Minute No. 356
Report – Executive Policy Committee – April 21, 2021

Item No. 3 Emergency Management Leadership Team COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan

COUNCIL DECISION:

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

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to consult with the City of Winnipeg Emergency Management Leadership Team (EMLT) and be directed to report back in 90 days to each Community Committee for input and recommendations to the Executive Policy Committee, with a proposed framework response and recovery plan to guide and develop the City's COVID-19 short term response and recovery strategies and actions that includes:

    A. A re-imagining of the way the City can deliver programs and services that have been impacted by COVID-19;

    B. A 2-year recovery plan that includes existing and new measures and strategies to promote job and economic growth, equity and resiliency

    C. A plan to initiate dialogue with federal, provincial and indigenous governments as well as Economic Development Winnipeg to take a wholistic approach to address the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated recovery plan;

    D. A process for community consultations that identifies the economic and social impacts of COVID-19 and provide recommendation to the EMLT for consideration into the Winnipeg COVID-19 recovery plan.

    E. A focus on the City of Winnipeg's downtown area, one that reflects the current collaborative economic recovery efforts of downtown stakeholders.

    F. Options to accelerate the servicing of un-serviced employed lands in Winnipeg.

2. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to incorporate the previously approved reports, as outlined below, in the report required in Recommendation 1 above:

    A. The Development of an Economic Recovery Plan for Community Centers, as directed by Council on March 25, 2021;

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COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

B. Information on the feasibility and financial implications of providing a grant to all; establishments including hotels, motels and inns, which are required to collect an Accommodation Tax for the City of Winnipeg, equal to 50% of the value of the Accommodation Tax, to be provided on a monthly basis in 2021, as directed by the Executive Policy Committee on March 17, 2021.

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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

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

In amendment,
Moved by Councillor Rollins,
Seconded by Councillor Orlikow,

WHEREAS Winnipeg's downtown area is the historic, tourist and cultural heart of the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the Downtown has the largest employment concentration and the highest density office development in the City, making it Winnipeg's economic driver;

AND WHEREAS large cities are assessed in large part based on the strength and quality of their downtowns, including their vibrancy, amenities and residential and commercial offerings;

AND WHEREAS vibrant downtowns are destinations where people live, work and come to be entertained;

AND WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a high number of downtown business closures and increased building vacancies;

AND WHEREAS the City's COVID-19 recovery plan should include a focus on the downtown

AND WHEREAS it is acknowledged that post-pandemic economic recovery must also occur beyond Winnipeg's downtown, so as to spread the benefits of future investment, employment and growth across other areas of the City;

AND WHEREAS the 2018 Employment and Commercial Lands Study found that the City of Winnipeg is facing a significant shortfall of vacant serviced industrial lands in the next 20 years;

AND WHEREAS OurWinnipeg 2045 lists Economic Resilience as one of its six main objectives and Complete Communities 2.0 is clear that the City of Winnipeg's competitiveness will rely in part on its ability to accommodate forecasted economic growth and this requires an adequate supply of serviced industrial lands;

AND WHEREAS an adequate supply of serviced industrial lands is critical to economic development and is especially critical as a tool to support recovery efforts from COVID-19.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Item 3 of the Executive Policy Committee report dated April 21, 2021, be amended by adding the following new Recommendations 1.E and 1.F.:

"1. E. A focus on the City of Winnipeg's downtown area, one that reflects the current collaborative economic recovery efforts of downtown stakeholders.

F. Options to accelerate the servicing of un-serviced employed lands in Winnipeg."

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

BE IT RESOLVED that Item 3 of the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 21, 2021, be amended as follows:

- In Recommendation 1 delete the words "report back to the Executive Policy Committee within 90 days" and replace it with "report back in 90 days to each Community Committee for input and recommendations to the Executive Policy Committee".

The motion for the adoption of the amendment Moved by Councillor Klein and Seconded by Councillor Nason 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, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Nason, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Schreyer and Sharma 16

Nay: 0

and the motion for the adoption of the amendment Moved by Councillor Klein and Seconded by Councillor Nason was declared carried.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

The motion for the adoption of the amendment Moved by Councillor Rollins and Seconded by Councillor Orlikow 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, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Nason, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Schreyer and Sharma 16

Nay: 0

and the motion for the adoption of the amendment Moved by Councillor Rollins and Seconded by Councillor Orlikow was declared carried.

The motion for the adoption of the Item as amended 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, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Nason, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Schreyer and Sharma 16

Nay: 0

and the motion for the adoption of the Item as amended was declared carried.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 21, 2021, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS City Council voted at its March 25 meeting to support the development of an Economic Recovery Plan for Community Centers, a plan which includes identifying Community Centres which fall under the purview of the General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres and are experiencing financial difficulties as a result of COVID-19;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

AND WHEREAS the Executive Policy Committee, at its March 17 meeting, directed the Winnipeg Public Service to report back with information regarding the possibility of an Accommodation Tax rebate, equal to 50% of the value of the Accommodation Tax, to be provided on a monthly basis in 2021;

AND WHEREAS it is proposed that the Public Service be directed to consult with the City of Winnipeg Emergency Management Leadership Team and report back with a proposed framework response and recovery plan to guide and develop the City's COVID-19 short term response and recovery strategies;

AND WHEREAS for efficacy's sake it is desirable that City of Winnipeg COVID-19 recovery plans be considered concurrently and by the same parties;

AND WHEREAS there is merit in consolidating all assistance programs and reports related to the COVID-19 pandemic;

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

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to consult with the City of Winnipeg Emergency Management Leadership Team (EMLT) and be directed to report back to the Executive Policy Committee within 90 days with a proposed framework response and recovery plan to guide and develop the City's COVID-19 short term response and recovery strategies and actions that includes:

    A. A re-imagining of the way the City can deliver programs and services that have been impacted by COVID-19;

    B. A 2-year recovery plan that includes existing and new measures and strategies to promote job and economic growth, equity and resiliency;

    C. A plan to initiate dialogue with federal, provincial and indigenous governments as well as Economic Development Winnipeg to take a wholistic approach to address the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated recovery plan;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

D. A process for community consultations that identifies the economic and social impacts of COVID-19 and provide recommendation to the EMLT for consideration into the Winnipeg COVID-19 recovery plan.

2. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to incorporate the previously approved reports, as outlined below, in the report required in Recommendation 1 above:

   A. The Development of an Economic Recovery Plan for Community Centers, as directed by Council on March 25, 2021;

   B. Information on the feasibility and financial implications of providing a grant to all; establishments including hotels, motels and inns, which are required to collect an Accommodation Tax for the City of Winnipeg, equal to 50% of the value of the Accommodation Tax, to be provided on a monthly basis in 2021, as directed by the Executive Policy Committee on March 17, 2021.

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

COUNCIL DECISION:

On March 25, 2021, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

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

WHEREAS the impact of COVID-19 on municipal governments to meet their expected services levels and to continue to do so is under severe pressure when the economy and residents needs it the most;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg is dealing with the immediate economic and public health crisis while maintaining service continuity;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS COVID-19 impacts have shown the need to strengthen the City's economic and equity infrastructure in order to support City Departments with additional tools required to deliver on the unique needs of Winnipeg's economy, diverse residents, including those who are part of Black, Indigenous and equity-deserving communities, given the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on these communities;

AND WHEREAS as Winnipeg moves from response to recovery, investments will need to be made in addressing skills gaps in the labour force, developing spaces that suit the changing shape of business, and establishing resilient supply chains, business models, and workforces in emerging or growing sectors;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg can thrive in becoming stronger, more resilient community, with an economy that's better prepared for a highly uncertain future;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has adopted By-law No. 59/2020, a By-law of The City of Winnipeg to ensure adequate preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies;

AND WHEREAS the Emergency Management By-law provides for the ability of the City of Winnipeg to respond appropriately to emergency situations, provides for the appropriate preparation with carefully designed plans of action and clear decision-making structures and lines of responsibility and accountability;

AND WHEREAS the Emergency Management Leadership Team was established through the Emergency Management By-law as the local emergency response control group required by The Emergency Measures Act to provide guidance and advice to the Chief Administrative Officer and Council in preparation of, responding to and recovering from emergencies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to consult with the City of Winnipeg Emergency Management Leadership Team (EMLT) and be directed to report back to the Executive Policy Committee within 90 days with a proposed framework response and recovery plan to guide and develop the City's COVID-19 short term response and recovery strategies and actions that includes:

    A. A re-imagining of the way the City can deliver programs and services that have been impacted by COVID-19;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

B. A 2-year recovery plan that includes existing and new measures and strategies to promote job and economic growth, equity and resiliency;

C. A plan to initiate dialogue with federal, provincial and indigenous governments as well as Economic Development Winnipeg to take a wholistic approach to address the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated recovery plan;

D. A process for community consultations that identifies the economic and social impacts of COVID-19 and provide recommendation to the EMLT for consideration into the Winnipeg COVID-19 recovery plan.

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