Minute No. 309
Executive Policy Committee - Notice of Motion

Item No. 1 Vote Information System

Council concurred in the Notice of Motion, as amended, and adopted the following:

1. That the Public Service be directed to hold information sessions on the recorded Vote Information System for all Members of Council;

2. That the Public Service report back on a plan for implementation of the recorded Vote Information System for use at City Council meetings in 30 days including options for the creation of a database of recorded votes other than using the Vote Information System as a voting method at Council;

3. That the Public Service be directed to enter all recorded votes for 2021 Council meetings into the Vote Information System.

Executive Policy Committee - Notice of Motion

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,
Seconded by Councillor Rollins,

WHEREAS openness, transparency and accountability in government is essential to a local democracy;

AND WHEREAS the residents of Winnipeg expect their municipal elected officials to be publicly accountable for the decisions they make at City Hall;

AND WHEREAS electronically recorded voting systems are used for Council meetings in many Canadian cities such as Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Toronto and St. Johns;

AND WHEREAS through the diligent work of the City Clerks department the Executive Policy Committee began using the recorded Vote Information System to record votes at its September 21, 2020 meeting;

AND WHEREAS the use of the recorded Vote Information System at Executive Policy Committee meetings has been effective at clarifying for committee members and the public the item that is being voted on and allows Council and the public to transparently see the outcome of each vote;

AND WHEREAS use of the recorded Vote Information System at Council meetings will eliminate the need for time consuming recorded votes, which will streamline Council meetings;

AND WHEREAS by visually displaying the outcome of each members of Council's vote, the recorded voting system is a more effective method of holding elected officials accountable than voting verbally or by standing for a recorded vote, when requested by a member of Council;

AND WHEREAS electronically recorded votes will transparently display how members of Council vote on each item in the City's Decision Making Information System and will better allow the public to hold each Council member accountable for their votes;

AND WHEREAS it is appropriate for Council to vote on the use of the recorded vote information system before implementing it at Council meetings;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the public service be directed to hold information sessions on the recorded Vote Information System for all Members of Council;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the public service report back on a plan for implementation of the recorded Vote Information System for use at City Council meetings in 30 days.

Executive Policy Committee – Notice of Motion (continued):

The Speaker, Councillor Sharma called the Deputy Speaker, Councillor Eadie to the Chair in order to move the following motion.

In amendment,
Moved by Councillor Sharma,
Seconded by Councillor Chambers,

WHEREAS there are currently many different ways of voting, including voice votes at Standing Committees, the VIS at Executive Policy Committee and standing votes at City Council, all of which work very effectively;

AND WHEREAS the main benefit of the VIS is the creation of a database of recorded votes that can be easily searched, rather than how voting occurs at any committee;

AND WHEREAS the Public Service currently creates a listing of all recorded votes at Council that is included in the Disposition document, with the document being published in DMIS for public use on the same day as the Council meeting occurs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Notice of Motion regarding the Vote Information System be amended to have the report back to Council include options for the creation of a database of recorded votes other than using the Vote Information System as a voting method at Council;

2. That the Public Service be directed to enter all recorded votes for 2021 Council meetings into the Vote Information System.

The motion for the adoption of the amendment was put.

His Worship Mayor Bowman called for the yeas and nays which were as follows:

Yea: His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Nason, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Schreyer and Sharma. 15

Nay: 0

Absent: Councillor Klein 1

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

Executive Policy Committee – Notice of Motion (continued):

The motion for the adoption of the Notice of Motion, as amended, was put.

Yea: His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Nason, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Schreyer and Sharma. 15

Nay: 0

Absent: Councillor Klein 1

and the motion for the adoption of the Notice of Motion, as amended, was declared carried.