Minute No. 440
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Finance – May 14, 2021

Item No. 1 COVID-19 Economic Support Grant Program Round Two

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Finance and adopted the following:

1. That an additional $3 million in funding be provided for a second round of the COVID-19 Economic Support Grant Program to assist eligible businesses and not-for-profit organizations that have experienced business closures or restrictions due to the most recent pandemic health orders.

2. That the $3 million for a second round of the COVID-19 Economic Support Grant Program be incremental to the $3 million included in the adopted 2021 budget.

3. That the second round of COVID-19 Economic Support Grant Program follow the same model, criteria, eligibility and parameters established through the adopted 2021 budget (See Recommendation 1 J of the 2021 Adopted Budget).

4. That July 31st, 2021 be set as the deadline for applications for round two of the COVID-19 Economic Support Grant Program.

5. That the program be funded through the General Revenue Fund with a $3 million transfer, if necessary, from the Financial Stabilization Reserve.

6. That any funds not expended from the initial February 28th, 2021 intake be transferred to this second round of grant application intake.

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

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Finance – May 14, 2021

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Gillingham,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Finance be adopted.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 18, 2021, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Finance and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 14, 2021, the Standing Policy Committee on Finance passed the following motion:

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has announced new health orders to slow the spread of COVID-19;

AND WHEREAS the new health orders came into effect on May 9th, 2021 and will significantly limit operations of many not-for-profit organizations and businesses, including, but not limited to businesses in the retail and hospitality sectors;

AND WHEREAS the most recent health orders will have a detrimental impact and further hurt many not-for-profit organizations and businesses that continue to struggle under the ongoing impact of health orders;

AND WHEREAS the adopted 2021 budget included $3 million for a COVID-19 Economic Support Grant Program to assist eligible not-for-profit organizations and business by providing them with a grant of $1500;

AND WHEREAS the COVID-19 Economic Support Grant Program is expected to be fully subscribed to provide 2000 grants of $1500 each to eligible not-for-profit organizations and businesses;

AND WHEREAS the Financial Stabilization Reserve Fund has sufficient capacity to accommodate another $3 million of economic recovery grants while still maintaining a balance that exceeds an amount equal to or above 6% of tax supported expenditures, as per council policy;

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Finance – May 14, 2021

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT an additional $3 million in funding be provided for a second round of the COVID-19 Economic Support Grant Program to assist eligible businesses and not-for- profit organizations that have experienced business closures or restrictions due to the most recent pandemic health orders;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the $3 million for a second round of the COVID-19 Economic Support Grant Program be incremental to the $3 million included in the adopted 2021 budget;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the second round of COVID-19 Economic Support Grant Program follow the same model, criteria, eligibility and parameters established through the adopted 2021 budget (See Recommendation 1 J of the 2021 Adopted Budget);

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT July 31st, 2021 be set as the deadline for applications for round two of the COVID-19 Economic Support Grant Program;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the program be funded through the General Revenue Fund with a $3 million transfer, if necessary, from the Financial Stabilization Reserve;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT any funds not expended from the initial February 28th, 2021 intake be transferred to this second round of grant application intake;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing;

and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.