them from accomplishing the work that…good work that they do?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Ms. Turner.

Trudy Turner: Yes, as a matter of fact, we have had a couple of incidents in the construction process. But we haven't had any issues once the families are moved in. So, while the homes are in the process of being built, we have had some break-ins and some tools and things stolen, et cetera. There has been some vandalism and things, but once the family has moved in, it's more a crime of opportunity. Once the family is in there, they are fine and it's been quite positive. Having these homes in these communities really does help the entire community because there's more people. There is that virus that happens when you have one family moved in and taking care of their home and encouraging their friends and family to move in. Well, come on and live in our neighbourhood, it's affordable, it's great. And pretty soon you'll see other people fixing up their lots and things, and adding fences which adds to the safety. And it also adds to the visual surveillance, I shall say, in those communities. So, it is a big benefit to the safety of the neighbourhoods as well.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Yes. Trudy Turner mentioned that there were 94 affordable housing units created, I assume in recent years. I'd like to know that is over a period of how many years?

Trudy Turner: That is a very good question. I believe that was since the end of 1990. 19…oh sorry, I've got it right here, 1999. So, yes, 1999 to 2019, that there was 94 homes built.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, so that's about four per year. And could we…and what levels of government were involved in those four houses per year?

Trudy Turner: Um, because there were several years missed, it actually works out to closer to five or six per year. And the housing program with the Province shut down for a bit, so we did have a couple of years where we didn't build houses, so we are back into it now. In 2019, we built five. So…yeah, I'm sorry.

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Schreyer: What will be the cost per unit in this project?

Trudy Turner: So, the homes will be sold at around the...we subsidize them by about $50,000. So, the home will be sold for about 209,000 to $219,000. It depends on the location. So, it's…the cost is closer to 260 by the time everything is in.

Councillor Schreyer: Clarification, Madam Speaker. So, it's $260,000 per affordable housing unit?

Trudy Turner: That it costs us to build for the individual homes, including all of the fencing, et cetera. And then we sell them for around 209, 219. So, it's about a 50…we sell them for about $50,000 less than the cost in order to make them affordable for the homeowner.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Councillor Rollins, did you have your hand up? Seeing none, Ms. Turner, thank you for your presentation here today.

Trudy Turner: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: We'll now move on to reports of the Executive Policy Committee. First up, we have Mayor on the report dated January 20th, 2021.

**REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED JANUARY 20, 2021**

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move...sorry, I'll introduce the report and move the adoption of the consent agenda Items 1 through 11. I'd like to pull 9, Madam Speaker.

Councillor Allard: Recorded vote, Mr. Mayor.

Madam Speaker: You'd like to pull 4, Councillor Eadie?

Councillor Eadie: Four and five, yeah.

Madam Speaker: Councillor…9, Councillor Rollins? I saw your hand. Has the item been pulled? No. Okay. So, we've pulled 4, 5 and 9…and 10.

Mayor Bowman: Ask for a recorded vote, please.

Madam Speaker: We're calling each item separately. So, Mr. Clerk, Item 4. Okay. So, you're calling the recorded vote on what, Mr. Mayor or Councillor Allard…on consent?

Councillor Allard: Consent agenda.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard, you're calling the recorded vote on consent? All in favour of Item 1 through 3, 6, 7, 8 and 11. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 16, Nays 0.

Madam Speaker: Item 1 to 3, 6, 7, 8, and 11 pass. Mr. Clerk, Item 4.

Item 4 – OurWinnipeg 2045 Plan – First Reading – By-law 120/2020 – PW 1/2020

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor, Item 4.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank everybody for their efforts to get us to first reading, which is what we're voting on today. I do want to provide my time to our chair for opening remarks on this matter.

Madam Speaker: Yes, Councillor Gilroy, to share the Mayor's time on opening for Item 4.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's an honour for me to be here today to speak about this important document that we've been waiting a very long time for. OurWinnipeg is our vision document. It's our guiding document. And it's what do we…what do we expect our city to look like in 2045. And I think that it's a fitting time for us to really look at this document and see what type of city that we want to be. And you know, how do we plan on getting there. So, I just want to talk about a few of the things that are in OurWinnipeg and stuff that maybe we never really truly talked about before, leadership and good governance. I think I am very, very proud of the work that we've done in terms of some of the good governance work that's happened under this council. And I think that there is work. There's always work to improve, and I think that this is something that we value in our document. Environment and resilience. No doubt we all know that climate change is real and the impacts...we're impacted here daily on some of the issues that we have around Council. Last year's ice storm, it is a prime example of the things that we're going to be impacted by and we have to learn how we're going to manage that. The economic prosperity. When we talk about the people that we're seeing out in the street right now, all the homeless people, how do we envision that looking like in 2045? We're going to actually be able to have that in a document that is going to highlight some of those things. When we look at good health and well-being, you know, we're having our new garden plots arising all over thanks to Councillor Mayes and the work that he's done under

that…under his committee, looking at food security. Food security issues and making sure that we provide that within the urban structure that we have. Looking at social inequality, gender inequality. Tomorrow, Councillor Rollins and Councillor Santos and I will be participating in a program that is looking at…looking at development through the gender lens through some of the work that we're doing here. We're bringing an expert in to look at gender equality and inequality and how do we create that here in our city and we have many staff that will be attending that. So, I'm pretty happy that we're putting that in our document. Those are things that we strive to be, city-building. How are we going to work with our stakeholders? How are we going to work with our partners in innovation in the…in industries…in the industries that make up Winnipeg? How do we want to see ourselves grow as more businesses come to Winnipeg in 2045? How do we see the people that live in our city? What kind of jobs will they have? This is a very, very vital document that's looking at the six goals to…under the United Nations sustainable development goals. And I think I'm very proud that we're going to be taking on that work. This is a vision document. And I'm very proud that in 2045, we're going to outline some of the things that we want to see in terms of where we want to be in 2045. So, I hope that you do support this document. This is going to be going to first reading. So, this would allow the public, our stakeholders to be able to look at this document and really, they can come in delegation and provide their feedback and their thoughts on their vision of 2045 and what their Winnipeg will look like. I'm really proud of the work and I want to thank all of our public administration. As you know, this has been a long time in the making and a lot of work has been done by our public administration to get this here today. I hope that you support this. I hope that you support a vision that looks at these goals. I mean, each year, I know that myself, I make goals for myself. You know, I want to lose some weight or I want...you know, I want to be more productive at work. These are goals that we should be striving for, that we should be striving to achieve. And all the documents underneath that will be how we're going to get there. So, I hope that you support this vision document. It's really a key document to how we're going to be in 2045 and the road map to how we're going to get there. Thank you.

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

Councillor Eadie: Yes. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll…I've already talked to the Chairperson of P&D and I don't…I listened to the EPC discussion about both reports, OurWinnipeg and Complete Communities 2.0, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to rise to talk about...actually, I came in, Councillor Sharma and I and came in…and some other councillors in 2010, and we were right there at the end of the process, I believe, for OurWinnipeg because there was quite a gap between the second reading and the provincial review of OurWinnipeg and of Complete Communities. And I believe we had the opportunity in the end to pass the third reading I think it was if I recall correctly. But anyway, so I think I've received some e-mails and the process people were quite concerned about. Now, while I don't appreciate that this all of sudden appeared on the EPC agenda without seeing the...a chance to spend the time to peruse through the...and I'll speak specifically to our…this OurWinnipeg by-law plan. In which, it is the vision and we have all these value statements and recommended directions that Councillor Gilroy eloquently described. It's a big document, Madam Speaker. And there is a lot of consideration and it lays the ground work for Complete Communities and many other subplans, other master plans and so forth that the City is trying to achieve to 2045. And as we found out through the budget policy, it doesn't necessarily always follow that vision of OurWinnipeg and policies that are set out in Complete Communities, but I don't want to dilute what I'm trying to get at here. The vision is great and actually, you know, I've been...before being on Council, I participated quite a bit related to city council and various departmental initiatives. And I just wanted to say that OurWinnipeg, this round…and we were consulted as well. So was the various industries. I attended, actually, some…a number of public events that were related to redeveloping OurWinnipeg and our administration put in a lot of work trying to make sure, to try to get it right. And I'm not sure that...I'll have some provisions during the hearing, but there is a hearing after the by-law. And one would hope that the hearing body will seriously consider some of the recommendations for changes in OurWinnipeg and Complete Communities because some of my concerns, I don't know yet whether they are reflected appropriately, but you know, one of the things with plans for Winnipeg is, you need departments to work together. You need them to consider various aspects because they all influence each other when you try to build complete communities. And so, I just want to make sure that it's clear in the plan, so when a new CAO comes in and starts to move the city towards that direction we want in OurWinnipeg and Complete Communities, that it's clear that there needs to be more collaboration and discussion and communication between departments. I don't want to cite all the issues, but…so, when we look at the big plan, I expect to see some sort of statement that talks about that, Madam Speaker. I haven't had time to review and that's the frustration. And I think some of the general public gets that idea, Madam Speaker. But there is...and there has been the consultations. There still needs to be a hearing once the by-law is passed first. And that allows…the first hearing, it allows for making amendments in that hearing process so that when you go to the second reading of the by-law, hopefully we worked out a lot of the bugs and cleared plans and made sure things were very clear because I think that Councillor Mayes eloquently pointed out a whole host of issues that when we lead…based on assumptions, Madam Speaker. So anyway, I haven't had enough time to review the whole OurWinnipeg and I will hopefully by the time the hearing starts, because it's also...you know, it's very difficult for any person, whether it's a councillor or just general public or anybody to actually synthesize everything and then be able to present in a hearing in an appropriate fashion in a knowing way. So, I know that that's part of the frustration that some of the general public, and I think the general public because they've only had a quick read or not necessarily understanding some of the directions, Madam Speaker. So, I will conclude by I am voting to put this...for the first reading of the by-law. And let's get on to a good robust

hearing process, which is, Madam Speaker, a public consultation. And we have no limits. If you want to appear at the hearing and speak to the OurWinnipeg by-law or to complete...well, anyway, I pulled down 5. I wanted to mention a couple of specific things there before I vote. But Madam Speaker, I will be voting for first reading of the by-law so we can get into a good in-depth hearing and present qualified things if changes are recommended or needed.

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

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support of this motion this morning. I just want to put some comments on the record. This report is for consideration of the first reading of OurWinnipeg 2045 By-law 120/2020 to allow for the public hearings and consultation at Executive Policy Committee. By the grace of god, I hope to be here in 2045 to see all the work that is being done now as we move towards our city of growth, towards a million people population. There is a great need to consult with stakeholder groups that will provide valuable insight into the vision of planning as we grow towards that million-people population. And can help guide the decision-making process around planning. It also brings into focus the three lenses which include climate action and those that are under development such as the Transportation Master Plan, and Winnipeg's Transit Master Plan as well as the Poverty Reduction Strategy. All of which are currents in our daily discussions, but need to be considered as well in advanced planning for our future state of our city. So as Councillor Eadie has mentioned, consultation is very much necessary, public hearings are very much necessary. I encourage all Winnipeggers to be part of this planning document by lending their voice, their ideas, their thoughts, their concerns as we move forward as a city and as we plan this very critical document that will guide us in future land usage, future direction on how we work with our residents and how we move people and goods and services around our city. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll limit my comments today. This is a very aspirational document as it should be. It's the…we often term it as the 50,000-foot level document from which all other of the City's planning documents will flow. But one thing I just want to point out to my colleagues related to the administrative…administration's report that we did bring up at the Executive Policy Committee. And that's under the heading, "Implications of the Recommendations". There are no financial regulatory environmental, operational, human resource or other implications of this report. That is not intentionally misleading, but certainly is misleading. We did raise this matter with the planner and the author of the report that that's certainly not accurate. If the goals of Plan Winnipeg were put into place, there would be significant financial, regulatory, environmental, operational, human resource and other implications of the report. So, we have asked that they give...the administration give consideration to finding a way to restate that and kind of, in some way, capture for the public, and certainly for Council, that there are significant implications to pursuing and achieving and implementing the goals and the policies that are laid out in OurWinnipeg in this draft document. Like Councillor Eadie, I certainly look forward to the discussion through the hearing process and getting feedback from the public. You know, it's interesting. I was reviewing the day after Executive Policy Committee meeting and this plan was...this report was put forward and Complete Communities report was put forward. I was reviewing kind of local media and I don't know that I saw much coverage related to this and that's fair. It's a massive document. I just say that to say I know for the public, for Council as well, that it is aspirational. It is a great big 25-year visionary document with a lot of complexities in it, but it's critical, it's vital. It's the most important plan that the City of Winnipeg will have. So, I encourage members of the public to kind of try to sink their teeth into it to the degree that they can. Identify the areas that they certainly want to comment on. Tell Council what you like. Tell Council what you don't like. Raise areas of concern. You know, offer words of affirmation where you believe the document goes in the right place. This is critical because we are setting this plan for the next 25 years. And it's an important process that we're going into, the hearing process, so that we can hear from the public on their views related to the vision, the direction that this plan lays out. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. Councillor Mayes, followed by Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Very good comments by the preceding speakers, all of them I think. To paraphrase Councillor Gillingham, talk is cheap. I think that's a good summary of all of what he's said. I'll be voting for this. Councillor Eadie laid out some of the issues here, there are some positive things. Who could vote against some of these things? But talk is cheap, there obviously are significant costs. Three other points; I said at EPC, I once was quoted correctly when I said I thought the Mayor was the least cynical person, the current mayor who is the least cynical person I have met in politics. I stand by that comment, however, this document in front of us has the potential to be very cynical, because it's a lot of talk and there will be significant cost to implementing some of these things. So, the example I gave, I made a motion about having some sort of $15 an hour minimum wage for our staff. Administration report says no, we can't afford that. We don't need that. Months later, what do we have in front of us? OurWinnipeg, from the staff, saying we need a much broader minimum wage that would cover not just our staff, but people we contract with, people who do any sort of business with the City of Winnipeg. So, I don't really know what that…the conclusion one can draw from that, other than lots of nice initiatives here, but the real debate will be what we choose to implement and what the costs are. Final point is,

to its credit, I believe for the first time here, we talk about the heat island effect. It's somewhere in this very long document, which is the admission that, yes, if you simply continue to eliminate green space and add concrete, and others cities have discovered that that creates a heat island effect. People…more people die in an event of extreme hot conditions in the summer. Major cities have been running into this. Hopefully, we can keep that in mind when we talk. Certainly, some parts of the city, all we hear is over and over again, oh, this is just low, this is just moderate densification. Well, can't have over-densification. Other cities have discussed that. They've run into this environmental issue of the heat island effect. It is a valid, legitimate concern. One that, I think, for the first time we start to recognize here. But leaving that aside, as Councillor Eadie said, let's get public feedback on this. Let's get the feedback from the Province eventually. There are a number of fine initiatives here, but again, what we choose to actually implement will be the real test and the real measure of this document I think. I hope we do some of these things, but I'll I guess have to wait until we actually discuss implementing things like a compost program, which this says we are committing to. Well, we're actually in the midst of a six-year long pilot project and in the midst of a study of the cost of a new composting facility. Just one example among many of where our budgetary limitations are going to come into play. So again, I'll be voting for it, but with the caution that I would hope this isn't being presented cynically or as an end in itself, but rather as some sort of guide to what we should try not just to aspire to, but which we should try to budget for.

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

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, too, would like to acknowledge my colleagues that go before me to discuss this item on a whole. This is a vision befitting the City of Winnipeg. It's important to consider, of course, that this is the first reading. And that we want to send it on to the public. And we need to consider as my contiguous colleague across the river, Councillor Mayes just suggested, we need to consider the plans and priorities that will fall out of this, our strategic policy, OurWinnipeg, our Complete Communities. What we do need to consider between now and final reading, in my opinion, Madam Speaker, is climate change and how our green space is positioned the health and welfare of our city for future generations. And I'd like to thank the community-based organizations that I can feel coming and so can you, all of councillor, Madam Speaker, but I'm going to mention one from my ward; Ours Winnipeg who is already calling Winnipeggers, on this mayor and on us city councillors, Madam Speaker, to act now to save green space for future generations. And so, while I acknowledge it's first reading, I also want to acknowledge that there is already calls for an amendment to the major open space chapter to Complete Communities Direction Strategy to remove development options for park zoned land. So, I want to acknowledge the rally that is already happening in support of the city. And like my colleagues, I will be voting for it today, but I want to echo that which Councillor Mayes said so excellently earlier. I also want to acknowledge my colleague Councillor Cindy Gilroy and the work that the three downtown councillors; Councillor Santos, Councillor Gilroy and I have been undertaking with the Urban Planning Division, City Planning to ensure that this is a safe city for everyone. It is not. And it is a priority of the downtown councillors. And, yes, tomorrow we are getting some significant support so that we do have a safer city by design work absolutely necessary to inform our strategic plan for the City of Winnipeg. And finally, I want to mention one of the items that was raised at Executive Policy Committee. And that does go towards the safe city by design work. It goes towards gender-based analysis in our policy documents. It goes to the reality of what is happening when growth happens. And that is the consistent refrain in these documents and more that through growth, like infill, we are losing and saving perhaps local schools that would otherwise be shut down. Madam Speaker, you know, through the growth in your neighbourhood, that when it comes to local community schools, it's not the old trope of the schools are dying. It's in fact overcrowding. Overcrowding, Madam Speaker, that cause pressure for you in Castlebury Meadows, in Waterford Green where the Winnipeg School Division just added another school to their family of schools. And so, things like that I expect to change. I expect to change between first reading, public hearing, and until we gather again today on OurWinnipeg, Madam Speaker. Thank you very much.

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

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I also will acknowledge the comments of all my colleagues so far today. I agree with many of them. And I think that upon first and second review of the documents that we did receive, I had pages and pages of comments, but this is neither the place nor the time for that. And as Councillor Rollins just acknowledged, there are groups already standing up and suggesting that we have some issues that they would like to see addressed, that the protection of natural and recreation areas of major open spaces right now, according to the plan, is left to a secondary development plan, which really, that is going to be questionable. But I will also share the frustration that Councillor Eadie had brought forward. And that frustration is that the policy just appeared at EPC because later in this Council meeting, we will discuss the fact that we demand…we see a draft of a proposal for plan 20-50 from the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region. Yet, we as members of Council here, weren't given this draft beforehand, before it goes public. And that's disheartening because we're kind of talking out of both sides of our mouth now. I would have liked to have seen…had the opportunity to sit with colleagues and talk about this a little more before it went public. That was not there. So, I do look forward to a robust debate to quote my colleague, Councillor Eadie. And I'm hoping that this document will include after those debates the need for investment in Winnipeg. We need to make it easier in Winnipeg. We need to cut more red tape. We need to let Winnipeggers be innovative in their…innovative in their investments. We need to do as much as

we can to build a solid foundation for business and to be welcoming to the growth of business and others in this city. That's going to help us get out of the pandemic economic crisis that we will be left with in the coming months. So, I believe that this is going to be a much bigger discussion. And it would have been nice had it come to all councillors before it just goes to one committee, now going to public. But I do hope...I hope that it actually is going to be open to change. We'll follow the process. We'll take notes along the way. We'll see how many suggestions are made and how many are taken and we'll compare that at the end because I think it's that important. My final concern on it is just the timing of it. I know this is an important document. This is more than just OurWinnipeg. It's a strategic plan that we will refer to often and that we'll use as a sounding board or reasoning for decisions that we want to make in the future. So again, it's important that we reach out to the community and allow for engagement, that we give them more time than we have recently, that we open this up more than we have in the past. So, I will support it. I will support it going through because there is many positives in it. There is some great concepts, but there are some things missing. So again, I'll support it. I thank my colleagues for their comments. I agree with each and every one of them and I look forward to the debate.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will be rising in support of this advancing today, but I did want to put a few words on the record pertaining to this. I remember having conversations shortly after being elected that this was coming soon, this OurWinnipeg update. And when it did come forward, you know, we've got several documents that are before us. We've got the OurWinnipeg, we've got the governance review. And I do want to put on the record that, you know, as I understand, this document, this OurWinnipeg document is 48 pages long. Governance review is 117 pages long. That's including all the foreword, appendixes and everything else. So, you know, it's light and fluffy, but there are a couple of items in there. Regional planning is in there. I know there is lots of fear with regards to Bill 37. I believe that's the current number that the Province is looking at. As Councillor Klein mentioned, the demand that we're going to be talking about later to get this report before it's tabled for regional planning from the metropolitan region. But we also have many other feeder documents that are a challenge. They're a challenge for my residents in Transcona. We've got thousands of new residents that can't send their kids to school because we've built homes in an area, that for some reason, we can't deliver transportation, public transportation to support thousands of residents that have moved into the Devonshire area of Transcona. Transportation Master Plan is another document that is coming that we'll need to consult. We've got the Transit Master Plan that is still to come that we'll need to consult. So, all this consultation, the hearings, it's presenting challenges. We're in the midst of a pandemic that none of us have experienced before. We don't know what the total economic fallout from this will be. Councillor Gillingham mentioned that there will be lots of economic impact attached to these plans. You know, seeing the amount of debt that we as a city have tacked on in the last five plus years is troubling for future generations. You know, much like Councillor Chambers, I do hope that I'm around in 2045 to see this plan in fruition and what a great city we could be living in at that time. I do take note that urban reserves is also mentioned in there. I've had many conversations with our Indigenous leadership since being elected to talk about that. The opportunity that they bring. Kapyong as it moves forward with Treaty 1 has some great opportunity in the city for economic growth and stimulation…stimulation, sorry. We've got Peguis who's got urban economic zones. So, there is opportunities to partner with many different persons for the economic success of our city. We can't go it alone, but I am challenged with regards to the respect of who is able to present and come, the ability for seniors, perhaps, to participate fully since public presentations aren't going to be available at present in the known near term. Zoom isn't something that is fully adapted. I'm hoping to support growth in my area. I've invested with some of our seniors to help them try to get more engaged with Zoom so that they can participate more fully with situations like this. But I just...I am challenged, as I say, with public engagement. We're throwing a lot at the public and virtual doesn't fit everyone's lifestyle and I think we need to look long and close how we do this engagement. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. Councillor Lukes. Councillor Nason, pardon me. And onto Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much. I'm just going to put…

Madam Speaker: I saw your hand.

Councillor Lukes: A few brief comments on the record. Prior to being elected, Madam Speaker, I was involved very much in the development of OurWinnipeg, the first version of OurWinnipeg or the most current version of OurWinnipeg. It was an incredible experience. The engagement with the public was I think the best the City has ever done on anything I've ever seen over the past 20 years. It was robust, it was in-depth, it was throughout the city. And I think the document that came out of it was very good. When I reviewed this document and have been part of the discussions, to me, this document is almost a complete rewrite. It isn't…it doesn't seem to be an update of OurWinnipeg. It seems to have taken a completely different direction than an update would. But there is a lot of great statements, great visions, great ideas in the document, so I really look forward to engaging with the public differently because of COVID, but I really hope to have support from the departments on doing outreach and engagement within all our communities. So, I look forward to that. And thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Lukes. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Not quite where…know where to start or to end because we're also going to be dealing with the issue of Complete Communities and they overlap. And I do believe that the councillors that made their comments now will be saying similar comments when it comes to the next item agenda, which I believe most councillors will be speaking as well. They're very important documents, Madam Speaker, and worthy of some serious consideration right now with some constructive criticism because that's why we're here. If we don't offer constructive criticism, I don't know why we're here. Madam Speaker, we talked about a few things. We talked about climate action plan. We talked about poverty. On a few things; one, when it comes to the climate action plan, I have said this before, so you can't say I haven't been talking about this and I haven't mentioned it the administration because I have. I've mentioned it here in the council chamber as well, so it's on record. So, I've made the point before, it is the case and if it's not, show me how it isn't the case. We've been making the case that the most important things we can do for greenhouse gas emission reduction is density, especially on major arteries and bus routes. To encourage people to live in, I guess, in smaller housing units and to take the bus. That is what this document says essentially. That's the most important thing that we can do. It does not...and it's part of the plan in terms of how we're structuring the city. That's what they're saying. So, I want to know, what…by what degree, by what…excuse the pun, by what percentage will we be reducing greenhouse gas emissions by this policy? What is the plan here? Now, of course, part of that only counts if you're using electric buses. Bear that in mind. But I've made this point before, Madam Speaker, and I don't know how we can escape it because when it comes to things that are tangible and quantifiable, it's there and undeniable. And the issue is that we do not have a plan for conversion from natural gas to hydro. And I'm challenging everybody at city hall right now, everybody in the City of Winnipeg, show me how that is not the most important way that we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by converting our factories or to the extent we can, our industry and our houses from natural gas to hydro. And the difference is Winnipeg is special in the world. Winnipeg is one of those special places. Manitoba is one of those unusual places in the world in which we get the vast majority, if not essentially all of our electrical grid energy, from eternal renewable hydroelectricity. It is not like that in most places in the world. In the United States, the majority...the majority…just as this grand economy of the United States, the majority of their electrical grid…of their electrical grid comes from greenhouse gas emissions. Comes from fossil fuels. So, if you have an electric car in Winnipeg...I said it before, but I got to say it again, if you've got an electric car in Winnipeg and you charge your car, you're charging it with pure hydroelectricity. Non-gas, non-greenhouse gas emitting or destroying or non-greenhouse gas-emitting energy or fuel. In Alberta, as an example, three quarters of the energy you get from plugging in your electric car comes from greenhouse gas-emitting fuels. And there is the difference. And it's finite. And it's polluting. That is not the case in Winnipeg. So where is it in the plan? Where do we talk about converting? But we talk about density. Well, I don't understand how we can compare density to energy conversion…from energy source conversion. Not in Winnipeg. We can't follow other cities on this. Well, Québec, British Columbia, Norway, there's a few other places. And that's what we should be looking at. What are they doing? Maybe they should be following us because let's not forget the leadership that we're capable of showing in this province and in this city. But we're not showing it in this document when it comes to, what do we say, environmental impact. We're not, and that's unacceptable. So, I'm supposed to vote for this for first reading. I expect every single councillor, every single member of the administration who's involved in public discussion on this to ask the public, what do they think of converting our energy source from natural gas to hydro or not doing so? Now, something is happening right now in the last few years by virtue a change in technology called fracking. And, therefore, our direct neighbors to the south, North Dakota in particular because of this, they don't need Manitoba Hydro right now, but it also has had an affect on global oil prices because of the technology called fracking where you can go back and get more efficient use...get more oil out of the ground from pre-existing oil reserves. And now you're just more efficiently go back to those reserves, so it's actually affecting the oil economy, the global oil economy, the amount that they are importing. The amount of energy they're importing. And thus, changing right now...affecting the cost of oil. Therefore, right now, one might say, well, it's not a good time because, you know, people would rather buy cheaper natural gas. If people are going to be creating…building new houses, they're probably going to make it so that they're using natural gas because right now it's cheap. Well, guess what? This is meant to be a forward-thinking document all the way to 2045. And guess what? Fracking doesn't last forever. Oil reserves don't last forever. Manitoba hydro will last forever, essentially. It's indefinite. We know we can't say oil reserves are indefinite. We know this already. You can say, oh no, that's not true, oil does last a lot longer than you think. Well, you know what, they actually kind of stopped drilling for oil in Oklahoma, that's where it started. They stropped drilling for oil in Texas. And by the way, they don't…I used to be a roughneck on the oil rigs in Alberta. I used to drill for oil. Well, it's coming to an end. And they knew this a long time ago. The big oil companies put their money into oil mining because of the availability for the longer term of oilsands because of the cost of these things it's now more efficient to mine your oil and get it from sand and actually go through that production. It's worth while to go through that extra production of getting your oil from sand rather than sweet oil from the ground because that is where we at in the world in terms of where we get our oil availability. It says nothing in this document about converting from natural gas and fossil fuel-burning energy to hydro. And in Winnipeg, in Winnipeg, of those few cities in the world, that is unacceptable. I'll leave it for that, Madam Speaker. There's other things to talk about; poverty, homelessness, the fact that people are getting poorer, and pre-COVID, by the way. And I don't see how this deals with this if you consider the fact that when it talks...we talk about affordable housing today, and we're talking

about five affordable housing units per year, on the years where we actually bothered doing it. That's where we're at in terms of affordable housing and it costs a quarter million dollars, over a quarter million dollars for one affordable housing unit. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. Mr. Mayor, you had your hand up. Are you ready for a close?

Councillor Allard: Councillor Sharma, I'd like to speak.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: No, I was going to defer my close to Councillor Gilroy. So, I just wanted to speak to the matter.

Madam Speaker: This is your only opportunity as the opener is to close.

Councillor Allard: Councillor Sharma. Madam Speaker, may I speak?

Madam Speaker: I'm just speaking with the Mayor. I'll get to you momentarily. Mr. Mayor, I can call you for close if you'd like. The rules don't allow for the member that is introducing the item to speak during the debate.

Mayor Bowman: Is there an opportunity for Councillor Gilroy to then speak to the matter as well or?

Madam Speaker: No. She can...she can…she has already shared your open with you.

Mayor Bowman: Okay. I'll wait then, no problem.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Allard, over to you now.

Councillor Allard: Thank you. I'd like to encourage my colleagues to vote for this report. It's the…I mean, it's the tabling of the work of our Planning Department and I think there is ample opportunity for us to have a public debate about the contents of Complete Communities. I'd like to inject another idea into the discourse in terms of sustainability, environmental sustainability, in particular, as it pertains to density. I read in a book called the...I read in a book recently that...and it's called 'Triumph of the City', I recommend it to anybody who's interested in city politics. That…there's a line in there that says, "There is nothing greener than asphalt". And that is a counterintuitive line. And what happens or the reason why that statement is accurate is if you start drawing maps around the use of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions, what you find is that the denser the city, the lower the contribution for the greenhouse gas is. So, I'm pleased to see that there are protections in this draft document for preserving our park spaces, but I'm also pleased to see the targets for densification because that is the way that we can achieve our climate action goals. I just double checked our Climate Action Plan. I believe the word density is there 70 times. It is absolutely vital to allow us to be closer together. That way we reduce the amount of private transportation that occurs, which is the lions share of our greenhouse gas emissions. And so, that's part of why density is so important to support. And so, I wanted to thank the planners. I also want to urge my council colleagues to get this report on the table so that we can have a public debate. And that we know that the work of the department is coming forward as their best foot forward without seeing any modifications to the plan.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Allard. Any other speakers? Seeing none. Mr. Mayor, your opportunity to close.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll share my time with Councillor Gilroy then. I'll be really brief. Firstly, I want to thank City of Winnipeg staff for all their efforts. I also want to thank members of Council as well as all of the members of the public that have contributed to the dialogue to date. Members of Council will...or should know that the draft documents are available on the City website in, I believe, it was June or July of 2020. So there has been ample time to review in addition to the documents that we now have and will be going forward for first reading. The public engagement began, I believe, back in 2017 and again, by extension, will continue. So, there is robust dialogue. By contrast, and I'll speak more fully to this when we get to the matter in a few moments, the request of the Winnipeg Met Region is to be afforded with the same opportunity; to have documents on the floor of Council for public consumption. By contrast, we have not seen the draft plan 20-50 yet. And so, I'm pleased that we have this document here today. Appreciate all the comments that have been made to date, especially from our chair and many others. I just want to highlight appreciation for the fact that for the first time ever, the UN sustainability benchmarks and goals are embedded in this document in a way that we haven't seen before. And when we think about a visionary document like OurWinnipeg, what we are setting out is objectives that try to help our people, to help lift people up in our community and provide City services through the lens of how we can help in a positive way our residents from every corner of our beautiful city. And so, I'm looking forward to the discussion and the debate. I'm looking forward to the input of community stakeholders who have begun providing feedback to the City and to City officials on their thoughts on the plan that we're looking at here today. And I would just

encourage members of Council and the public to be as engaged in the process going forward. I'll be supporting it, of course, and want to thank our chair for her continued leadership in her portfolio and with respect to OurWinnipeg. Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I'll defer the rest of my remaining time to Councillor Gilroy.

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

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker and thank you, Mr. Mayor. I just want to thank everybody for sharing their thoughts. This is a very important topic. We are…you know, we are putting forward our planning document for 2045 and what that is going to look like. So, it is going to take a lot of work from us and from the community and from many of the stakeholders to make sure that we have a document coming out of this that we're proud of. This is first reading, so this will have to go through our system. And it will have an opportunity for people to be engaged and be able to talk on this issue and share ideas. I know that Council also got an opportunity to look at this document through our different community committees that allowed us to also be able to kind of have that vision brought out a little bit in our community committees on what we deemed was really important to us, which I want to thank the administration for taking that time to do that. And this is really...I know that I heard about people talking about the financial implications, but this is our guiding document. This…all those other things that are going to come forward are going to have to come through Council and there's going to have to be dollars attached. So, this is just looking at the visionary plan that we have. And I also don't want people to forget that, you know, sometimes there's things that maybe you're not interested in, that you might not know that we're working on, but we are working on poverty issues. We are working on climate issues. And I wanted to thank Councillor Schreyer because I know he's really passionate about that issue. And you know, one of the things the City is working on is looking at our energy consumption coming out of the...out of our waste and looking at how we can divert that. So, there are things that we are looking at in terms of those things. And we've got to remember that some of our climate change action plan is also looking at the city's consumption, and not necessarily the provincial or the communal consumption. So, there is lots of work do and there is lots of documents that have to come underneath this. And those will dictate how we also move forward. Those will also be requiring us to decide how we want to manage those issues and if we want to put dollars to them. So, this is a guiding document, a vision document. And I really hope that we can get this to move forward so that the community can have their input, our stakeholders can have their input, and you can have your input. So, that's all I have to say on the topic. Thank you very much, and I hope that you support this.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gilroy. With that, I'll call the question. All in favour? All in favour? I be…

Councillor Allard: Recorded vote.

Madam Speaker: All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 16, Nays 0.

Madam Speaker: Item 4 passes. Item 5, Mr. Clerk.

Item 5 – By-Law 119/2020 – Complete Communities Direction Strategy 2.0 – First Reading – SP 2/2020

Madam Speaker: You can do that at the appropriate time, Councillor Rollins. Mr. Mayor, your opportunity to introduce this item.

Mayor Bowman: Sure, Madam Speaker. I'm going to keep my comments very brief and can defer available time to…in my opening remarks to Councillor Gilroy once again. I'll just say again, this is first reading. I want to thank everybody for their participation to date and look forward to receiving further dialogue from Winnipeggers, members of Council and, of course, the broader public and industry participants with respect to Complete Communities. I know members of Council have strong views on much of what is here. And I welcome that dialogue and debate here today. With that, I'll divert the rest of my remaining time to Councillor Gilroy.

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

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm really hoping that we can support this moving to first reading. I do think that this one here is a little bit more controversial. It is looking at our different communities and what we want to see in those communities. It is our secondary plan for all of Winnipeg. So, you know, there is going to be some dialogue that is going to take place. And this does need to go to our stakeholders. We do need to bring them in. We do need to bring our community in so they can also bring forth their ideas on what they think builds a good community. We want to make sure that our communities do have walkable communities. We want to make sure we have mixed-use communities. We want to make sure we have employment opportunities within our communities. So, we want to make sure that we have a robust plan that makes sure all those things that make a community successful are in the documents. I know that there is going to be some dialogue over what that should look like and I think that that's what we're here to do. We're here to debate that, and we're here to share ideas. And I think this is an opportunity at first reading to be able to do that. So, I hope that you will let this go to first reading. I know there will be lots of dialogue and lots debate on this, but I also think it really needs to have an opportunity for us to open it up for discussion with our stakeholders and open it up for discussion with community groups. This document here is looking at how we want to move forward building our different communities. What our communities need to look like. And how we're going to take this…the Complete Communities, and make it work for OurWinnipeg, for our main vision. I think that we have an opportunity here to make sure that we do this right. And if we allow this to go to first reading, we'll be able to have that dialogue and be able to send it to a public hearing so we can have this important debate. So, I hope that you consider allowing this to go to first reading. I would love to hear all your thoughts on how we can make this a good document that we all can support. And I look forward to listening to all of you because I know that you all have some really great ideas. So, I think it's really important though that we allow this to go to first reading, we allow the public and our stakeholders to also have a say. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham…Councillor Gilroy. Councillor Eadie, followed by Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise...I will be voting to move this to the first reading of the By-law 119/2021, is it 2021? Madam Speaker, I was just thinking of the flood of information that we as individual councillors were receiving back in around July of 2020. And again, I think all councillors had an opportunity to contribute to our administration to discuss from the community committee perspective, to discuss what we might see in Complete Communities, Madam Speaker. Actually, if I recall, we had a meeting and Madam Speaker, you were busy with other governance issues and you weren't able to actually attend the meeting, but I think you did provide some input afterwards. But I'd be interested to know because I know the administration has had ongoing dialogue with various development industry players since it would have been posted up on the internet. And it also seems to me, I wonder if the draft being up there and still open to public comment, if any changes were made between July 20th and when it was tabled at EPC last week. Not that I think there is anything amiss or...there is no conspiracy theory or anything that I have here, Madam Speaker. I'm just talking about one's ability to synthesize huge documents that really encompass a whole picture. And also, since consultations, the whole Metro Winnipeg Plan 20-50, has come up. And so again, one must really consider these documents in that context and I appreciate the Mayor. I think that was report 9 that is going to be presented. I appreciate the Mayor's work in making sure that all municipalities get the opportunity that the minister said we would have in terms of elected officials. But going to Complete Communities, Madam Speaker, so this is the most important document where I talk about departments need to work together. There is a lot of controversy within this Complete Communities document. You know, the overall secondary plan for Winnipeg. And there is a whole host of issues and, you know, when you just say infill will happen here or whatever, Councillor Mayes, and I know he'll...hopefully he speaks to it because he's much more, I'll say, knowledgeable. But, really when you start talking about infill under Complete Communities, you need to separate out the various different kinds and Madam Speaker, I'll talk about this, and even in greenfield development. We heard from Councillor Nason out in Transcona, well, I know some new developments came up and when there were hearings about, well, will the bus service be able to go there? That was in my first term. I would hear these things. And this is why, you know, I was really anti-greenfield development at the time. But Councillor Mayes helped me along and I changed my position to a large degree. And Madam Speaker, a complete community has to have bus service. But I heard various places like Royalwood or Precinct J and K I think whatever, and then Sage Creek, well, you know, it's a car-based society, they don't need transit. Well, they do. A complete community requires transit, public transit. It doesn't matter. Like…also, Madam Speaker, since you were elected, I have been so proud and appreciate the work that you've done to ensure at our community committee that a complete community as it gets developed actually has sidewalks. Sidewalks. Now, I'm going to be reviewing this Complete Communities and I'm going to want to see...there is a value statement about accessibility and persons with disabilities, a sustainable thing bringing people along, Madam Speaker. I'm going to be taking a close look at this overall secondary plan. And it needs to be made clear to administrators, developers, everybody involved in building a neighbourhood. And maybe as infill goes along, building a more accessible older neighbourhood. There has been a lot of achievements by the City since I first got really heavily involved in advocacy back in '91. And, you know, like improvements, I like to hear other councillors talk about the rule for…well, what is called Transit Plus now. To actually hear people who are not experiencing disabilities speak up for persons with disabilities is...that's an improvement that has happened on Council over the years. I can tell you that right now. But again, we need to ensure that when we look at Complete Communities and we talk about these things, we need to ensure consideration is given. We heard about

considerations of a lens for women. Very important. There has to be a disability lens. We have to make sure that this is for Winnipeg. It's going to be…like, Winnipeg is going to be around, hopefully, longer than Manitoba Hydro, Councillor Schreyer. But Madam Speaker, there is some other very important things here. And I'll be analyzing it for it when it goes to first hearing. Subdivision standards; there is really not much in that document that talks about infill in mature neighbourhoods. There should be something in there to address it. The subdivision standards talks about an area charge, which we found out, we can't charge an impact fee across the whole city, but the judge said, because we didn't identify which area...what was…the money was being put forward in where they were collecting the money, we lost, but we won though because we know that we can change that subdivision standard. And let's make some provisions. Hopefully…I'm not sure in Complete Communities when you talk about a secondary plan and you talk about all these infill capabilities in mature neighbourhoods in…along regional major transit transportation corridors. Different places. They each have a separate need. They need to be separated out when you consider...you can't just call it all one name no...anyway, there are other aspects that I'm sure will need to be recommended for changes. There is a couple of other by-laws that may have an influence.

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

Councillor Eadie: A couple of more. But I just…trying to identify some of it. And I'm just going to conclude, actually, because this is a good point. So, I just had my ten minutes. When this goes to a public hearing, I hope that we change up the amount of time somebody has to present because when I come to the hearing, registered to speak to the hearing body, I'm going to need more than 10 minutes. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Councillor Gillingham, followed by Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise…I'll certainly be supporting this report. And looking forward to, as I said in my earlier comments to the previous report, looking forward to the feedback from the public. We have before us, of course, is Complete Communities document, the city-wide secondary plan that guides the city's growth, guides the city's development. It talks about how and where we want to grow as a city and need to grow as a city. One of the...there's several things that need to be said about it, one of the challenges certainly that we're going to have is how do you prioritize? There is only so many resources available. How do you prioritize what grows and where growth is put and what comes first? I've spoken on the floor of Council before. For me, when we talk about development, I think we need to keep in mind that people go where the work is. That has been the case of...that's just the case of history. So, if we don't have a prioritized…if we don't prioritize our employment lands, then there is no reason for people to be living in our community. And I want to draw our attention, and this won't be the last time I've said it, it's not the first time, but I want to draw our attention to page 14 of this document that it talks about the employment lands and the fact that our own employment and commercial land study from a year ago identified the fact that the city is facing a shortage of service industrial lands. And if you take a look at that page and then you go to page 17 where the map lays out the employment lands in blue, you'll see a big chunk of employment lands up in the north and west part of the city that are not serviced. And I said it before, I'll say it again, you know, to me, a priority...one of the priorities of the coming years has got to be the service to CentrePort Winnipeg. The airport area Westlands, we have to put the pipes in the ground there for us to be able to realize the goals of the Complete Communities document. And so, I look forward to that discussion and we'll be emphasizing that in the coming dialogue. A couple of other highlights of this report that I do want to draw our attention to and that's there is a…certainly, this document was put together over a period of time, but at a point in time. And at the same time, we're discussing Complete Communities, we have the airport area west...pardon me, not the airport area west, but the Airport Vicinity Plan that is currently being reviewed by the Province of Manitoba. And so, we don't know the timing of when that review will be complete, but when that document is complete, when that review is done, there may be implications to our Complete Communities document that will have to perhaps amend the Complete Communities document or certainly take into account the results of that review by the Province of Manitoba. So, I just raise that. Certainly, the discussion about the airport area is not concluded. And there is much more to look at pending the outcome of that provincial review. Also, in this document, I do want to point out pages 126 and 127. Very important pages. The first is related to the Indigenous Economic Development Zones. Wow, what an opportunity for the City of Winnipeg on so many fronts. Certainly, from our…to meet some infill targets, but also when we talk about economic opportunity. There is a real success story that you've heard me talk about before when it comes to an Indigenous Economic Development Zone right in St. James. It was put into place before I got on Council in 2014. But Long Plain First Nation has a very successful operation in St. James, the Long Plain reserve work that goes on there. There is a gas bar. There is…Yellowquill College is there. They're putting up a hotel there. And by all accounts, it's a great success. Almost any time of the day that you drive down St. Matthews, there will be a line up at the Petro Canada at that location. And it's just a booming success. Employs dozens and dozens of people. And across our city, as we look at treaty land entitlement and working with the Indigenous community and their economic opportunities, I think that Winnipeg should really be continuing to find ways to partner with the Indigenous community so that their communities and their vision and their economies can be successful. That will also help the City of Winnipeg with some of the infill guidelines that we're looking at and just kind of this shared economic lift that we will see in the City of Winnipeg. I also want to point out what has been mentioned a couple of time

and that's on page 127, the two pages or three pages related to the capital region. As we know with Bill 37 pending, and you know, the Province looking to bring that bill to pass, embedded in that bill is really the regional plan. And we're going to talk about plan 20-50 in the coming moments here on the floor of Council. But depending once again on what the Province does with that and the establishment of the Capital Regional Planning Board and Capital Region Plan, then certainly our Complete Communities plan may need to be adjusted accordingly. I'm a…certainly, a glass half-full guy. I completely believe in the value and the need for regional collaboration and regional planning. We need to get to the points of ensuring that we are thinking strategically as a region and competing not against other municipalities within the region, less about that and more about completing with other…competing with other jurisdictions across Canada and, in fact, across North America. And so, if we can continue to work towards that end, there will be bumps along the way, there will be hurdles to clear, but as we continue to work towards that end, to have a strategic regional vision, it will put us all in a better position. So, I look forward to the ongoing work with...certainly, with the other members of the capital region as well. But all that to say, that when that plan 20-50 is completed and when the Province makes its determination as to how they want to roll that out, ultimately, with the input, I appreciate…really appreciate the Mayor's call to make sure that we get a chance to review this plan and that Council in a public forum have opportunity to give input into the plan and to speak to the plan. But once that is all said and done and it puts that into the hands of the Province, it's really critical that the Province be strategic in their thoughts and strategic in rolling out of whatever the Capital Regional Planning Board is so that it is to the benefit of the entire capital region because if it's to the benefit of the capital region and the City of Winnipeg's certainly at the heart of the capital region, it will be to the benefit of the Province of Manitoba and it will put us in a place where we can more successfully compete against other jurisdictions when it comes to seeing investment be placed here within the capital region. So, look forward to the ongoing discussion with members of the community, with other stakeholders, and with my council colleagues.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will speak at some length on this matter. I want to thank Mr. Kiernan for calling me last night. I want to thank Mr. Jopling for putting up with the cross-examination I launched. I think he defended his staff. I know he didn't write some of these documents, but I think he did the best he could to defend some stuff that was crafted before his arrival here. So, my criticisms are not directed at them. I met not long ago with one of the planners to talk about this document. I said, I think I have five different tweak suggestions on the boundary for mature communities. All five rejected. They went back and then said, but we want to add even more, but we want to subtract some from St. Boniface Ward. And then I was told, but you can come and talk to us. I said, I don't think I can afford to come and keep talking to you, it keeps getting worse every time I come and talk to you. But I will come back to that. But the planner indicated to me, we don't just gerrymander. We don't just gerrymander the boundary lines to serve the interests of councillors. And I was thinking, well, that's pretty strong wording. And I said, well…of course, they did impose a Heritage Conservation District to improve the…to preserve the spacious lawns of Armstrong Point. Well, that's different, councillor. You did impose a Heritage Conservation District. You did draw a line to preserve the large lawns on Wellington Crescent. That's different. You did impose a line in the mature community around the Holden neighbourhood in St. Boniface, not at Councillor Allard's request. You did impose that line. Well, we didn't…we didn't…yeah, that's different. So, I'm kind of getting the sense that it's pretty different everywhere else and maybe we should actually pay attention to what each and every councillor has to say about planning rather than just certain areas. But I'll come back to that comment about…you know, the idea that changing the boundary line on mature communities is somehow gerrymandering. Page 15 of this document, I would like to send it out…I'd like to send it out with accurate information, but frankly, I don't think I won the vote there at EPC. So, here we are, we'll send it out for information. Page 15, a kind of stirring indictment of the suburbs. Page 15 contains three statements: number one, the city's settlement area has exploded 92% since 1971. The trouble with that is, what's Assiniboine Forest? Oh, that now part of the settlement area and it wasn't. To me, it still looks like a forest, not suburban sprawl, but now, it's now defined as part of the settlement area. What about the Bois-des-Esprits, which is a forest in Royalwood, which I know people like Bev Sawchuk who used to work for our colleague Councillor Lukes worked so hard to prepare. Planning Department says, no, that's now settlement area. Naturally, people write this up in the media as the footprint of the city has exploded by 100%. The built-up area, not getting the subtlety that Assiniboine Forest is, according to the planners, a settlement area but not built up area. My comment…and then we had golf courses in there too for a while until Councillor Lukes and I pointed out that if you have a 100-year-old clubhouse at Windsor Golf Course, I find it hard to believe it was unsettled in 1971 and now is settled. So, I think we got the golf courses out. My reaction is, if you keep changing the criteria like that, it's only 92%. Not bad. Because if we now define Assiniboine Forest, when I go there with my sons, I don't say, look at this sprawl, isn't it terrible? Wouldn't it be better if we tore it all down and put up housing? That wouldn't increase the settlement area of the city at all. My sons would say, but that's green space, shouldn't we be trying to preserve that? Here's what we said in our own budget; since the mid-1970s, the average distance from downtown for dwelling construction has remained relatively stable and typically occurs between 8 to 10 kilometres from downtown. That's our budget. So, you have quite a different picture painted there. Explosive 92%, near doubling of the settlement area. Well, actually, it sounds like since the '70s the construction has certainly occurred, but it's certainly far less than a 92% growth. Second number, the city's population in mature communities has declined by 88,000 since 1971. I have questioned this and I've been told...I mean, here's the facts. Some of my colleagues have said, we have got

to arrest the decline. Some of my colleagues have misquoted it as we've lost 80,000 people in the last 30 years. We've gained people in the last 30 years. We've gained people since 1991. That's our own data show that, but we choose to simply say half the facts. There has been a decline since 1971. We've actually gained 15,000 people in the last 10 years, 15 years. But I'll come back to that. I was given a whole new set of figures last night to show I wasn't right on this. Well, I'm quoting the figures Braden Smith, our Planning Director gave to me in 2019. So, I have to say, if your projections are...it's a bit like saying, in 1971, Council had 55 councillors, now there is 15, clearly you don't care about democracy. Say, well, no, there's a whole bunch of different completing…put it in context. There's 15…it's full-time now. Or my personal favourite analogy which…to which I'm indebted to Councillor Eadie's EA, in 1998 I finished 40th in the Manitoba Marathon. This year I finished 42nd, projecting then in another 100 years I'll be in 50th place, using the math of the Planning Department here. Well, no, there's other contextual factors. I'll be dead, for example. So, we're running in the middle of COVID era, so, yes, you can say there is 88,000 lost. Most of it in the '70s and '80s. That we've been gaining in the last 30 years. Why not say that? Third damning fact; the pipes have gone to 11.9 million feet. Explosive growth in the water pipes, except Jeff Patten whose job it is to maintain that inventory says no, that is wrong. There's 9.15 million feet of pipe. Why is the Planning Department saying 11.9? Mr. Kiernan, to his credit, said, that number is wrong, that number is coming out. We'll send it out to the public for consultation first apparently, but that number is coming out. Here's a different story you could put in. Here's a more accurate story. We've gained people in our mature communities over the last 30 years, yet our problems continue. So, it must be more complex than just demonizing the suburbs. It must be more complex in that if we've been gaining people and the problem still persists. Well, surely then all of our expenses are part of this suburban sprawl. Well, look at our own document from December, 2019, our own Infrastructure 2020 Report. Top 20 infrastructure costs in the city, three are related to growth. Number one, biosolids. Doesn't matter if you live downtown or in the suburbs, it's all going into the same biosolids plant. So, 2 of the other 20. Two, a southwest interceptor and the airport servicing are related to suburban growth, 2 out of 20. And yet, what do we say? Oh my god, the water pipes have exploded and the population is declining and our footprint is expanding. It's…none of it is accurate, but let's send it out for public consultation. But I…frankly, I think you could present a completely different picture using facts as well. Let's not just give out half the facts. So, where does that leave us then? Yeah, we'll send our…here's what I want…here's what I think we're trying to hear from you; hey, if we just demolish those forests and those golf courses, it wouldn't increase the settlement area at all. Tear down that Bois-des-Esprits and put up housing, it wouldn't increase the settlement area. Good environmentalism. No, terrible environmentalism. And I'm pleased that at least we have the...this debate seems to rest on our charity, thin but sturdy shoulders of Councillor Gilroy who has said, I don't have any golf courses, I didn't get elected to destroy green space. So, you know what, I'm with her on that one because if you simply say, hey, let's start demolishing all the green space because then our settlement area won't grow, it's a complete misstatement of fact and reality in my view. Number two, where are we left? I think I'm going to need my additional two minutes.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes moves extension. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried

Councillor Mayes: To run with Councillor Gillingham's anchoring analysis from the four-year budget; when we present this sort of thing, we are unanchored, we are drifting along. We are simply asking the public for input on what isn't factually accurate or is factually accurate, but presents half the facts as in this purported loss of population when in fact we've been increasing the last 30 years in the mature communities. So, I would say, let's…you know, I was criticized for trying to politicize the process which, ironically, the very criticism of the Bill 37 is, well, the Province is trying to take it out of any political control. So, yes, I'm going to try to make political comments. I see we get them on Armstrong's Point. I see we get them quite rightly from Councillor Rollins and Councillor Orlikow when it comes to trying to preserve parts of their wards. So, yes, I will try to make my point about things like gravel lanes and this odd view that we have to densify there and ignore the actual condition of the lane when we're selling properties and the Public Works says, well, when we sell our property, we insist on paving the lanes. So, I think we have to be a little more consistent in how we treat separate wards. We have to have a little bit more realism. If we're going to say, let's all densify because we have existing infrastructure. If the existing infrastructure is frankly crap, I think we should admit to that. Final point. So, I'm told I was trying to gerrymander and then I got all these notes last night. Oh, no, here's the new numbers indicating the loss in the mature communities. And I say, none of these are the same as what I got it from Braden. None of these even add up to what you've got in here. Well, we included overlapping neighbourhoods where a majority of the land area was contained within the mature boundary. Well, that almost sounds like gerrymandering, doesn't it, Madam Clerk…Madam Speaker? Doesn't that sound like they're changing around the boundary to change the numbers of people in mature communities? So, I think that's a great precedent. Delighted to see it. We're changing around the boundaries now to calculate the population loss. I'm going to stick with the numbers I got from Braden. I'm going to stick with the belief that it's my job to try and do something for my community. And I'm going to continue to raise issues. And I don't care if I'm told it's gerrymandering. If other people are trying to...if other people including the Planning Department, last night can change…

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

Councillor Mayes: If the Planning Department can change the numbers last night by suddenly saying, well, we're including overlapping neighbourhoods, well, then I think I have the right to come back and say, you know what, when I've

got a 1950s street that looks identical to Windsor Park, and I don't want to pick on Councillor Allard here; when I've got a 1950s street and you literally can't tell them apart from the ones in a different neighbourhood, yeah, I'm going to try and go to bat and say, this isn't a failed neighbourhood. This doesn't need the…this isn't a neighbourhood where it's passed its useful lifespan. Let's have some consistency as between neighbourhoods. Let's not hear about the large lots in...no, spacious yards of Armstrong's Point. Large lots of Crescentwood. That was the two distinction and then it be told, well, we've got to densify in other wards. We've got to. We won't make our target. We'll make our target. We can make our target in places like Southwood. That's part of the intensification area. It doesn't all have to be in the mature communities. So, I'm going to continue to raise some of these points to the frustration of some, I'm sure. But it's my job to be political in the planning process and to raise these points if we're saying, no, your attempts to alter any boundaries are gerrymandering, but our attempts to restate the numbers the night before the Council debate aren't...I really am questioning how equally we're treating different wards. That's why I'll be coming forward later and saying, look, we do need to take some consideration of the circumstances in different wards when we go to intensify. So, I appreciate Councillor Gilroy's work on this. I appreciate her comments about trying to preserve green space. I don't think the greenest thing…I don't think there's nothing greener than asphalt. I think green space is greener than asphalt. And I'm going to go down on that if I have to, but I'm going to go to bat for that. Final comment, thanks to Councillor Rollins who is quite right, these comments in here about we should densifying because it will save schools, if that were the case, we would be targeting Windsor Park which has two closed schools. But we aren't because it's not in mature communities. We don't have control over school boundary areas. We don't have control over school closures. Let's not pretend we do. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. Seeing the hour, Council should now recess and reconvene at 1:00 or 1:30? There is no food service on campus, I want to remind everyone. So, it's 1:00 or 1:15 or 1:30? Someone pick. 1:15, Mr. Mayor? Thank you, we'll recess and reconvene at 1:15. Thank you.

Reconvened meeting of
Winnipeg City Council of
January 28, 2021, at 1:17 p.m.

Madam Speaker: Testing, testing. If you could please take your seats, so we can begin the meeting. Oh, Marc, one thing. If you could please take your seats, I'd like to ask for the countdown. Not yet, though. Yes, Councillor Nason. We're waiting for Councillor Orlikow, is he here? In the…on virtual. Okay. We have quorum? The countdown, please. Good afternoon. I'd like to reconvene our Council meeting of January 28th, 2021. We are on Item 5 – the By-law 119/2020 – Complete Communities Direction Strategy 2.0 – First Reading – SP 2/2020 under the Executive Policy Committee meeting of January 20th, 2021.

Councillor Klein: I think it would be a point of order, if I may.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Klein.

Councillor Klein: Thank you. I would just like to correct the...and I said Madam Clerk, sorry. I would like to correct the record, Madam Speaker. One of my colleagues noted something that I would like to correct the record for if I may. In my earlier recognition statement, everyone knows that there were, in fact, at least 6 million Jewish people that were murdered by the Nazis in the Holocaust. Earlier I misspoke. And to my friends in the Jewish community, I say, (inaudible) and please forgive me for misreading my recognition statement earlier and thank you to my colleague for pointing that out. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Klein for putting that on the record. Our first speaker this afternoon on the topic that I stated a few minutes ago is Councillor Nason. Councillor Nason, you have the floor.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm glad we did have a lunch break because following Councillor Mayes would have been a spectacular challenge, pointing out that there was errors in the document that we're discussing. Thinking back to 2020 and there were math errors in the much anticipated multi-year budget. So, it's good to see that we're consistent with putting forward documents that contain errors. But you know, alas, they'll be fixed apparently. The OurWinnipeg document, as I mentioned earlier, had 48 pages. Government's document has 117 pages. This document 182 pages as it stands currently. Again, we talk about communities. I think it could be like the seasons. I think Transcona has all the communities that are being mentioned as far as, you know...except for transit oriented designed communities because well, you know, we keep cutting transit for Transcona or not providing it as we build out to communities, as was mentioned earlier by one of my colleagues. Having transit in the area as we grow them to provide those services, I'm hearing from residents time and time again that we're not having schools that go along with our communities as we grow

them. You know, we don't build schools. Land is set aside in some of these greenfield subdivisions. We have brownfield that is aligned that, you know, up till earlier this past year or late this past year was supposed to be the next phase of rapid transit. It was supposed to be a transit-oriented community; multi-storey, multi-family. We've got a brand new library built across the street from it. Supposed to have a fitness facility there. Dragging their heels on it. You know, talking to other areas, other communities across this great nation of ours, talking about how they realized multipurpose gyms and the price tag. I learned that in the City of London, $21 million gets you two pools, a gymnasium that can be split, common community room to teach low-incomes and people at risk and new Canadians how to cook for themselves in a community kitchen. $21 million in the City of London to realize that. Here, the price tag for a similar item, I got to look a little closer. See if the square footage is the same, but you know for Transcona east of the Red was earmarked at around $85 million for a Class 5 estimate. So, but I'm challenged on this one because it is a more encompassing document. The last one, the OurWinnipeg one, I was okay with. Then I got thinking about this one a little closer. And I talked to the Clerks about potentially amending it only to find that because they're linked hearing-wise, they sort of got to go one-two punch. And I want to read why that is. And it pertains to Section 227(1) of the Charter that specifies the hearing body for Plan Winnipeg. OurWinnipeg, is the Executive Policy Committee. Accordingly, the hearing may not be conducted by Council. You know, some cities that don't have the strong mayor model build on consensus. So that governance, committee of the whole, we as councillors would be around the table. Now, unfortunately, because of COVID, it's a two-tiered table at that. But we would be able to work together to have the hearing, to have equal say with regards to what is presented by the Public Service. What is presented by the public. Whereas in this model, it's the Mayor and his committee, hand-picked committee that decided. Now, you know, we've…as I mentioned before, again, we have a lot of outstanding documents. A lot of plans that are coming together. It's like a perfect storm of public consultation, engagement. And, you know, in the governance book on page 19 in the very...I'm assuming the last sentence, says, "The Mayor may direct administration to make changes prior to the materials being put forward to the committee or Council." That's a lot of control centralized within, as we know, it's not just EPC, it's the Mayor plus Acting Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayor. I'm not sure if there's any other parties that are part of that, but a clear majority of Council. Now, we know with the recent budget that there was one dissenting voice from his inner circle. That was one glaring change. I know there was a lot of influence being put on me for a want for my community about investing...investing in the future. This is a future document. So, pressure was being applied to me to support both the capital and operating in order to revitalize and include accessibility options on recreation in my community. I have an older community. 2012, we celebrated 100 years of Transcona. So, there is a lot of mature community in Transcona, but there is also a lot of new community. It expanded in the last election. I've got areas to the south that were part of the former St. Boniface Ward that are now mine that needed support to recognize recreation that they've been long since neglected. One was built in the middle of St. Boniface Industrial Park that was reclassified for residential. So, good that we had a master plan that is coming, a guiding document that will have hearing, but I think it's wrong-headed that it falls to the Mayor and his Executive Policy Committee as the hearing body. And that's where I'm challenged on this one. And unfortunately, that...we'll have to see when the votes come as to where my vote sits. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Nason. Councillor Orlikow.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think I'm okay now. Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you for allowing me this moment to speak. I hopefully won't take too long. Yeah, this document is very important as is the other document's very important. As we discussed today, there's many documents out there. Some are what we call more action-oriented documents such as the Infill Guideline, the Transportation Master Plan is coming. And I'm excited about this document to be beginning the process of a public hearing. Bottom line, it is public now, this document. So, now the public has had a chance to see it, so it is a public document. And what we're talking about today is having EPC, at a minimum, do a public hearing process with the public and anybody else who has concerns or amendments or wants to change it. That doesn't preclude councillors working with their neighbourhoods and working with each other to put forward ideas that we see that would be beneficial for Winnipeggers. And at the end of the day, we'll have that vote. So, I'm quite pleased to have this document in the public right now. It's really assisting me to be able to communicate to my residents and to others at large about all the documents and how they flow together. And it also keeps our administration a little more accountable because we have to be able to see this flow-through. So, when we talk about building neighbourhoods and we talk about transit, yeah there were times in the past when some…a while ago, for sure, even before my time, when councillors would advocate, you know what, this neighbourhood doesn't need transit. And for some reason, it passed without any transit infrastructure put in at all. Well, you know, we've erred on...learned from that error, so this document will prevent that from happening in the future. So, again, so that is exciting to me. We talk about walkable communities. Very exciting. That's what we do need. We need that. We talk about a little bit of densification. But at the end of the day we also talk about hierarchies of plans. So, that's where I'll be looking at, for example, the infill guidelines for mature neighbourhoods. The hierarchies of plans are there. I'll be looking where the information is more focused on transformative plans. What about our growth strategy? How does that fit into Complete Communities with the greenfield versus infill? How do those numbers jive? So, it allows the opportunity and it is complicated. It's taken myself a fair bit of time and I'm happy to work with anybody on it. How do you take all these documents and fit them together in a context that allows us to tell Winnipeggers, this is how we think we need to go forward in building our city? So I'm happy it's out in the open now and it's public. I look

forward to people coming forward to try to make changes. That's, again, part of the process. So, I'll be supporting the beginning of the hearing process. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Orlikow. Any further speakers? Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today is a day for standing corrected in the spirit of Councillor Klein acknowledging he is being corrected and he acknowledges that. Councillor Mayes correcting this report with some pretty good research, I must say. All of us sort of having a handcuffs (inaudible) in terms of when it comes to inadequacies of this, yet we seem to be, you know, plowing through. We're going to get this to first reading and we're going to…we're going to try and do what we can. It looks like this at least in terms of given what we did with OurWinnipeg. We're going to allow that to go to first reading…pass first reading so that we can have public engagement. And see how that can remedy some of the issues that have been raised here today on the council chamber. Standing corrected, I do admit, it does happen sometimes, that I stand corrected. And here I stand. And it has been the case that I've been corrected in this chamber. Councillor Gilroy a few years ago corrected me, in fact, that I thought there was a good idea that we should be dealing with at city hall, she made the point that it was being dealt with already…or with the Provincial Government. And so, I stood corrected in terms of whether it should be the priority of City Council at that moment. In terms of Councillor Gilroy's speech, she made some important points. In terms of her mentioning the issue of looking at harnessing energy from compostable materials, yeah. And hats off to her and the administration for looking into that because it's really important. Biomass is not a new technology, but we need to continue to enhance it and also to evolve its applications. So, what we're going to do in this case, I'm intrigued because it will have further implications that aren't lost on me. So, I'll come back to that on another day. But we are here to correct each other. Can you imagine if we had a parliament or chamber such as this in which we didn't correct each other? We'd have a ridiculous society. That's why we're here. We work as a group, checks and balances. And I do want to make the point that it's important. It has been said if this chamber that the reason that in OurWinnipeg we do not talk about energy conversion of industry and houses to…from natural gas to hydroelectricity is because that's primarily a provincial purview and this is about what the city does. But let's face it, we also know that it's very much part and parcel of both of these agenda items today, both…especially OurWinnipeg as well as Complete Communities, we talk about affordable housing, and we talk about homelessness. Now, let's be clear. There is nothing to my knowledge, anything of any substance that the City does regarding affordable housing and homelessness that we don't do with at least at one other level of government. Anything. If you can tell me what it is, I'd like to know. But even what we talked about today in terms of the $1 per the lots. We're doing that in conjunction with other Federal Governments as has been made today. So, basically, when it comes to these things, we deal with other levels of government anyway. So, when it comes to the issue of including in our forward-thinking strategies for the city, the idea that we can't as a city include conversion of industry, and of houses and apartments from fossil fuel-burning natural gas to hydro is not consistent with the rest of the plan. And that's really important. So, we have no excuse is what I'm saying for including in any forward-thinking plan that spans over 20 years not to include energy conversion. I'll just say it one more time for now. I'll never stop talking about it. I hope we never stop talking about it. That we have to look at energy conversion if we're serious...not just for the PR op of saying, look what we're doing for the environment, but because this is actually within our potential to do so very practically. There is nothing pie in the sky or untried about energy conversion from natural gas to hydro. It's the most practical thing we can do. It's not experimental and yet it's not part of any of our by-laws or strategies for moving forward on Complete Communities or OurWinnipeg. And that can't continue. I mean, let's face it, let's just be self honest. Don't answer the question to me, just answer the question to yourself. Everybody. If Winnipeg can't convert from natural gas to hydroelectricity because we have more hydroelectricity than we can consume...we export it internationally. If we can't convert from fossil fuel polluting burning natural gas to hydroelectricity in our homes, how do you expect the world to be able to deal with climate change? It will be a lot more difficult for other cities, other jurisdictions, other countries to do what we can do in Winnipeg. They can't do what we can do. But if we don't do that, what do we expect of everybody else to do their best? It's not even hard for us. It's not even…it's not…there is no pressure. It's not like it's an economic disadvantage to us to convert to hydroelectricity. We just didn't bother putting it into the plan. It's easy for us. And how many places in the world can say that? It sounds unusual because, well, we're talking about conversion of a society. But we've been doing it for a hundred years. We have been using hydroelectricity for a hundred years. We've been…our houses are already been on electricity for a hundred years. It's not new. So, that's the least we can do. And happens to be not part of these plans. And I don't know how far we can go in terms of saying we're doing our part for some United Nations protocol on the environment. But I do know…I do know if we do this, we can absolutely say we're doing our part. If we convert, have a real plan to go forth working with other levels of government like we do with other parts of this…of these plans, converting to hydro, of which we are in abundance, then the world can recognize what we do. And I consider that a fact. But I'm open to be challenged on this. And in the process, we can have that discussion. We talk about Complete Communities in terms of creating that infrastructure for the city for the future. But I can tell you now, we don't know what we're going to do. Just in the first report, Councillor Mayes made the point, well, you know...there's no…and councillor…and Councillor Gillingham as well. What is this issue of what we don't know what the cost is. Well, we don't know. And that's the whole point, Madam Speaker, we don't know because one thing we haven't acknowledged during this debate and during this process of creating a plan that's meant to last 25, 30 years, we have not even acknowledged the fact...it's not an opinion, it's a fact. And when we can't agree on facts, we're in trouble. I'm not

asking anyone to change the political values, the political parties. I'm not asking anyone to change that, just agree on the fact that the cost of building that infrastructure has increased 10 times higher than the rate of increase of people's income in the last 30 years. So how are we going to pay for anything? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Klein: Thank you Madam Speaker, and thank you to my colleagues for their comments on this. Especially to Councillor Mayes who...he and I have shared many robust conversations with respect to this document. I'm challenged because, yes, we as Councillor Schreyer just alluded to, we do take the opportunity to stand up and correct ourselves. And we try to do that as quickly as possible because that's the right thing to do, is we want to make sure we get it on the record and we move forward with the correct information that we want to make sure the record is correct moving forward. Yet, in front of us today, we understand that there are some data points and some information within the document that are still incorrect and quite possibly, you know, could alter how it may be viewed in my opinion. So, I'm troubled because obviously, we'd like this see these plans go forward. We have talked about them for a long, long time. It's interesting they're all coming out at once. We have many, many public engagement sessions that will be going on. It will be very fun to watch and then get engaged with and see if we can get more and more people involved. But we're putting a document forward that we know needs to be corrected before it goes out. And I'm struggling with that one because that's...we're saying, that's okay, that's all right, we're okay with the mistakes that are in there, we're just going to put it forward and let people have a discussion and bring their points to us and we'll hopefully correct those. So, I'm struggling with that one on whether or not to support this document as…or this motion as it sits with us today.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Klein. Any further speakers? Seeing none, Mr. Mayor to close.

Mayor Bowman: Sure. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was having trouble understanding if there was a comparison between the correction of Councillor Klein's statements about the number of Jews killed in the Holocaust and this document and correction. I was having…I'll have to review the transcript again to understand that. The documents itself are being voted on today for the purposes of first reading. I'll be supporting that and I'll look forward to the additional time that I have, I'll defer to Councillor Gilroy.

Madam Speaker: I'd like to keep respect and honour in this chamber. If a member is correcting a statement, I think we should take that at face value. Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I just want to thank all the councillors for this dialogue. I think that the documents that are in front of us here today are so critical. We all need to be making sure that we're looking at this document and saying our opinions. And I want to thank...you know, and some of the stuff that's being raised...and I want to thank Councillor Mayes in particular, and I think Councillor Rollins talked about our greenspace. That's something very dear to my heart, I have very little greenspace in my area and I want to keep that greenspace. So, I'm going to be making sure that I'm going whatever I can in this document to preserve the greenspace that we have. It's critical. And I want people to remember the importance of documents that will be coming. Councillor Mayes, I did do a tour in his ward and I do realize the struggle that he has with some of the infill development that he's getting. It's just so much. So, he questions and he raises a lot of good questions in this document concerning the things that he's seeing. But I would like to remind councillors that we all have different experiences in our own ward. And in my ward, I do see a decline because I don't see the people that live there, that used to live there. So, for me, these numbers do look to be what I see in my own neighbourhood. I see boarded-up homes and I see boarded-up apartments that aren't being used in a time when we have a housing crisis. So, I think that what we're going to need to do is get this out there for first reading and share those experiences that we are having in our own ward. Because those will be...all of those collectively will make a really good important document because one isn't right over the other. And we're all going to have certain disagreements, but what we do know is that our city is going to grow. And we got to decide on what that is going to look like. And there might be little minutiae in the documents that we're going to debate, but I think, overall, we have the same goals of growing a healthy, vibrant city and I think we all know that we do need to grow up. I don't think anyone argues that. I think Councillor Mayes has eloquently and fiercely saying, this shouldn't be all happening at once in one community, and he's right. Because Councillor Gilroy is saying, I would love some development in my area where I need it. So, we do need to have this dialogue. It's warranted. It's going to be one of the most important things that we're going to be doing on a document that is geared for many years to come and far beyond some of us even being here. So, I hope that you allow this to go to first reading. You're right, there are going to be some things in the document that we're not going to like, things that are not going to be perfect and we're going to have to correct things. But this will allow us to go to first reading and you know what, who knows? Maybe groups like OurWinnipeg, that raised to Cindy; Cindy, I'm concerned about the greenspace, I want to make sure that we have something in here on greenspaces. We'll be able to hear that dialogue and be able to try to…try to mitigate some of the issues and concerns that are being raised by our stakeholders and by our residents. So, I hope that you allow this to go to first reading because this is an important dialogue that we need to keep having. And I really believe that each and every one of you were elected within your respected wards and you have something to say

and you have issues that pertain to your wards that need to be visible in this document. So, I hope that you consider taking this to first reading. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gilroy. With that, I'll call the question on Item 5.

Councillor Nason: Recorded vote for recommendation, please.

Madam Speaker: Okay, that's Item 5, recorded vote. There are three clauses, Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk: Yes, Madam Speaker. The three recommendations that can be voted on separately.

Madam Speaker: And that is in order?

City Clerk: Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Any member of councillor can ask…any member of Council can ask for that request. So, with that, all in favour of Clause 1, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Nays

Councillors Klein and Nason

City Clerk: The vote on Recommendation 1, Yeas 14, Nays 2.

Madam Speaker: Clause 1 is carried. All in favour of Clause 2, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Nays

Councillors Klein and Nason

City Clerk: The vote on Recommendation 2 Madam Speaker, Yeas 14, Nays 2.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Clause 2 passes. All in favour of Clause 3, please rise.

Yeas

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

Nays

Councillors Klein and Nason

City Clerk: The vote on Recommendation 3 Madam Speaker, Yeas 14, Nays 2.

Madam Speaker: Clause 3 passes. On to the next item, Item 9, Mr. Clerk.

Item 9 – Request to Publicly Release Draft Plan20-50 and Review of Changes between Bill 48 and Bill 37

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor, your opportunity to introduce the item.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Firstly, I want to begin by thanking our two representatives on the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region Board, our Deputy Mayor, Councillor Orlikow and our Finance Chair, Councillor Scott Gillingham who I had the pleasure of touring...virtually touring, I guess, yesterday we were all in separate vehicles, the current progress in CentrePort. And much of the discussion revolved around the importance of regional planning and what we can do to work collaboratively with our colleagues in neighbouring municipalities as well as the Provincial Government on that regional planning. That work is something that I've long supported and I know many members of Council have long supported as well. This is…you know, when I look at the level of discussion and debate that we have had and continue today and will undoubtedly have regarding OurWinnipeg and Complete Communities, this is an overarching plan. So, we are led to believe...we, of course, haven't seen Plan20-50 yet, but it is one that has the potential to supersede OurWinnipeg. So, one that is, obviously, important and has the potential to really influence decision-making in Winnipeg and the surrounding capital region for a generation. It's a 30-year plan, Madam Speaker. And I just want to point out, if those that are following the proceedings are reviewing the motion itself, Madam Speaker, it references Bill 37 which is the Planning Amendment and City of Winnipeg Charter Amendment Act which proposes significant changes to land use planning, appeal process, and establishes a capital region...sorry, a capital planning region for the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region. This is a significant and historic change to not only planning within our municipality, the largest and most populated municipality in the Province of Manitoba, but also, of course, to the capital region. A key aspect of Bill 37 is the requirement for the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region to adopt a regional plan for at least a 30-year time span. Further more, Plan20-50 which there has been extensive consultation and dialogue and discussion, we still have yet, however, to see a copy of Plan20-50 which we understand is going to be made available, which is great news. Plan20-50, as I've mentioned, gives historic weight and authority with the anticipated passage of Bill 37 this year at the Manitoba legislature. Currently, Bill 37 doesn't currently require municipal councils in the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region to review and approve Plan20-50 before it's sent to the Province of Manitoba for their review and scrutiny. Furthermore, I think it's in the interests of openness and transparency, much like OurWinnipeg is canvassed here, made publicly available. That's the same approach that I would argue should occur for the draft Plan20-50 so that all municipalities including the City of Winnipeg municipal government as it's reflected here on the floor of Council should have that opportunity to review and formally approve the draft Plan20-50 before the Winnipeg Met Region sends it to the Province of Manitoba for consideration. Furthermore, Madam Speaker, other municipalities including Selkirk and West St. Paul have publicly endorsed making Plan20-50 public and allowing Winnipeg Metropolitan Region municipal councils, giving them that opportunity to consider and formally approve the plan before the Province reviews it. Bill 37, members of Council will know, is an amendment from its predecessor Bill 48, a controversial bill that's been tabled in the legislature and has been widely canvassed by other municipalities as well as ours, Madam Speaker. We...this motion is requesting that City Council requests the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region to publicly release Plan20-50 and allow all municipal councils in the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region an opportunity to review and to formally approve draft Plan20-50 before the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region sends it to the Province of Manitoba for their consideration. The motion also asks that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to Council within 60 days with a report on Bill 37 that identifies major changes from its predecessor Bill 48 and any aspects of Bill 37 that may require formal direction or input from Winnipeg's City Council. These are important efforts to undertake in an open and transparent way moving forward. I want to thank the Winnipeg Met Region, all the board members and everyone that's participated in the process and with the support of Council, I look forward to making...the City making this request to the Winnipeg Met Region. For this council as well as other councils in the Winnipeg Met Region to have that opportunity to review, to scrutinize and to provide input to the Winnipeg Met Region in due course, Madam Speaker. So, I'm hopeful that members of Council can support this motion. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councillor Gillingham, followed by Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I want to thank the Mayor for his comments and I'll certainly be supporting this motion. It actually…what we're requesting fits very much I think ultimately with what the plan is going to be from the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region, which I distributed to all council colleagues. I want to thank Councillor Orlikow for his co-work on that board. And before him, Councillor Lukes was there as well, the Winnipeg Met Region Board, so thank you for her work over previous years to get us to the place as a region that we're in right now. I also wanted to just remind my council colleagues that Councillor Orlikow and I have had discussions with the Public Service, you know, requesting that they give consideration to a Council seminar on this so that all councillors can have some deeper understanding of Plan20-50 in its draft form once it is ready and publicly released. And I know that we've got a positive response already from Mr. Jack and appreciate his work. So, more information to come. I maybe will just take this opportunity to highlight for Council on the record just some of the recent correspondence that has come to all councils in the met region, including ours, related to the steps in the process of Plan20-50. And will note, within a document that was sent by the Executive Director of the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region, Colleen Sklar, she indicates that, and I quote, "On November 3rd, 2020, the Minister of Municipal Relations provided further clarity on the process and

expectations for the development of Plan20-50." And I go on and will quote her, the minister said at that time, "I understand the challenges with ratification of a complex regional plan and the need for respective municipal input endorsement. As indicated in the proposed Bill 37, the plan will be provided to and ratified by the newly formed Capital Planning Region Board". So that Capital Regional Planning Board is somewhere down the road here, has not been formed yet. But there is an understand I think from the Province of Manitoba, which I appreciate, that there is a need for councils to review this plan in its draft form, to give input, to give feedback, to kind of really have a good understanding of what the plan contains and to recommend…to ultimately to the Province any needed...suggested amendments to the plan. And so, I think that, you know, by the Mayor's motion today, that opportunity will be provided certainly to the City of Winnipeg. And so, some of the next steps, again, and all councillor colleagues have this information. I forwarded it on to them in recent days. That the draft Plan20-50 in its complete form will be provided to all Winnipeg Metropolitan Region board members, councils, CAOs, administration, AMM the week of February 22nd. So, about a month from now we should be expecting the…as a council, the draft Plan20-50 and have an opportunity to review it and give comment on it. So, a very, very important document. This is the…under the direction of the Province of Manitoba that has tasked the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region with this work. And so, just so everyone understands, the…there is no...in the minister's comments, there is no sense that the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region Board will be endorsing or ratifying the plan. That is not the role. The Winnipeg Metropolitan Region Board, that was not a role given to the board by the Province, but rather to take the draft plan, the response and feedback suggested amendments, whatever the case may be from the respective councils, the 18 different municipalities in the City of Winnipeg that make up the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region, forward all that to the Province of Manitoba who in due course will, you know, if they're going to do what they set out to do, will be establishing the Capital Region Planning Board, turning the plan to them for ratification and implementation. So, very important that we as a council have an understanding of what is in the plan. Get an opportunity to review it. Understand its implications for our own city as well. It's maybe quite good timing in many ways that we have the idea of Plan20-50, a regional plan, OurWinnipeg, Complete Communities, all before us at the same time. These are monumental. They will set the direction for growth and development in the City of Winnipeg and the region for many, many years to come. I will take one…or I will take just a final moment to say one thing that I think what is important is that, you know, when it comes to reviewing Bill 37, I've said it before, we put it in the motion back in the spring on our initial response as a Council on Bill 48 at the time. I think it was Bill 48 before us…37. Any land use plan needs to have a corresponding economic development plan. There are two sides of the same point. There is no sense planning land use if you have no economic development plan. And there's no sense having an economic development plan if you have no land use plan. So, there is great opportunity for the City of Winnipeg, for the capital region at this time to really, you know, make the most of these opportunities. We have all these plans that are before us right now. To find out how they can be synchronised, prioritized and pursue kind of a great future for our city and for our region.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. Councillor Eadie, followed by Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. I will be supporting this motion and I appreciate the Mayor doing a great job on the intergovernmental affair front in terms of this. And I also appreciate the two of my colleagues who sit on the metro region board. Madam Speaker, I think it really...number one, I think and believe that it's essential that we, as the Council of Winnipeg, and all the other municipalities who are in the Winnipeg metro region to be able to at least provide their input, which would at least give the elected representatives in the areas an opportunity to provide their opinion to the Province as that plan moves forward. And I don't…I think that the municipalities, elected officials, reviewing it along with their administration to consider the content and advise as well, I think is really important because we all...I'm sure all the municipalities want to see great economic growth for the Winnipeg metro region because I mean, the flow of goods and everything come through places like Selkirk, Manitoba or from Morden up through the RM of Macdonald or whatever, there's all kinds of goods and trade moving back and forth. And when you want to look at economic growth, you really do have to look from a regional basis. And actually, you know, I look forward to the section, oddly enough, I look forward to the section that is going to talk about maintaining good agriculture with better market price goods moving into the world from the Winnipeg metro region, Madam Speaker. Because my family comes from around the Treherne area. Well, originally from Scotland, but you know…and England, but ultimately, agriculture should be a big consideration and other councillors when we talk about food security, these things are all very important. Especially, you know, when you get into huge emergency situations, what if we weren't able to transfer the food goods into the City of Winnipeg during the COVID pandemic because truckers and trains and stuff were not considered to be...like, it was spreading too fast through there and we had to stop that. That would be an awful situation. So, then we'd really depend on something local coming in and feeding us. So anyway, I digress a bit. I just wanted to talk in bigger terms. So, the current Provincial Government, I believe this is an important move that they're doing. I do have somewhat of a problem that it is an unelected level of government that is coming into play here. If you look at New Zealand when they do regional things, I'm not sure about Edmonton...they have a metro region thing. Sometimes what they'll have is an elected people to sort of oversee the move forward of plans. So, we do have a level and I find it kind of strange that the current conservative government and the head of the Treasury Board is totally anti-red tape. Technically, some of the problems that the municipalities have pointed out is the red tape is going to get worse with Winnipeg metro 20-50 plan. So, we all have to take that into consideration. But so, it's economic growth. And so, I saved my speech about market-driven things for the metro region consideration, but it is a consideration

for OurWinnipeg and Complete Communities. We're having all this debate about, you know, do you do infill in mature and old neighbourhoods or do you build green fill? You're going to argue about that. But you know, the reality is, in the economic realm as well as the housing realm, there is a market. And the market area is all of Winnipeg metro region. And within Winnipeg we have subsets. And so, when you consider how you're moving forward, you have to understand what is the demand in the market. There is still a demand for million-dollar houses on an acre of land. There is a demand for that. There is a demand for more apartments. There is a demand for condos. There is a demand for this, there is a demand for industrial lands which we're, you know, we have un-serviced land, all important things in our plan. And then with the metro plan, you're throwing it in there. So, I really think that we need to do this. And what we need to put across to the Province of Manitoba, when I look at the transportation plan that they have for the lower mainland or I look at the rapid transit that they did in Alberta, the province itself was the major partner who made it happen. How? They supplied the financial capability to build what was needed for their future. And so, with this metro plan...and I'll have the ability to comment, to let...and it doesn't matter what government's down there on Broadway, Madam Speaker, they need to pony up. Like, there is going to have to be under that Plan20-50 transportation. Main Street runs all the way to Selkirk, Manitoba and beyond, right? Turns into Highway 9. So, like, all these subsets and the capital region before, I look back to the former Mayor Thompson, you know, could have a lot of problems with Her Worship at the time. But one of the great things that they did was, they did establish the capital region. You know, association of municipalities that were able to talk and try to...and here's where we are today. I think this is good for the future of Winnipeg and good for the future of the whole region. But we just got to be careful how we move ahead because you know the Province and this unelected level of government, they're going to be making decisions that may end up costing the City of Winnipeg money it doesn't have. We already don't have enough capacity in the North End Sewage Plant. Like, is Winnipeg supposed to come up with all the money? I know we got an agreement that looks like a tri-level for the head works and stuff, but you know, like, it has to be that...that plant has to be used by the municipalities around it if they want to grow as well. Because sewage needs to be treated appropriately and we don't want to pollute the lake and the river up through Selkirk, Manitoba who is part of this region. So, anyway, I'm supporting this motion. I think it's very important that we do get to consider it and I appreciate the concept of having a seminar. Thank you, Councillor Gillingham.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Councillor Browaty, followed by Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. First of all, I'd like to thank the Mayor for bringing this motion forward. On the metropolitan region Plan20-50, I'd like to first of all recognize our two members, Councillor Gillingham and Councillor Orlikow for your work on the committee. I mean, right now, the report and this new master planning document really feels like it's being born out of a huge group of consultants that are really quite isolated from the elected officials in the capital region. So, I'm glad we're going to have an opportunity now to discuss it and to look at it and to see what's there. I mean, I'm supportive of regional planning. There are things that make a lot of sense. In some cases, you know, we work hand-in-hand with capital region communities and sometimes we're competing with them. If we want a new business in our neighbourhood, we want the tax base from that one. So does Headingly, so does Rosser, so does Springfield. So sometimes we're competing. This gives us a master plan, an orderly, thoughtful plan on how those sort of things can go forward. If you've got a big plant where you need transit and water and sewer, maybe you have to go in Winnipeg. Maybe if you're shipping and, you know, light manufacturing, you need to be out in the airport. Maybe that is Winnipeg or Rosser. There are different places and different opportunities for the capital region to grow thoughtfully together and I think that is an opportunity for that. So, again, Councillor Eadie I think brought up some of the points of like, who pays? I think that's also an important piece of this and I don't think we can go forward supporting a master plan without there being some consideration. It doesn't have to be, you know, everything decided on the day this report comes out, but there needs to…meaningful conversation about who pays for some of that infrastructure. If all of a sudden, you know, everything's, you know...there is more fires in Springfield like we've had in the past, does Winnipeg automatically respond? There has to be a sharing agreement there. Do you get to pick and choose which municipal services, you know, you partner with Winnipeg for? Or even two communities together that don't include Winnipeg? That should be part of the master plan as well. That needs to be talked about right off the bat. On Bill 37, it's good to get an update from our staff on this. It's important to recognize the Association of Manitoba Municipalities that actually met with myself and Mayor Bowman about some of the problems that were in Bill 48 for the City of Winnipeg. There were some aspects that only affected Winnipeg, but former President, Ralph Groening, current President, Kam Blight, Executive Director Volkov, actually went to the Province and brought up Winnipeg's very specific concerns with some of the aspects of the original Bill 48. Some of those things have been fixed in Bill 37. Some of them have not. So, it's important for us to get our administration to provide us with an update now as to what are still some of the outstanding issues. I still believe Bill 37 comes from a good point. There are sometimes still processes and developments that maybe are hampered in coming to fruition in the City of Winnipeg and this is an opportunity for us to do…make some self-improvements, I think. So, I'm supportive of them doing something. But again, there is still some concerns with what is in there right now. Certain processes, certain additional appeals, and the systems in place. If the Municipal Board can't keep up with appeals now, that's a problem. We've seen systems similar to this in Ontario that aren't working, we don't want to replicate what doesn't work. We want to have a system that does work. And this makes sense and is fair to both people who live in our communities today, have

businesses in our communities today, as well as those that want to invest and improve the economics and our economy. So, I'm happy that this motion is coming forward. I look forward to our administrative reports. Thank you.

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

Councillor Mayes: A few things: number one, thanks to the Mayor for bringing this forward. Number one, I have to say it's not something I have looked at at all, so good catch by the Mayor in terms of bringing this forward, not something that anyone at the door has ever raised with me. But it is worth pursuing and certainly our representatives, Councillors Orlikow and Gillingham, and formerly Browaty have certainly talked about the importance of this. Number two, however, Bill 37 is something that people have raised with me. And I think we do need a report back. I don't know if…I got a pretty good summary from Marc Pittet at…within about 60 minutes of it coming down, so I don't think you need 60 days to give us an eloquent presentation, but we'll certainly have high hopes that with 60 days we can have an even better summary from Mr. Pittet or someone else in the department about what the changes are. People have raised this with me. People have said, well, so we've got this city appeals body which changes membership every two months. There is no one who feels bound by any previous decision. A party who loses an appeal can just come back the next year on the same matter. The department issues the same report. There is no reference to having it come forward before if you happen to get a different lineup. Who knows, maybe you'll win this time. You've got people you show up for your appeal and you're told, well, I don't think you really have any case here because the by-law says something…densify. So, you can talk, but then we'll vote…you know, we'll vote against you. It's not really a right of appeal frankly. It's kind of a waste of time at that measure. So hopefully, and maybe we won't even get to the Appeal Committee in these changes, but I've got to say, people in my ward have said, well, if there is going to be this panel of experts and they're going to feel bound by previous decisions and we're going to get a new hearing each time and we're going to have people who don't change every two months and they're going to consider it and not just say, well, no, you technically have a right of appeal, but you really don't, you know, people aren't really opposed to that. And in parts of my ward, they're saying, well, that sounds like a better deal than what we have now. So, I'll be interested to see what comes forward in this report. Browaty's right, there are still some problematic aspects to the bill. I do think 37 is a much better run of things than 48, but we're really not here to debate that today. It appears we will be in 60 days or so. But I have to say, when we're told here on the floor of Council, you shouldn't be politicizing issues like lot splitting, you shouldn't be politicizing these and then the next moment we're told, and my god, the Province is going to come in and take away your political power over all the zoning and planning documents. Well, wait a minute, that sounds like what Klein was advocating for when he said let's have a planning commission. So, if we're against politicization, then why are we against a full-time appointed expert panel considering some of these things, which is what appears to be being suggested. So, we'll see. We'll see what the suggestions come back with, but either we're okay with councillors making political suggestions, political ideas about zoning or we weren't, but surely, we're not both. You can't raise it for your ward, but by god, you better oppose the Province because they're going to try and take away your political power. It's pretty thin, and I look forward to that debate. Third thing, in terms of provincial/city, I didn't want to let pass; I thought it was a terrific speech from Councillor Schreyer actually about buildings, about heating and people have tended to say, that's a provincial building code, that's not our jurisdiction. He's actually right. That is…there are issues here. We had those presentations during the budget from people saying, you got to pay a little more attention to this. You just approved Fulton Grove or the big proposals with tons of units and you didn't talk about how they're going to be heated, and yet, you've got these targets in your own documents. It's a fair point. It's not to be discussed today, but I didn't want to leave that unnoticed. So, hopefully, at the Water and Environment Committee we can come back to it…some of what Councillor Schreyer has raised. It's a fair point. It's an issue about a change from when I was a young man, clean burning natural gas was like the good guy, the hero. We want that clean now, it's much more…well, that has climate change implications. We want to do something else. How do we do that? How do we get there? I think Councillor Schreyer makes some good points. So, that is not purely provincial jurisdiction, we have a role in that. Not today, but I do look forward to having those discussions at the Environment Committee.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. Councillor Klein, followed by Councillor Orlikow.

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I just rise because, again, I'm struggling with this one. I'm hearing a lot of different comments and thoughts and opinions on this matter and it's difficult because I hear different perspectives from some members of the WMR, the Winnipeg Metro Region. And it becomes even more of a struggle because I…you can have conversations with others outside of this building and people are willing to...you know, they reach out, they send information, but internally, that is very limited. So, you know, our job is to weigh the evidence in front of us and make sure that it's…you know, we're making the right decision based on what we're being told. And you know, this is difficult. Because as councillor, I think it was Eadie, earlier mentioned that this entire concept really began with Mayor Susan Thompson. They started having that discussion. As far as I understand, the City has been at the table providing input into this plan for some time. And we've had two members of this council involved. We've had two members of the City involved. So, wouldn't we know? Wouldn't we know what is in that plan? I don't understand why we're acting like as if we don't know. From what I understand, there has been over a hundred meetings. And I assume that all the RMs and the City has been involved. I would guess that protocol would have one of the councillors go in place of the Mayor as his representation. Don't know.

But I would assume that. Different than here at city hall. Now I realize, Madam Speaker, that at city hall, the Mayor's Office has the authority to review and alter all reports that are done before they're presented to Council or go to public. But we are not in control of this one. This is a team effort. This is, you know, merely we are one of 17 members involved in this process. And, yes, it's historical, but it's nothing new. This has happened already across the country in many jurisdictions. And it's proved to be beneficial. I struggle because I hear the terms, all of a sudden, outside sources are going to be making decisions on Winnipeg. I've seen nothing that says that, not a thing. I've had nobody reach out and say, here's how that's going to happen, here's the proof, be afraid, here it is. I haven't seen it. I'm just looking for that. I'd like to see that. And I hear from another side, everything is great, everything…this is going to be fine, you guys will have your say, everybody will have their say. Now, from what I understand, this is no different than the OurWinnipeg or the Complete Communities that we just put forward. It's a draft. It's going to go public. And every jurisdiction is going to get a copy of it and then they'll comment on it afterwards. That is what I have had confirmed from various sources. So, I'm not sure again what's the motive behind this. If it's not done and there is still lots of work to do, we just debated that for hours on OurWinnipeg and Complete Communities. And it…we know, there was issues with both those documents and we put them forward so that we could start the engagement and we can put ideas and comments forward. Yet we're saying that we don't want that process to happen here, Madam Speaker? Maybe I'm wrong. Maybe we're trying to slow it down. But I think we need to let this process follow the trajectory it's on right now, which is a draft that every community will have a say in equally just like we're doing here. Because quite frankly, Madam Speaker, I think we have some serious problems we need to deal with right now, 87 murders in 24 months in the City of Winnipeg? On our watch? Six consecutive years of increases in violent crime in our city? Why would we be worried about a draft document right now? Why wouldn't we let them do their process like we do ours, and then we can comment on it and everyone will have that opportunity?

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Klein. Councillor Orlikow, followed by Councillor Nason.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you, Madam Speaker. A little echo. Sorry, there we are. Well, I'm just…I'm quite…first of all, are you getting me okay? My picture is a little weird. Are we okay there on your side?

Madam Speaker: There is an issue with mine. What about the live feed, Mr. Clerk, do we know?

Clerk: We don't see any issues here.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Go ahead, Councillor Orlikow. I saw what you saw, so I hear you. Thank you.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you. Yeah, so, again, I just want to…as a Winnipeg Met Region board member, I won't be speaking as, I'll be speaking as a city councillor for Winnipeg, which is unique. We've had…the Winnipeg Met Region board and how we're growing together has been super exciting, mostly because you get different perspective than you get from a Winnipeg's perspective, and a very valuable perspective but the board is quite new. So, we're still figuring out, you know, how do you be a city councillor at the same time, how do you be a Met Region board member? And if those ever conflict, do they? So, it's been very interesting working through that. And I really want to thank Councillor Gillingham and the board of the Winnipeg Met Region to work those through and including our Executive Director there, Colleen. So, yeah, so where we're at now, we all kind of know the pillars of this report. The Winnipeg Met Region's been very good at having seminars and having discussions abroad with many groups. And it's really made up of land use, economic development, transportation, water and waste and the environment. And in there, there is some really exciting things. Again, the question though is we just had those seminars...like OurWinnipeg, which we did there, but until you actually see the document and have the document in your hand and how it all interplays together, that's really where the proof is in the pudding, they kind of say. So, we need to make sure, and as a councillor I want to make sure...because, you know, there got a little questionable if it was going to happen. And I'm very sure it is now. We've verified that and I want to thank the Winnipeg Met Region board again for that. We have clarified...and I haven't seen the draft document yet. So, but again, I would want to make sure...I think everybody does...you want to…you don't want to say, I've consulted with you because we've had lots of seminars, we want to see the actual document before and to make comments on the actual document including questions. So that really was the first part of this to make sure that all municipalities had that opportunity because it affects us all. And why is this document important? Well, again, it does…it will be as it talks about OurWinnipeg. This document will overreach…override our document. It will be the major document that all the other documents including the municipalities around us will all fit underneath. So, it's very important and very impactful for all of us to see how do we look at land use. How are we looking at sharing water resources? Are we going to be looking at the last seminar or what's presently going on with restart the economy? And if it's related to the environment? Very interesting. But how are they going to put it all together? So, we've seen snippets of it and the administration has been a part of that, but again, to see the whole document, very excited to see it. I believe it will be quite high level. And we just talked about…a little bit about where the best industries go. I don't think we're going to be talking too much about the tax-sharing or what happens when we have disputes between different municipalities. But again, this is a little bit...I believe it will be, but I don't know, I haven't seen the document yet. I believe it will be a higher-level document than that and we'll continue as the Winnipeg Met Region to work towards some of those finer details. But again, we need...and we need to also see how

this impacts with the other bill. Again, I'm not sure whoever said we should never be a politician. We represent our communities and that's our job. And if that's being a politician, I'm guilty as charged. I'm proud to represent my neighbourhood. And I need to be able to see this document and how it will impact the people that elect me, but also, how it impacts Winnipeg and then when I get back from the Winnipeg Met Region board, how it impacts the region. So, I look forward to it, it is a very important document. Like I say, it will set the tone for all the other documents. I know Winnipeg is well far ahead than some other municipalities at this point. But I know that we're going to work with them to help get their documents up and running. So, I'm very excited to see it. I'm very excited to discuss it with all councillors. Like I say, I haven't seen the actual document, just participated in the seminars. And then, you know, as some people say, you know, what is good for us is good for all. And I think that applies for all rural municipalities as well. If we can find that balance, how we're going to work together, well, we're all going to benefit. So, I'm very excited about it. I'll be supporting this motion. I think Council should have the chance to vote on it and represent their neighbourhoods, but again, this process is to say, please make sure we do get a chance to do that and it appears the Province has now clarified it more. So, this is…I think we should be celebrating at this point. This is a time that we can all sort of learn from each other, work together and go forward with something that can be very exciting for Winnipeg today and tomorrow and for the region.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Orlikow. Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Madam Speaker, I'd like to move layover to the February Council meeting.

Madam Speaker: Okay, Councillor Nason has moved layover. So, we will vote on that. To the next meeting of Council. Call for a recorded vote. Mr. Clerk, I just want to check. Councillor Nason has an opportunity to speak to that layover?

City Clerk: Correct, Madam Speaker. Councillor Nason can speak for three minutes on why to have a layover and Mayor Bowman can rebut for up to three minutes.

Councillor Nason: Perfect. Well, Madam Speaker, you know, as I sit and listen and I read the eloquent update that was provided by Councillor Gillingham, it shows some very specific dates in the very near term. I know the Mayor has power and has done it many times before. He puts out a letter to the minister of this or the minister of that, talks to all different levels of government. Councillor Eadie addresses me regularly about our defacto intergovernmental leap being the Mayor. In this case, I see that the draft plan is being presented to the WMR board members, Council, CAO, administration and the AMM which Councillor Browaty's also a member of, the week of February 22nd, 2021. It's a few weeks away. But yet, we want a strong hand this, we want to be the big voice, we're the bully on the block for this matter. We want to drive the bus. We want that steering wheel, gas pedal, gear shift, the whole shoot and match because we can't wait three weeks. I think we can wait three weeks. That's why I was moving for layover. I think give them time to finish the work that they're doing. Don't side track their work. You know, Councillor Browaty indicated he wants a price tag. You know, we just voted on two things that was very clearly articulated that there is no price tag for. Transportation Master Plan. Transit Master Plan. We want all this bus infrastructure, but we can't even get the federal money because we don't have a plan. So, you know, the fact that we can't wait three weeks to allow them to finish it, to put their final touches, dot those i's, cross those t's, that's why I move layover. And, you know, I know the Mayor already had a press conference on this matter to try to push and, you know, get this. He could have sent a letter himself at any time, but yet, it's here to try to have the weight of Council behind it. That's why I move for a layover. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Nason. Mr. Mayor, your opportunity to rebut if you wish.

Mayor Bowman: Yeah, thanks Madam Speaker. The reality is the...I'm not aware that any member of Council has seen the draft plan. I understand from correspondence that has been shared from Colleen Sklar at the Winnipeg Met Region, she's the Executive Director for those that are following these proceedings, that there has been a request by the Province for the Winnipeg Met Region to forward their draft plans by a certain date. And so, you know, delaying would put us beyond that date to have an opportunity to at least receive the document so that all members of Council and the public could see the document we're talking about, but also get some input from the Public Service and then, of course, provide our input and be accountable for that input regarding those plans. And so, if the desire is not to do that in advance of the Winnipeg Met Region forwarding their draft plan to the Province, then deferral would be in order. I, for one, am working as hard as I can to ensure that this council and our residents see the draft plan and have the opportunity to provide input to the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region in a timely manner. So, I would not support deferral for those reasons, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. With that, I'll call the question. All in favour of the layover, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Nason and Schreyer

Nays

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

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 2, Nays 14.

Madam Speaker: Layover is lost. We'll move along with debate. Councillor Nason, do you wish to address Council?

Councillor Nason: Yes. Continue on some talking points. Yeah, so, with regards to be able to put our input, I see in this correspondence that was put forward by Councillor Gillingham that it is again Plan20...draft Plan20-50 in its complete form will be provided to all Winnipeg Metro Region board members, of which this council has two representatives, councils, CAOs, administration and AMM on the week of February 22nd. And then also on the 22nd, there will be presentations to the same regular group, I believe. Stakeholder engagement. Stakeholder engagement and feedback via the Plan20-50 website, the week of February 22nd. Feedback and detailed comments from the municipalities and all stakeholder groups will be compiled in the review report between February 26th and March 24th. And then, you know, we heard just a few minutes ago that, you know, we wouldn't be able to get our comments in before it's received by the minister. The draft Plan20-50 and the review report containing all comments and feedback will be provided to the Minister of Municipal Relations March 26th. So, we do have time. We could have laid it over because we're going to get it. We're going to have an opportunity to provide feedback. It's just not on a particular group's timetable that they desire. So that's what I wanted to put on record. You know, there is a collapse of reports all in a very short period. And I think meaningful engagement is going to be challenged because it will be a finite group of individuals that will have the opportunity to digest this massive black hole of reports that are coming as we heard from many members of this council all without a price tag. We see through our budget process that debt, debt, debt, debt. Well, at some point, that bill comes due. You know, in 50 years' time, 25 years' time, 35 years' time, somebody is going to have to pay for it. And I don't think it will be monopoly money that will be able to pay for it. Because at the rate we're going, that's all that our dollar will be worth. So, I won't be supporting this matter because I think the Metro Region is working in good faith. I've heard the Mayor had a few select voices chime in with regards to his press conference that he held on this matter but there are 18 voices. I think if 18 voices were all saying the same thing, it might be a different narrative. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Nason. Next speaker is Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We're talking about something important. We're talking about what level of government would offer the greatest accountability to the citizens of the taxpayer, what would be…what would be closer to the people in a more nimble, perhaps, offer greater openness and accountability and transparency. So, Councillor Gillingham also mentioned that when it comes to these issues that such...that we're talking about here in terms of these bills and in terms of a regional economic plan or regional economic structure, decision-making structure, that the economic development plan is important. You can't do these things without an economic development plan. So, I want to bring forth something that is hypothetical. What if. I don't think I've done this before. This is a hypothetical. What if minimum wage somehow ended up being $50 an hour? Just saying what if? Do you think we would consider that when it comes to the discussion of such economic development plans? Do you think we'd talk about it? Minimum wage is $50 an hour, so any City workers, the minimum they're going to get, 18 years old, off the bat, they're going to get 50…50…$50 an hour. That would be the minimum wage that we would have for whatever economic development we're doing. I mean, we're talking about the lowest paid people. What if it was $50 an hour? Would we be talking about that regarding our economic development plans? I say, you betcha. Absolutely. How could we ignore such a thing? If minimum wage was $50 an hour, you think there is some aspect of economic development planning that would ignore that fact? You don't think we would be discussing that with the people of Winnipeg? Discussing that with the media on a weekly if not daily basis? Well, of course, we would because that would be responsible economic planning. It would be essential. Okay, so let's get rid of that hypothetical. That's obviously not where we're at. What we do know in terms of minimum wage is that more people are at minimum wage now than they were a generation ago. And that minimum wage hasn't gone up any higher than the rate of consumer price index, any higher than the rate of standard inflation. The cost of haircuts, the cost of food, whatever, they say food. I believe that some aspects of food has gone notably higher than what they call the standard rate of inflation. So now, let's get rid of the hypothetical, let's get to the reality. See, the $50 an hour minimum wage, that would have been if minimum wage has gone up ten times…at a ten times higher rate than it has from the last generation. Didn't happen at all. Minimum wage is pretty much adjusted to what we construct, what we perceive as being the...what we calculate as

being the sort of standard general inflation rate. So now, let's get to something that is not a hypothetical. The cost of creating the infrastructure for these economic development plans such as what we would be doing with these municipalities around Winnipeg to create that infrastructure, to build it, is 10 times higher than it was 30 years ago, a generation ago, relative to the increase in most people's salaries and wages. The majority of taxpayers that pay for it. So that's not a hypothetical. That's really the case today. That's true. Now, I'm not into being sensational at this stuff because if I am, I'll just get in trouble. So if you have problems with my statistics, let me know. I'm just letting you know now, there is no point in me sensationalizing it. I admit there's margins of evaluation because of margins, how you sort of perceive what aspect of construction or what aspect of people's incomes. It happens to be that construction workers incomes, their rate of increase in the last generation is about the same as most people's incomes and salaries. The rate of increase for salaries for a teacher or a scientist is about the same rate of increase as it is for most construction jobs. Now, having said that, in construction, there are those that are very highly skilled and certified. Right across the street at Red River, to be a red seal, you know, electrician and stuff like that. You know, and what it takes to make sure that your work can span decades and generations if not centuries. It's pretty important. But then you get construction workers...and I've been on both ends. I've been working in construction-related industries that I made more than I do as a city councillor. I've also worked minimum wage in construction as well. Bear in mind, even in certain aspects of construction, more people make minimum wage today than they did 30 years ago in certain aspects. So yeah, there is a whole margin of how to analyze this stuff including all the specific inputs into how you calculate a construction inflation rate. But in general, the rate of construction inflation, the cost of building this infrastructure has increased at ten times higher than people's incomes. The taxpayers have paid for it for the most part. Now, why is that never mentioned in any economic development plan? Isn't it essential in planning for the future, in any of these economic development plans to realize what our limitations are in terms of building that infrastructure? Discussing with the municipalities around us, hey, you know it's not the same as it was when we started off, you know, as young adults. It's not the same anymore. You know, these costs of...well, some might say skyrocketed. I mean, you know, you can pick your words, I don't want to put words in your mouth. I'm not here to offer opinions so much as statistics, facts and some perspective that goes along with it. And so, I'm willing to go along with this because we want to have greater say and greater participation. We say in the name of openness and accountability. In fact, there is greater virtues for why municipalities could have greater input in this. And the virtue of that, as I said again, closer to the people, nimbler maybe and being able to react. What I haven't seen us do is deal openly, transparently, factually with this statistic, and it's not just a statistic. It affects every aspect of our budgeting every day that we're at city hall. Of course, it creeped on us like a frog in a pot. You know, you put a frog in a pot of hot water and it jumps out. Because well, you know what if something went up at ten times…something just sprung up at times the rate...the rate just went like this. Construction costs just went up 10 times in a year. Something like this.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Nason moves extension. All in favour? Contrary? It's carried.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you. So, but you know, when you put a frog in cold water, and you heat the water, the frog stays in there and it boils. That's how I feel we're at. Construction inflation's been a little bit higher than other rates of inflation but that compound inflation rate, year after year, decade after decade, puts it at a point today...we happen to be at a point where we can no longer ignore it. It has to be part of our discussion, our planning in the name of openness and accountability and responsibility. And whatever virtues it is, that municipalities better than provinces can deal with economic development plans for developing this infrastructure. So, I know I'm repeating this stuff, but what are you going to say? It doesn't apply here? It applies to everything. That's the thing about the budgets. Councillor Nason said, I mean, sooner or later, you can't ignore the stuff. It comes back at you. And this is the reality of debt. This is the reality of our taxes. Our taxes are going up at a rate higher than our income. Our construction costs are going up at a rate higher than our revenue. Unless Councillor Nason is wrong, but I back him up. I said, we are increasing our debt, which is interesting because we have to have the discussion because we say municipalities can't go into debt. But here we are selling debentures and things like this and it continues. So, I say to the idea that we are better off dealing as municipalities having more say over these things regarding economic development plans with other municipalities joining us for the metropolitan region, I say, if that is the case, we will no longer ignore these realities that affect our taxpayers every day and are not getting better. Don't leave it to me. This is up to all of us.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. Any further speakers? Seeing none, Mr. Mayor to close.

Mayor Bowman: Sure, Madam Speaker. I will not be speaking about construction inflation. What I will speak is about the motion before us which is quite simple. It asks the Winnipeg Met Region to please provide a draft copy of Plan20-50 when it's available. I'm not aware that any member of this council has seen a draft copy of Plan20-50. And I, for one, would like to see it. I would also like to be given the opportunity as a member of this council along with all of my council colleagues to have an opportunity to vote for it. For…you know, if I think about some of the arguments that we've just heard from at least one member of Council who will be opposing this motion, if we were to have said as a city that OurWinnipeg is available on the website and individuals could just simply have a say over the website, I think members of Council rightly would say, well, that's not acceptable. We should see the plan and we should have an opportunity as a council to vote on it, to be politically accountable, Madam Speaker. And, of course, Plan20-50 we expect will be an overarching plan that will

guide development in Winnipeg and the capital region for the next 30 years. I understand if members of Council don't want the burden of reading and getting advice and being accountable for their votes on this matter. That's their prerogative. They can certainly vote against this. I, for one, am going to continue to strive to get a copy of the plan for every member of Council so every member of Council with the benefit of input from our Public Service can...I'm sorry...if I can continue. I, for one, would like the opportunity for every member of this council to have a say through Council, not necessarily as individuals through a website, but as a council to have a say. And I look forward to having that opportunity to hear from all members of Council regardless of the votes on this particular matter today. So, I'll be obviously supporting it, Madam Speaker. And I would encourage my council colleagues to do the same so that we can make that request to the Winnipeg Met Region. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. With that, I'll call the question on Item 9.

Mayor Bowman: Recorded.

Madam Speaker: Call for a recorded vote. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Nays

Councillors Klein and Nason

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 14, Nays 2.

Madam Speaker: Item 9 passes. Item 10, Mr. Clerk.

Item 10 – Acceptance of Donation from Dr. Donald Reimer

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor, to introduce the item.

Mayor Bowman: I am going to surprise my council colleagues, but I'm going to defer my time to Councillor Mayes if he would like it. I thank Dr. Reimer for his donation and look forward to hearing from my colleague.

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

Councillor Mayes: I'll try to emulate the brevity. Yes, I thought we'd get to this at about 11:30, it's 12 to 3:00. We should all vote for this. Thanks to Dr. Reimer from my ward for putting this forward. It's meant to be a COVID-related one-time initiative. Use this opportunity to thank...I think the Wellness Grants really were the brain child of Councillor Orlikow. And I should thank him for that because that has been I think a great success. City Clerks should take some of the kudos as well for getting it set up. I'm sitting here getting e-mails from the Clerk saying, yes, we've accepted that one and away we go. And you know, it is working. We're getting the money out the door as far as I can tell. We're doing stuff in the COVID winter. It's a one-off thing. It was a good suggestion by Councillor Orlikow. This is in the same vain. Thanks to the…Dr. Reimer from my ward.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. Any further speakers? Seeing none, call the question. All in favour of Item 9, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 15, Nays 0.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Item 9…Item 10 passes unanimously. Next, we will go to a notice of motion. Councillor Eadie, I will ask you to take the Chair so I can address Council as this is my motion.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
NOTICE OF MOTION

Item 1. - Use of Vote Information System

Moved by Councillor Sharma,
Seconded by Councillor Mayes,

WHEREAS openness and transparency in government is paramount;

AND WHEREAS on September 21, 2020, the Executive Policy Committee began using the recorded Vote Information System to record votes;

AND WHEREAS having Members of Council stand to be counted at City Council meetings is the most effective and recognized method of having elected officials show citizens their support or opposition to an item before them;

AND WHEREAS having Members of Council vote via the Vote Information System rather than standing to show support or opposition will create a barrier for some citizens watching City Council proceedings:

AND WHEREAS there has been no official direction or decision from Council to introduce this system at City Council meetings;

AND WHEREAS there has been no formal review of the Procedures By-law to determine if the use of this system aligns with currents rules;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the recorded Vote Information System not be used by Members of Council for City Council meetings until such time as Council votes to implement the system.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Just give me a moment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yeah, and you can open the debate. Sitting as the Speaker, if I may, just take leave after she introduces it so I can concentrate on being the Speaker for the moment. If I could speak after her just to get it out of the way, that would be...my colleagues are okay with that? Okay.

Councillor Sharma: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The motion before us deals with the use of the Vote Information System at City Council meetings and provides for all members of Council to make decisions about its implementation in this chamber. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we know the Voting Information System is currently being used at the Executive Policy Committee and this motion does not attempt to change that. However, I do believe changes to processes for City Council proceedings should be inclusive, open and transparent to all members of Council. Even at EPC, the system is continuing to evolve. For example, there is currently no way for remote councillors to vote using the system. Instead, Clerks must input the vote for councillors joining remotely. While we must use technology to move our city forward, and we have done so in many, many ways, we must ensure that in doing so, we do not create new barriers for citizens. Use of the Vote Information System introduces barriers for those whose first language is not English or for those who need a little more time to understand results that appear quickly on the screen. In the past, these results at EPC have been displayed on the screen for as little as 3 to 5 seconds. More importantly, however, the system we currently use to vote at Council is not broken. Rising to show your support for or against an item is the most effective and recognized method of voting. It is also the clearest way of voting both audibly and visually. I have to say, I am proud that Winnipeg is a diverse city and that so many engage with our civic institutions including our Council meetings. We've made steps towards achieving greater engagement and fairness by creating a Human Rights Committee of Council, which I thank the Mayor for doing so. In fact, at the Human Rights Committee of Council meeting earlier just this week, there was a report on the Newcomer Welcome and Inclusion Policy and Strategic Framework. And in that report, it emphasizes the importance of equity and access and how we offer City services. Looking through this lens, we should lead by example at Council, which is the core of our decision-making process. Over the years I've heard from many Winnipeggers who tune into our Council proceedings through Shaw TV and online. Yes, on Shaw TV. I know one of my colleagues around the chamber was surprised to know

of that the other day and I was happy to share it with them. We also have proceedings on Shaw TV. They have shared how our system of rising to vote allows them to understand voting results vividly as well as to go back through disposition documents to see voting records within hours after the meeting. The same day. Compromising this clarity by introducing a system that has not been studied by the Public Service, has not been presented as a proposal to City Council, has not been debated in this chamber, would create new barriers for civic engagement and is not right. I look forward to hearing your comments on this topic. And I know I've had many offline conversations. I put out an invitation to all members of Council to engage directly with me on this topic. I look forward to your comments. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Great. Thank you for introducing the motion to put a hold on the voting system in the council chamber. Madam Speaker, if you could just take the Chair for about eight minutes, that would be great.

Madam Speaker: And I will recognize you to address Council on this topic.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you. I rise in support of this motion that has been moved by Councillor Sharma and Councillor Mayes as a seconder. I just want to begin by just speaking briefly about my appreciation for innovation, information technology, the programmers because I believe this was totally developed, the voting system within house. And so, I just want them to know I really appreciate. We ran through it. I've tried it out. It is accessible to the voice in terms of being able to hear everything. And so, I just wanted to make that clear first of all. And I guess I'll just speak a little more from a personal perspective on the electronic voting system. It's applied to by-law...at EPC, they're not voting on the actual by-laws which is a different...somewhat different procedure that we follow in the council chamber. And so, quite often we could have like 10 by-laws voting on in series. And it poses...while…again, while it's accessible to know which ones and...you know, but if you want to check off that you're not…you're opposed to one of the by-laws, for example, you know, you have to go through individually when you can't see. So, this system works really good if you can see the whole screen at once, which I believe all my colleagues can. I know some of us may have other eyesight issues, but ultimately, though, when you're totally blind, there is only way to access and it's line by line, not by the screen. And so, it slows you way down. And that was one of the things that I found somewhat cumbersome with the voting system. But again, I just want to demonstrate my appreciation that in-house we know how to create something that is accessible to voice output. And it would be accessible to braille displays and all those things at the same time, but I digress now. I want to talk about innovation and our technology people. You know, I sit on that committee and I hear from the Director from Innovation and I know a number of people I went to college with, one of the IT programmers with the City back...I won't say how long ago, but at Red River College. And, you know, it's great technology. And I hear other councillors talk about how technology is fantastic and it's great way to move forward, it's efficient, but I hate to tell you this, it leaves people behind. There are people, like my mother, like Councillor Sharma's mother who watch Shaw. They don't...well, they don't have the money, my mom doesn't anyway, the money for the technology. She's paying enough for the Shaw feed and that's all she can afford. You know, starting to deal with streaming and having devices. Like, that just isn't…a whole bunch of seniors in our city. I don't know and we don't know who is really watching on Shaw because you don't have to log in. You just turn on that station as long as you have the Shaw service, you get their public access channel that shows it. Bell MTS doesn't have to have a public access channel, so you'll never see that kind of stuff on there. But what we would be doing, when you go with this electronic voting in the chamber, I just...we're going to be leaving people behind. So, we're going to be more open and transparent, accountable for those in technology, but I'm going to end by talking about accountability for one's vote. But I just want to get across the message here that, for example, you know, everybody says, oh, we've got $25,000 in savings because we're not having to post up the bus stop schedules on certain...at certain stops. It's saving us $25,000, isn't that great? It's so efficient. Well, you just cut the service to a bunch of people who are not using those universal codes to get up on their screen when the bus is coming. Like…or to get the full schedule that will take you to a website. Like, really, like it's a cut in service. We're leaving populations behind. And I heard, when we talked about the whole OurWinnipeg plan and stuff, I heard we want to bring everybody along together. So, I just want to leave that out there. And just on terms of the accountability, I…well, again I think you know, technology is great. That's how I do my job. There is new technology. I use voice output. That is technology. It has allowed me to be a city councillor, but when it comes to accountability, there is nothing broken about the votes that happen in this chamber. Nothing at all. I don't...I don't…it works quite well. The Procedures By-law, well, you might argue, you know, you should be able to do more than two amendments to a budget, but you know, we misinterpret and we set precedence in a procedure to say that, well, this clause means this, it doesn't mean that when I read English, honestly, it says...anyway, I'll leave it at that. But really, if there really was anything broken, you can change the Procedure By-law to some degree. And I'll just say it; everybody has a right to call a recorded vote, but you know, like, I hear people say nay. And if more than three people want to be recorded nay against a particular consent agenda item, we'd have a standing count on that one anyway. That's the same thing with the by-law. Right now, the procedure for the by-law, it's pretty smooth. You know, but you know, if we had to start debating each by-law after we debated each report, we'd be here a lot longer. And anyway, I just…I don't think it's broke. Everybody can see. If you're streaming it, you can see how you voted in. You can go into the record we have now. You can either listen to...you can go online and listen to the whole meeting over again if you want. Or our Clerks do a great job in summarizing the votes. And, you know, I think it's fine. Like, I don't see the problem. So, I will be supporting the motion that is on the floor at the moment. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. I will turn the Chair back to you. And Mr. Clerk, you will assist with the list? Councillor Browaty did have his hand up.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yeah, we know. Yeah, okay.

Councillor Sharma: Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I've worked it out with the Clerk. So, Mr. Clerk, can you please let us know who is next to speak to this report or motion?

Clerk: Councillor Browaty is next on the list.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I would like to move layover to the February 28th Council meeting. So, if you want to give me...if I can take three minutes to explain.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I believe then you get three minutes to debate and Councillor Sharma will be able to rebut the three minutes.

Councillor Browaty: Okay. I am now the Dean of this council. One of the things I think that's wonderful about municipal politics is the idea of a consent agenda. Over 90% of what we debate is agreed on mutually. It's a very positive-type place. Do we need to go in and have a specific vote for each and every one of those things? Today, for example, we had wonderful news that in the St. Vital ward, a $10,000 grant for ice skating rinks city-wide was being given to the City of Winnipeg. Do we need to have a recorded specific vote on that item? I don't think it's necessary. It seems to me we're adding the extra process to things that aren't necessary. I do fully, entirely support the notion that every vote that we have in this chamber, we're accountable for. If something passes by consent and you don't record yourself in opposition, it should be searchable. It needs to be recorded differently by the Clerks, and we can do that easily enough without having to go to a vote on every type on consent agenda. Do I…does it matter to me if we stand up or record our votes electronically? No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are you debating the actual motion? You've…

Councillor Browaty: Right now the proposal and what has been presented to us, again, we haven't seen much. I think we need to have a month, thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We need to have until February 28th, to get an explanation as to what the system is exactly going to look like, what changes need to be made to the Procedure By-law, and why we're going down this particular road and what options there are. I think there is a way that we can use an electronic voting system without having to go and vote for every consent item, but still record each vote so that it is machine searchable and learnable. So, I move that we lay this matter over.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right. Councillor Sharma, three minutes.

Councillor Sharma: Councillor Browaty, thank you for that suggestion. I, too, am wondering why there was no information brought forward on this. It's always great to have a fulsome debate, have some documentation, what are the costs, what are the reasons for bringing this in. So, it would have been great to have that here today. We don't have that here today. Mr. Mayor? We don't have that here today. I do support a layover if that's what Council wishes, but in terms of what you said, I'm trying to address the both of you and others, but in terms of what you said, about that it could easily be put in the vote record system, that was something I was going to also be talking about in my close. With the current system that we have, we could put everything in the Record Data Vote System as EPC has done since September. The very same day, within the resources we have in the Clerk's Department. I've done a lot of research on this since, you know, since this came about in September. So, I'm certainly open to a layover because, again, fulsome debate, discussion on a topic like this or anything for that matter as Councillor Orlikow pointed out earlier, we're responsible to the citizens for each decision we make. So, I'm open to layover. This system was just really sort of sprung on us. I certainly haven't had a lot of information come to me as Council Speaker and I don't think many of you in the chamber have received information. Again, I don't want to leave people behind. So, layover, I'm certainly open to it to get information that we deserve and are looking for.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Thank you.

Mayor Bowman: I have a point of order or a question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Oh yes, okay. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: If I could. I'm just wondering if the Clerks, if the layover could be with instructions? For example, members of Council that are trained on the matter. So, just, if I could get that clarity from the Clerks.

Councillor Schreyer: Point of order.

City Clerk: Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, thanks for making your point. I was...I was going to explain to Councillor Sharma that there is no...that there was no instructions. I have a point of order from Councillor Schreyer I heard.

Councillor Schreyer: Yes. Deputy speaker...

Mayor Bowman: Sorry, I have my question for the Deputy Speaker whether or not…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I'll rule…I'll rule in a moment. I'll rule in a moment, Mr. Mayor.

Councillor Sharma: Mr. Clerk, maybe you could address…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I'd like to hear…in order, excuse me. In order, I'd like to hear councillor…the Mayor has made his point. I would like Councillor Schreyer to make his point of order first and then...

Mayor Bowman: Sorry, Deputy Speaker, I was asking a question, it wasn't a point. I just want to know if…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I'll give you a ruling on that.

Mayor Bowman: If the layover could…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Mayor, I'll give you…Mr. Mayor. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Am I able to speak.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Mayor, I'm going to ask…answer to your question, Mr. Mayor, is I will ask Councillor Browaty if he wants to withdraw his without instructions and move one with instructions. Is that satisfactory, Mr. Mayor? Mr. Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Deputy Speaker Eadie. Yes, my point of order was merely to deal with the fact that once it's…the motion to referral is made with or without instruction, decides whether one can speak for three minutes or not was my understanding. So, therefore, the fact that speeches were already made, how does that play into whether now the referral can be with or without instruction?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. Thanks for expressing your point of order. At this point, I'm just going to…there was a motion just to lay it over to our next Council meeting. Councillor Browaty, would you like to withdraw that motion and present a motion with instructions?

Councillor Browaty: Councillor Eadie, I consulted with the Clerk this morning and the advice was a layover motion with instruction needs to be in written form and it is debatable by all of Council. I would think at this point we should get a lot of information. We can do this with just a simple layover and we can have an opportunity to revisit this between now and the next meeting. So, my preference would be just to…sorry, am I not correct?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. Thank you. So…

Councillor Browaty: A layover now would be non-debatable if…the motion that I brought forward. It could be voted up, it could be voted down. If it's voted down, I get eight more minutes to speak and we can deal with this matter right now, or…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I'm going to…

City Clerk: Just in terms of…there is no ability for us to bring any further information forward as a result of a layover. The item simply gets laid over to the February meeting and no further information is presented.

Councillor Browaty: But we can figure it out behind the scene?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That's what I was trying to explain.

City Clerk: You could have a council seminar.

Councillor Browaty: A council seminar or…yes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Don't believe me

Councillor Browaty: Or get training on the system so all members of Council can see (inaudible).

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right, thank you. So, what I'm going to do is, I'm going to call the question. Councillor Sharma, I'm just going to call…I'm going to call the question on the referral because you both presented your three minutes. And for the layover, that's right, layover to the next meeting, that's the motion on the floor. And so, now I'm sure you want a standing count.

Councillor Sharma: Could I request a standing recorded vote. Yes, thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yes. Yeah, thank you. Okay. Excellent. Yes, thank you. Okay so, all those in favour of laying it over to the next Council meeting, please stand up if you can.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Browaty, Gillingham, Gilroy, Mayes, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Nays

Councillors Orlikow, Allard, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Chambers, Klein, Lukes, Nason, Rollins, Schreyer and Mr. Deputy Speaker Councillor Eadie

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Deputy Speaker, Yeas 6, Nays 10.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right, then that is defeated and we will continue debate. Would you like to speak to the motion?

Councillor Browaty: Sure, I guess I was sort of cheating there a little by giving a couple of opinions in my reasons for the layover. But again, the way we've been doing it at EPC where you vote on things that are on the consent agenda, I don't think is really necessary. Again, even on your one computer screen, if you're switching between your agenda notes, I know some members of Council will go and print out, ironically, in terms of the environment and time, they print out every page of every report to have in front of them. I like to do it electronically on the screen, saving a lot of…saving a lot of dead trees. So, now I have to keep flipping between screens to be able to go between agendas. Not a state secret, sometimes I'll check an e-mail or two during a meeting and then I have to go back to the screen to vote. So, I mean, it's less efficient and it's really not the most I think sensible way of having to deal with those consent agenda items. Again, I have no problem using an electronic voting system for…to take over from standing votes if that's what is preferred. I do want each and every vote to appear to be searchable so that we are all accountable for everything that we vote on in this chamber. If it's not a consent agenda, it can be, if you want up to...was it three people I believe can be recorded in opposition before a sounding is done. But again, we still need to adopt changes to the Procedure By-law and that to make this happen. It doesn't feel it was brought forward all that openly if it hasn't…according to Councillor Sharma…or Speaker Sharma, it hasn't been dealt properly at Governance Committee, which I'm not on at this point. But again, I think we need to do a proper way of holding all members of this council accountable for their votes, but I want it to be done in a smart way.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. Thank you, Councillor Browaty. Mr. Clerk, who had their hand up next?

Clerk: Next speaker is Councillor Nason.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Nason, please take the floor…the microphone.

Councillor Nason: I'll stand and be recognized by Deputy Speaker Eadie, thank you. I, you know, I rise on this matter in support. You know, we heard about not being aware of at Governance. I recently ended my two-year stint on Innovation. It was never brought forward at Innovation, either. I'm not aware of how much money has been spent by the Public Service or the Mayor's budget to implement this procedure. We know there was a recent media item which featured the additional monitors that have been installed up in the gallery of this very chamber. And I know recently a member of staff in the Mayor's Office indicated that money spent from his $1.8 million budget went to improve the media centre. And based on his staff member's correspondence that it's exclusive extension of the Mayor's Office. So, I'm wondering, you know, with regards to this Electronic Voting System, you know, not knowing, not seeing any reports of who paid for it. If these monitors that are up in here are his and if that Electronic Voting System has been created, if that's his, we just don't have reports on this. So, I wholeheartedly support the motion that has been put forward by Councillor Sharma. I'm not used to saying Councillor Sharma in this chamber. But Councillor Sharma and seconded by Councillor Mayes, that this does need to be stopped. You know, consent agendas…consent agendas is part of the strong mayor model. It's a way to just get through a whole raft of the agenda when you have a lot of items that are on it. Assumed acceptance of it, right? So, you know, and these are pre-vetted before they come here. So, to have the accounting, I think there is, you know, certainly a way that we can do it better, but you know, the wedge issue that this electronic voting is being put in, it's…you know, we've done it, this is the way to do it, no debate, let's go, I don't think is the way that Council should be approaching this. Thank you, Madam Speaker...sorry, thank you, Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right. Mr. Clerk, who was next?

Clerk: Mr. Deputy Speaker, next speaker is Councillor Klein.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Klein, would you please take the microphone.

Councillor Klein: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know, I know that we often will...like to take little shots at each other and criticize some that have been in the private sector or whatever, but this is embarrassing. I'm sorry. This is just...this is simply embarrassing. We stand and be counted on important issues. The buttons appear to me to be nothing more than political posturing. We can stand and be counted. I don't know what the problem is with that. I don't know why we're looking to put projects in. I mean, let's look around at what is happening here today. We often will hear colleagues use voting patterns of one against another. Why? We're not a party system, I thought. We're all supposed to be collaborative and open and transparent and a team. We have social media posts that will condemn…from assistants, condemning other councillors. Why? I'm not saying I'm innocent. But aren't you tired of it now? Like, I mean, this has been two years for me in this world and, my gosh, really? It's like we should all be sent to our room. Like, it's just enough. Like, why can't we get along? What is the power grab that you're looking for? What is the power that you think that you will gain?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You're directing your speech to me…to me, to the Deputy Speaker.

Councillor Klein: Yes, sir, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay.

Councillor Klein: So, I'm asking through, Mr. Deputy Speaker, don't we have more important things to do? This is about leadership and change right now. I watched Governance this past few weeks, Mr. Speaker, and I heard Councillor Chambers say when discussing the Mayor's expenses and the accountability, something along the lines of, we shouldn't be questioning people's integrity. And Councillor Orlikow on the same topic of the Mayor's expenses and accountability that, don't we have more important things to discuss? Yes. 87 murders in 24 months. That's during our time. Six consecutive years of increased violent crime. Six years of decreased services to residents. Ongoing issues. We can't…we were going to do the North End Treatment Plant, we're not going to do the North Treatment Plant. EPC plus two, EPC plus ten, EPC this. We all get a chance to look at it. No, we don't. Like, but here we are talking about this now. I think…I would think that we have bigger issues to talk about. I would think that we have bigger issues in front of us to address than accountability buttons that truly will be used...turned around and used to say, ah, but this councillor didn't vote on that, because Mr. Speaker, we're a team. We're not divided. That's the benefit of municipal government right, Mr. Speaker? We're all one. We're here for the greater good of the city. We're not here to posture politically. I mean, I support this motion, but there's no need to go forward with this. I'd like to get on to some issues that will actually make a difference.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Councillor Klein. Mr. Speaker, next in order.

Clerk: Next speaker is Councillor Schreyer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. Councillor Schreyer, please take to the microphone.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Deputy Speaker Eadie. I'm in favour of this motion. When I got elected it didn't occur to me that there was an inadequacy in the voting process here. You learn things while you're here. While I've been here, I don't know what it is, you know, that can't be dealt with or resolved within the process that we have. I look through history, I'm trying to figure out, I mean, maybe someone can enlighten us in terms of how a parliament or a legislature outside this chamber such as this would be better? I know they do this in other jurisdictions. That's great. I'm not against the changes…adaptations with technology. I'm not against the intent I guess in terms of the better intent of what this could be, but I don't see the necessity for it. And having said that, given especially what Councillor Eadie has said in terms of accessibility, given what he and Councillor Sharma have said in terms of…well, accessibility due to any physical challenges, but then accessibility due to economic challenges, is what I've heard. And on that basis, I don't see the greater benefit for it. And on that basis, I'm in favour of this motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. Mr. Clerk.

Clerk: Next speaker is His Worship Mayor Bowman.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mayor Bowman. Mayor Bowman, please take to the microphone.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The motion that was brought forward, I appreciate Councillor Klein's comments on why are we spending so much time on this. I, for one, welcome the motion that was brought forward. Councillor Sharma has had dialogue with many of us, myself included, which I appreciate, to raise her concerns about electronic voting and the manner in which it has been or at least was anticipated to have been implemented for this council meeting. Ultimately, when I've…through dialogue with our Speaker, but also in reviewing the motion itself, the motion calls for Council to have a say on this before it's proceeding at Council. On the face of it, I can't see how I could oppose that or any member of Council could oppose that. So, I'll be supporting it. What I'm pleased to hear today is I haven't heard a member of Council outright oppose electronic voting. And that's a good thing. I think it's a good thing for democracy. I think it's a good thing for political accountability. The opportunity that this motion provides with the support of Council is for that dialogue and for that scrutiny to occur so that we can implement it in a thoughtful way in due course. I'm pleased that at Executive Policy Committee, we've been implementing it. It is something...it's different. It takes…it has taken some time with several meetings to get more comfortable with. To those that would say, however, that the status quo is good, and I'm paraphrasing for the purposes of making my point. The…you know, I'll cite one meeting; July 20th, 2011, to make the point. Councillor Swandel, no stranger to some members of Council here, Councillor Swandel introduced the consent agenda item 1 and it was approved by Council. When I look at the written record, I can't determine if it was unanimous, if the majority members of Council approved and maybe one or a number opposed. You'd have to look at the videotape and scrutinize. It's not easy to find and I certainly couldn't do that. And I use this as an example. This was, of course, a vote on the over-expenditure authorization for the redevelopment of the Winnipeg Police Service headquarters building. This increased the combined budget from $127 million to $155 million. It added $12.6 million to the project as an allocation of the portion of the original cost to purchase the Canada Post building. It increased significantly the external debt and also interest charges for the period of construction of $7 million. It was a big vote. There have been…you know, was it a vote at the time that members in hindsight, and I respect all the members at the time who voted, did they recognize that it should be a recorded vote, that people in our community may be interested in the votes on this matter with the benefit of time, with what we've since learned? Obviously not or someone…one would have hoped would have called for a recorded vote. So right now, we don't rise for all votes unless a member of Council asks for it to be recorded. You know who doesn't have the right to call for a recorded vote? Is every other Winnipegger that we serve. And so, I do think that when we talk about political accountability, I think Winnipeggers have a right to know how each of us, and councillors going forward, vote on every single matter. I don't think that it should be up to one of a number of politicians here, myself included for the time being, to call for a recorded vote. And so, if with the benefit of time, we can try to address collectively working with our Clerk's Department who I want to thank for their support and their implementation of it at Executive Policy Committee, with the benefit of time, any and all concerns that can be addressed from an inclusive perspective, from an accessibility perspective, I think that that has merit. And I think…you know, I certainly would welcome opportunities to hear from my council colleagues in due course to try to address any of the concerns they might have. But for me, I want to be very clear that, you know, that certainly, that default right that Winnipeggers should have to know how we vote on each and every vote, I think is something that needs to be addressed. I also appreciate using open data, open government. Winnipeggers can hold us to better account than they can right now by taking a look at, I'll use myself as an example, look at my voting patterns on active transportation, on matters affecting public safety, on accessibility. Look at patterns for councillors. I think that level of scrutiny is something that, if we can strengthen, is a net positive. And I also don't think that we should be afraid to stand behind each of our votes. You know, I think...I appreciate that the comments about rising being the best way to vote. Again, some of us are calling for recorded votes and we'll be doing so going forward to underscore that. Not every member of Council stands for recorded votes. Typically, right now, we have Deputy Speaker serving as Speaker. I don't know if I've seen our Speaker stand for a recorded vote because that's not the system that we have right now. One way and again, all members of Council can be held accountable for their votes, myself included, again is just through that

recorded vote. So, I think the dialogue isn't something that I certainly oppose. I think deferring till when Council is more comfortable proceeding is reasonable. And I think it also gives us some additional time to have the scrutiny that I hear from some that they so desire. And so, I'll be supporting this. I would encourage everybody to do so.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Mr. Clerk, as you call the names of everybody who wants to be recorded in favour or not, could you please let me know who wants to speak next?

Clerk: Yes, next speaker is Councillor Rollins, followed by Councillor Lukes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. Councillor Rollins, please take to the microphone.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Mr. Deputy speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I bet I've called the majority this term of recorded votes. I like a good standing vote, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I really do. Maybe I'm...I didn't call the most, but I think I've called a goodly amount. Most important, I think beyond the inclusion...and I want to thank you for running down some really important elements of how long it takes you to look at a vote and a voting record. Most important, though, I think is the inclusive votes that we do on an inclusive Winnipeg. And those voting records are my focus, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The public is my focus and including a record, the record that speaks volumes when some of us for sure, Mr. Deputy Speaker, don't support issues and others do support issues. Issues that would support the welfare of Winnipeg, specifically, I'm concerned in. I'm also concerned with those that want to quickly ascertain what a councillor is about through their voting record including, potentially, information that could be strategic for advocates to ascertain quickly with respect to our voting records. For instance, in the case of an appeal, that voting record forms a really important part of transparent and open government and it's one that I'm supportive of. With respect to the motion before us, there is a conclusion here that I don't agree with; that members of Council stand to be counted at City Council meetings is the most effective and recognized method of having elected officials. We don't need to choose. I will disagree with the premise of this motion that it is actually a choice. It is not a binary choice today. It's not an either/or. We don't choose to move forward with electronic votings and necessarily have to dismiss standing votes. We could still have that custom and the additional administration of the Electronic Voting System. I see no reason why you couldn't click and stand. However, it's that collection of telephony that I would like to stand in support of today. I see no reason why we couldn't resolve the issues that are contained in this motion. Like I said, it's not a binary choice, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There are customs that we could continue in addition to having the record...the record of votes, the voting record that I so dearly want and will continue to support in terms of the electronic votes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Rollins. Councillor Lukes, please take the microphone.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. So, one of my campaign promises in the 2014 election was to improve communication between the area councillor and constituents. I've worked hard to deliver on that over the past six years. Some constituents are interested in what occurs at city hall and like to receive information through the perspectives of their area councillor. Many constituents like to receive City information directly relative to their community and neighbourhoods and not the big picture. I put out a regular e-news letter. I'm on virtually all social media platforms, keep my website regularly updated and I've recently started sharing short videos, albeit cheesy, but short videos to improve communication with residents. Following significant votes at city hall, I often write a blog on the issue and how I voted and post far and wide on my communication platforms. Residents in the Waverley West Ward know I'm always willing to discuss any topic they are interested in and how I've voted. I welcome having my vote recorded in any format on every issue. Of course, absolutely, every citizen deserves to know how we vote. But on that same note, I'd like to point out that every councillor deserves equal access to information to make an informed vote, and that absolutely does not occur here. Councillor Sharma has had the role of Speaker since 2013, over seven years. She oversees a very dynamic group of people, passionate about issues and maintains excellent decorum in the council chamber. As Speaker, she steers the ship on Council day. And today, she brings valid points forward. Incorporating technology is important in moving our city forward and innovation is one of the keys to our city's success. But as Councillor Sharma noted, nothing is broken. Nothing has been studied by the Public Service. No report has come forward on the topic. And we seem to be voting on reports with...we seem to be doing a lot of voting on reports that aren't comprehensive, I will add to that. There seems to be concerns about equity. There is no concern…and there is a concern about the Procedural By-law, nothing has debated by Council. And what I think is really somewhat hypocritical is that this desire for change has not been presented at all in an open and transparent manner to Council. And what I find really disappointing, just incredibly disappointing and really disrespectful, is this was not at all discussed with the Speaker at all. I see this as another ram and jam and get 'er done approach to changing an institutional process that has been occurring in the chamber since the formation of our city with no due diligence or discussion. And many of us can reflect on some very costly ram and jam and get 'er done approaches that have been presented by leadership at city hall. I will be supporting the motion in front of us today and welcome a proper approach to introducing something new in the chamber.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Lukes. Mr. Clerk, do we have anybody else who wants to speak?

Clerk: Next speaker is Councillor Mayes, followed by Councillor Santos.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. Councillor Mayes, please take to the microphone.

Councillor Mayes: Thanks, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Lots of good debate on this. Lots of respectful debate. No one has said, well, if you vote against this, you're against the openness and transparency or if you vote for this, you're against openness and transparency. All those debates we have, one can see different debates as you criticize the other side for not being open enough. I've voted for some, I've voted against some, but let's leave all that aside. I think that's...my hope is...today I was quoted in the paper saying, "My hope is that the Mayor and Councillor Sharma could work something out." We can continue to hope something can be worked out on this. I will say, yes, as Councillor Lukes said, Councillor Sharma has been the Speaker now for seven years. I don't even think challenged the last several years in that role. Takes great pride and consideration about what happens in this room. On the other hand, you know, the…I've had people say to me, well, why does the Mayor put forward these ideas from his platform? Why did he put forward that amendment to election financing? He lost like 14 to 2. Why did he do that? And I said, I don't think you can fault him for that. I kind of admire it. I think it's the ex athlete or the athlete that you want…you want to check things off. You ran on it, you want to do it. I have my leaflets from all of my campaigns on a bulletin board in my office to try and remind me of what I ran on. So, I don't fault anyone for saying, I ran on this, I want to try to do it. I don't…I don't have it in me to say that's politically unwise or untoward. I have to say, I do sympathize with what a couple of people have said which is, what is broken? And, I mean, people generally...anyone paying attention will see you rise on a vote. The Clerk reads out your name and then the total is given at the end. People can follow that. I know what the vote was on Starlight. I lost as Councillor Orlikow occasionally reminds me, quite rightly. I know the vote on the police pension. I lost on that one. I know the vote on the Goldeyes. I won on that one. But those are recorded votes. We somehow were able to do that using the current system. I won some, I lost some, but we know the results. We had a mechanism to deal with it. On the other hand, the Mayor does have a good example of something we do need to work on or think about, July 2011. I thought I'd been defensive about that meeting for the last time several years ago, but once…but I have to say again, I wasn't here. I wasn't elected then. But yes, there is a vote. It's a big major issue. It's at the end of a July agenda. It's a consent item. Nobody pulls it, the vote goes through. We could say that happened earlier today, and it did. Nothing nearly as big as the police headquarters vote. I do think it's incumbent on people if they oppose it to pull it. Or to say, no, I was not in favour of number whatever. I know only three people voted against the condo bribe as it was described in about 2013 as Councillor Orlikow and me and Councillor Wyatt because we all didn't pull it, but we all said, I opposed it. I had done the same at EPC. I didn't want to make a big deal of it. I didn't want to try and embarrass anybody, but I felt opposed to it. What is another example of where there are problems to the current system? And the Mayor is right. And ironically, neither of these examples comes from 2014 or later. I remember sitting here debating something, I spoke against it, then Councillor Havixbeck spoke against it. Well, voice vote was called. One of reporters said later, all we could hear was your voice. We couldn't…did she vote against it or not? We couldn't hear like a female…was I so loud and so whatever the hell it was? I was so worked up about it. I was so loud it drowned everyone else out. Still, I think she could have recorded her no vote and perhaps she did later. I may have recorded mine or I may have just left it as a voice vote. So, there is a point there that, well, should the reporters be calling you saying, well, she said she was opposed, but we didn't hear her voice. That's a fair point. We need to try and clear that up. If you feel strongly about something, you do have the ability to pull it. You do have the ability, as Councillor Browaty said, to register and if more than three people do, back we go. We do a standing vote. So, I don't think anything is particularly broken. On the other hand, one can find some examples of…there is a problem if someone is calling you from up in the gallery up there and saying, did she vote against that, we couldn't hear? So, we do need to keep looking at this I think. So, I'm in…I will support the motion. Thanks to Councillor Sharma for raising it. It's not a life-or-death issue, I agree. But to the Mayor's credit, it's something he ran on, he's trying to implement. Let us hope we can work something out here. More delay at these meetings is probably not a good thing, but we do probably need to clarify some of those things like that vote in 2011. Okay, who…if everyone was for it, you have to assume everyone was for it, nobody pulled it and no one can come back later and say, well, in the voice vote...I mean, we do need some ability to clarify that. I think we can do that within our current system though. That's probably too much from me, but again, hopefully we can work something out here. I know it's an important issue to Councillor Sharma who has really done a fine job, I think, as our Speaker over the years and the Mayor is trying to do what he ran on, and I respect that a great deal. So hopefully, we can come to some conclusion on this in the months to come.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. Mr. Clerk, I did forget who is next in queue.

Clerk: Councillor Santos, followed by Councillor Allard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. Councillor Santos, please take the microphone.

Councillor Santos: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I'm having some challenges with this motion. And I believe its intentions are good, however, I don't think we've arrived at the solution yet. I'm hesitant to vote for this motion, but I'm also hesitant

to vote against it. I am in support of increased transparency in the voting process and I am in support of increased accessibility in the voting process. The Mayor's proposed solution improves our transparency, but as we all have discussed here, it's not accessible for all Winnipeggers. I believe with more conversation and collaboration, we can have both. We're hearing some really good points on both sides of this motion. And I believe we can work together to investigate and find a better solution that meets our needs for all to have clear and fair access to the information. This proposed system isn't fully accessible for some of our friends and councillor colleagues as Deputy Speaker Councillor Eadie had mentioned. We also have many newcomer residents and Winnipeggers where English is not their first language. I also have many residents in my ward who do not have access to an iPad or a cell phone and rely heavily on radio or TV to access information. Accessibility access should have been consulted with in this process to both increase our transparency and increase our accessibility at the same time. They're not mutually exclusive. I was hopeful and believed we could have worked together with this motion in it's currently drafted. I supported the layover which, unfortunately, was defeated. So possibly at another time, another motion can come forward at a later date requesting a report back to Council to have these issues properly considered with due diligence towards a solution that incorporates public accessibility guidelines for all to access our voting process. I believe there is a solution that can support an electronic voting system, while also meeting accessibility needs not only for our visually impaired council colleagues, but also to those who watch from home with other needs we haven't yet considered. I am concerned about this motion as it is. We have not seen any reports on this, nor have we consulted with outside stakeholders who could have provided valuable insight. In my own consultations on this topic, many fellow councillor colleagues have also expressed concerns about accessibility of this program. In my own office, even my own EA and, personally myself as an EA, we know how difficult it is to research without the record on the vote in past issues that have come forward to Council and committees. So obviously, we know there are a few more details that we need to work through. With more time, we could have considered all the issues from a more collaborative perspective to ensure that the policy we are making here is truly the best solution to meet all our needs. So it's unfortunate we could not lay this over, but I think we can still have a better and inclusive solution towards transparency and accessibility in our voting process. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Santos. Again, who is up next? Please, take the microphone.

Clerk: Councillor Allard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Allard, yes.

Clerk: Followed by Gilroy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Sorry. Okay. Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Hello, colleagues. I'll be speaking in French and...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Your microphone is a little too low. We can't really hear you, Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Is that better?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yes, thank you.

Councillor Allard: Okay. So, I understand the interpreter is there, I would like to speak French for these remarks.

Translation of French Spoken:

Councillor Allard: So, I appreciate the debate today because it's Council who will decide if we proceed or not with electronic voting and votes that are recorded for each vote that we have at Council. Personally, I think it's a good initiative. I think we should go forward with it. I think that approving this proposition, it recognizes that Council is supreme and it's us that should be making the decision. But at the level of implementation, I think it's very important that the public can access to our votes, what decisions we approve or not. And at the moment, it's like some of my colleagues have explained, it can be very difficult to see if a councillor approves a proposition or not. So, in the spirit of improving the transparency of Council, I think this could be a good thing. Yes, there are maybe some things that need to improved in our actual system, but I think we should start somewhere. So, for now, I will approve today's proposition, but I really think that I can't see anything negative in having a system where we record the votes each time. I think it's something that members of the public have been waiting for. I think they will be shocked to know that it wasn't something that was already done. So, I will support this proposition for now, but I don't really see the big problem with the idea that we should record the councillor votes so we can be more accountable for our decisions. So, thank you for your attention. I support this proposition today, but I don't' really see the big problem and I don't know how much time we've spent debating this question, but for me, it's

clear that we should always know who voted for what. And if we're missing votes, it's also an indication of performance as well, so why not have that information for members of the public. So, thank you for listening to me today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right. Councillor Gilroy, I think it was.

Clerk: Yes, followed by Councillor Chambers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: By Chambers? Okay.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is a really great debate and I've really enjoyed hearing the different sides to this. I did support laying it over, but if that's not the case and we're voting on it here today, I will be supporting it because I just think we should try it. Like, I think…I don't think that there's any reason we shouldn't try it. And if there are some issues that come out of trying it, we can always change things. I can go off just from my own experience, I think it's helped me to be able to see the question right in front of me. Sometimes you're not sure. Somebody's put a new motion forward, you're not really sure what that question is. You're…you know, you have to ask the Clerks over and over again. When it's clear and written out in front, it's more concise and easier I feel as a councillor to be able to sometimes do my job. And I think that at first, it will be a struggle for us to learn something new. I think learning something new is not easy, but I do think that it does make it more accountable. I think there are ways that we can ensure that the Clerk calls it out, so maybe there's ways that we can make sure that if people were just listening, they can hear it as well. I think those are things that we can look at and hopefully improve on. And I look forward to more of this dialogue. And I think that people raised a lot of good points. But I guess in terms of me, I'm dyslexic, so having that written out in front of me is sometimes easier for me to do my job. So, we can debate it on both sides of it, so I guess I have to look at my own experience. And I do think that the public should know the vote. So, I don't think it's clear. And I don't think there is anything bad about that. I get people calling me from my own ward asking me if I supported something and I think that should be clear. So, I guess I did support a layover because I think there could have been more opportunities for us to learn from one another, opportunities for the Clerk's to hear some of the concerns, or maybe even an opportunity for other councillors to try it for themselves. It does…you know, you do get used to it, but it…you know, it does go faster each time you do it. So, that's my thought on the topic. Thanks.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gilroy. Councillor Chambers, take the mic.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair or Deputy Speaker. I rise today just kind of concerned that we haven't been able to find common ground with respect to one motion or the other on this matter. We spent a lot of time debating and that's what we were sent here to do, to debate different issues and create policy that drives our city forward. And in terms of some of the comments that I heard, I've got to agree with some of them. What Councillor Klein said, what Councillor Rollins said, what Councillor Mayes said. But I think what we're…where we're at right now is that this is about a personal victory as opposed to looking at the needs of the citizens of Winnipeg. And that's what our primary focus should be. So, that's where we need to set aside our differences and come to a consensus and common ground so that we can move what we…how we do to move our policy directions forward. This is how we do it. And it should be a simpler matter than this. There is a mechanism whereby, you know, we vote consent agenda on certain items. And for those meatier issues, we call for recorded votes. In my opinion, in the last 100 and some odd years of our council or our city, and I believe it was mentioned this morning how long we've been a council, that's the process that we've been using. And it's not broken. It seems to be working. Recognizing that technology is advancing us and moving forward, but we also recognize that there are those among us that don't have the technology, can't use the technology or have accessibility issues that we also need to be mindful of. So, again, there was every opportunity leading up to this for parties to come together to try to find common ground, to debate out those issues outside of this forum, bring it here. We don't have information from our Public Service with respect to costs, functionality, scale-ability, all of those issues. That's the mechanism or the standard that I've been used to since being elected here, is getting a report from the Public Service to weigh in on these matters and provide us with recommendations. And without seeing that, I…you know, it's difficult for me to support this moving forward. So, at this point, I am considering the motion brought by Councillor Sharma and I will say it, I am disappointed that we haven't had...or that the parties were not able to come together and to get that common ground and move this forward. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Chambers. Mr. Speaker, was there anybody else to speak? Or is Councillor Sharma going to close?

Clerk: I don't have any other speakers on the list, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Great. Okay, Councillor Sharma to close, please.

Councillor Sharma: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I want to begin by thanking Councillor Mayes for supporting this motion by seconding it. We had a conversation in December just a short while before the notice of motion was brought before Council and he really got what I was saying when I brought up the accessibility, not leaving people behind. And that was actually crystalized for me just recently in a conversation I was having with Councillor Gillingham during budget time and we somehow got on this topic. And that's when, really, it came together for me about why this is such an issue about equity and accessibility. So, I thank you, Councillor Gillingham for that conversation we had that day. What I'm hearing today, I heard many things, and I appreciate all the comments. I've heard that it's important, and I agree that the public knows how Council votes. That already happens. I've done a lot of research on this topic because I have been left to my own devices. There was ample time to share information. And I don't like to be combative, but I want to be very direct on the points I'm making here today. And I couldn't agree more with Councillor Chambers in his statement there. There was ample time to share information. I would have loved to have collaborated on this and get the facts, the costs, where one is coming from as to why we need this system. That did not present itself and for that, I'm disappointed. But in terms of our current system, we have a disposition of items, okay. The public can look into that system and see how Council voted. Further to that, the Mayor has mentioned, you know, public should have the ability to see how each vote is made, even consent votes. That all, consent votes, recorded votes can be put into the vote record system very easily with the resources that we currently have. I have looked into this all. I've spent time on the website. I've spent time looking at the Executive Policy Committee meetings and how...what flashes on the screen, for how long, what's being said in the background, dead noise to begin with and we evolved into other things. I've been spending a lot of time, my hours, looking into that. So, I'm well aware and was well prepared to address Council today on this topic. We…you know, I'd be open to further discussions, but we do not want to leave people behind. We have a system that is not broken. Our current system is not short on openness and transparency. And I just explained, and I want to underscore, information can be easily, easily, very easily placed into the vote record system. Okay? Go online, have a look. Each vote from today, from December's meeting can easily be put in there. Consent votes; if there's folks that want to be recorded in opposition, I have loud and clear been saying that, especially over the last year. So, three can be recorded in opposition. After that, we go to an automatic standing recorded vote. All of that information can easily under the current resources be placed in the vote record system. And while there are examples in other cities where voting buttons are used, you know, I've read that in the media, there are also many cities that do not use the electronic voting system. Ottawa with 23 councillors and a mayor, does not use it. Regina, Saskatoon, Victoria does not. Halifax does not. I could go on. But I don't think we have to do what works best for other cities. We must do what works best for Winnipeg. Councillor Eadie, I agreed with your sentiments, you know, we do not want to leave people behind. And we should be leading by example, especially in this chamber. I want to close by what Councillor Browaty said, I want it to be done in a smart way. I would like to add, in a compassionate way. We have a lot of different people to serve. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Sharma. I'm going to call the vote. Does somebody want recorded? Okay. I don't know if the Deputy Speaker can call a recorded vote, but anyway. All right. So, all those in favour of motion on holding off on the voting buttons, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Deputy Speaker, Yeas 16, Nays 0.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. That's unanimous. There you go. Yes, Mr. Clerk?

Councillor Nason: Sorry, I rose on a point of order because I had saw the Speaker standing...the Deputy Speaker standing for it to be recorded in the vote and then it was recorded after. I just want clarity if he voted twice.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That's procedure, thank you, Councillor Nason. And I heard that, you know, the Speaker doesn't stand, but you know what, I've been sitting in this chair for a few hours now. I want to stand. Anyway, thank you. And I will turn the Chair back over to Madam Speaker. We have...I think we have a motion that's to go to EPC, automatic referral.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'll take the Chair back. We have Motion No. 4, under Executive Policy Committee. It's moved by Councillor Nason and seconded by Councillor Klein. It's regarding standing committee composition. And that will be an automatic referral to the Executive Policy Committee. We have Motion 5. And that is moved by Councillor Lukes and seconded myself. It's an automatic referral to the Executive Policy Committee. It's in

regards to public online tracking mechanism. It's an automatic referral. We'll now move on to by-laws. Mr. Mayor, by-laws, please.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
MOTIONS

Motion No. 4
Moved by Councillor Nason,
Seconded by Councillor Klein,

WHEREAS the current composition of Standing Policy Committees has a membership of four members.

AND WHEREAS the current Standing Committees do not have a required representation of the five Winnipeg Community Committees.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Governance Committee of Council undertake a composition review to determine a Community Committee focus on Standing Committee composition being in the 2021 restructuring and implement the following:

1. *Provide change to governance to include that a representative on each Standing Committee from the five Community Committees be required;*

Motion No. 5
Moved by Councillor Lukes,
Seconded by Councillor Sharma,

WHEREAS Council and committees regularly direct the Winnipeg Public Service to report back on a matter within a certain timeframe;

AND WHEREAS due to the large number of requests for reports, it can be difficult to keep track of when reports are expected back, especially if extensions of time are granted;

AND WHEREAS the Winnipeg Public Service currently maintains internal tracking documents for these pending reports, as well as items which have been laid over by Council and committees;

AND WHEREAS the Council Policy on Open Government states that "citizens are entitled to know about, and have access to, government proceedings and documents. That knowledge and access must be granted in a manner which allows for meaningful public participation in the civic decision-making process."

AND WHEREAS having access to a public tracking mechanism for outstanding reports / matters would not only be advantageous for both citizens and members of Council, but would further increase the heightened level of openness and transparency of the City of Winnipeg;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to create a public online tracking mechanism for items which Council and / or committees have laid over or requested the public service to report back on, excluding matters which are in camera.

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

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that the following by-laws be read a first time: By-law 119/2020, By-law 120/2020, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Councillor Nason, you're recorded in opposition? Councillor Klein voted in opposition…recorded in opposition. Councillor Eadie, did I hear something from your area?

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, I was just trying to explain to Councillor Chambers that the by-law...you do have the right to say nay.

Madam Speaker: Yes. So, two are recorded in opposition. All in favour? Contrary. That's carried. Mr. Mayor.

Clerk: By-law No. 119/2020, By-law No. 120/2020.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Councillor Klein and Councillor Nason recorded in opposition to?

Councillor Klein: Favour of 120/2020.

Madam Speaker: Got it, thank you. Contrary? Carried. Mr. Mayor.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – 2ND AND 3RD READING

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that By-law 133/2020 be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Councillor Nason recorded in opposition to By-law 133. I'm sorry, Councillor Klein, recorded in opposition to 133/2020.

Clerk: By-law No. 133/2020

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that By-law No. 133/2020 be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Councillor Klein and Councillor Nason recorded in opposition to the third reading. Carried. Mr. Mayor.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS -

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that the following by-laws be read a first time: By-law 1/2021, By-law 2/2021, By-law 3/2021, By-law 4/2021, By-law 5/2021 and By-law 13/2021.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 1/2021, By-law No. 2/2021, By-law No. 3/2021, By-law No. 4/2021, By-law No. 5/2021, By-law No. 13/2021.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Oh, pardon me. Back to you, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Yeah, no problem. I move that the By-laws No. 1/2021 to 5/20212021 both inclusive and By-law 13/2021 be read a second time, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? It's carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 1/2021 to 5/2021 both inclusive and By-law No. 13/2021.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thanks, Madam Speaker. I move that the rule be suspended and By-laws No. 1/2021 to 5/2021 both inclusive be read a third time and that the same be passed…and By-law 13/2021 be ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. We'll now get into question period for Mayor. Any questions for Mayor Bowman? Councillor Eadie.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Eadie: Listen, I wasn't going to ask Madam Speaker, but the Mayor brought up a vote that happened in July of 2011, which we were a member of that Council, and I'm just wondering if the Mayor understands that it may not have been a unanimous decision, but ultimately, at that point in the Winnipeg Police Headquarters project, I'm wondering if the Mayor understands that it was at that point they had, supposedly, the final estimate as to what it was going to cost to renovate a building that was already purchased, had agreements and signed off to purchase the Canada Post Building. And it wasn't until…it wasn't really controversy until it blew up and they needed another $20 million, then they needed another $23 million, on and on, we could go and which you would have found that people would have been clearer maybe. I don't know if you understand that Mayor, that that's what was going on at that point in time?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Clarity is not something that I think any Winnipegger has fully when it comes to the Winnipeg Police Service Headquarters. That clarity would have been obtained to a much greater extent if and when the Province calls a public inquiry to…to look into that matter. I can say, I've once again corresponded directly to the Premier of Manitoba, asking for Council's direction on that matter to be fulfilled. I've also requested a meeting with him to discuss that topic. I appreciate you raising that particular vote because you are correct, it is not easy to obtain by the written record who voted for or against that consent agenda item. I don't know if someone went to the bathroom conveniently at that time or went to grab some water or went to have a smoke. We…it is difficult to…to obtain that information. And I raised that simply to point out that the…the default is…is not for votes to be identifiable when they are consented. Again, only up to elected officials and only elected officials that have that right to choose to allow the public to know on an identifiable basis how we vote. And so, the…you know, when you talk about matters that we inherited that certainly…I am…I'm certainly…as a taxpayer and as mayor, upset me, the Police Service…the Police Headquarters scandal is one that we continue to try to clean up. And I appreciate Councillor Eadie's question on this. I also appreciate his efforts on this topic and support over the last number of years to do our best to get to the bottom of it including his support for the…for, of course, the public inquiry. But I…I raise that matter as simply one of many examples I could have raised, where it's not easy for the public to identify how people voted and…and to again, of course, and I'm not speaking about that specific vote because I recognize there were members still here that may feel they…they rightfully didn't have all of the information and I am…I'm not raising it to…to judge the individuals who voted, but rather, to speak to the…the matter that we were just attending to, which was the need for improvements so that we can all be held accountable for our votes.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, and just, Madam Speaker, I'm wondering if the Mayor also understands that the improvements have been made to be more open and transparent when it comes to a number of issues. But I'm wondering if the Mayor would agree that when…when reports on the headquarters were coming forward in the debate, we never actually heard about the mis-goings on, so how would one be able to vote appropriately? We're not allowed to abstain from a vote in this Chamber. And if I knew what was going on behind the scenes, I would say, I don't want to vote on this at all.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Madam Speaker, if I could just ask our Deputy Speaker, if he can just clarify the question? I want to make sure I'm doing my best to answer.

Councillor Eadie: The question is, would you…like, the question is, I'm saying that we're more open and transparent now. But when a councillor votes on a report item, if they don't know all of the information, how are you...how are you supposed to be held accountable for your vote if you don't…you're not allowed to abstain? Would you agree that is a difficulty?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Yeah, no I would agree. I mean, of course, that's one of the reasons why I want to get…and I'm pleased a majority of members of Council supported the…the effort to get draft Plan20-50 before this council, so that we could be better informed, actually read it and then provide our input. So, I…I would agree with my council colleague.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Seeing none, let's move on. The Standing Policy Committee on Innovation and Economic Development. We'll go right into question period as there's no reports. Councillor Chambers.

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
QUESTION PERIOD**

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you, I'd like to ask the Chair of Innovation and Economic Development, a question with respect to economic recovery. As the Province rolls out its vaccine program to immunize and protect Manitobans and Winnipeggers against COVID-19 virus, and as we reach herd immunity in the next several months, our attentions must be focused on restarting our economy and utilizing innovative ideas to assist businesses in gaining confidence to move forward. The most recent budget updates provided an Economic Develop Office...Economic Development Office to assist in the recovery plans. Can the Chair provide an update with respect to the status of that office and when he may foresee this office being engaged in critical discussions that position…positions Winnipeg businesses to recover and move forward? Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Through you to my colleague; again, so much of this is going to depend on health decisions, the rollout of the viruses here in Manitoba, and again, and how we need to respond to the eventual re-opening. You know, as of this week, it appears that every Manitoban in a long-term care-type facility, nursing home, is going to have their first shot of the virus. Within 28 days later for the Coronavirus, they will have received that second one, and then I think some period after that they're supposed to have immunity. When you look at the facts, across Canada, 72% of fatalities have been people in that type of living arrangement. Will there be an opportunity come, you know, Q2 this year to have a fairly broad opening? I don't know. I'm not a medical expert, but that possibility is out there. So, how that's going to play out is going to make a big difference as to how this year's going to look. Again, we've had, you know, information from our City Economists at some of the meetings of the Economic and Innovation Committee, and I expect that we're going to see more of that coming forward. In terms of the Budget 2021 piece that this council passed just last month, I have been assured by the CAO that they're at the final edits of the potential job description for that new Economic Office that's going to sort of work with, you know, sort of across jurisdictions, whether it's Water and Waste, Public Works, but sort of based out of Property and Development, but according to the CAO, my understanding is that that position description is supposed to be ready eminently. And I've asked the CAO if perhaps that could be shared with the committee or again, it was a political request in this year's budget that was funded by this council. So, we'll have that discussion in the weeks ahead.

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

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Through you Madam Speaker, again, I ask will there be an opportunity to have a council session to provide the broad strokes of what the intent of the Economic Development Office, the services that the Economic Development Office will provide to towards economic recovery here in the City of Winnipeg?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Through you again to my colleague, in terms of the economic recovery, again, the City is doing what it can. The grant program that was passed in the Budget 2021, I understand has had a pretty good subscription. I know Finance Chair Gillingham can probably give you some more specifics if you wanted to ask during Finance Question Period. In terms of that Economic Office, whether there's going to be a council seminar or if perhaps maybe some level of reporting to the Innovation and Economic Committee that I know my colleague is on. There's certainly going to be some opportunities for this to be more public and to have that discussion of how that role perhaps could play into the economic recovery going forward.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's a relatively a simple question, again, as recently completed my stint on IED and…and that of Finance. Is there any possible way that the Chair can articulate a more Winnipeg-focused guess because when we get these economic updates, it's on the Capital Metro Area as provided by Stats Canada? Is there…is there a way to get a more Winnipeg-centric view of these economic data points that we have?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Madam Speaker, through you to the…to my colleague, our colleague, I can certainly check with the City Economist to see if there is any opportunity to further drill into that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions for our chair? Seeing none, let's move on. Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development. Councillor Gilroy, on the report dated January 18th, 2021.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
DATED JANUARY 18, 2021

Councillor Gilroy: Yes, Madam Speaker. I would like to move adoption of consent agenda Items 1 through 8 and 10 to 14. Item 9 has been laid over at Executive Policy Committee.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes, No. 14? I will call the question on 1 through 3, 5 through 8, Item 10, 12 and 13. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Madam Speaker: None opposed?

Councillor Eadie: I didn't hear Councillor Chambers name called.

Madam Speaker: Yeah, we'll just give the Clerks a moment. They…

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 15, Nays 0.

Madam Speaker: That is passed. Okay, Councillor Gilroy.

Clerk: Item No. 4.

Madam Speaker: Oh, pardon me. Yes, Item No. 4.

Item 4 – Proposed Acquisition of 425 Osborne Street (Imperial Oil Site)

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gilroy to introduce the item.

Councillor Gilroy: I will wait to hear from my councillor colleague. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you. I will be quick. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development who, I believe, did accurately express within the context of the debate of this item at the time my concerns around the City's acquisition of 425 Osborne Street. In particular, creating a surface parking lot and the potential for difficulty of the pedestrian space on south Osborne. And so, I…while I will be, you know, continuing my opposition to all of that, I want to acknowledge the comments of my councillor colleagues on the committee in protecting the ward, in particular south Osborne, and the pedestrian space and really understanding where it was coming from on this item. I am not opposed to expansion of transit. As a matter of fact, I routinely vote to secure that transit budget and more. So, it's for…I am a protective ward councillor, however, so I want to stand in opposition to a surface parking lot.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Councillor Gilroy, back to you.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. There was quite a lot of dialogue on this at the committee. This is an important piece of land that the City will need to acquire to build...to help make some changes at our transit station. I know that there was concerns raised from the councillor…ward councillor on it being a surface parking lot. We're hoping for not too long because eventually they will want to build on the site and there will need to be some work done to the site in order

to get it ready, but the councillor's comments were duly noted. And we're hoping to make sure there is some landscaping done to appease some of the concerns that she had raised. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. With that, I will call the question on Item 4. All in favour, please rise. There's a call for a recorded vote from the Mayor.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Nays

Councillor Rollins

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 15, Nays 1.

Madam Speaker: Item 4 passes. Next is Item 11.

Item 11 – Creating Affordable Housing Opportunities in Housing Improvement Zones

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gilroy, to open.

Councillor Gilroy: I will wait to hear from my councillor colleague on this. I think Councillor Eadie has asked to pull it. And I look forward to hearing from him. He knows all too well about the importance of these kind of projects. So, I'm looking forward to hearing the discussion.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I guess I'll start off with…there's a number of us colleagues on Council here who are trying to make affordable housing happen in the city and trying to end the homelessness situation, but also to try to improve our neighborhoods by having new development rather than decay and boarded up houses and so on, which we don't want, Madam Speaker. And this particular initiative is one good way in which Councillor Gilroy was brought forward an amendment to sell the lots to HOP. And I think there's nine lots all together selling for $1. With not just HOP, but other organizations building affordable housing. Lots for $1. I note that a lot of them were in my ward, but we have the housing improvement zones which are West Broadway, Spence, Centennial, William Whyte and north Point Douglas. Is that five? Now, Madam Speaker, I really appreciated the discussion and debate that I heard in regard to moving ahead with this motion that I think we should all support. But one item that I wanted…when you talk about this, these housing improvement zones, you know, just a little history on that. You know, West Broadway, I am not sure…they are doing really well, Madam Speaker, West Broadway. And some question as to whether or not maybe the resources that we try to focus on West Broadway could be better sent down to, for example, neighborhood in St. Vital where we know there is a lot of people living in poverty and experiencing, you know, those difficult issues related to living in poverty. And so, what I am hoping came out of that discussion and debate may be, and I didn't bring a motion, but maybe we should be looking at more housing improvement zones because there are more than just the five. And then, at what point…what point do you measure to say it doesn't really need to have this status anymore? It is doing well. For example, north Point Douglas, while it is not quite there yet, Madam Speaker, I have to say, like, that neighborhood, the prices of houses are going up like crazy because people want to live there. So, it is very interesting. So, at some point we should be able to try to figure out how to measure at what point can we say we have had success and move to other areas where we are having situations with the city? So, I wanted to point that out. And I also heard a very good suggestion from Councillor Klein who was talking about 99-year leases if you are going to build affordable housing and that way the City would have a fair amount of control. And there are examples around the city where they have used this kind of lease agreement, which can get really sticky. Councillor Schreyer has a…I think it's a housing co-op, I think, or seniors' housing, anyway, affordable seniors' housing near a riverbank that's ready to fall into the…ready to fall into the river, right. So, there is a lot of controversy, where is the money coming from? How are we going to protect that building? And technically, the City still owns the land because we are leasing it. In…there is a place called the Hope Centre in my ward, which used to be under a long-term lease, but they ran into a bunch of problems when they were trying to improve the property. And there was a number of issues that they were looking at dealing or maybe moving to a different location, say on Selkirk Avenue or whatever. So, these leases, they can cause problems as well as provide means, you know, of $1, 99-year lease. You know, that is great. So, Madam Speaker, I mean, it's an idea, but you know, ultimately, when the goal is home

ownership rather than some kind of rental or co-op kind of concept, it is best to just sell the lots for $1. It really is. And you know, the checks and balances with the organization, of course, HOP has a long-term track record, Madam Speaker, of building, you know, affordable housing. You know, actually, in my ward I just can't believe the prices, Madam Speaker. Like, it is going up, the appraised values, the market values are going up like crazy. We are not doing an assessment for '22. What's going to happen in…if we are doing a reassessment in 2023, you know, there's going to be a lot people who don't have large incomes and their property taxes are going to go sky high. Sky high. Because their share of the pie is going to go crazy. But anyhow, I don't want to get into that issue at this time, but it is going to happen. Trust me. Like, I can't believe the prices. Like, houses that I think are worth like…were worth about 250, they are selling for 310 for a 600 square foot house. Like, whoa. Like, it's…anyway, Madam Speaker, I am sorry, I was just amazed at the prices I am hearing because my son is looking at buying his first home. And it just…and he wants to live in the same neighborhood that he currently lives in or close by. So, anyway, I digress. So, anyway, this is very important, this report. This is bringing back neighborhoods like William Whyte. There's opportunities, I know Habitat, they feel that north Point Douglas is doing much better. So, they have done a…purchased a number of lots there. But Habitat hasn't purchased a market value lot in William Whyte for quite some time. They're more into the neighborhoods of St. Johns neighbourhood and they're up in West Kildonan quite a bit now in the older parts of West Kildonan, those neighborhoods doing the good work that they do. But anyway, so, I think this should be unanimous. Sell them the lots for $1. It's resolving a problem for us. And we are not collecting any taxes on those properties so that is a benefit to us to move forward. So, and thanks for Councillor Gilroy for moving a motion. I think I did mention when we were first talking about these housing initiatives and that sort of half market value, I was just thinking, you know, depending on the model, Habitat's got a different model so they can actually pay even full market value on some lots. Although, they might be getting out of their league, too, I am not sure. But ultimately, for the HOP model, that's their difficulty. So, anyway, in support.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. When I hear about rises in the real estate market and the prices of houses, it doesn't make me feel good. And I know those people that own the houses and will profit from that may take umbrage. But when it goes to an extent that is so far beyond the rate of standard inflation rates and people's income increases, what happens after years of this? We have seen in the United States in the southern markets. We've seen in Iceland, other places where you depend on increases in the real estate market as a source of income. It has been said, you know, when they had higher rates of inflation in Iceland, say, to a young couple they would say, go buy a house. Don't worry, inflation will pay for it. In other words, you know, you get to a certain point, you get a high rate of inflation within a certain industry and then you can sell it and there is your profit margin. It's just that, unto itself, it's not a sustainable industry like that. And sooner or later, there is going to be a fallout. And I don't like to talk about that because we are talking about people's property. Their greatest investment of their lives. But when I hear that during COVID, of all times, that the real estate market is booming, it scares me because I also know, as Councillor Orlikow has been quoted by Mayor Bowman, "People are freaking out". And there's a reason for that. People are losing their jobs. People are losing their incomes. And at the same time, when you consider the fact that over the last 12-20 years the disproportionate increase in the mortgage rates and the cost for houses in the poorer neighborhoods of our city is where you've had the greatest increase in the prices of houses. People are competing. More and more people are competing for the houses in the poorer neighborhoods. Thus, that is where you get your demand. Thus, that is where the prices go up. To me, Madam Speaker, it is not a good thing. What is good about that? It is good for the people that previously owned the houses. And when they sell, they make some money. That is all very well. But if you're looking at sustainability of a society, where does it end? And I mean, as a public servant, I don't know how else to look at it. I guess I can look at it as an individual. I don't know…it doesn't have that much relevance to me. I am sorry, it doesn't. I don't think that makes me an irresponsible homeowner. It just…I can't think…help but think in terms of what is going on in my neighborhood or society in general when it comes to the real estate market and what this means. Madam Speaker, you know, I did…I have quoted the Consumer Price Index general rate of inflation as including food, but I am concerned that there is not...that I have to actually…I'm going to put on record, I'm going to actually analyze the Consumer Price Index in terms of food as its component of that general rate of consumer inflation. Because when we talk about the rise in food costs, I wonder how people can sustain their well-being when it comes to increases in their mortgages, increases in their rents, increases in their property taxes and a relative decrease in their incomes. The fact is, Madam Speaker, more people are on minimum wage than 30 years ago or whatever you want to look at it. People are…more and more people are on minimum wage. The income for a position today compared to 30 years ago has not risen with the cost of living. In other words, Madam Speaker, people are poorer today than they were 30 years ago in this great, wonderful country jam-packed with resources and energy to the point of export on virtually everything we have. With the…the country with the highest rate of university degrees in the world, one of the highest. And this is where we're at. This is what has happened to us. This is really happening in Canada. People are poorer today than they were 30 years ago, at least in terms of their position. A 20-year-old today is not as well off as they were 30 years ago in this great country where they say the economy is growing every year. That's the reality. I am not making it up. If I am wrong, say so in this room. Please. I will thank you for it. But this is where we are at as a society to the extent that, what are we doing today? We are grateful…we are so grateful that we can build a few houses in the name of affordable housing. Well, I just don't know how affordable it is because we just found out today that they are going

to cost…these units of affordable housing are going to cost over a quarter million each in Winnipeg. And considering that Winnipeg has one of the lowest costs of living in the country, why is it costing over a quarter million dollars for an affordable housing unit? Now, it's going to get subsidized, what $50,000? So, it's going to be down to approaching $200,000 for an affordable housing unit. Well, that…you know, I mean, honestly, that's not much more than the cost of my house and what I bought for my house in Elmwood. So, I'm not so much…not much less, you know. And I find that disconcerting and I know I am not the only one. So, this is where we are at as a city. But you know, look, I am not putting this all out on this specific municipality. That is where we are at as a country and as a society. So, we need to take stock and ask what is going on. Where is our wealth going? Because the fact is that, you know, that more and more people have to compete in the housing market to live in lower income communities is not a good sign. And the fact that less and less people are competing to live in more affluent neighborhoods, including the existing ones, there is proof to that. You can just look at the real estate prices, they're not not increasing at the same rate. Why is that? Less demand. So, the poor are getting poorer, more people are getting poorer. And what is taking place in the real estate market I think is an indication of that. It is not all good news. And I hate to say it, but that is my job. And if I am wrong, let me know. But it's not the first time I've said this and no one has ever said, Jason, you are wrong. It hasn't happened yet. I have been saying this for a few years. So, bear that in mind. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support of this matter. It is something that I do from a respective…those that are out there building houses and building futures for our residents that face barriers to housing that are sometimes new to Canada, sometimes have had unfortunate circumstances that have blocked them from the realization of home ownership. I know Habitat for Humanity is a well-respected organization. There are organizations like that, HOP, they're having a harder and harder time to find affordable houses to…or properties to renovate because it's competition that is driving up the price of real estate in our city. Speculation and, you know, in these situations we've got areas of the community that we've tried to market them, that they weren't successful but there is opportunity. So, I do look forward to finding ways that we can turn these around in quicker stance, that there are opportunities. So, I support this motion and I look forward to other opportunities where they may exist that we're not currently aware of the inventory.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Seeing none, Councillor Gilroy. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I was just going to ask for a recorded vote. Oh, sorry.

Madam Speaker: You could leave your hand up all afternoon. Councillor Gilroy, to close. Thank you.

Councillor Gilroy: Madam Speaker, thank you very much. And thank you very much to my councillor colleagues for supporting this. I think it's a really great project and part of our affordable housing strategy. And I just wanted to note for Councillor Schreyer, that these…some of these projects, they'll all be…they'll all be energy efficient homes, but some of them are going to be even green energy with the Local Energy Access Program. So, you will be happy to know that. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gilroy. With that, I will call the question. Recorded vote called by Mayor Bowman. All in favour of Item 11, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 15, Nays 0.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Item 11 passes unanimously. Item 14.

Councillor Eadie: Did we record that Councillor Mayes was out of the room?

Thank you. Councillor…Mr. Clerk.

Item 14 – Proposed Secondary Plan for the Old Southwood Golf Course Major Redevelopment Site (Major Redevelopment Site 'I') – By-law 82/2020 – SP 1/2020

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: I will wait to hear from my councillor colleague. I know she has worked long and hard on this project. So, I will wait to hear from her.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much. I rise to speak in support for the Proposed Secondary Plan for the Old Southwood Golf Course. The Old Southwood Golf Course is now being referred to as the North Campus which is located on original lands of Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, Dene Peoples and on the homeland of the Métis nation. Since 2011 when the University of Manitoba acquired the former Southwood Golf Course, consultations had been occurring on what could be and what this site could transform into. International competitions, people from all over the world presenting visions. And today we are here to vote on the Secondary Plan for what is now known as the North Campus Lands. For many of us it's been a very long time coming and is to be celebrated. I was involved in this since 2011. The development of the North Campus Lands is providing a transformational opportunity for the City of Winnipeg. This is the opening up of 140 acres of private land. Private land that has not been accessible to the public for over a century, but will all change with the development of parks, active transportation routes and incredible waterfront plazas. This land is identified as a major redevelopment site in Complete Communities and the development that will occur on these lands is focused on density. The proposed plan provides vision, objectives and policies to support the development of 10,000 dwelling units in a mixed-use neighborhood over the next 40 years. And if it is anything like the way Waverly West developed, it's going to probably be a lot sooner than 40 years. The University of Manitoba is an incredible magnet for development. This plan is integrally linked to the southwest bus rapid transit line, the University of Manitoba Fort Garry campus and the surrounding communities of Fort Richmond and University Heights. The plan is inclusionary, it's sustainable, it's providing a vision of connectivity and inter-connectivity with the broader community. It is integrating and removing isolating barriers that have been in place for so long. The waterfront lands will serve the dual purpose of parkland and wildlife corridors along the river. Park design will incorporate active transportation routes and encourage active transportation throughout the community. And developmental will be aligned with the fairways to maximize tree preservation. And there will be so much park space, so much public park space. The lands will provide housing, employment, shopping, and recreational activities for staff, teachers and students and anyone who chooses to live there. And it is not solely for students, it's for the greater public. The vision of this development will support many lifestyles. The development of the North Campus Lands presents an opportunity to unify and enhance throughout its transformation into a thriving and complete urban community. And I am incredibly pleased…I am incredibly pleased to be supporting the Proposed Secondary Plan today so that we can get going on the first phase of development which is planned for later this year.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Lukes. Councillor Mayes, followed by Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thanks for Councillor Lukes' 10 years. So, we'll move for layover. No, I'm just joking. I'll move for layover. Councillor Lukes seems to bring these things on herself having gone through Waverley West and now this one. So, I support…the one person registered in opposition is actually from my ward and I had a call yesterday from someone concerned about traffic. And Councillor Lukes said, well, there's a 350-page traffic report, I'll just get that to you. And it's like, I don't have time, it's been 10 years, so I will certainly work with people in my ward and try and see…it is a secondary plan, it's a broader document. So, there may be some concerns as each phase unfurls that we can look at it. It is an interesting little area in that if you stand on the Bishop…on the Fort Garry Bridge there at Bishop Grandin, if you look…you can look into Councillor Orlikow's ward which is City Centre Committee, you could turn and look into Councillor Lukes' ward which is Assiniboia Community Committee and turn one more rotation and you are looking into my ward and then if you look a little further into Councillor Chambers ward which is Riel Community Committee. So, it's an odd matter to have in front of Assiniboia Community Committee, but the current ward boundaries frankly are much fairer and Councillor Lukes and I fought for them. These ward boundaries are much more equitable in terms of population. So, you do occasionally get these interesting little areas where it's three different community committees all with some business here or some at stake. So, yes, though my residents are actually literally across the river in the River Pointe area of St. Vital, but I'll work with Councillor Lukes as this goes forward to try and address any concerns. One thing I do want to highlight though is we heard earlier today about Complete Communities. We heard earlier today about the desire to have a 50% infill target and 50% greenfield. And just for clarity, the 50% infill target is not all in the mature communities. Let's slow that down. There are about 80,000 doors in the mature communities and there are about 300,000 doors if you looked across the intensification target area. So, if you built this just north of Bishop Grandin in the Pembina area that's Councillor Orlikow's ward, it's a pretty dense area, actually, that would count toward the infill target. If you build this, this counts toward the infill target. Just earlier, five minutes ago, we went through some that you could go through that are in my ward, the ones on Riel, we did the by-laws there. You could see it on the map in front of you here. It's in that…where

it says Minnetonka. That also counts toward the infill target. So, we have had people say, well, if we don't just get four times density on those gravel lanes we won't hit the target. No, we have a very large area. Most of the city, but for little bits of your ward, Madam Speaker, but if you take out Waverly West, Sage Creek and parts of your ward, it's basically the rest of the city counts toward the infill target. I am simplifying very slightly here. So, there are lots of opportunities like this where we can approve development and it does count toward the target and hopefully we won't have to be…well, perhaps we can listen to community in some other areas and take a look at what our platform has been because certainly I am hearing a lot from our planners about, well, we have to keep going the way we have been going in an area like Lynwood or we won't hit the target. This alone would probably hit the target for infill if it plays out the way it is projected. Certainly, this plus a few others on St. Mary's Road, St. Anne's Road, other major arterials as some have suggested like Councillor Rollins, that will probably get us to the target. What is the target in raw numbers? Somebody in the Planning Department is doing their math because they say between 2020 and 2040 we need 80,000 new units. And god bless them, they didn't divide it by 20, they divided it by 21 because it's 2020 to 2040, there's 21 years there. So, it would have been easier to say, we need 4,000, but they've said, no, we need 3,900 new units a year. Half of that, roughly 1,900 something…close to 2,000 units a year as infill, but infill not necessarily in the mature communities. Again, not necessarily in the mature communities. That is part of our target. If you put things in Glenwood, that's a mature community, that counts, but so does this. So, let's not confuse the problem with the issue here. This is a target that we are trying to reach but it takes in almost the entire city. If you build in Sage Creek, no, you're not slugging toward the 50% target, you're over here in the greenfield. But if you do the developments we saw earlier today on Riel, on St. Mary's, St. Anne's, large parts of…we've done some in Councillor Chambers' ward in River Park South. All of that slugs toward the infill target. So, let's not confuse the intensification area with the mature communities. So, again, kudos to Councillor Lukes on all the work that's been done on this. There may yet be some phone calls from my ward as these buildings get underway, but it has been a long wait to get going. I am pleased to see it being approved. And Councillor Lukes, when I've talked to her, said, hey, it is designed not to have people driving over the bridge. It is designed to have walkable. It's designed to get people on the 500…$490 million investment in the BRT which I voted for and I stand by. So, a lot of good to be done here. And again, it does count towards the intensification target. We do need to keep to that target about 1,900…1,950…1,975 units a year of infill. But again, it can be in a variety of different areas, large parts of just about everybody's ward would count toward the infill target. So, as we go forward, as we debate those infill guidelines that are coming, it is important to remember the infill guidelines only cover the mature communities. That's the pre-1960, pre-1950 ring around the centre of the city. Roughly defined. There is an odd patch out in Councillor Nason's ward. There are other bits that count as mature communities. We want to do some infill there yet, but we need not do all 50% of the target there. We can do it…we can do it here, we can do it in River Park South. All of Charleswood is not a mature community for reasons left to the vagaries of whoever divined the boundaries of the mature communities anything that goes in there. And we've had various applications over the years there. All of that would slug toward the target that we want to get to of 50% infill. So again, important to remember, we do want to have those infill guidelines. Again, that is not the only area that counts towards the target when we're trying to get 50% greenfield. There is a separate debate which we don't need to have now though about people in Sage Creek say, we have been here 15 years and this is outside the…this is outside the built-up area, what are you talking about? This is built-up…I've been paying my taxes for 15 years. So, they've…to the credit of Mr. Kiernan and Mr. Jopling, they changed the terminology. So, that's a built-up area, but it's not where we want to intensify or 50% greenfield in areas like Waverly West, Sage Creek. The other 50%, much broader, almost the entire city, in fact, but for a few new areas out at the fringes. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to support this plan and I want to just acknowledge all the hard work that has been done by the University of Manitoba, the board of governors, certainly in their ongoing consultation over putting together a plan for 10 plus years. The area councillor, all of her hard work too, Councillor Lukes. And members of the community who, no doubt, have given input over those years. And I know it is good to see when basically a group that is developing has certainly been working kind of hand in hand with the City of Winnipeg through this whole process. One of the items that I note from the report talks about the fact this north community or the Southwood local area plan kind of falls out of the overall visionary generational…generation master plan that the university board of directors…board of governors, I should say, I guess in 2016 adopted to provide direction for development in the area. It makes me think of the fact that, you know, earlier today we talked about the importance of plans. Two great big plans that we're dealing with; OurWinnipeg and Complete Communities, Plan20-50. And you know, I think many of us by this point in our lives have been part of an organization or group that puts a plan in place that looks long-term. It takes awhile. It is not…seemingly not exciting because it doesn't, you know, maybe energize a person day-by-day to work a…methodically work a plan is very important for, I think, consistency and predictability and for good growth. And that's I see what we're voting on today. And so I am certainly glad to support it. By chance, I happened to come across I think a book that every one of us got, a magazine that we get on a regular basis delivered to our mailboxes, The Manitoba Consulting Engineer Volume 11. I don't know about you, I read mine cover to cover. Okay, maybe not. But I did note in there and I think we all got it, so I just want to bring it up today, the 2020 Award of Excellence Project. So, one of the projects there was a project that the consultant firm was KGS Group and the project name was Fort Garry Campus Riverbank Management Study, Integrating Forced

Health and Green Infrastructure in Traditional Risk Mitigation and Asset Management. KGS Group has provided to the University of Manitoba a 15-year phased riverbank management strategy that favours restoration of the repairing corridor with naturalized solutions. The point of the matter is, I was actually glad to see that at the same time that we are voting on this because I commend the University of Manitoba for, obviously, working with the City of Winnipeg, but taking very seriously, not only the land that they're going to be developing on, but the maintenance, the effective maintenance and care for the 4-kilometers of the Red River shoreline and riverbank that is there. So, I just wanted today to acknowledge the stewardship of the University of Manitoba and their work and their vision to make sure that the assets that are under their care are being well stewarded. And so, I think, you know, we have got a proponent such as they putting forward a plan such as this that I am certainly glad to support it.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. Mr. Mayor, followed by Councillor Chambers.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll be brief, I know it's been a long day for everybody. And I am really proud to stand in support of the Proposed Secondary Plan for the Old Southwood Golf Course. This has been a long time coming. It has taken a lot longer than, for example, even the Parker Lands which I know was…Council was often accused of taking too long on this. This is a good project. And it underscores for me the importance of the investments and the leadership of this and previous council for rapid transit. The investments that the City of Winnipeg has made in recent years to complete. You know, it took…I have often said it took about 10 years to get about 10 blocks of the first half of the blue line done within months of the previous council. We got the direction and we also got funding from previous provincial government as well as previous federal governments who supported that project. And as a result, Madam Speaker, we have seen investment that has been driven by transit-oriented development. Everything from True North Square to the Artis REIT tower that's rising just south of Portage and Main right now. The Parker Lands as well as this development that we will see. It will help us realize on that investment and support for transit-oriented development and all, of course, the beautiful active transportation amenities that are now part of the blue line. That is the one thing that I know the residents that will reside in these lands will benefit from for many generations. They will able to go walking and cycling and using the active transportation amenities of the investments that this council and previous councils have made in that area of the city. And so, that's…it's a very positive story. And I want to thank all members of Council including Councillor Lukes for her advocacy for this project. I want to thank the Public Service for their work. Of course, the University of Manitoba. And this is something…I am really proud of this. And I think all Winnipeggers should be proud of the leadership and the direction that this and previous councils have made to promote not just rapid transit but the active transportation and the transit-oriented development that we are seeing happen before our very eyes right now in downtown but also along that corridor. So, it's a…it's certainly a secondary plan worth supporting and I will be doing so in a few moments. I would encourage all of my council colleagues to do the same. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support of this plan. I had the opportunity to offline with Councillor Lukes, I believe it was Tuesday night or Wednesday night just before our Council session. And she was absolutely beaming in terms of what this plan represents and the hard work that she has put in with respect to seeing this through to fruition. And I am excited for what it represents for the area residents of the Fort Richmond neighborhood with respect to addressing adequate student housing for university students that are living in that area. We are seeing now coming online 25.5 Pembina Highway, at Bison Drive and Pembina Highway. We are seeing the development further south on the Waverley West side or Richmond West side at just north of 3045 Pembina Highway by the McDonald's there. That is starting to be developed. We are seeing…just last week I saw online 30 UC. A new apartment complex that is just at the corner of University Crescent and Pembina Highway. So, all of these amenities are now coming online that's going to address housing in the area, student housing in the area, and lessen the impacts of illegal rooming houses that have been plaguing the area of Fort Richmond because of inadequate student housing. So this is a huge, huge win for the residents of Fort Richmond that have been concerned with illegal rooming houses and can now look towards people buying homes and moving in and creating vibrant neighbourhoods again in the area of Fort Richmond. And I am very excited for that. So I am glad that the University of Manitoba is moving forward with this project. I have memories of the Old Southwood Golf Course. I was just telling Councillor Browaty I was closer than this on a par three to a hole in one. My closest I've been…closest I've been to a hole in one. I'm still chasing that…I guess it would be a eagle. On par three? No, albatross on a par three. Still chasing that, but you know, glad to see that it's been re-purposed for development. And looking at the components of it in terms of secondary plan, there is a plan to include our Indigenous community in the planning of that which is exactly how we want to engage our Indigenous community in being part of our center of education and learning, and having contributions towards this development plan. So again, I am very excited. Councillor Lukes, thank you for your hard work and diligence on this. And I look forward to seeing those buildings rise out of the ground along the river way, the active transportation trailways, the access to transit, quick transit to Bomber games back and forth. This is going to be a great area…a great area in our city for people to come together to study, to work, to live and enjoy the best of our community. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Chambers. Any further speakers? Seeing none, Councillor Gilroy, back to you.

Councillor Gilroy: Madam Speaker, just…you can close. I mean, I'm done closing, so you can call the question.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Call the question on Item 14. Call for a recorded vote. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 16, Nays 0.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Item 14 passes. We will now move into motions. We have Motion 1, moved by Councillor Klein and seconded by Councillor Nason. It is in regards to penalty fees for non-compliance. It's an automatic referral to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development. Moving on, by-laws, Councillor Gilroy.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT MOTIONS

Motion No. 1
Moved by Councillor Klein,
Seconded by Councillor Nason,

WHEREAS builders are required to provide their design plans when applying for permits to build a new home, addition, or garage;

AND WHEREAS the standard operating practice has been to inspect specific permitted items individually as construction progresses;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has experienced an increase in residential complaints from residents regarding new builds not complying with approved designs upon completion;

AND WHEREAS some builders in non-compliance with the design plans they submitted will opt to pay the minimal fine, considered a more economical solution than adhering to the process, thus utilizing the nominal fine amounts to achieve their goals and increase profits;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. *That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to implement a minimum penalty fee for non-compliance with approved site plans and building permits in the amount of $10,000 or 10% of the assessed value of the developed subject property, whichever is greater.*

2. *That all applicable by-laws and Council policies be amended in accordance with the above recommendation.*

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

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – 2ND AND 3RD READING**

Councillor Gilroy: I would like to move By-law No. 82/2020 to be read the second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 82/2020.

Councillor Gilroy: I would like to move that By-law No. 82/2020 be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Councillor Gilroy.

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS**

Councillor Gilroy: I would like to move that the following by-laws be read the first time: By-law 7/2021, By-law No. 8/2021, By-law No. 9/2021, By-law No. 10/2021, By-law No. 11/2021, and By-law No. 12/2021.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 7/2021, By-law No. 8/2021, By-law No. 9/2021, By-law No. 10/2021, By-law No. 11/2021 and By-law No. 12/2021.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: I would like to move that By-law No. 7/2021 to 12/ 2021 both inclusive be read the second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Gilroy: And I'd like to move that the rules suspended and By-law No. 7/2021 to 12/2021 both inclusive be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. We'll now move into question period. Questions for Councillor Gilroy? We will start, Councillor Chambers, you have the floor.

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
QUESTION PERIOD**

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker, through you, I'd like to ask the Chair of Property, Planning and Development, a question with respect to the permitting branch. It's been well over a year now with respect to the fallout of the investigation that was launched by the private sector regarding the Permitting Inspectors of the Planning and Property Development Department. There's quite a bit of staffing changes and reorganization of the department, in part to rebuild the trust and confidence of the stakeholders that access those services. With new staffing in place and efficiencies operationalized, and as construction projects have and will be an integral part in restarting our economy and moving our city forward post-pandemic, can the Chair comment on the current operations of the Permitting Office, and provide an update to us and the public on how the development community can be reasonably assured their applications will be assessed and addressed in a timely manner?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you, Madam Speaker, thank you very much to Councillor Chambers for the question. I think it's a very good question. We're actually going to be having a report that's coming back to SPC in March, and it's going to look at our permits to year-to-date and to talk a little bit about the issues that you would

like to be addressing. So, I'll wait to hear that report. But I did want to fill in some of the things that we have been looking at that I do know from the department, is that within these months we've been really taking on doing online permit reviews. So, we're actually doing…the inspectors are doing everything online now, which is really interesting and it's really kind of been helpful. And I have talked to the Home Builders Association, and that many of them really, really like the service. It feels like it's getting things done a little bit quicker. So, I know that those have been really positive during these times. And then as far as the rest of the information, that report will come back and I will make sure that you get…that you know about it, and you are able to see that because I think it's important that we do have those details. So, I'd like to thank…thank you for the question.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Seeing none, moving to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks. Councillor Rollins on the report.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PARKS
DATED JANUARY 13, 2021

Councillor Rollins: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to move consent agenda 1, 2, 3, pull 4.

Madam Speaker: We do have an amending motion and that is on 4. Okay. So, I will call the question on 1, 2 and 3. You are pulling 1?

Councillor Klein: Item 1.

Madam Speaker: Okay, so 1 and 4 have been pulled. I will call the question on 2 and 3. Pardon me, Mr. Clerk? Yes, there's a call for a recorded vote. So, we are voting on Item 2 and 3. All in favour?

Councillor Klein: Dilemma. So, I'm asking a point of order. If you are in favour of Item 2, but you're not in favour of Item 3, do I just put one leg on my chair or?

Madam Speaker: Well, with the current system going on in the last little while, would you like to pull 3?

Councillor Klein: I don't want to speak to it, but sure.

Madam Speaker: Yeah, so for that purpose…okay, again. Yes?

Councillor Eadie: Point of order, Madam Chairperson. He is able to stand and vote for consent and then say, please record me in opposition to 3.

Madam Speaker: There's no ability to do that, but thank you for the…

Councillor Eadie: There is no ability?

Madam Speaker: No, there is not. Not for consent.

Councillor Eadie: Oh, really? Okay.

Madam Speaker: Yeah, so back to…we are just pulling item…we are just voting on Item 2 – the Winnipeg Police Board 2021 Strategic Plan Update. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Madam Speaker: Thank you. I will get to that in a moment. Just one moment. Councillor…Mr. Clerk, we're good? Councillor Orlikow is not here. Okay.

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 15, Nays 0.

Madam Speaker: And mark Councillor Orlikow as absent. Councillor Eadie, to further add to your important statement there; when it is consent vote normally, like we have been doing for a long time, we could…you could be recorded in opposition up to three people. But because it was call for recorded vote, that no longer is in place. Yeah, I know we touched on it in December. Okay, great. And now we are going to Item 1.

Item 1 – Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service Strategic Direction

Councillor Rollins: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I'm happy to introduce the item. So, Item No. 1 is with respect to Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service Strategic Direction. Every community committee got an opportunity to hear from Chief John Lane of the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service on the 2020 Strategic Direction Detail and the consolidated recommendations…the investments to meet the recommendations and funding impact on investments including all of the supporting documents: the appendix on the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service Master Plan, fire underwriter survey, community risk assessment standards of cover, detailed capital budget sheets and more if councillors asked. In Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks with respect to this item, we dealt with recommendations 2, 3 and 4 and are referring them to the 2022 budget review process. These motions were, in brief, to accept the Public Service appendices number 2 to be approved and implemented and to look at the financial implications at the time that we were looking at it, Madam Speaker. Of course, it was referral to budget 2021 budget process that was over. And so, we are moving it to budget 2022 process. And finally, that four, the proceeds from the land sales arriving from the consolidation of fire and paramedic stations be used to fund recommendations identified. This is better suited to the 2022 budget review process. And so, that is the work that the standing policy committee did in a nutshell.

Madam Speaker: Okay. We are having a technical issue with Councillor Orlikow. I think we're supposed to give folks an opportunity to be able to try to reconnect. I will continue with one more speaker. Okay, he got…good. Just wanted to give Councillor Orlikow the opportunity. There was a little glitch there. Next speaker, Councillor Klein.

Councillor Klein: Sure. Thank you, Madam Speaker. This was talked about vigorously I believe at the Assiniboia Community Committee. And, you know, a lot of good questions were asked by my colleagues. Councillor Gillingham wanting to know really about the insurance and the specifics of who is behind the organization. But as I look…you know, one of the discussions that came up an awful lot there and made a lot of attention in the media and garnered a lot of attention for days, would be the paramedic issue and the fact that ambulance service is still a concern with many of our residents. And I know that we pivoted many different directions on that, but it still remains…it remains a problem. When I look at this right now, it is difficult. I mean, it's a challenging read. There's lots of detail, yes, but just because there is lots of pages doesn't necessarily mean it's the detail or in a fashion that is certainly makes an argument or confirms an argument. The data from the Fire Department's own records indicate that, you know, less than 2% of all calls are for fires. I understand that. But it would appear that the headline we are trying to obtain is that we are reducing the number of stations from 30 to 23. But that includes a new station in Waverley West. The specifics are challenging to understand. So, I don't know why we're putting it to the budget process right now. The report appears to suggest that Pembina itself would not have a fire station, yet, it seems we just voted…and we were all very proud of the fact of the new Southwood development that will have some large apartment buildings. Is that the right decision? Have we considered that in this plan? Ridgewood, a growing area in Charleswood. The Oaks, also expanding. There is going to be some retail moving out that way. Was that considered? I don't know. There's no water service in the south Wilkes area. Homes are being built there all of the time, they don't have any fire hydrants. So, is that being considered? It doesn't appear to be. Now, if you look at some of the information and you dig a little deeper, of the 30 stations, the only stations: 2, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 18, 21, 26 and 27. That is 10 of 30 fire stations are considered to be either in good operating condition or even requiring updates. Simple math would suggest that the other 20, 66% either need to be replaced, consolidated or should be relocated. Now, this could suggest that we have a real issue in managing our assets, which could sound somewhat familiar when you look at arenas, community centers, bridges, roads, et cetera. I think there is more work to be done on this plan before we just simply send it off to the Budget Working Group. I would like to see more consultation on this. I would like to see more data. I would like to see the growth that we are seeing right now considered. I would like to see how it compares with the new OurWinnipeg plan and the new Complete Communities plan. Is it matching or are we…do we have several different things going on? I mean, we do have real issues. We have the North Winnipeg Treatment Plant that we have to take care of. That is something that's on the plate. We have soaring water and sewer rates that Winnipeggers are paying. We have our…you know, we have other assets in this city that are reaching their end of life. We have…again, I'll say it, 87 murders in 24 months. Violent crime is on the rise in six years. I would like to think that we could as a group of professionals prioritize and line these up in a fashion that make more sense. So, as we're putting together our Complete Communities and OurWinnipeg, which are not finalized yet as I've heard here today, shouldn't we be waiting and then re-evaluating those considerations that are being put before us today? I remember at the community committee asking the question, you know, how much and so on, and it being very…you know, honest answer has been, well, you know this is early stages. It could be $50 million more than what we think. It could be $75 million. I think there is more work to do. We don't need to

push this through today. We have many other things we can do. So, I struggle to support this motion today and I apologize for that, but far, far, far too many questions.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I know the hour is getting late, but you know, recent discussions and actions happening in the east side of Winnipeg suburbia are causing me some concern with this plan. I know station 9, I believe that is the right number for that, that is along Marion, that is an old station. There's no doubt about that. But the challenge I have is consolidating with the station in Windsor Park is it is pulling a critical piece of fire equipment…fire apparatus that supports heavy industrial fires in Transcona. We have had far too many close calls in recent memory with the RM that have some very heavy, flammable industries that we have agreements with to support. We have concentrated industry in the St. Boniface industrial park that I will remind people, is in Transcona that we are pulling fire apparatus away from. We have an asphalt factory that's at the corner of Dugald Road and that of Lagimodiere. We have new industrial lands being established by the RM that we at present are not informed as a community what their fire plan is. We don't have that information. It is a challenge. Now, as we re-develop, re-envision, I don't know if Pembina's going to have a fire station or not. I am not sure on Councillor Klein's comments about that. I know the, you know, Waverly West or as Councillor Lukes likes to possibly refer to it as new Brandon, you know, needs some fire coverage. That she has been on the platform talking about that many times. I am worried that as we develop more and more industrial lands in Transcona that we don't have adequate fire coverage. As it is, we have woefully inadequate ambulatory coverage because of the deal that is structured with the WFPS and the Province through shared health. We do not have enough ambulances to support the City of Winnipeg that we have grown, the fact that ambulances could be sitting on the perimeter just outside of the ward of Transcona can't respond to calls. They could be sitting at one of our area hospitals, can't respond to calls. We have challenges with regards to the plan. Fire stations…it relates to the report, right. These are co-habitated locations. So, I don't think this is ready yet. We have all of our other plans that as Councillor Klein indicated, OurWinnipeg, you know, the Transportation Master Plan. Who knows at what point I'll ever…hopefully I will be alive when we have the extension of Chief Peguis east, right. We're concentrating on west. We've got many challenges in our growing community of Transcona. Having the right fire apparatus within a reasonable amount of time. Is it six minutes? Is it eight minutes? Whatever the standard may be, but we need to make sure that we at least have the adequate coverage. And I think that the removal of station 9 to some other location further south puts it more at risk in Transcona and in the industrial area that I support. Thank you.

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

Councillor Eadie: Yes, Madam Speaker. I was not going to rise to speak to this, but I am supporting this report. Now, at West Kildonan…at Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee, we did have an opportunity to consider this whole thing and ask specific questions of Chief Lane. And in circumstances, we did get answers related to concerns that we had in our area of the city. And so, I am hearing a lot of questions still posed there that I am wondering if those questions, Madam Speaker, actually were asked of Mr. Lane when he presented this whole plan and could alleviate the concerns of the councillor from Transcona because, I mean, they are legitimate concerns, Madam Speaker, but I don't understand why they are still being asked when I am sure there was a response from Chief Lane in regards to any questions like that. So, anyway, I will be supporting this report. And that is all I wanted to say. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Next, we will hear from Mayor Bowman.

Mayor Bowman: I want to rise and take this opportunity to thank members of the Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Service for all of their efforts during this pandemic. Each day they put themselves especially during pandemic at some risk. There is some sacrifice to the job that they are doing like other essential workers, and I want to thank them for that. Also, I want to thank the Public Service, of course, our chief as well as our committee chair and committee members, members of Council for the deliberations to date. I'll be supporting this.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Seeing no further speakers, Councillor Rollins to close.

Councillor Rollins: Madam Speaker, for those that want more time and more scrutiny and more public consultation, Madam Speaker, I do have a deal for them. And that is indeed found in this motion. You will note that…and this motion, this work (inaudible) before. You will note that this motion doesn't ask you to approve the recommendations and implement them. No, instead it moves to the 2022 budget process. And so, I do think that that should provide those with comfort. Including myself, Madam Speaker, because there was a moment in Chief Lane's presentation, the climax, where it pivots from the traffic pre-emption, right, to the consolidation. Meeting the traffic pre-emption to work and needing those investments, we are not there yet. And that's why it should go to budget 2022 so that we can have increased public scrutiny on this strategic plan, the fire underwriters survey and some of the investments that need to be made before you accept the consolidations. And so, for those of you that are implicated in those, we have that which we approved in 2021 through

the budgetary process and I suggest we move it to 2022 to continue on. There is a lot of great elements here. I am supportive. I echo the statements that the Mayor made with respect to those who protect us, that we should protect them. And in doing this work and having the additional scrutiny, I appreciate Council's debate today on it.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. With that, I'll call the question on Item 1. Call for a recorded vote. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Nays

Councillor Klein

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, the count. Oh, sorry. Yes, I was in favour. Yes. I'm just looking, I'll mark Councillor Nason absent.

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 14, Nays 1. Councillor Nason was absent.

Madam Speaker: Yes. Item 1 passes. Onto Item 3.

Item 3 – Winnipeg Police Board By-law Review

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins. Pardon me? Call the question? Okay, Councillor Rollins, her opportunity to introduce the item. She was risen.

Councillor Rollins: You know, I would just call for a recorded vote if that is the issue, Madam Speaker. Or I'll wait to hear from my colleague.

Madam Speaker: Any further speakers on this item? Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: I'll just speak really quick, Madam Speaker. I am actually…at committee, I supported this move for the Public Service to…actually, it is to speak to not just make considerations themselves. It is to consider things in context with the Police Board and other entities. And so, I support. I may not support what comes back, but what's…I support the investigation and scrutiny as to how to proceed under what probably will be a new structure for the Winnipeg Police Board and other police boards across the province.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll be very brief. Yes, I think I've risen on the floor of this chamber before to talk about this. I did have a look at this report that came forward from the Province. And there are significant implications for the City of Winnipeg. So, I certainly welcome the review that will be done. Support it and look forward to the results of it. And I encourage all my councillor colleagues that have the opportunity to take a look at the review and just weigh it and just, you know, consider its implications for the city.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. Councillor Klein.

Councillor Klein: Might as well. Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, the review, I have also read twice now because I wanted to make sure I hadn't missed anything. And it is just what it says, it's a review and they haven't actually come out with any recommendations yet. So, until we understand what recommendations might be, and until the…we find out what the new legislation of the Police Services Act will be, I believe we are putting the horse before the cart. So, I have talked about this matter before. It's nothing personal. I believe this is not the best use of time right now and I will be voting opposed.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll rise in support of this. I have had quite a few conversations as city councillor and as Chair with our board. We are looking toward collaboratively with other entities such as AMM, the

Association of Manitoba Municipalities, recognizing that while we are the largest board and the largest municipal police service in the province, we are not the only game in town. So that, you know, we will be consulting with the other boards across the province to look at best practices. And be invited to the table…the provincial table with respect to the working groups that will be established and initiated to review the recommendations of the Police Services Act to implement whatever comes out of those findings. Thank you.

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

Councillor Santos: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wasn't going to rise. I was hoping we could vote, but I'll make…I'll try to make my comments brief. I would like to start by thanking public administration on their work on this report as well as my committee colleagues for this work together to help develop the motion that was unanimously supported at PCSP. So, we are here debating it and I will make my comments. This motion seeks to include recommendations from a review of the Police Services Act and to answer outstanding questions related to that independent review. The Public Service report was submitted to our…submitted by the administration on November 2nd and then on November 5th the Province of Manitoba released their independent review. In this provincial review it had 13 recommendations for guidance on the functioning of municipal police boards. So, one of these recommendations that directly addresses the report before us today is recommendation number 16. It states that, "Before a person is appointed to a municipal police board, the appointing authority consider the results of the potential appointees recent police record check in that the record check be conducted by an agency other than the police service governed by the board for which that person is being considered." So, a challenge with the administration report before us is that it does not give…it does not tell us if, as a council, have the legislative authority to make this change ourselves, which is why it is imperative that we ask for more information from administration to specifically address which recommendations from the independent review can we implement without a change to the provincial legislation? So, based on the information we have received, it appears that we have the authority to change the way the background checks are completed, but there's no specific details in either the Police Services Act or in our City's Police Board By-law about which organization is to complete the background security checks. So, for full transparency, trust and accountability in our Police Board selection process, it is strongly recommended that the administration further investigate to ensure that we have the ability to do this and simply how we should go about doing it. There is precedent among municipal police boards across the country. Best practices in other jurisdictions clearly indicate a conflict of interest in having the Winnipeg Police Service decide who sits on the board that oversees them. The independent review from the Province has confirmed that. While it is not currently stated in the Police Services Act, we can expect that it might come soon. We know it will take time for the Provincial Government to consult and implement the remaining recommendations from the independent review, but that does not mean that we cannot at least start taking responsibility and closely exam these recommendations. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll be brief. I want be to thank our chair as well as members of the committee for their efforts as well as our new chair of the Winnipeg Police Service Board as well as the board members for, what I understand, has been a very collaborative dialogue. Again, I want to thank the Winnipeg Police Service members as well as their chief for their ongoing efforts. This motion that we are voting on is fairly straightforward. It is asking for a review of the final report of the independent review of the Manitoba Police Services Act that was dated in September of 2020. It's asking to review the appropriate by-laws and provincial legislation to determine if the City of Winnipeg has sufficient authority to enact recommendations under the current Police Services Act. It asks that the Public Service consult…actually, directs the Public Service to consult with the Manitoba Department of Justice and the Winnipeg Police Board on possible amendments and report…prepare a report back to the appropriate committee of Council for our consideration and deliberations. I think it is reasonable. I want to thank everybody involved. And for those reasons, I will be supporting it.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Any further speakers? Seeing none, Councillor Rollins to close.

Councillor Rollins: Just going to stand for the recorded vote and hope folks follow, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you for that close. We…I'll call for a recorded vote. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Nays

Councillor Klein

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 15, Nays 1.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Item 3 passes. We are on to Item 4 – West Kildonan Library Material Pick-up. There is an amending Motion No. 2 to go with this item. Moved by Councillor Eadie, seconded by Councillor Chambers. Councillor Rollins to introduce the item and then we will go to Councillor Eadie in a moment.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Let me just give the Clerk an opportunity, please, to properly introduce the item.

Item 4 – West Kildonan Library Materials Pick-up and Drop-off

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you. Madam Sharma…Madam Speaker, I need not tell you that this is a motion from November 30th Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan to open it up for pick-up and drop-off. And this was the stem of the tree that we see before us because it was a motion that you, Madam Speaker, had moved at West Kildonan…Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan. And to represent my colleagues who came to debate it at PCSP, including, you know, Councillor Eadie's words, this was really about opening up a library better accessed by transit. And when it came to Executive Policy Committee, I was very concerned that we listen to the voices of community services, not that other councillors didn't. But we listened to the words of the community services that were really…and the citizens of Winnipeg who really are loving the pick-up and holds. During the pandemic we have to consider, what is the basic level of civic comments that we can do as a healthy city under the public health orders? And there is no question that we have been really working hard to tackle some of those questions, address City services and including beautifully…beautiful civic commons assets like our books in our libraries. So, the motion here today, of course, there was news yesterday that we were bringing back some City staff, that we were going to increase some hours for pick-up and holds and that, ultimately, is what is great from the City. And I would like to think that the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee and this motion did grow that response in some important way. So, I will introduce this subject that is close to my heart, our libraries and Winnipeggers' love for our libraries in this way councillor…and Madam Speaker Sharma, with a debt of gratitude and thank you to the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee because I think in part it allowed for the progress that we saw yesterday and hopefully we continue to see.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Rollins. Councillor Eadie to introduce Item 2 and speak to the main item.

Motion No. 2
Moved by Councillor Eadie,
Seconded by Councillor Chambers,

THAT Item #4 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks dated January 13, 2021 be amended by deleting Recommendation #1 and replacing it with the following:

> *"1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to open the West Kildonan Library (regional library) for pick up and drop off of library materials."*

Councillor Eadie: Yes. And I will speak to the main report as well at the same time. In terms of the amendment, it is basically erasing the recommendation to just accept the idea of the West Kildonan Library opening for pick-up and drop-off of library material. It would replace it. Madam Speaker, ever since the decision was made about there was 10 libraries, and I checked out the map in various locations on…like, I understand the administration in terms of dealing with COVID restrictions, limited resources, staffing that got laid off, all of those kind of things, but one of the…one of the main considerations when they looked at the pick-up drop-off service for Winnipeggers, they just missed some considerations that are very important. So, while the Sir William Stevenson Library does exist, it's…I don't know that it's a regional. I always thought it was a local library. Or if it was regional library, it's to supply service to Brooklands area, the Weston area which are south of the tracks and then Tyndall Park and Shaughnessy Park. I don't want to get into the history of libraries in the area, but Sir William Stephenson Library, it got a little chutzpa when they shut down the Mynarski Library on McPhillips right adjacent…or next…immediately next door to the Mynarski Junior High School. So, you know…anyway, but I don't want to go into history. I just…so, while Sir William Stephenson is serving the very westerly part of the North

End, and what used to be called the Brooklands area of Tyndall Park and Garden Grove and Brooklands itself which used to be in…used to be St. James-Brooklands. Now, I believe it's in Councillor Santos' area, Brooklands and Weston again. Anyway, I am not sure. Councillor Gillingham, Brooklands is not in St. James anymore, right? Oh, he is not there. Okay. Anyway, well the…he is the finance man. He better listen. This is going to cost money. Anyway, sorry, Madam Speaker. But anyway, so the whole eastern side of the North End, and you can make a case that north Point Douglas and Lord Selkirk Park, they could hop on a bus and go over to the Millennium Library which is I think available for pick-up and drop-off. Okay, that's kind of there. But there is a whole part of the North End, West Kildonan and Old Kildonan. The West Kildonan Library is…you know, it's a regional library. And when it was considered and made a regional library when the cities merged, it was basically serving everything north of Inkster west of the Red River all the way out to, well, where the former municipality of Brooklands ended called Brookside Boulevard. Anyway, all the…anyway. So…and north of the CP…or of Inkster basically is what I am saying. So, if the St. John's Library is closed, it is a local library, it has poor bus service. I had lots of calls. People wanted that to be available because you know what, there is a large population that don't drive that are living in poverty in these areas as well as senior citizens who if you consider why the West Kildonan Library should have been made available for pick-up and drop-off, remember, our senior citizens under COVID are under the worst threat if they ever caught COVID. They are staying in the house. They aren't asking for books. And they did use the idea that the demand for books at Sir William Stephenson was greater than West K, but there was no geographical decision, no consideration of social conditions. Like, West Kildonan and Garden City, I don't know, they probably…I haven't looked at the statistics, but they probably have a…quite a higher number of seniors because the population has gone down in those areas, Councillor Mayes, but that is because the kids moved out and they are older and they are starting to renew West Kildonan, Margaret Park, starting to renew Templeton, Sinclair. Well, there has been a lot of new stuff there, and Garden City. But the Maples as well is served by supposedly West K and in the future, it will be moved. So, my whole point is just, like, there is a need for the people to be able to get to a library book and pick-up and drop-off that is closer to them. Like, if you look at the map, there is a huge gap. Like, that is like six miles from Margaret Park to Keewatin south of Burrows. It is probably about six miles. How many kilometers that is? Whatever, I am not sure. But Madam Speaker, they should be able to tweak their warehousing mechanism that's going on right now, and I notice they didn't call all of the temporary/part-time library people back, but maybe that is because some were not able to. I don't know. But alls I'm saying is there must be some way that we could provide a service to an area that needs it. If you look at…and I had this conversation with Councillor Chambers. So, the Pembina Library is open. It is close to the area where we say there is social need and lots poverty in the Fort Richmond area. If we look at the Louis Riel Library on Dakota, it is closer to around the area where people are living more in poverty and you know, not everyone's addicted, they want to get library books. They want to be able do that. And that is the same thing they want to do in the St. John's neighborhood. That's what they want to do in the Jefferson neighborhood. That's what they want to do in the Margaret Park neighborhood. That's what they want to do in the Garden City neighborhood. That is what they want to do in Templeton Sinclair neighborhood. That's what…well, oddly enough, Rivergrove is quite car oriented and they go over the Chief Peguis Bridge so there's lots of people going to the Henderson. But there's still in Riverbend, Rivergrove people who prefer to use the West Kildonan Library and don't…and for example, are not driving a lot and doing those things. But those neighbourhoods, too, are served by the West Kildonan Library. So, I hope my colleagues will consider the amendment. I know it will be difficult for the administration and I know they are struggling to meet demand. And I totally support recommendation 2 that we increase the hours at the existing branches. But colleagues, can you imagine? Like, I haven't got a yelling match at me yet, but all day in the news yesterday or whenever the release came out, it kept talking about all these expanding the hours at the existing libraries. You know, up where I live, up where I have been all my life in both Councillor Sharma's ward and in my ward, there is a constant belief that the south doesn't care about the north and the south has the most votes so…I am trying to not use North End language here. Sorry, Madam Speaker. Like, we are getting the short end. That is the belief. And I just cringe when I heard, you know, that, oh, the…you know, we need to serve the long line ups at the Henderson Library better when I got people yelling at me and you…yelling at you as well, Councillor Sharma, I'm sure, about why are they picking on the West K Library? So, I will leave it for you, my colleagues. I am just trying to make sure that the people who cannot get way over to the Sir William Stephenson Library…and, oh by the way, talking about bus service. Portage Avenue, you know, the Westwood Library is not open and my colleague from Charleswood was very right and Westwood is very right to be concerned that the Westwood Library is not open, but there is a very good bus service running up and down Portage. The St. Charles bus, the Crestview bus, the Westwood bus. Like, there's a lot of buses firing up and down Portage Avenue for those who don't drive. And so, Madam Speaker, why can't we have better...there isn't at Sir William Stephenson…the 77 during non-rush hour runs every like...

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

Councillor Eadie: It runs like every 40 minutes in non-rush hour. That is the Crosstown 77. So, you could get on a 77 out of the Margaret Park neighborhood as my mom did once and accidentally didn't get off at the right place because she was going…anyway, I mean, you…you are on that bus. It goes through every neighborhood on its way to Polo Park. Like, anyway, so I will leave it at that. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Please vote to amend the main motion, which is a good motion in terms of bringing back, and EPC made a good decision there to say, we should be bringing back more library workers to expand hours. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Very briefly. Yes, I support Councillor Eadie's efforts on this. And will say what I have offered in the past, next time somebody in your ward says, the south gets everything and the north doesn't, please tell them you got, what was it, $25 million police head…police north division new building going in and they closed the police office in St. Vital in 2014, the only one Councillor Chambers and I had. So, we can all find different examples of where somebody got something more than somebody else. But I think Councillor Eadie, you can…have them call me. And I will say, no, Councillor Eadie's gone to bat for you and he's the one who's getting this new building and it took years and there was all sorts of provisions going in. So, I appreciate that probably is the sentiment. And Councillor Lukes and I and probably Councillor Chambers hear the reverse sentiments sometimes. But on this particular item, yeah, I'm supportive of the effort to open.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Any further speakers? Councillor Orlikow.

Councillor Orlikow: Again, thank you very much. And I am quite…I was quite sure that this would pop-up sooner than later. The question about do…should we as Council or government…and we see at the provincial level and federal level, should we be dictating and telling our administration where to go and what to do or should we allow the administration to review the resources and also review the restrictions, COVID restrictions? That is the question. So, you know, Councillor Eadie makes very valid points. However, I am just not too sure, you know, what the implications of that…that decision to open that are on the administration and to our system itself. I think walk-abilities and ability to access those resources has to be put in place as well. But I've heard arguments from both sides regarding that there is some opportunities in some areas. But I also understand that area councillors such as Councillor Eadie will hear from…directly from the residents who are very concerned. And how do we incorporate that in our opening plan? You know, I'll be honest, I am not exactly sure how we're going to do that balance between political and health. We have seen some…I, personally, have seen and viewed some of the provincial and federal decisions. And I am not too sure if it is political or health oriented. So, I have been proud of Winnipeg so far that we've kind of focused on the health areas, but we also have to be willing to accept that the fact that maybe this council would like to push a little bit farther and say, the health issues, we understand, we're just saying, but we want the administration to find ways to incorporate other activities and other health issues and also the reality that some people can't access libraries, for example. So, I appreciate Councillor Eadie's motion and amendment. I am vert happy that we are opening more libraries like Councillor Gilroy has been quite adamant about and Councillor Rollins. The importance of libraries in this time of stress that people need. Again, I thank all that have talked about the Wellness Program and how it has helped bring a little bit of light into the day. But I also agree that libraries are part of that. So, I actually…I will be on record and say that I do approve the amendment that Councillor Eadie is saying with the caveat that we need to have an understanding from the administration of why they didn't choose this in the first place and resources required and how can we do this that is safe for everybody. So, I would like to be able to move forward with this, but I also understand that I don't think politicians should be jumping in based upon our unscientific evidence because we don't have…we are not scientists. We're not health officials about what should be open or not. So, I like Councillor Eadie…I actually have heard Councillor Eadie today. He has convinced me that this is a good process. But I think we need to look at this beyond just a library but more of a macro issue of where that line will be drawn between the two…between health and politics which is representative of our communities. In this instance, I support Councillor Eadie. I think we should add that library to the pick-up service. I think it makes sense. But what other areas do we have that we want to have this debate. It is a tricky debate to have, but if we do it openly, we make sure the public's aware of it and what the pros and negatives are about doing this and how we're going to do it, I think that's really important and we have done that today. So, I'll support both motions at this point. I think Councillor Eadie's made a good valid point to put forward. And I am very excited about being able to increase our ability for our residents to be able to access library resources, not all of them. Of course, we have many library resources that are beyond books now, but at least it gives people some opportunity to be able to access a key civic resource. So, I'll be supporting both.

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

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will be supporting both motions, too. Councillor Eadie makes a strong case. I do think we need the administration to come back and talk about what that's going to look like. Because from my understanding, they are moving a lot of staff to just try to move these books around so they can get them to people. It is difficult because now they're needing staff to go pick up the books for people who were once picking out their own books. So, there is a little bit more work and detail involved with that. But however, I think it is time that we take a look if this is a service that is needed now. And we're seeing an increase, we need to look about opening up our libraries. Now, that might not mean opening it up to the public, but opening up…opening the libraries for pick-up at all libraries. And there might be some like Cindy Klassen that might be a little…maybe we can't do it there because it is inside another City facility that isn't open. But we also could be changing in a couple of weeks that is allowing us to open. So, I'm hoping that our administration is hearing this conversation take place. I, for one, have been using the library a lot more. I believe that that…we are seeing

a huge increase and uptake in people taking out libraries and trying to take out other materials and doing a lot more stuff online, and that is a really positive thing. And so, so I do support making…especially for…in Councillors Eadie's area where it's a stand alone building and there is access to that. We need to make sure that we're getting the, you know, the books out to people and especially our senior population that doesn't have the technical capabilities to do a lot of the online stuff that we do. And also, too, for people that don't have access to computers, they rely on being able to pick-up and use books. So, we need to make sure that we're providing the service and I'm really hoping that we are not…you know, COVID is here, but we have stores open, we have businesses that are doing takeout and the City of Winnipeg has to learn fast how to manage during this time as well. So, thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gilroy. Any further speakers? Seeing none, Councillor Rollins, I'll call you momentarily. But Councillor Eadie, could I have a motion that we can go past 6:00, just seeing the hour?

Councillor Eadie: I will move that to go past 6:00.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Eadie: And if I get to close on the amending motion.

Madam Speaker: Yes, of course. If you could…

Councillor Eadie: I will be as quick as possible, colleagues. So, there are a lot of concerns. Like, now, the thing is, ever since we went to the 10 open library model, I have been asking questions of community services as to how decisions were made. I understand why the St. John's Library couldn't…like, I understand the difficulties and various aspects that they had to deal with especially at that point when they had laid off all of the library staff…temporary library staff. Now, the thing is, as we were moving in to that code red and we were looking at, you know, opening those 10 libraries just for pick-up and drop-off though and following proper COVID for the employees as well as for the customers, Madam Speaker. You know, they were looking at how the…how much demand there was in the libraries, I guess. I can't remember exactly how it was operating in code orange, but ultimately, I have to say, a lot of those seniors up who were kind of miffed about the West K, they weren't actually, you know, like, getting out to the libraries necessarily. Like, so I don't know. I think…so, they said they based it on demand for books. And that is why the 10 libraries that they picked opened up. It sounds like there was no consideration to the populations that the libraries serve and what their exposure and the difficulties around COVID and code red for those areas. Now, so there was a lot of look into it. And they are having difficulties with having to utilize the warehousing method. But you know, they should ask the Provincial Library Service because you know what? Provincially…I was on the Manitoba Library Advisory Board for years. And one of the things the provincial head office over in Brandon, you know, they are very good at delivering books and getting them out to remote communities where they had no library service and that sort of stuff. So, the logistics of the warehousing, I…you know, I under…I get it. That is where I heard from the Director of Community Services where they're struggling and have a problem. They need these other staff coming on. And I'll just point out, like, Henderson Library and the Transcona Library, that's northeast. They are equivalent level to the northwest. The CP Rail line basically follows and crosses the Red and Transcona, well, it goes a bit further south than the CP Rail line does as it goes outside of the city, but basically, you have two regional libraries serving northeast Winnipeg. You have one library serving northwest Winnipeg. So, I don't know. I know that the administration's going to have difficulty in this amendment. And I'm just…my only expectation is that they do the best they can. That's all. I have already heard the scientific numbers. This is not a political this. This is about service delivery to an area where we acknowledge people's health under COVID. Like, it's pretty hard for them. It's harder for them. It's been proved harder for them than it is for the general population. So, I will just leave it at that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Councillor Rollins, back to you for the close.

Councillor Rollins: Madam Speaker, I will just end this way; Winnipeggers love their libraries and I think this vote is going to reflect that, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. With that, all in favour of amending Motion 2? All in favour? No one asked for a recorded. All in favour of amending…aye. Okay. Contrary? It is carried. Thank you. All in favour of Item 4 as amended? Contrary, because I know you are joking. Contrary? Are you joking? Okay. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 14, Nays 0, with both Councillors Browaty and Klein being absent.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 4 as amended has passed. We will now have question period under this committee. Any questions for Councillor Rollins? Pardon me? Yes, thank you, Mr. Clerk. Motion No. 3. It's moved from Councillor Rollins, seconded by Councillor Gilroy. It is in regards to a drug consumption site. It's an automatic referral to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks. Now we'll get into question period. Any questions for Councillor Rollins? Seeing none, Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works. Councillor Allard, on the report dated January 14th, 2021.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PARKS
MOTIONS

Motion No. 3
Moved by Councillor Rollins,
Seconded by Councillor Gilroy,

WHEREAS the COVID 19 pandemic has exposed gaps and inequities in the public health and healthcare systems that marginalize vulnerable groups such as those who use substances;

AND WHEREAS those who use substances report a loss of social connection and supports, greater increase in isolation, fear, and anxiety as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, and more vulnerability to health impacts of COVID 19;

AND WHEREAS there are precedents in other provinces and cities in peer outreach, harm reduction policies, programs and facilities, mobile care on city streets, and programmatic assistance for people who use alcohol and drugs that could be of use to Winnipeg if adopted here;

AND WHEREAS the Canada Centre on Substance Use and Addiction has warned Canada that the conditions around COVID 19 are leading people to increasing use of substances during the pandemic and the city of Winnipeg has seen an increase in substance use in transit shelters;

AND WHEREAS entry requirements at many Winnipeg shelters act as a barrier to those who use substances;

AND WHEREAS there are precedents in other Canadian cities of supervised injection sites having a net positive impact on health outcomes for substance-users;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks in 120 days on the following:

1. *A report on the merits and feasibility of establishing a low barrier, supervised drug consumption site in the City of Winnipeg including:*

    A. *A review of applicable federal and provincial legislation governing the establishment and operation of supervised drug consumption sites and managed alcohol programs.*

    B. *Consultation with subject matter experts including but not limited to officials in the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Manitoba Department of Families, Manitoba Department of Health and relevant community-based organizations.*

    C. *All applicable funding programs at the federal and provincial levels available to support the establishment of harm reduction initiatives and operation of low barrier supervised drug consumption sites and managed alcohol programs.*

D. A cross-jurisdictional scan of supervised drug consumption sites and managed alcohol programs in other Canadian cities with a focus on governance and operating structures.

E. Consideration of culturally appropriate, Indigenous led governance and operating models that could be considered for a supervised drug consumption site in Winnipeg.

**REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
DATED JANUARY 14, 2021**

Councillor Allard: Yes, I'd like to move consent of agenda Item 1 and I'd like to call for a recorded vote.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard, can you put your volume up a little bit?

Councillor Allard: Is that better?

Madam Speaker: Yes, thank you.

Councillor Allard: Yes, I'd like to call for consent agenda and I'd like to call for a recorded vote, please.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Nason, are you standing the item down? Yes, the item has been pulled. Mr. Clerk.

Item 1 – Street Signage Project in the Exchange District

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: I will wait to hear from my colleague.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. I have been waiting for a response from the Public Service with regards to signage in the City of Winnipeg. We recently had snow events and the Highway Traffic Act. There was some questions about our signage. We have by-laws with regards to our signage. But the Highway Traffic Act has some explicit requirements with regards to effective times that they are part of. I am not a legal expert, so I sought some clarification from the Public Service. And I am still not quite satisfied with the response that I received with regards to compliance in the City of Winnipeg. We are a city that does see quite a few people visit our city from within and from outside. Ontario and Saskatchewan to the south as well. Sorry, I am trying to talk here and there is some dialogue right in front of me. So, I'm going to restart here. We have some challenges with regards to parking. Some people have referred to it as predatory with regards to some of our enforcement, yet we're looking to make the Exchange District reminiscent. I don't know if it is because the amount of movie shoots that happen in our downtown, but we're com…we have motions and part of the appendix is referring to signs that are in Los Angeles and New York. This is Canada. We have signs that are different than that of Steinbach, Selkirk, Portage La Prairie with regards to our parking. But yet, we want to introduce some very unique signs that…as pilot. And as I note Item 1 is that we have to go to the Province to ask for this permission because it is not what is normal. It is not what's standard. I agree that we need to fix our signs, but undertaking a pilot to introduce yet more confusion in the City of Winnipeg is a challenge. You know, through our parking plan, we are removing more parking stations, forcing people to go online more and more. Well, again, you know, we talked earlier about some of our reports about some segments of our society that are left behind on this. I know I've heard many times from seniors that are challenged with these mobile apps. We have people that are coming down for medical appointments, having to find a pay station is getting more and more difficult. So, I have trouble with this pilot. We've got all of these plans. Complete Communities. If there is such a problem with parking signs, why is this not part and parcel? Sorry, there was dialogue across the way. He scolded me earlier, so. Anyways, you know, if we have such a challenge with signs, why are these not part of the plans, the master plans that are coming back, right? You know, it is a challenge and I agree it's a challenge, but it should be a city-wide look, not a pilot with these unique signs in some of the areas that, you know, people are getting targeted for fines and enforcement, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Nason. Any further speakers? Councillor Allard, back to you for close.

Councillor Allard: Yes, thank you. I would urge Council to support this report. It comes out of a committee that is comprised members of Public Service, the Exchange District BIZ established in 2020, tasked with identifying ways to

improve readability of parking signage. If you look at the appendices, these signs are very visible. They're very intuitive. I think the goal is that, you know, no one will be in a situation where they don't understand what it is that they being are asked to do by the sign. In particular, if you look at the parking guide appendix b, that gives you a very quick visual representation of what to expect in terms of what the parking requirements are during that time. And I think these are…this is a tremendous opportunity through a pilot which I hope will be well understood by Winnipeggers. Parking can be confusing at times in the Exchange and these signs are bigger, better, more intuitive and they use symbols that are really easy to understand for anyone. So, I hope my colleagues can support this pilot. And it is a pilot because it's the first time that we are testing these out. And if it works well, then we could see a recommendation for a city-wide application. But what is great with pilots is you can try it out and learn from those pilots. And if there's tweaks that are required, then those tweaks can be made. And if it doesn't work out then you can also, you know, accept that the pilot didn't work and move on, go back to the status quo. But seeing what I'm seeing here, I think this pilot shows much promise and it has the support of the BIZ. And these signs are highly visible and highly intuitive. And I hope all councillors can support this report today. I think it is one that is worth supporting. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Allard. With that, I will call the question. Let me just pull it up.

Councillor Allard: Recorded vote, please.

Madam Speaker: There is a call for a recorded vote. And there's a call to vote on each clause. Let me just pull it up here. Yeah, to vote on each clause…four clauses, to vote on each clause separately. All in favour of Clause 1, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Nays

Councillor Nason

City Clerk: The vote on Recommendation 1, Madam Speaker, Yeas 14, Nays 1, with Councillor Browaty absent.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Item…Clause 1 passes. Clause 2, all in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, on Recommendation 2, Yeas 15, Nays 0, with Councillor Browaty absent.

Madam Speaker: Clause 2 passes. Clause 3, all in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Nays

Councillor Nason

City Clerk: The vote on Recommendation 3, Madam Speaker, Yeas 14, Nays 1, with Councillor Browaty absent.

Madam Speaker: Clause 3 passes. All in favour of Clause 4, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Nays

Councillor Nason

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 14, Nays 1, with Councillor Browaty absent.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Clause 4 passes. We will now move on to question period. Any questions for Councillor Allard? Seeing no questions for this committee, let's move forward; Standing Policy Committee on Finance. There's no reports today. Let's get right into question period. Any questions for Councillor Gillingham? Seeing none, next is the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment. Councillor Mayes, on the report dated January 12th, 2021.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON WATER AND WASTE, RIVERBANK MANAGEMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT DATED JANUARY 12, 2021

Councillor Mayes: I'll move adoption of the consent agenda which has one item.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? That is carried. I heard you. Thank you, Mayor Bowman. I heard the yea. Mr. Mayor, would you like to move adjournment?

Councillor Mayes: Questions.

Madam Speaker: Oh, questions, yes. Questions. Councillor Mayes is eager. Councillor Chambers.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON WATER AND WASTE, RIVERBANK MANAGEMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Federal Government has proposed a comprehensive plan banning harmful single-use plastics, like plastic bags and straws. Plastic is polluting our rivers, lakes and oceans, harming wildlife and generating micro-plastics in water we use and drink. Every year, Canadians throw away about 3 million tons of plastic waste, and only 9% of that is recycled. Meaning the vast majority of plastics ends up in landfills or roughly 29,000 tons, finds its way into our natural environment. Winnipeggers expect Council to take action to protect the environment and to reduce plastic pollution across our city. In 2020, I introduced a motion to have the City of Winnipeg be a leader in reducing and eliminating its reliance on single-use plastics at City-run facilities and events hosted by the City. Through you, Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Chair where the City is at with respect to developing a strategy that is consistent with what we are seeing in other jurisdictions and other levels of government. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Mayes: I have a 45 minute reply…Okay, here we go. We have a…thank you for the…the question and, especially thank you for notifying me in advance on the question. And I will anticipate a question from Councillor Schreyer on his motion on plastic bottles probably in the wake of that one. The good news is, we have an answer. The good news is, Water Committee took a look, and thank you for…to Councillor Chambers for raising this issue and bringing it forward. We did look at this back in December at the Water and Environment Committee. We passed…minutes are here indicating that Public Service is to assess the implications of a federal single-use plastic ban on the City of Winnipeg, and report back to Council in 360 days. Not sure why we said 360, instead of 365, but it's late, 360 days with a plan to reduce single-use plastics. So Public Service, take a look what the feds are doing, report back because they said they're not entirely

clear on what the feds are doing. Number two, Winnipeg Public Service is to internally review alternatives to single-use plastics in departmental operations…departmental operations and implement those alternatives as they are identified. So, Public Service to do internal review. Number three, Public Service be directed to provide semi-annual verbal reports to the Standing Committee, starting June 2021 on efforts to reduce single-use plastics within departmental operations. So, thank you to Councillor Chambers for I thin, spurring this debate. We are taking action. We will get reports back verbally every six months. And next, this coming December…this coming December, we will get a full-on report about what the implications are of a potential federal ban of single-use plastics. Councillor Schreyer, at that meeting, quite rightly I think said, wait a minute, I had a whole motion back a while ago about plastic…I believe it was plastic bottles and where did that go? So, good debate about that. But yeah, it's a fair issue to raise. It's a good issue to raise. I think we're taking some action on this. And we should know more…well, we will be doing an internal review, we'll certainly know more by June. And by the end of this year, we'll have a full-on report about what the feds are doing and what we can do to reduce single-use plastics in City-owned facilities and operations. Thank you for the question. It's like being back at the School Board, where we provide these questions a few days in advance and get…get detailed replies. So, thank you for that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: And, I just want to build on that, cause it's something that I've…I think I've raised at Standing Committee in the past, with regards to single-use plastics. We…we as Council, prior to my election, there was a policy with regards to fair trade coffees. And it's always been a bit of a crux in my appointment…or fair trade products. You know, the motion that came forward pertaining to single-use plastics, there's stuff that we could do today to eliminate single-use plastics in some regards of City facilities. We could be leaders today as Council. Probably most of you here have taken a K-cup from the coffee machines that we have right in this very chamber to make a coffee. Those are single-use plastics, those are not compostable. Those are single-use coffee cups. So, my question to you, Mr. Chair, is this something that that we need six months to…to action or is it something that we could be leaders today and immediately stop purchasing K-cups that are not compostable?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: I don't know about the K-cups. I do know that what we passed in December was that they…Public Service would be implement those alternatives as they are identified. So, they shouldn't have to wait. If they have alternatives, they can start identifying and implementing those. We have had discussions here about if you…if you have a full ban on straws there are some implications for the disabled community. Other issue is that sometimes, you know, you wouldn't think of at first blush come up so. Yeah, we…Councillor Nason's on the committee now, we meet in 11 or 12 days, whatever February 10th is. It's a fair question to bring up. How are we doing? Have we identified anything yet? Can we not be doing some things to try and cut down on our use of single-use plastic? Might have been plastic bags Councillor Schreyer was talking about, now councillor…we had…we had a debate on plastic bottles several years ago here, from Councillor Vandal, and there were various limits on what we could do in our community centres, et cetera. But I do think this is the kind of action where, you know, it's…it's not a global…well it's a global concern, but our…our initiatives are not…they're immediately visible, they will be something we can do to reduce our…to increase our diversion out of the landfill, so that aren't simply creating more and more demand on the Brady Landfill. So, it's a fair point by Councillor Nason who's been an active member of the Environment Committee and we look forward to, that's a fair point to bring up at our meeting, which will be action packed because we have several important reports coming on February 10th.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Pardon me, Madam Speaker, but I just have to ask the question because…what is actually a single-use plastic? Given that I, for example, don't buy plastic garbage bags. I use supposedly single-use grocery bags, plastic, for lining my garbage can, and that goes into my garbage, which we all know that if you're throwing garbage into your garbage bin, usually you have to carry it out in some kind of packaging. Otherwise, you get the yuck factor. So, I'm just wondering, you'll note that I use my Chinese food plastic container to store my breakfast in and I…actually, maybe I shouldn't, but I use it…I put that plastic in the nuclear and I eat my frittatas. So that, it's not a single-use plastic, but it is plastic. So, is…when they're studying this, and the whole federal thing, what is the definition of a single-use? I reuse. Reuse. It's reusable plastic, is it not, councillor…Madam Speaker?

Madam Speaker: Yes. Thank you. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you for the question. Going back to originating documents, Councillor Chambers brought this forward in December of '19 at Riel. It, then, was limited to a ban on single-use plastic bottles, plastic straws and plastic stir sticks. And then, I think as it worked through this committee under Councillor Gilroy, it got broader basically…basically it went to using the term, "single-use plastics". So, I don't have…I don't have a definition that I can fire back at you on that. The original intent was certainly to look at single-use plastic water bottles, plastic straws and stir sticks. Other jurisdiction,

there are taking actions on this of course. So yeah, we'll…we'll try and get an answer for you by the time the committee meets on that, Councillor Eadie. That's a fair question. It's, you know, it's an opportunity to do something that isn't, you know, where we can see something immediately visible. So yeah, I think it's been…it's a good initiative that's been brought forward. We're going to have a big committee meeting because we've got the report on flaring at Brady, which is a major issue. And we've got some other important items coming as well. The interim…the interim solution…the interim efforts up at North End Sewage Treatment Plant, that's coming as well. So, lots of major environmental issues coming forward, and we can certainly add this to the agenda and get you an answer.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? That ends question period for that committee. Call for adjournment.

Councillor Gilroy: So moved.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gillingham moves adjournment. All in favour? Contrary? It is carried. Thank you. Have a great evening. Roll call. Stay put. Roll call, Mr. Clerk.

ROLL CALL

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

Council adjourned at 6:24 p.m.