COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Wednesday, December 15, 2021

The Council met at 9:40 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 Rollins.

ROLL CALL

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

Madam Speaker: Thank you Mr. Clerk, and if you could please read the notice for today's special meeting into the record.

Pursuant to Section 79(1) of the City of Winnipeg Charter, a special meeting has been called for Wednesday, December 15th, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. to consider the following matters: Winnipeg Police Board Preliminary 2022 Operating and Capital Budget Recommendations and Executive Policy Committee Preliminary 2022 Operating and Capital Budgets – Final Recommendations. Pursuant to the requirements of the City of Winnipeg Charter, no other subject matter other than those outlined in this notice shall be considered at this meeting. Signed, Marc Lemoine, City Clerk.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We'll now move on to delegations. I'll call forward Mr. Chris Lorenc. He's the President of the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association. And he is in support of Item 1 of the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated December 14th, 2021, regarding the Preliminary 2022 Operating and Capital Budget. Welcome.

DELEGATIONS

Chris Lorenc: Good morning, Madam Speaker, Mr. Mayor, members of Council. I thank you for the opportunity of presenting this morning, but more importantly, thank you for the hard work in bringing us to a point where there is a budget document for Council's final consideration. Budgets are, without question, the most difficult of documents to prepare. They never perfectly address all of the emerging and growing needs faced by, in this case, civic government. They by their nature are charged with political debate of disquiet, fraught with frustration and disappointment that local ward or broad civic areas of policy did not receive the desired attention. They are both a fiscal and political policy instrument and key to helping shape indispensable, immediate and long-term inter-governmental relations. They are public policy enablers, each inextricably linked together. They are, therefore, fundamental to laying the groundwork for the city's future. What you have before you this morning is not perfect, but perfection is the enemy of better. What you do have before you is certainly deserving of your favourable consideration. Mindful of the above, I have sent to you, electronically, our budget views and recommendations. I don't propose to read our Council submission this morning, nor repeat it in its entirety. I do, however, wish to focus on the planning side of our recommendations, they don't ask at cost, rather, they enable informed policy and budget decisions going forward. To context our presentation, I wish to restate that our longstanding approach to budget structure is based on two fundamental pillars. The first is a focus on growing the economy to expand the tax base to generate the revenues with which to maintain existing programs, improve them and add the new ones. And the second is a budget that is socially progressive and environmentally responsible. So, based on what we have seen and read and heard, we are pleased to support the preliminary 2022 operating budgets and the accompanying motions. We support the four-year operating budget plan and recommend Council stay the course. And relying on the public assurances of the Mayor and the Chair of the Finance Committee and the budget document itself, that this is a one-time occurrence, we can support the one-time reallocation of revenues from the 2% dedicated tax to the City's operating budget as…to offset a significant drop in revenues primarily from transit, recreation and parking and that transfer being offset by an allocation from the gas tax fund. We offer planning recommendations which help grow the economy, expand access to revenues, preserve existing assets, invest in new assets, speak to intergovernmental relations and address social and environmental areas of responsibility under the following four categories: 1) focus on a strategic infrastructure investment plan to grow the economy, to leverage its returns to support operating revenues for critical services and programs and work with the Winnipeg metropolitan region and Manitoba to implement a capital region economic growth.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Lorenc, I'm just going to ask you to pause. Our audio is not going through on YouTube. It's happened before when you were here.

Chris Lorenc: Some might be happy about that.

Madam Speaker: So, we'll just pause for a moment, please. And we're just trying to fix the issue.

Chris Lorenc: You get to hear it a second time.

Madam Speaker: Did anything come through that Mr. Lorenc said? If you could…

Chris Lorenc: So, all over again?

Madam Speaker: Just to capture it for the public record, I call on you, Mr. Lorenc for your presentation. Ten minutes on the clock, please.

Chris Lorenc: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, Mr. Mayor and councillors. I thank you for the opportunity of presenting, but more importantly, thanking you for the hard work that has resulted in a budget here this morning for Council's final consideration. Budgets, as you know, are the most difficult of documents to prepare. They never perfectly address all of the emerging and growing needs that are faced by, in this case, civic government. They are by their nature charged with political debate, disquiet, fraught with frustration and disappointment that local ward or broad civic areas of policy did not receive the desired attention. They are both a fiscal and political policy instrument and a key to shaping…and helping shape indispensable, immediate and long-term relationships between governments. Budgets are policy enablers, each inextricably linked together. They are, therefore, fundamental and foundational to laying the groundwork for the city's future. What you have before you is not perfect, but perfection is the enemy of better. What you do have before you this morning is certainly deserving of your favourable consideration. Mindful of the above, I have sent to you electronically our budget views and recommendations, and don't propose to read our Council submission this morning, nor repeat it in its entirety. I do wish, however, to focus on the planning side of our recommendations. They don't add cost to the budget, rather, they enable informed policy and budget decision making going forward. To context our presentation, we restate our longstanding approach to budget structure being built on two foundational pillars. The first being, a focus on growing the economy to enable the generation of revenues with which to fund existing and introduce new programs. And the second is a budget that is socially progressive and environmentally responsible. So, based on what we have seen, read and heard, we are pleased to support the preliminary 2022 operating and capital budget. We support the four-year operating budget plan. And relying on the public assurances from the Mayor and the Chair of the Finance and the budget document itself, that this is a one-time occurrence, we can support the one-time reallocation of revenues from the 2% dedicated tax increase to the City's operating budget to offset significant revenue drops in transit, recreation and parking. Mindful that an equal reallocation to make up the transfer is from the gas tax fund. We offer planning recommendations which help grow the economy, expand access to revenues, preserve existing assets, invest in new assets, speak to intergovernmental relations and address social and environmental areas of responsibility under the following four categories: 1) focus on a strategic infrastructure investment plan to grow the economy, to leverage its returns to support the generation of operating revenues for critical services and programs and work with the Winnipeg metropolitan region and Manitoba to implement a capital region economic growth plan. Is there anyone in this chamber who disagrees with the enabling link between economic growth and fiscal and policy flexibility? 2) Press the Provincial Government to enter into a new fiscal deal with municipalities and press Ottawa and Manitoba for a successor plan to the Accelerated Regional Streets Program currently ending in '23. Is there anyone in this chamber who disagrees that a new fiscal deal between the Province and its municipalities is long overdue or that Manitoba and Canada clearly have a role in helping fund the transportation system upon which our trade reliant economy is based? 3) Task a stakeholder group resourced by the Office of Economic Development and Growth and supported by Public Works to recommend a detailed strategic infrastructure plan addressing at minimum targeted strategic goals including mode shift induced demand and inverted mobility considerations. Identify where growth is likely to occur and link those with infrastructure investments to grow Winnipeg's tax base. Define an appropriate level of service that the system should be designed to provide. Prioritize projects that will provide the best ROI to GDP. Identify potential external funding sources including public and private and an accompanying implementation strategy. And 4) task Public Works to recommend through the '22/'23 budget deliberations and updated assessment of the condition and needs of local and regional streets AT including bus lanes and dedicated…sorry, bicycle lanes and dedicated bus lanes and separately, bridges and structures. And updated local and regional streets and AT renewal program with continued dedicated revenues and investment strategy. A new bridges and structures plan with its own dedicated revenue streams and investment strategy separate and apart from the Local Regional Streets and AT Renewal Program and an accompanying implementation strategy. With respect to the last two recommendations, we remind you that you have a Climate Action Plan, Transit Plan, Affordable Housing Plan, four-year balanced budget plans, social procurement plan in the making, a Transportation Master Plan currently being updated, Poverty Reduction Plan, Plan Winnipeg, annual and five-year plan, Active Transportation Plan and many others. And you have them to understand the necessary steps going forward to understand what the civic priorities and objectives are and to then be able to align budget priorities to meet those plans. The request that you develop a detailed infrastructure plan, an updated local and regional and AT plan and a new standalone bridges and structures plan, is based on the same

principle that led you to support the development and updating of the listed plans, namely, failure to plan enables failure. I point out that the Urban Institute of Manitoba has called for a detailed infrastructure investment plan to make clear the City's needs for core infrastructure and servicing to enable development including for employment lands. And this is similar to the more recent call by Trees Please Winnipeg for an investment plan for the renewal of Winnipeg's tree canopy reflecting the loss of trees and the need to investment in new planting on a reasonable timeline. And EPC has demonstrated in the proposed amendments to the budget, with respect to the funding of active transportation, the direct connection between a plan, its realization and execution in a budget document. In short, we are calling on you to plan, to begin shaping political strategies and policies and relationships with senior levels of government to enable the city to move forward. And we respectfully ask that these recommendations be reflected in and added to an accompanying motion adopting the budget. They are, in essence, no different in purpose than the policy shaping directions in Item 1, EPC's final budget recommendations, namely, 1Q at page 4, related to pursuing a new agreement with Shared Health Services. 1Z at page 6 related to the City of Winnipeg Climate Action Plan engagement with stakeholders. 2D and E at page 8 with respect to the development and funding of a strategic infrastructure plan through sustainable, social and economic development focusing initially on sewer and water capacity. And 2J, K and L on pages 10 and 11 and then L at page 15, amending 2K and addressing the funding of active transportation infrastructure reconstruction. Mr. Mayor and councillors, '22 is both a transitional and pivotal year. It marks the end of this council's term in office heading into the '22 civic elections, but it is also a pivotal year for the Province as it heads into a '23 provincial election. The provincial planning…the political planning and priority stars are aligned. They offer you the opportunity of standing up for the interests of sound, good governance, to pressure and press, political, provincial leaders to commit to a realignment of provincial, municipal and, by extension, federal relations, roles, responsibilities and revenue sharing to meet the ever evolving and growing challenges and demands for service. This is not the time to be shy or timid, nor to walk away from such a golden political opportunity. This is the time to lead with this budget, to speak to and develop broad public and stakeholder support for new directions that enable a successful city, a growing city. In closing, again, I sincerely thank you for all of your good and hard work, for your time and attention today and I would be happy to try to answer any questions.

Madam Speaker: Chris Lorenc, thank you. We'll hear from the next delegation and then come back for questions. I'll now call Loren Remillard. He's here remote with us. He's the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce. He's also in support of the same item. We'll have five minutes on the clock. Welcome, Loren.

Loren Remillard: Good morning, Madam Speaker, Mr. Mayor, members of Council. On behalf of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today in our support of the City's 2022 budget update. To begin, I do want to commend Council and the administration for, once again, having the foresight to adopt a four-year budget plan in 2020. This has been something the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce has been recommending consistently for several years and I do believe that it has helped the City weather the storm of the pandemic better than it would have otherwise. While there are certainly some difficult decisions in this budget, and we do have some concern that the City has hit a preverbal wall with respect to its options concerning balancing future budgets, the situation would almost certainly be much worse if you weren't working from a longer-term plan in the first place. From a business perspective, there's lots to like in this budget. We appreciate the budget continues to hold the line on business taxes and includes a nominal increase to the small business tax threshold. While we continue to have concerns that Winnipeg is the only major city in Canada with a separate business tax, we appreciate that more significant change is just not possible given the City's current financial revenue challenges. For that reason, we continue to advance the need for a new revenue model, not just for Winnipeg, for municipalities across Canada and I do believe Mr. Lorenc spoke to that imperative as well. Converting temporary staff in the Permits Department to permanent status will ensure better continuity to service. We know that property development drives municipal revenues and given that commercial permits and inspections continues to be a profit centre for the City, we hope we will see further investment in this target in the years to come. Expanding servicing in the area…Airport Area West is a project the Chamber's supported for several years. It will allow for the development of more employment lands and ensure Winnipeg remains a viable location option for many industries. Determining the capacity of existing water and sewer infrastructure is a recommendation that we had made as part of our OurWinnipeg submission as this information will be critical to assessing the viability of future infill projects. So, we're happy that budget 2022 includes funds to give that process. Finally, we strongly support the $20 million commitment to projects that will support the economic recovery of our downtown and other areas of the city. We've all seen the significant impact the pandemic has had on small and medium sized businesses, especially those in the restaurant, hospitality and service industries that bring life to our downtown and neighbourhood streets. We look forward to seeing the list of proposed projects in the months ahead. While there are lots of positives, we do have a few concerns. As I mentioned previously, it appears the City is facing significant challenges in balancing future budgets. Over the past few years, we…you have been forced to increase borrowing and transfers from reserve fund. That clearly cannot continue forever and we do fear future councils may look to significant tax increases (inaudible). We know that the recovery from the pandemic will take several years and increasing property and business taxes will only slow that process through. It bears noting that the City's largest revenue losses from last year affecting this budget came from reduced transit ridership, parking, entertainment tax, all of which have a clear link to the negative economic impacts faced by business due to COVID. This provides stark evidence of what the Chamber has been saying consistently over the years, that less business activity equals less City revenue.

And we know that increased business tax leads to less business activity. The proof is in your budget. On the residential side, Winnipeg's strong population growth and housing starts also prove its point. Growth in the number of residents and municipal starts allowed the tax burden to be dispersed amongst more individuals, not substantially increased. The fact is population growth, which amounts to approximately 50,000 in the last five years, and housing starts are greatly outpacing business starts in our city. During that same period of time, you look at the line in terms of the number of active businesses in Winnipeg, it is a flat line. Growth has been on the residential side, not in the number of businesses operating in our city. Therefore, our focus must always, always be on growing the pie, not growing burden. We once again strongly encourage the City to continually review its core mandate and the full suite of services it provides in fulfilling that mandate. We do also echo some of the concerns expressed today by the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association with respect to the 2% dedicated tax increase being shifted from local and regional streets to support the operating budget. We do appreciate the unique circumstances in place this year and understand and support that decision. We do hope that the assurances will continue that this will be a one-time occurrence, because we feel the…

Madam Speaker: Loren. Loren, that…the five minutes is up. If you can just finish your sentence maybe there and wrap up.

Loren Remillard: All right, in closing, I would like to thank you all again for your work on this budget as well as your leadership during COVID. I know it's never easy. The past two years have made things especially challenging for those of you who sit in the council chamber. And on behalf of the Chamber, thank you for your service.

Madam Speaker: Loren, thank you. Now we'll go to questions, if I can call forward Chris Lorenc as well. Councillor Eadie, first question.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And thanks to our delegations for making their presentations. My…this question will be for Mr. Lorenc for the heavy construction industry. In the presentation, I heard a lot about…it sounds like it's not in the budget, so therefore, there's a belief that our Public Service, which we have a lot of people working our asset management, Madam Speaker, aside from just looking at the budget, Mr. Lorenc, have you looked at the Transportation Master Plan consultations? Has heave construction been consulted? Do you know and understand what they're trying to do and move into a strategic plan? So, essentially, what I'm asking is, when you prepared your presentation, were you aware of all the other things the City is currently doing to try to manage our assets better? But they're always in the face of, there isn't enough money.

Chris Lorenc: Madam Speaker, through you to Councillor Eadie, yes, we are aware of those steps. We are engaged in the Transportation Master Plan consultation. We, in fact, have arranged a discussion to focus on one area in particular related to the Transportation Master Plan and its connection to growing the economy. So, we are aware of that. We're aware, obviously, of the Active Transportation Plan and we're aware of all of the discussions and decisions that have been made and offered to be made over the last number of months with respect to connecting active transportation to the local and regional streets program and you've heard us speak in support of those directions.

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

Councillor Eadie: Second question. Madam Speaker, Mr. Lorenc was around and part of when the City established the Local Road Renewal Program. And there was a study and there was a plan, a very long-term plan to get sustainable local roads, sidewalks, so on. Do you recall in there it called for a different style of taxation in order to make that program sustainable? Do you think that in the last number of budgets, we've actually gone away from a plan that made sense?

Chris Lorenc: Well, Madam Speaker, in response to Councillor Eadie, yes, it is true that I was around in 2013-'14, when the dedicated local and regional streets programs were introduced. It began with the residential followed by regional 1% to each. The plan, in addition to that dedicated tax component, called for the allocation of cash to capital frontage levees and other sources of funding, and there has been a separation from, if you will, the purity of that program as it was adopted to where we are today. We understand that those changes are made and we understand and respect that at the end of the day, Council is the final parliament. Our preference, obviously, is that once a plan has been set, that every effort be made to ensure that there is discipline to its purpose. We understand that there have been dynamics that have also influenced the fiscal position of the City, including the Provincial Government walking away from a $40 million payment, the topping up by the Federal Government on at least two occasions, the financial assistance that it's provided, so these are all dynamics that ultimately influence plans. But because there has been, in our respectful opinion, a marked departure from what was adopted in '13-'14 to where we are today, we are asking Council…we are imploring Council to revisit, to understand the impacts of the decisions that have been made, to understand what benefits and improvements have been achieved, to understand what different criteria and parameters might be used to harness a new plan that succeeds the 2013-'14 plan. What I think is very important is that the public has accepted the notion of transparent and open and

accountable dedication of taxes to a specific purpose, and Council should not lose sight of that very important achievement.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Final question, Madam Speaker, to Mr. Lorenc. Did you see in the notes for '23 that they're bringing back the 1% from '22 for the regional and local road programs back into those programs?

Chris Lorenc: Yes, I believe I've seen that. Thank you, Councillor.

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

Councillor Mayes: Councillor Eadie basically stole one of my questions, and the answer was so good that I almost hate to ask, but I did want to…I said some positive things about Mr. Lorenc at EPC, and perhaps inevitably, ten years on, you start looking back at some things. It is important to set the context of there have been 14 years of property tax increases. In '12, there was a property tax increase not specifically tied, and I remember you coming and saying, look at what Edmonton's doing. And lo and behold, between Scott Fielding, Russ Wyatt and some others, we did. And so, we moved forward and started doing that dedicated increase exactly as you said. So, we have stayed the course. We have continued to keep those increases going and it compounds, of course, each year. So, it started with the local, then the regional. You're right in saying the purity of it. Eventually, it was all going to shift to frontage levy, which isn't based on income. If…you could have a house not worth a lot on a very wide lot, and people south of the perimeter in Councillor Chambers' ward would love that system, they don't pay frontage levee because they don't have water and sewer, they'd be getting all this road work for free. But I think we did the right thing and didn't stay with that plan. But…so, thank you for the interventions you made back there in '12 and '13. I think that mattered. Just for clarity, though, we are doing a one-off, as you put it, a one-time switch using some gas tax money. I think I heard you say your organization supports that provided that it's a one-time step.

Chris Lorenc: Yes. We understand the financial position in which the City is in. And we understand that the gas tax fund that's now apparently renamed. The gas tax fund is not available for operating purposes. And so, the magic of the budget instrument is that there isn't a loss to the program. Its purity in terms of dedication is protected and enshrined in the budget, and we think that is very important. So, we can support it because of those assurances that have been made politically and because of the language in the budget document and because these are unique circumstances which call for unique decision making.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes. If you could mute, please. Unmute.

Councillor Lukes: Unmute. Thank you. All right, thanks very much. All right. So, I guess my question is for Mr. Remillard. So, we're in unprecedented times. The financial hit we're taking because of COVID is indisputedly having a negative impact on our budget. And if the pandemic continues and with no additional federal support, next year, we will be seeing either major cuts to services or tax increases. The budget as noted earlier by Mr. Lorenc is a fundamental tool in laying the City's direction and a budget is never perfect. So, my question is, Mr. Remillard, the current budget process does not allow seven councillors to fully engage in crafting the budget. The process restricts access to information. It restricts access to in-depth departmental briefings. It restricts access to risk lists and restricts access for all councillors to dialogue with the Public Service on these critical issues. So, my question is, do you think by restricting information to seven councillors representing 350,000 residents, this process results in the best budget for the City of Winnipeg?

Loren Remillard: Thank you for the question. Madam Speaker, through you to Councillor Lukes, I want to be very clear, I mean, we are here today to speak to the contents of the budget and what that means to our business community and residents throughout the community. I understand that there are issues in terms of process, not just, say, budget, but everywhere in an organization as large as the City. I will refrain from commenting on those processes. We are heading into a municipal election, and I think Winnipeggers will ultimately weigh-in as to whether they think there's something wrong in the state of Denmark. And the end of the day, we are here to talk about the budget and the budget that was constructed and put before us is one that we can support.

Councillor Lukes: Well, the context…question number two.

Madam Speaker: Second question.

Councillor Lukes: The content of the budget is not crafted by all of Council. So, I guess I'm wondering, in your opinion, do you support…well, you're saying you support the content of the budget, so I guess you support the process then.

Loren Remillard: Madam Speaker, through you to Councillor Lukes, we're dealing with the outcome of whatever process the City has employed. I respect that your opinion on the matter is such that you do not feel that adequate reflection of all Council...

Madam Speaker: Councillor Klein moves extension. Councillor Klein moves extension. Two minutes. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Loren, continue.

Loren Remillard: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I'm sure if you polled all of members of Council, they may not share your perspective on the matter. Again, it's not our place to weigh-in to those kinds of deliberations and discussions between yourself and your colleagues. I think all Winnipeggers trust that the 16 individuals sitting around that table are all working the best interests of Winnipeggers and should be working collaboratively to achieve that objective. That is our hope. That is our expectation, and ultimately, though, again we're looking at the budget document today, and that's what we're responding to.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you.

Councillor Sharma: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have a question. I'd like to ask a question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Sharma: Shall I do that from here? Or I guess I can go to the podium.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I think you can do it from there.

Councillor Sharma: Okay. Sure. So, I'll pass the Chair to you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Sharma: My question is for Loren Remillard. I agree with what Councillor Lukes just said. Loren, the Chamber has weighed-in on things like the electronic voting buttons and the transparency or lack thereof, so you have weighed in on items that Council discusses that are similar. So, what is your opinion with…related to what Councillor Lukes just asked? The Chamber weighed in on the voting buttons through social media, perhaps through this chamber as well, and that was around openness and transparency, too. So, tell us what you think about this process. I don't feel that it's been a collaborative process, so what is…what is…what are your thoughts on that at a high level?

Loren Remillard: Thank you, sorry, Mr. Speaker, to…through to Councillor Sharma. The reality is, yes, we have weighed in on structural changes. We have weighed in and advocated for the current model that was referred to as the strong mayor model. We always believe that any process requires…you can have…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hold on a moment. Okay. Councillor Gillingham moves extension. All those in favour? Okay, go ahead. Sorry, Mr. Remillard.

Loren Remillard: No, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good process will fail if, you know, the individuals charged with that process are not collaboration. Conversely, a broken system can still work with well intentioned people working with the system they have. So, ultimately, we recognize that there are divisions, there's fracture amongst Council, and you know, we acknowledge that, but at the same time, the solutions to that reside within the 16 sitting around that table. It is in the interest of all Winnipeggers that you find a way to work together. Specific to the question of this budget process, again, I know there are a number of individuals around the council table that feel that the process was faulty, but there also a number of individuals around the table that feel that the process did provide opportunity for Council…all Council to weigh-in. We are an external body to the various processes within city hall, the meetings that take place. So, what we have is a difference of opinion on that. Ultimately, I will say this, our expectation, like all of Winnipeggers is for Council to work together. And I think it behooves all of Council, especially heading into a municipal election, to present a position to all voters that this council and representatives around that Council can work together, that we can agree to disagree and move on and work together. That's the expectation.

Councillor Sharma: Second question if I may.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Sharma: Thank you, Loren, I appreciate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Through the Speaker.

Councillor Sharma: Thank you, Loren, I appreciate your comments.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Madam Speaker, through the Speaker.

Councillor Sharma: Thank you. Through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I appreciate the comments. Is Mr. Remillard aware that we're one of the only jurisdictions in Canada that have that strong mayor model he referenced in his remarks?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Remillard.

Loren Remillard: Yes.

Councillor Sharma: No further questions. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: And time has run out.

Councillor Sharma: I'd like to move extension. There was another question, Mr. Deputy Speaker, while you're still in the Chair. Move extension for two-minutes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those…all those in favour of extension? Okay. I think everybody's in support. Okay. Thank you. Who is up next for question?

Councillor Sharma: It's Councillor Lukes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Lukes. Okay. Would you like to take the Chair back, Madam Speaker?

Councillor Sharma: Sure. Thank you.

Councillor Lukes: Mr. Remillard, almost half of Council has had less than two weeks to scrutinize a $2 billion budget. Less than two weeks to scrutinize a $2 billion budget. What are your thoughts on the scrutinizing ability to review the budget and provide comments and feedback in that timeframe?

Loren Remillard: Thank you, Madam Speaker, to Councillor Lukes. Again, as a Chamber, it is not our role to get into the various (inaudible) between councillors and some of the discord and the fracture. Our expectation is that Council find a way to work through that. In terms of the access to information, this is not a new phenomenon that this council is dealing with. I've been around city hall long enough to have heard these questions and had these responses, different people asking them, different people expressing concern. This is a reality that seems to be something that we have history around, and it's not unique to Winnipeg; that other cities with other models, you hear councillors echoing many of the same concerns. And sometimes, it really depends on which side of the debate you're on. Whether you're inside that meeting or outside that meeting, it's a different question each time. So, again, you know, I think Winnipeggers want to see our city hall function and want to see it move forward and everyone working together. That is our expectation, Council.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Once again, Chris Lorenc is here to offer information, insights to Council on these important issues. One thing he's talked about before and he's talked about again today is long-term planning. Also, the idea that Winnipeggers are accepting the idea of transparent…open and accountable planning for the city.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Councillor Nason moves extension of two minutes. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried.

Councillor Schreyer: Now, my point I've been saying for years is that, not just all Council members, especially the Executive Policy Committee members don't understand the way the construction industry works and what they're voting on. I might know a little bit more about it than they do, but that's not adequate. I need more…I need more answers, too. A few of years ago, Chris Lorenc…Chris Lorenc made the point that labour costs are half the cost of the construction contracts. That was made on record here in this chamber. And, of course, things change over time. I'm just wondering, if Mr. Lorenc can let us know if that is still the case or if he'd like to refine that comment being…about 84 years ago that labour costs are half the costs of labour contracts and if there anything more to say about that as an update?

Chris Lorenc: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you to Councillor Schreyer, I don't think that I would have said 50%, I think the number that is typically used as a percentage of construction costs to be in the order of 30%. I believe that continues to be the order of magnitude in terms of the share of a project cost being allocated to labour.

Madam Speaker: Second question.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This spring, we got a brief report from the administration on construction inflation, and one point was that, in 2016, there was a 20% decrease in costs in about half the construction sector, but since there was about a 5% net increase, that meant that there was about a 30% increase in about the other half of the construction industry, about a 30% increase in 2016. That's what the data implies. Mr. Lorenc, could he…could Mr. Lorenc comment on that at all?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie moves extension. All in favour, two-minute extension? Contrary? That's carried.

Chris Lorenc: Madam Speaker, through you to Councillor Schreyer, I'm not sure what Councillor Schreyer's source of information is. I can tell you that in the…now, this applies to the Provincial Government, I can tell you that for the 2021 highways capital program industry competition resulted in $49 million being saved to the highways capital program because of competitive bidding. And when you consider that the program consisted of 350 million in highways and 150 million in restart, that's about a 10% reduction based on pre-tender estimates. The last couple of years have been challenging, and they have been driven by supply chain interruptions. Everybody is aware of how long you have to wait to buy a truck or to get a vehicle. Everybody's aware of the impacts on the price of lumber, the price of steel, the inability to receive tires, the inability to source heavy equipment, all of that has had an impact on cost. But that notwithstanding, our industry still was able to deliver very significant savings because of competitive bidding.

Madam Speaker: Next question, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Madam Speaker, since my source of information, as Chris Lorenc was wondering about, came from the City of Winnipeg administration. It's their report. And because I share sort of the inadequacy in this…

Madam Speaker: Right to the question, please, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Since that being the case, can't ask the question without it, since that being the case, I'm wondering if the Manitoba Heavy Construction Industry Association can assist this council, and in particular, any Executive Policy Committee members so that they understand what's going on, not just during COVID, but in terms of long-term planning of openness, transparency, and accountability for what is our greatest cost to our city, that being the capital…capital projects.

Chris Lorenc: Madam Speaker, through you to Councillor Schreyer, I'm very happy to say that we have a very good working relationship with Councillor Allard and the IRPW Committee. We have an open and ongoing discussion as budgets and other related matters required with Executive Policy Committee.

Madam Speaker: Okay, Lorenc, thank you. That concludes our…

Chris Lorenc: Merry Christmas. All the best.

Madam Speaker: That concludes our time for questions. Thank you to both of you for your presentations today. We'll now move on to reports. First, we have the report of the Winnipeg Police Board dated December 3rd, 2021. I'll call on you, Councillor Chambers as the Chair.

REPORT OF THE WINNIPEG POLICE BOARD DATED DECEMBER 3, 2021

Item 1 - Winnipeg Police Board – Preliminary 2022 Operating and Capital Budget Recommendation

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will wait to hear from my colleagues on this matter.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Thank you. Councillor Eadie. Pardon me?

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Chambers, Chair, could you please just confirm you're moving it as information?

Councillor Chambers: Yes, Madam Speaker, I'm moving this as information. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, having been very familiar with the Police Board, the police budget, and involved in many of the issues around what's happening with the police service, actually, from when I was first elected as well...of course, I have the…I have the West Kildonan police station over at Hartford and Aikins, and it's decrepit. And so, I mean, the Winnipeg Police Service has been shifting…it's taken them a long time to a four district model that was brought in through Chief Ewatski and mayor, I believe, Murray at the time, Madam Speaker. And Madam Speaker, the…you know, there's a lot of challenges, but the idea of going to four district was a way to try to save money on buildings and so on and so forth as well as maybe a better way to deliver the police services. And anyway, so, in building stations, I just…I listened to the Police Board's discussion and presentations and things in that regard, Madam Speaker, so ultimately, the east district's police station was built as a P3, and I have on my computer, and I'll send it out to my colleagues who are on EPC, where it showed that the gas tax of that day was paying for the building and running of the police station under a P3 model. It changed over time. Don't know exactly when that decision was made, but at any rate, what I would also like to discuss in terms of this report, because they were discussing the issue of going into the 2010 election, Madam Speaker, major bike gang problems existed on a street. Street gang problems in…were on the street. Our suburbs had started to grow really fast back around…starting around 2003 in different areas, and Madam Speaker, there were challenges for the police service to meet, not only to stop or try to stop and deal with all this crime, but also for them to deliver police services out in the suburbs where, you know, break-ins and things like that happen. And today, we're dealing with great challenges, the police service, and their resources are taxed to the point where everybody…a lot of people I speak to have break-ins. They're quite frustrated that the police service is not able to meet their needs and try to catch the criminals and so on. And so, the then-Mayor Katz came into office, and what he had to do was…that's when the budget…police budget really increased a lot, so. But here's the thing, so people like to say it grew for unfettered reasons, Madam Speaker. And what had happened was, they had to hire more officers to deal with the bike gangs. And you know what? They were very successful, very successful, Madam Speaker. The Hell's Angels were shut down for a very long time. I don't know if they're starting to creep back in, but…and then they put more cars on the road in order to meet the bigger challenges out there…to get the police out there faster to respond to all kinds of crimes. And so, Madam Speaker, I heard in the debate at the Winnipeg Police Board, I heard them discuss the fact that they're having great difficulty with the number of cars they have to serve our even newer suburbs now, which over the last eight years, I would say, have grown very fast, Madam Speaker, including in the Old Kildonan Ward. And so, you know, that's a reality. People don't talk about it. They want to just cut the police budget, but the vast majority of Winnipeggers know we need a police service. Yes, they have to correct how they do that police servicing, how they deal with the communities that struggle, and there's a lot of systemic racism not only in the police service but all over the place that needs to be addressed, Madam Speaker. So, yeah, you know, there's lots of complaints about the police service, but I, you know...so when I look at this budget that the police service is getting, I know that the police service is working really hard at reducing costs. But if you want them to just reduce huge amounts of money out of their budget, you have to get rid of a whole bunch of police officers. I don't think that people out in the suburbs, I don't think that even people in West Kildonan and the North End in my ward where there's a lot of people who don't want the police around, there are so many others in opposition to that who will tell you, police services are essential to a city. Because our society...well, human society for thousands of years...frankly, there's a need for police service, but it needs to be a police service that doesn't think that it can just run people around and abuse them. They're there to serve, Madam Speaker, and I'm quite sure that the majority of our officers are out there trying to serve the population in a respectful manner in the best way that they can to make sure that we're all safe. So, I'll leave it at that. It is a budget increase, but the reality is, it's not enough for them to go out and deal with it, and they're going to have to deal with it. Those are hard decisions to add more cars. And I don't want to get into a debate about how you could even fund that. But I'll leave it at that. And maybe there's some rejigging they can do to try to serve better with cars. But I also know that in some of our older neighborhoods, we have cars that have to respond from other districts as well, Madam Speaker. So, that…there's a lot of difficulty in that. Thanks. I'll be voting for this as information. That's an easy vote.

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

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wanted to just begin by advising that I, of course, will be supporting the motion that's been introduced by Councillor Chambers. I want to just put some words on the record thanking members of the Winnipeg Police Service for the difficult and dangerous work that they do on behalf of all Winnipeggers each and every day. I also want to extend appreciation to our Chair of the Police Board who has risen to the challenge of a very demanding and difficult role in his short time as Chair of the Police Board. I know he's making a positive difference dealing with very

difficult issues, and I for one, greatly appreciate his collaborative nature in working with members of Council as well as the Public Service, as well as the police service. By extension, I also want to thank members of the Police Board, thank them for their efforts during this budget process. And also, by extension, of course, our Finance and our Finance Chair, but I would ask members of Council to support receiving this as information. Thank you.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This issue had some vetting as well from the Finance Committee. We wanted to see what kind of problems Winnipeg Police Service was having in attaining some goals put on them by City Council. That's a good thing. In the process of that, we get a greater openness and accountability, and we pushed Winnipeg Police Services on offering that in terms of what their problems were...

Councillor Chambers: The 2021 budget as opposed to the current budget before us.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, if you could continue, you can certainly compare, but you'll stay on topic, which you are.

Councillor Schreyer: Sure. And thank you to Councillor Chambers. Look, so, given what has just happened, we…it's an…it's an expression and it's an expression of accountability. Once again, we're in this process of pushing the Winnipeg Police Services into offering greater accountability, openness and pressure on them to keep their costs down. And when they can't, explain to us why. It's something that I supported. And I believe Councillor Chambers did and does as well. It's a good thing, but if we only do that for the Winnipeg Police Services, it's kind of like a sentiment. It's nice. The reason…what's the reason we're doing it? Why are we doing this to Winnipeg Police Services? Because we have to deal with our budget. So, how do we really deal with our budget if we don't apply that same scrutiny to other aspects of our budget? Are we going to solve our budgetary challenges by dealing with the Winnipeg Police Services alone and putting this amount of scrutiny and pressure on them alone? Well, no, of course not. And we all know that. So, the question is, why are we doing this? It's not a bad thing what we're doing to Winnipeg Police Services. What's wrong is that we're not applying it across the board. And here's why it's a problem specifically. I'll express it this way. Some people today still believe that Winnipeg Police Services budget is a quarter of our budget. You'll hear it everywhere. You'll hear it when the budget first came out. Winnipeg…the police budget's a quarter of the budget. No, it's not. It isn't. Maybe it was. I think it used to be, but it's not anymore. So, what's the difference? That's our job. It's our job to understand that and to explain it so we can deal with it. Because some…something's changed in our budget. Winnipeg Police Services, their proportion of the Winnipeg budget is smaller than it used to be. I think it used to be a quarter. That used to be true, but people still believe that. Why do we want to hold onto old news? Can't we make that point to the taxpayers of Winnipeg, that Winnipeg Police budget is no longer a quarter of our budget? It's infrastructure, essentially construction. That's the largest part of our budget, if you want to put it as a whole, that's about a quarter. The police budget is going down to, well, less than a fifth. It's approaching a sixth of the budget. Why would we as a council want to ignore that in explaining where we're at? It's really important. Don't you think…don't you think taxpayers want to know? Don't you think they want to vote on this stuff? You really think we as a city are capable of dealing with our budgetary issues when we don't tell them that? That's just the simple stuff that's easy to tell them. The problem is, we put...we do these good things in terms of putting pressure on Winnipeg Police Services to keep their costs down, and if they can't, telling us why. And yet, that is not our proportional increase in our budget. It's in infrastructure. It's in construction. I tried to get a modicum of greater accountability so that I would understand so every member of this council, including the EPC, would understand what's going on with the largest growth…increase in growth in our budget and largest…larger increasing proportion of our budget, that being infrastructure, construction. Can't get the answers from this administration. So, you can understand why I've been asking Chris Lorenc some questions about, for our sake, for sharing information, for doing my duty to provide that information to my fellow councillors so that we understand, but we don't. And if…and if I'm wrong, if we understand, please tell me. I'll gladly stand corrected, apologize, whatever you want, if what I'm saying is wrong. But what I'm saying isn't wrong. It's true. Of course, I've been saying the same thing for years. No one will argue with me anymore. We just don't deal with it. So, how long can we go on like this? It's all very well, and it is very well that we do keep the pressure on all departments, but we're not. We're using the police service's budget as a scapegoat, pretending that if we deal with the police budget, all is well. Now, sorry if you think…you feel I'm exaggerating, but I actually believe that. No, and not just the police budget, firefighter, all sorts of operational budgets. But I'm saying it's impossible to do that if we don't have an approaching level of openness and accountability and explanation and understanding when it comes to the largest single part of our budget, the fastest growing part of our budget, that being infrastructure and construction. So, if you don't believe that, if you think I'm just making it up, please explain why. Do it today or do it another day because it might take some research to show how I'm wrong. I don't care. Any way we go about talking about this to a greater level of understanding will bring us to a greater empowerment as a Council to solving our problems. Is the Winnipeg Police budget our largest inflationary problem? No. So, why would we spend a disproportionate of time on the Winnipeg Police budget in terms of scrutiny, in terms of what we call openness and accountability, when that unto itself cannot possibly…can't possibly solve our economic problems.

That's my question. And I leave it to my fellow councillors, in particular, the Executive Policy Committee. And let's have a good day. Thank you.

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

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I don't know that I've ever risen to speak on the police budget before, but I'm now on the Police Board, so I feel it's incumbent on me to get up and say a few words about the process and the results. Firstly, of the five councillors who have served on the Police Board, four of them are right here, so. And I have to say, I've had pretty good feedback and accessibility to Councillor Klein when he was Chair, to Councillor Eadie when he served, and the current Chair, Councillor Chambers, has been working very hard on this. So, and Councillor Fielding…Councillor Browaty was also briefly on the Police Board, sorry, I forgot that. Five out six. Thank you, Councillor Nason. And Councillor Fielding was actually very good to work with too on this, the first chair of the Police Board. I think it's important we continue to have a Council presence on that board as it's currently constituted. It may be reconstituted by provincial legislation. We'll see. We used to have one councillor on there. I was one of the people who said, no, we should continue to have two. We went back to two, which was the original layout when we had Councillor Steen on there with Councillor Fielding. So, honoured to serve on there. It is, as everyone warned me, between Councillors Klein and Gillingham and others, it's a lot of work. It's a lot of paperwork, it's a lot of meetings, more for Councillor Chambers than for me. A couple of things on the police budget, though, accountability is the right word, used by Councillor Schreyer. We do need to keep asking questions. I know the Vice Chair, Mr. Scharfstein, is fond of asking a lot of questions, and that is a good thing. He and I don't always land on the same page, that's okay, we ask questions and I think that's important. So, we do have representation from various communities on that board. I think it's important we continue to ask questions of the service. In terms of this specific budget, I want to thank Ms. Heloca from the Police Board's finance group who put up with a lot of questions from me and was always timely in providing answers. As well as our CFO, a very good hire, Ms. Kloepfer. But I mean, my math may be a little bit different than some who have spoken before. If you look at the operating share, it continues to be 26.8 of the overall budget. We've had people say almost a third. Well, no. I'm a good enough mathematician to say 268's much closer to a quarter than to a third. So, embellishing this up to saying it's almost a third isn't helping the debate, quite frankly, but it's still a substantial part of our operating budget. It's now over $300 million as it has been for a while. But if you go back, and I've been looking at the 20…when we sat here almost to the day eight years ago, and I'll come back to this later on, but if you look at that police budget, 26 point something, 26.6, I think, the projection for 2015 was 26.6, so this is not run amok, run riot, run wild, the increases over the last several years. It's stayed roughly proportionate. I haven't broken down each individual intervening years, but certainly, the…as Councillor Eadie correctly stated, the budget did increase sharply under Mayor Katz with some help from the then provincial government, frankly. So, we've inherited a certain situation. We have continued to increase the budget. The budget increases have not been as rapid, as high as the prior years. I think that's bringing some accountability. The current round of collective bargaining will decide, I think, many questions. There was a vote here, I was on the losing end of it about unilateral amendment of the police pension fund. Arbitrator agreed that it could not be unilaterally amended. That's part of the negotiations. I hope that we can get some relief on the police pension fund. Councillor Eadie is also right in saying look, if you want a 10% decrease or some other increase, that will mean a lot of people are laid off. A lot of…a lot of police officers will no longer be on the streets. It's also, because you're laying off by reverse seniority, and because the way the grid works on the wages is, there's a sharp acceleration partway through, you don't…each layoff is not based on the average salary, the layoffs are going to be based on the lower salaries that the younger officers have. So, you're going to be laying off hundreds of staff to get to that target. Is that what the people of Winnipeg want? Well, I happen to not think so. Some of the speakers insisted that is what the majority of Winnipeggers want. Well, I guess if I run for re-election, I'll find out. But I happen to believe in what Councillor Eadie said, it's not just one part of the city or the other that wants police. It's not one part of the city that desperately wants defunding and abolition. I don't buy that. If I'm run, I guess, if I run again, I'll lose this job. But I happen to think Councillor Eadie's summary was pretty good. People don't want sharp increases. On the other hand, they want some accountability. They do want a street presence for the police. We are continuing to maintain that. We aren't giving the police everything they want as we are sometimes told. There wasn't a wild overspending in the past year under Councillor Chambers' watch and my watch. There was a retroactive pension obligation imposed well into the year. Not surprisingly, the police couldn't layoff hundreds of people for the last two months of the year to make that up. I think that'll be a different debate if it comes around again in November or December of the coming year as to, if the target isn't met, why is that, because there shouldn't be another retroactive pension adjustment. So, I think it's important to lay out all these facts. So, I think this council has done a job in terms of…a commendable job in terms of flattening that arc of spending. It's not dead flat, that's true. That's what some would want. Then again, we have collective agreements. And we had some fascinating input at the committee about how we should be arguing ability to pay for this particular bargaining group, but not for other groups. We as a city do have the ability to pay for lower paid groups, but somehow, we should argue, no, in arbitration we don't have the ability to pay. This I did for a living, that doesn't work. You can't get up there and say, we don't have the ability to pay police officers, but we do have the ability to pay MGU or WAPSO or the firefighters. That just…that's not how arbitration works. So, we have a system. It's better than having the right to strike or lockout, I would submit. Don't see that in the media reports, but arbitration is not inherently biased against one party or the other. It isn't, it's an arbitrator. It's a neutral figure. So, we need to try and bargain with the Police Association, try and

get some relief on the pension front. Hopefully, we will do that and be able to come back here next year, if we're all here, to look at some different numbers. But I do support the budget that's being put forward. It does reflect the goal of the multi-year, which said right at the front, yes, this is a department where the public has said they value the police services. We need to do some better public opinion polling, and I think we did this year, had a more true random survey than...and I think it frustrated the both sides, some people who wanted abolition and those of us on the board the previous year when it wasn't a random survey and everyone just cited it for their own purposes. So, my thanks to those who came out to speak. I know it takes time, it takes energy, but I do support the budget as being put forward. I think it's too simplistic just simply say, let's cut a huge percent. That would take hundreds of staff off the streets. I do think the approach we're taking, now is, as Councillor Schreyer said, demands more accountability. And in light of that, the recommendation that came forward about looking at using reserves to pay for some of the fees, it's…some of the operating costs for the new building, pleased to see that we are going to have a chance at the Police Board to talk to the CFO, to talk to other financial staff. Need about 20 seconds. Thank you.

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

Councillor Mayes: So, what we need to do at the Police Board is sit down with the police and get a better sense of, is the Police Service being treated the same way as other parts of the City of Winnipeg? I mean, if we wanted to hide the money and then say, oh, well we actually reduced, I suppose we could do that. We certainly haven't been doing that. But let's get a...Councillor Eadie makes a good point, the east district was a P3. Is that payment being treated the same for police as other departments? My point, north district police station will have debt charges. North Transit garage will have debt charges, but those are coming out of a reserve. It looks like Transit's not as inefficient then as police. Well, why are we treating the two differently? We voted back in April to pay the Transit garage out of reserves. Okay. Let's get an explanation from our Finance staff and have a good debate at the Police Board about, are…is the police service being treated differently? And I think…I think next year we'll be much more clear because there's been a lot of internal debate. But I do appreciate the work Councillor Chambers is doing. And we need to keep asking questions and trying to get some accountability. Councillor Schreyer is right on that. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you. So, I will be voting in support of receiving this as information, but important, I think, to put a few words on the record. And first, I want to put some words of thank you, Madam Speaker. I had...I had the opportunity to work several times as a local councillor for Fort Rouge-East Garry with Chief Smyth, as a matter of fact, having several meetings with him following the Riverview rapist and concerns that were brought forward through all women of Council with respect to sex crimes against women and gender diverse people in this city. And Chief Smyth was there for me, including with research and pieces of work that, you know, I think together with your help, Madam Speaker, and other women of Council, we will pick up. There's always work to do here. You can't get to it fast enough. And I want to thank chief. I want to thank Art Stannard who, over the years, has supported…has had several offline calls with me. Inspector Puhach who came to Protection, Community Services and Parks, not once, but twice, to talk about the Bloomberg-Harvard initiative. And more; local inspectors and constables in district 1 and district 2 that I work shoulder to shoulder with when my seniors are assaulted, when I can't find children in my ward. So many stories, Madam Speaker. That's the complex relationship we have with public servants including our frontline supports at Winnipeg Police Services. My colleague, Councillor Chambers and I had maybe our first fight in public, Madam Speaker, and it won't be the last. I do hold the only defunding position perhaps that's public in Council. I hold it because of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry, inquiry that…that absorbed 30 years this year in November. Thirty years, 296 recommendations that were…many of which were gone unheard. Today, I am rushing to a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls meeting if I get to it after the debate. Government consultations; those calls to justice are called calls to justice. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's are called calls to action because Murray Sinclair sat at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission knowing that many of those 296 recommendations from AJI were still missing in the universe and the discussion and the narrative, in particular, around policing. Following the death of Helen Betty Osborne, something that we had a sacred fire just outside this building to commemorate. Thank you to Cecil and his staff at IRD. And following the shooting death of JJ Harper. I've had many shooting deaths in my ward this term, and I do recognize the police work and efforts in that. And I think it's really important to stay because outside of this chamber, the defunding position of 10% that I hold can be misconstrued as not being supportive of the police. I will say, I hold it in capital. I will point to the over ten pages we have related to communications and 911 that stand as a structural issue that anyone in budget could identify as more work to do. I stand as Chair of Protection knowing that we are making some of the same investments in the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service. So, I hold a defunding position because structurally, I do think there's work that we could do with a com centre around 911. Will we get to it this term? Will we get to it next term? Maybe not, but clearly, even if you don't believe that there's work to do in terms of the capital budget and coms, and that's a structural way we could reduce this budget and combine it and get it out of the police...off the police's books. Even if you don't, you can see the ten pages and go, maybe there is more work to do structurally, in particular, in capital. I don't like recommendation number 5, but I agree with my council colleague, Councillor Mayes, that that Police Board work and the opportunity to hear from CFO is going to be good work

at the Police Board. I also stand as Chair of Protection and someone who moved the motion on north district. Why? Because AJI said two things; it said that, yes, Indigenous people were being overpoliced, and I believe that is still what the propensity of evidence would suggest in this province and in this city, but it also said that they were underserved by police, and that's how you understand this term of work by this councillor. And I was very proud to forward that in capital. Winnipeggers do not hold defund police positions, and I know that. Many polls tell us that, but they do want to see serious work, and I do believe, under the leadership of Councillor Chambers, there is serious work being done. But because so many of those recommendations aren't being worked on and many…much of the work of the Police Board over the years has dissolved without answers, in particular to women of the city who worked, I still will stand and occupy the political space with respect to that 10% difference that I think we can make. But I do want to thank my councillor colleagues, the Winnipeg Police Service. And I do want to note that next year in preparation of the multi-year budget, we are going to be looking at sustainability with respect to five models. And that Councillor Chambers, Councillor Gillingham and I, as a result of this Council's vote in budget 2021, will be working with Winnipeggers to examine those five models for sustainability. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Klein: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I have very little to say on this one, but I want to speak from a place that no one else on Council can speak from. My Indigenous mother was murdered because the police didn't respond to the initial call. That is on record in and it's in the court documents. They didn't respond because, again, this was…in the day that that happened, it wasn't considered a crime until it was too late. No one ever thought it would be too late, but it did happen to be too late. And I lost her because of that. We are making decisions on policing we will…this…for information means that the Police Board has given us objectives. And they have said, this is what the police service requires to provide safety to the citizens of Winnipeg. The number is growing, we hear all the time, it's growing to a million. We are reducing and just saying, no, you have to cut at a time when we are poised to break the record for homicides and violent crimes in our city again. So, if we vote just for information for this motion, it's because we already know that the EPC group has determined what that budget will be despite what the Winnipeg Police Board is telling them. So, voting yes and ignoring what the board is saying begs the question, why do we have a police board? What purpose does it serve to the residents of Winnipeg? It can't get involved in operations. It has to be involved in the financial part, the financial operations only, not police operations. So, why do we have a police board if we are not going to respect their decisions through their budget process?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I know this is just a 'for information' motion. Doesn't really bear much on the overall today with regards to the overall budget motion. But you know, further to Councillor Klein and where we are at as a city, from 2015 to 2020, we have less police officer…police officers as part of the population ratio. We have gone from 200 in 2015 for 100,000 to 176.8 in 2021. And I would hazard to guess it's even lower when you talk about officers that are on restrictive duty as opposed to being on the street. I have heard long and hard from my residents that they are not seeing the police in our community. I know based on my daily travels, I travel by the station, the east district station, everyday, driving down Dugald Road, and everyday I see the cars going from there to downtown. They are not in our community. There is too much going on downtown, north district, wherever it may be. But what is happening is., in our community, there is a sense that police are not there for them. When there is unfortunate activity on our street. And I do tell them about data-driven policing, but there is a feeling that their concerns, their fears are not being managed effectively as part of police operations. You know, the break-ins and not getting called. I know there's been new technologies where, you know, they can call in and maybe that's why the civilian compliment has gone up since 2015 by, I believe, it's 78 persons. You know, in the meantime, police officer compliment, the authorized police officer compliment, has gone down by 68 in that same time. Is it an affordability? The police stats that were provided as part of the budget don't tell us the…if those numbers correspond to significant savings. Special duty; you know, when we see officers at the sporting events, at parades, you know, most recently, Councillor Browaty attended, maybe he can rise to speak to see how many officers were at the closure of Portage and Main. Those all cost money. Those are taking officers away from other duties. As Councillor Klein also indicated, you know, we had 44, 44, we're at 42, I believe, as of yesterday, murders. You know, we are number one in Canada on crime severity. These are all very troubling things. At the same time having conversations in the community about abolishment. You know, they say abolishment isn't to do away with police entirely, it's a new look at it. Well, the term…the term "abolish" can only inference one thing, it's to do away with. And I asked the question. I had a very personal conversation with someone that's on the opposite paradigm of myself. I support the police and the work that they do day in and day out. I asked, I said, what do you see in your, you know, utopian field of policing? Well, they want the community driven approach. There are places where that is appropriate, but for the majority of what I see, you know, the 15,889 calls for emergency support for the police, I don't think those situations would work. When we have 92,138 for urgent calls, I don't think people are looking for organizations in our community. I would name them, but I don't need to. I think we all understand some of those alternative response groups. They are looking for police, they are looking for that rapid response in our community, Madam Speaker. And from what I am seeing on the defund movement, you

know, this…10 members of this council voted in 2017 for what was supposed to have been the most sustainable police budget ever. Here we are in 2021 trying to find ways to cut them at the knees as the city grows, as our crime grows. I think we need to be investing in our police. Their mental health is being impacted negatively. We have heard that, we've seen that, unfortunately, through tragic circumstances of suicide of members, plus long-term disability issues. But that goes across the (inaudible). That goes to all of our frontline. You could look at that from Transit. You could look at that from our Fire Paramedic Service. These people are faced with the decisions that we make when we are cutting services. Not only at the City level, but the provincial and federal as well. Because those all impact our residents. Be it that they own real property or if they live on our streets, unfortunately, as we see has grown exponentially through COVID-19. They are no longer hidden in the back allies or in the lobbies of various establishments. They are in our face, they are at the foot of city hall. And yeah, there's a few items in here that we continue to creep into the provincial gamut of social services. We got rid of social welfare at the City of Winnipeg, we handed it back to the Province. However, we are creeping back into that and we are ill-equipped to deal with what we're facing on the streets. You know, we have a new premier. I…honestly, I don't see a lot of change from the prior premier. There may be a few more opportunities for selfies and attending events, however, the proof is in the pudding. We're approving our budget now. The Province is going through and doing their meetings and conversations, however, we need action today. We need a new plan. The plan that we have today I don't think will serve our residents in the best interest moving forward. It is a step forward, perhaps, but we really need to get to work with our other partners at other levels and really reinvent the way we do business as a city. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The board will be providing Council with an estimate of $319 million for the total operating cost to the Winnipeg Police Service in this recommendation. There are some things that I do want to highlight. And I want to thank all members of Council who got up today to talk about the police budget and what we are facing in our current day. Of course, the last 21-22 months now, with respect to COVID has had a detrimental impact on our community. Those facing homelessness and marginalization through…throughout this pandemic phase…the numbers seem to be growing and are growing. We're seeing our parks, our bridges, our bus shelters being impacted with people who have been marginalized and are living on the streets, and our police are being called as a response, which we can't criminalize poverty. We can't do that. But they are the 911 call that is called. And in 2020, 620,000 calls for service were logged by the Winnipeg Police Service through the com centre. And 242,000 of those were dispatched, Madam Speaker. Councillor Nason spoke about the fact that our police service is actually shrinking in compliment size. The cop versus pop ratio is actually decreasing. Our population has grown as indicated by Loren Remillard of the Winnipeg Chamber. And specifically speaking, to Waverley West. In 2006 to 2020…2020, there is 108% increase in crime. Of course, there wasn't as many homes in Waverley West in 2016, but it also recognizes that there was no additional resources added to the police service to deal with the 108% increase in crime in the Waverley West Ward. So, these are things that we have to recognize that the service is stretched. Even though the budget continues to increase, it has slowed at the rate of increase. Prior to 2014, the police budget grew and grew at a rate that was definitely unsustainable. Since 2014, and including this term, 2018 to 2022, the rate of increase has slowed down with the targets that have been put in place to recognize what the needs of the service are, what the expectations of the community are in terms of adequate and effective service. Also mentioned by Councillor Rollins, the fact that we are looking at a more sustainable and predictive…predictive budget formula that will help guide how we formulate our police budget going forward, I think is all good things that we need to do to increase transparency and accountability of those dollars. We are also, as I mentioned earlier, the complexity of the calls for service that are being logged in through our com centre. We recently, two weeks ago, had the presentation by Inspector Puhach with respect to the ARCC pilot project that has been launched. The Alternative Response to Citizens in Crisis, this is something that was recommended as part of the Bloomberg-Harvard study. And we are looking at other jurisdictions who have implemented this model and looking at that here. And hoping that it can be scaled up if we find that it is an effective model in helping to have different outcomes for those individuals that chronically call our 91 service…911 service, whether it is for, you know, issues that they are facing on our streets or medical issues through the EPIC Program as well that will help reduce the calls for service that are coming through our com centre. Madam Speaker, finally, we are looking at an opportunity to help lessen the demand on our police budget through the negotiation of a new collective bargaining agreement. And I am hopeful that between the Winnipeg Police Association and the City of Winnipeg labour and negotiator, that they will undertake positive discussion with respect to the salaries and benefits of the Winnipeg police officers. In a survey that was done this year, Winnipeg police officers had indicated that they feel fairly remunerated for the job that they do. But they did state, Madam Speaker, that mental health was a huge issue for them as they're dealing with the complexity of calls in our city, the traumatic calls in our city, including the one shift that had to respond to their fellow officer in his critical moments when he took his own life. Madam Speaker, mental health of our frontline services has to be recognized as an impact to what we are doing here today. And we have to acknowledge that we need to do better in providing supportive services for those on the frontline that carry this traumatic weight with them. I also want to thank Councillor Mayes who's been such a strong asset on the Winnipeg Police Board. His knowledge of and inner workings of the budget has led to increased fruitful discussions at the board level. We are doing our due diligence, we're working very collaboratively with the public. We're hoping to engage a larger footprint of people to provide

recommendations and ideas and suggestions to the Winnipeg Police Board that we can work with the Winnipeg Police Service to implement, whether it's conducting surveys on the services that they've received as individuals rather than random surveys that you may not have had an interaction with a police officer, yet you are getting a phone call to respond…to respond to on the service that they are delivering. It would be more prudent, Madam Speaker, that we engage those that have had an interaction with police officers to find out what their service satisfaction was. So, these are all ideas that we are tossing around, that we're engaging with citizens and, again, with the fact that we voted in the 2021 budget to look at that predictable funding model. These are all things that will help increase accountability and transparency of our police service and duly so. So, again, Madam Speaker, I put forward this budget as recommendation. I am hoping that all of Council will support it unanimously. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. And with that, I will call the vote on receiving the police budget as information. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Nays

Councillors Santos, Klein and Nason

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 13, Nays 3.

Madam Speaker: That item passes. Moving on to the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated December 14th, 2021. We also have amending Motion 1, moved from Councillor…moved by Councillor Santos and seconded by Councillor Lukes. Mr. Mayor, to introduce the main item.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED DECEMBER 14, 2021

Item 1. - Executive Policy Committee – Preliminary 2022 Operating and Capital Budgets – Final Recommendation

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will provide brief remarks and then defer the balance of my time to our Finance Chair. Madam Speaker, the balanced budget update process this year was a tremendous undertaking. Over the last two years, many of our City facilities, local businesses and schools closed multiple times as required by the Province of Manitoba's provincial public health orders. The social, economic and financial impact of these closures have been and continue to be significant. The economic uncertainty caused by the pandemic has taken a tremendous toll on our finances. And the 2022 balanced update was as much about mitigating those impacts as it was positioning Winnipeg for growth in a post pandemic multi-year recovery. The 2022 balanced budget update is a true testament to the strength and stability to the planning accomplished by the multi-year balanced budget. And just as that multi-year balance budget was passed in March of 2020, it got put to the test immediately as the global pandemic reached Manitoba and provincial public health orders began. The multi-year balanced budget combined with the leadership of our Finance Chair, Councillor Scott Gillingham, and the COVID-19 crisis cash flow management plan enabled Winnipeg to weather the storm much better than other cities. And even despite this financial prudence, the fiscal challenges created by the pandemic, they continue to take their toll. The 2022 balanced budget update will help the City mitigate the financial impacts associated with the global pandemic and help support jobs while contributing to economic and population growth. Significant investments into capital infrastructure will form a large part of the City's multi-year recovery along with investments made as part of the COVID-19 economic response and recovery plan. Investments in capital infrastructure are critical to support a modern growing city. They're also one of the most important ways to support businesses and jobs for local residents in times of economic uncertainty. The six-year, 2.5…$2.9 billion capital investment plan is a critical part of the City's COVID-19 economic response and recovery plan. Included in this is a projected $872.9 million for roads allowing for the reconstruction and renewal of approximately 1,035 lane kilometres, the distance from Winnipeg to Churchill. Also included are additional investments to maintain and preserve our tree canopy. Additional expenditure management savings within the Winnipeg Police Service operating budget, continued partnership with our federal and provincial and community

partners to protect our most vulnerable residents with investments to better address homelessness and further increases the small business tax threshold to ensure ongoing pandemic recovery support for approximately 55% of all Winnipeg businesses that will continue to be exempt from paying the business tax. Other significant investment in the six-year capital investment plan include more than half a billion dollars in tri-level investments that support The Transit Master Plan, nearly a quarter of a million to accelerate our combined sewer overflow mitigation program and additional significant investments into the southwest sewer interceptor, fire station investments in St. Boniface, Windsor Park, Silver Heights tree canopy preservation, active transportation enhancements, our parks recreation spaces and numerous spray pad amenities. The 2022 balanced budget update strikes the right balance to mitigate the ongoing fiscal uncertainty caused by the global pandemic while simultaneously providing a sustainable fiscal blueprint to support our growing city and it sets us on the right course for a multi-year recovery. Thank you to everyone who's participated collaboratively in this budget process, the input of our residents. And with that, I'll defer the balance of my time, Madam Speaker, to our Finance Chair, Councillor Scott Gillingham.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councillor Gillingham, over to you.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Mayor Bowman and council colleagues. It is my privilege to support the adoption of the 2022 balanced operating and capital budget update as amended. And I first want to thank the hardworking public servants of our Corporate Finance team led by Catherine Kloepfer, our Chief Financial Officer, in her first City budget. And I've named her team members before, just want to express appreciation to them. Thank you, also, to Mr. Kelly McCrae who provided tremendous support as well. Thank you to Mayor Bowman and my colleagues on Executive Policy Committee for your work on the budget. And also, thank you to all council colleagues for your input and our many conversations through this budget process. Budgeting is about making choices, financial choices, policy choices and certainly, in this year, very difficult choices as well as we continue to deal with the impact of the pandemic. The Mayor has mentioned the strength that the multi-year balanced budget framework has afforded us to endure and go through the…so far, to go through the pandemic and its impacts, but this budget deals with the challenges facing our city today. Specifically, the ongoing challenges that are coming our way because of the financial impacts of COVID-19. It is a time of ongoing uncertainty for our economy, for businesses, for our residents, but the 2022 budget responds to those uncertainties with certainties of our own. We've maintained property tax increases at 2.33%, which likely will fall below the rate of inflation this year. We've made the one year change to use 2% dedicated portion for the property taxes of operating costs. We are backfilling the roads budget with $12.6 million of available federal funding to make the roads budget hold. This budget protects transit service at the current 6% service reduction level so that when transit ridership recovers, we will have the capacity on transit required to give riders the certainty they need to commute. And to make up for the projected shortfall of revenue, this budget offers $97.6 million in tax subsidy to Transit, which is an increase of $20 million over the 2021 projection. This budget assists fellow Winnipeggers experiencing homelessness by providing over $2 million for outreach services, increased public washroom access downtown, and funding for staffing to ensure that the federal funds in the Rapid Housing Initiative are put to the use as they were intended. This budget responds to businesses by, among other things, ensuring that the temporary summer patio program is extended to September 30th, 2022. And ensuring that fees are waived for the use of street permits and special event permits for block parties and for street festivals. There are many other things that this budget does to respond to the impacts of COVID. But also, this budget ultimately makes efforts, great efforts, to control expenses in these…this difficult upcoming year. So, today, while Winnipeggers are paying more for things like gasoline and groceries as inflation rises to 4.5%, the 2022 balanced budget update keeps City services affordable for Winnipeggers by limiting the total budget increase year-over-year by 1.2% in 2022. But just as important as addressing the needs of today, the 2022 balanced budget invests in Winnipeg's future. This budget looks ahead. With another record $164.7 million for roads. Projected total six-year investment of $87.3 million that will move people and move our economy. With $8.9 million investment in active transportation, which is 54% more for active transportation in 2022 than in 2021. By increasing our investment in our tree canopy by $4 million for a two-year total of $31 million in our operating budget, and six million…a six-year total of $28.6 million to protect our tree canopy. This budget looks ahead with $510 million in total tri-level government investment over the next six years to transform Winnipeg Transit's system to meet the future transit needs of our growing city. This budget looks ahead by investing $20 million toward the $60 million cost of the first phase to provide water and sewer servicing to employment lands on the west side of the airport. And investment that will invest…that will address key priorities in Complete Communities 2.0 and in our economic response and recovery plan. We're investing in the health of Winnipeg's rivers and Lake Winnipeg and protecting homeowners' property by increasing our investment in separating combined sewers by $60 million. $240 million over the next six years is dedicated to attacking the combined sewer overflow problem. We're looking ahead and showing confidence in our property and real estate development markets by making 16 temporary staff permanent employees as a plan to attack permit backlogs. We're looking ahead in showing the confidence in Winnipeg's ongoing development and growth by investing $3 million to determine the existing water and sewer capacity as a first step in preparing a comprehensive strategic infrastructure plan. And we're investing $20 million in the COVID-19 economic response and recovery plan, including $10 million for downtown and $10 million for projects across the rest of the city. The 2022 balanced budget invests in Winnipeg's future. And just, one last page, Madam Speaker. I'll need one more minute, please, from someone. Thank you.

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

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you. And the 2022 budget funds many priorities of councillors, both those on Executive Policy Committee and those not on Executive Policy Committee, as clearly reflected in the budget amendment adopted by Executive Policy Committee yesterday and what is before us today, including a one-time top up of $90,000 in the 2022 to the universal funding forum meant for community centres. That stands to benefit many of the wards, especially wards of those who are not on the Executive Policy Committee. A free menstrual product pilot project to be implemented in 2022 by the Public Service. That was called for by…by Councillor Santos. $400,000 toward a spray pad at Whyte Ridge Community Centre, funding a priority for that community councillor, $400,000 toward a spray pad at the Maples Community Centre. Adds some park project. Funding and priority by the area councillor. And $630,000 for pedestrian and cycling program. For the completion of active transportation paths in Transcona. Again, a priority for the local councillor. The 2022 balanced budget addresses Winnipeg needs for today, invests in Winnipeg's future and reflects many of the priorities of councillors around this chamber. I ask that all my councillor colleagues vote in favour of this budget. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. Any further speakers? Yes, thank you for the reminder. Councillor Santos, we'll go to you. Your opportunity to speak to the budget and amending Motion 1.

Motion No. 1
Moved by Councillor Santos,
Seconded by Councillor Lukes,

WHEREAS eight Council members are appointed by the Mayor, referred to as "EPC plus two", to develop the City of Winnipeg's budget priorities for the 2022 preliminary operating and capital budget;

AND WHEREAS the eight Mayoral appointed Council members, and the Mayor, represent a voting majority of Council;

AND WHEREAS members of City Council who are not members of the EPC plus two,

- *are elected to represent over 350,000 residents,*
- *are restricted access to in depth budgetary information during the months long budgetary discussion, and*
- *for the 2022 budget, were provided less than two weeks to conduct due diligence on a budget that is over $2 Billion Dollars;*

AND WHEREAS through a collaborative effort by seven members of City Council who are not members of the EPC plus two, (Councillors Ross Eadie, Kevin Klein, Janice Lukes, Shawn Nason, Vivian Santos, Jason Schreyer, and Devi Sharma) are presenting a motion to ensure representation of all City of Winnipeg residents are addressed in the 2022 capital and operational budget;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Item 1 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee be amended as follows:

- *Add the following new recommendations after Recommendation 1.Z. and renumber the remaining recommendation accordingly:*

  "1.AA. That $300,000.00 be funded from the existing resources of the General Revenue funds be used for the Council Services operating expense budget to be distributed evenly between 15 Councillors' Ward Allowances in 2022 and 2023, and that the Fiscal Stabilization Reserve provisions for 2022 and 2023 be adjusted to reflect this use of General Revenue.

  1.AB. That $258,000 for All-Day Service in 2022, and $774,000 for All-Day Service in 2023 to be used for an On-Request transit service be established to the neighbourhoods of Castlebury Meadows and Waterford Green, and some adjacent neighbourhoods starting by September, 2022, be funded from the transit retained earnings, and that the Fiscal Stabilization Reserve provisions for 2022 and 2023 be adjusted to reflect this use of transits retained earnings."

- *Delete Recommendation 2.G.ii. in its entirety and replace it with the following:*

  "G.ii. $9.5 million towards projects that support economic recovery throughout the City and specifically in under-served areas, be partially allocated in the table below:

Tyndall Park CC spray pad	*$1,200,000*
Turtle Island Neighbourhood Centre spray pad	*$1,500,000*

Bronx Park CC spray pad	*$1,000,000*
Charleswood-Tuxedo-Westwood sidewalk renewals, bike racks, boulevard plantings	*$150,000*
North & South Point Douglas secondary plans	*$380,000*
	TOTAL $4,230,000"

- *Add the following new recommendation after Recommendation 2.O.ii.:*

  "O.iii. The cost to complete the following projects in the Transcona Ward be funded by using a portion of the estimated December 31, 2022 balance in the Land Operating Reserve listed in Appendix 3 (Page 263) which were funded from the Edgecorp – City of Winnipeg Joint Venture and the Transcona West Ward Joint Venture, and that any future incremental costs be funded by the area Councillor, or be brought forward to a future annual budget process:

  A. $250,000 towards renewal of Lagimodière Park (175 Royal Mint Dr.) including accessibility features.
  B. $200,000 towards renewal of Kildonan Meadows Park South including accessibility features."

- *Add the following new recommendation after Recommendation 2.W. and renumber the remaining recommendation accordingly:*

  "2.X. Traffic and Pedestrian feasibility study to be conducted at the Westbound Zoo at Bus Zoo Loop to incorporate a new lighted pedestrian crosswalk on Roblin Boulevard and such costs and fees associated with the installation be funded through the Charleswood Area Levy."

Councillor Santos: Thank you. Can you guys hear me okay?

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Santos: Thank you, Madam Speaker. During the pandemic it has been increasingly difficult to be in alignment with the Mayor on major issues surrounding the future of Winnipeg and our community's response to the pandemic. There were pressing social and economic realities that were not being addressed over the last few years. Particularly, in the areas of poverty, un-policing surrounding racialized communities. These conflicts, I believe, related to me no longer being in the role of Acting Deputy Mayor for a city I care deeply for and call home. In every single budget deliberation, I advocated for more investment in community services, parks, transit, the environment and in the arts with possible reallocation of police budget funds. Last year, I did not vote in favour of the operating budget because I believe that Winnipeggers not only wanted a fiscally balanced budget, but they deserve a socially balanced budget. For the last several months, I was able to focus more within the Point Douglas community and listen to the families and residents of how the pandemic has affected their daily lives. I also found myself in a very interesting place in my political career. It was an opportunity to work in an environment where I was not involved in the majority of Council with what is known as EPC plus two. I was no longer part of the exclusive report briefings from the public administration and this winter is the first with a budget before us developed without my assistance and institutional knowledge or what I like to call it, my lived experience knowledge. So, 19 days ago, when I got access to hard copies of the budget books, I did notice a few things that were obviously different. Firstly, three new spray pads in the capital budget book and the fact that several budget referral motions that have come through different community committees earlier this year were not added to the preliminary budget. I think it is important to highlight the efforts of the Mayor and EPC yesterday where they tried to add some referral motions, but I would like to ask them a question, Madam Speaker, do you only do that in order to gain one or two extra possible votes on top of EPC plus two and barely squeeze out a status quo budget? The amending motion before you today is very self-explanatory and I am very proud of how the seven city councillors who came together and found common ground. We have all worked hard to come up with a very thorough list. And quite honestly, I really liked working with this group way better than when I was working with the Mayor and EPC plus two for the last three years. There was no bullying, coercion or intimidation rhetoric, only mutual respect while we all listened to each other, which was such a breath of fresh air. I want to make it abundantly clear, this amending motion is in no way intended to create a division amongst the councillors. It is to show the public how there are still underrepresented issues that the city faces. We are all here elected by the residents we represent and is important that those voices are heard and supported within the budget. That is why this amendment comes forward because the recommendations by EPC yesterday still fail to attain a higher level of service that all Winnipeggers deserve. Now, Madam Speaker, I would like to speak to the operating and capital budget itself and I'll go straight to the point. The proposed budget to spend about $2 million to support outreach to vulnerable Winnipeggers, operate public washrooms downtown and ask staff to handle rapid housing initiative funding. That $2 million is just a drop in the bucket of a $1.2 billion operating budget. While I am glad to see, yes, that we're funding the Main Street Project for

$550,000 and public washrooms for 200,000, that is only for 50% of the service. Typical government institution only giving piecemeal and making a big deal out of it on social media with pretty words and flashy icons. I'd like to know, who is going to fund the other 50% that is so desperately needed. Why are we only funding for 12 hour shifts at the public washroom, when we all know it should be open 24 hours, seven-days a week to ensure the support service is actually around the clock. Why are we only funding 50% of Main Street Project outreach van when we know the critical component is the case worker who can help locate the appropriate wraparound social support services that is so desperately needed to ensure that the vulnerable population, that they are being checked on and not only just receiving a blanket and a cup of coffee to survive the night. Of course, it will always be the community based and grassroot organizations that pick up the pieces where the government continues to fail. I don't know how many times Winnipeggers need to keep saying this, if you spend the money now to solve the poverty and homelessness, the return of investment through the (inaudible) in calls for service for police, fire and paramedics and hospital services. I think what is the most disappointing aspect of every budget I've worked on for the last three years is the continuous failure of this municipal government and the lack of courage it takes to really push against the narrative and be brave enough to make strategic investments into people and into the community because what we have here today is the same old investment. Keeping the lights on, keeping the services at bare minimum and, of course, building more roads for vehicles. Because, you know, people who live in bus shelters own vehicles and drive everyday. Again, recommendations by the Mayor yesterday still fail to attain a higher level of service for all Winnipeggers. I am also disappointed that the budget committee didn't put forth a funding source for a new gymnasium at the Tyndall Park community. It's important to highlight that the GCWCC plan states that the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan district overall has access to less recreational space than any other areas of the city. So, it is statistically and data driven proof that the northwest quadrant is lacking recreational space. I would like to remind the public that creating a vibrant and healthy Winnipeg for all to thrive depends on continued investments in community infrastructure, our public greenspaces and a sport and recreation system for people of all income levels to come together. As a city, we know the built environment correlates to physical, social and economic health of a community. These centres foster a sense of community ownership and recreational programming keeps kids busy which makes neighborhoods safer and can reduce our cost of policing. Supports for vulnerable residents, people who live in poverty or in a fixed income in the Point Douglas Ward continues to be a top priority for my office. The most impoverished people in Winnipeg live downtown and in the Point Douglas where basic needs have long not been met. These are serious, systemic long-term institutional issues that we have to begin addressing and fully funded. If we truly want to represent the needs of our constituents, we need to ensure that these spaces are our priority and ensure that we have a consistent financial and administrative support for not just the infrastructure, but the people who make these spaces the crucial cornerstones of our community. Demanding more than a fiscally balanced budget but also a socially balanced budget to meet the needs of all Winnipeggers. As a government, we are accountable to deliver the human basic needs to our citizens. I look forward to hearing my council colleagues' comments now and will save some more comments to the end in my closing remarks. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is my 11th budget speech, 11th budget I will be voting on, Madam Speaker. And my mum is listening today, so I'm just going to give a little brief mum, I love you. What you're going to hear today, I am sorry I didn't call you, but I just want to make sure that I knew what I was dealing with. But anyway, here is how it goes. My mum is so proud of me because, you know, I wanted to achieve and do what is best for Winnipeg, not just the North End and West Kildonan, but I want to do the best for Winnipeg. We had a new mayor come in eight years ago, Madam Speaker. We have a real problem in that we have people run for mayor and then new people come in. And they haven't the foggiest idea of what the real underlying fundamental problems are, Madam Speaker. Early in my first term, one of the biggest problems was the conditions of the streets in my ward. But not just in my ward, it was all over the city and I worked hard to get that plan in there because I wanted to see those really bad streets fixed. All over the city not just in the Mynarski Ward, not acting just on behalf of one ward, consider the whole city. Now, there was tons of money coming in. And you know, frankly, it was kind of disgusting where…what happened to the money. And that is what the new Council when they came in in 2014 was looking at. And there was lots of money then, Madam Speaker, lots. This city was growing like crazy. Everything was good. Economy was good. Interest rates were really low. What did we do? We didn't address things properly, Madam Speaker. We knew that just like anybody who buys a house, we're going to have to utilize debt unless you are rich and you can pay cash. But ultimately, you've got to get a mortgage, debt, in order to have the thing you need to grow, prosper and live, as we heard from Mr. Lorenc. Now, this four-year budget is a failure. I'm hearing comments that somehow this budget, four-year budget, set us up so we could handle COVID. No, we didn't. If we would have addressed...and you know, Madam Speaker, I provided this advice to the budget people, you know, the one responsible. They asked me, well, what do you want? And I said, what do I want, Madam Speaker? What I want is what the city wants. We hear it everyday at every committee. Everybody wants active transportation. Everybody wants parks and increase the park space, fix the forest, riverbank stabilization, part of the greenbelt of this city, the heart of this city, the rivers of this city, Madam Speaker. So, we get this idea and we are raising property taxes and somehow, the City has these huge pots of money and we're mismanaging. And yeah, there have been some problems. But the ultimate issue is, and it's…if honesty…and I'm honest. I'm honest. Anybody listening, I don't fudge anything. I would raise your taxes. I would. People would say that is politically nuts. Well, the reality that this City of Winnipeg is dealing with is we do need to

raise property taxes more in the way other prairie cities have done because the reality is there is a cost to having what we want. Now, I would be frugal and safe. So, I recommended…behind the scenes, I recommended…actually, went to the public. Let's get a property tax credit to residents who live in houses that are escalating in price over what they paid for it and now they can't make ends meet paying the property taxes because reassessment. I don't want to go into the details of that. But ultimately, if we would have raised taxes, put in place a tax credit for those properties where people are struggling to make ends meet, Madam Speaker, we could deal with it. And I hope…and, you know, whoever is going to run for mayor, I hope they're all…anybody who wants to run for it, you better listen because if you are coming in from outside and you think that…what your mission is going to be the one that works, well, ultimately, if you come in with the wrong perspective, what you're going to have to do is cut huge amounts of service, Madam Speaker. Huge amounts of service. And you won't be able to accomplish what Mr. Lorenc wants us to do with the capital program. And yeah, the other level of governments need to play that role. However, so I would have raised the frontage levy on the local streets because inflation, as Councillor Schreyer has properly pointed out, really needs to be funded in the sustainable way that they talk about because they did acknowledge there's going to be inflation. Right now, yeah, there's a lot of roads getting fixed, but the real bad ones are not, Madam Speaker, in my ward and I'm sure in everybody's ward. Regional roads, you know, the Province should be totally in much bigger because it generates their revenue, Madam Speaker. Yeah, trade, all that kind of stuff. Commercial. Anyway, so what would have been good for this budget, and I didn't bring it forth because we are moving in to a political year, Madam Speaker. I won't be able to run for mayor because of my health, Madam Speaker. I will be running to represent Mynarski again, but my health has put me in a position where I wouldn't be able to do the job that I want to do for Winnipeggers because as Mayor Bowman will acknowledge, being the mayor is very difficult job. It is very demanding. And my health, I will only be able to handle trying to represent my ward and that level. But Madam Speaker, that's besides the point. Hopefully the new mayor comes in and has a better governance model and will share some of their policy people because I have to do all that work, Madam Speaker. So, if we would have raised the taxes as I recommended to Councillor Gillingham, we could have taken the 6.3 for local road gas tax money and talked up the prep program because everybody is telling us the parks, we need to improve them. And that prep program, you know, what's an enhancement or even a renovation or a fix for parks? Let's start planting…we heard at PCSP, we could use that prep program to start planting trees for when the older ones die in our parks. And then what could happen is we could replace those and take the pressure off of Forestry because parks is what it is for. Even land dedication reserve, that's supposed to be for parks, Madam Speaker. We've…because of inappropriate budget things in place, we are not able to accomplish that. But if we had a property tax…there are a lot of people, Madam Speaker, we heard from Mr. Remillard, well, he didn't tell you that there's huge sections of the economy that are dealing even way better under this…under this COVID thing. Extension please.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Klein moves extension. All in favour? Contrary? That is carried.

Councillor Eadie: Yeah, so, I'm going to just finish it. Like, if we raise taxes, the other 6.3, which I wanted to do, I would have put it into fixing our riverbanks, stabilizing our riverbanks. You know, we are going to get a north Winnipeg parkway that because of the money situation, they are going to recommend what I think is an unsafe crossing at Redwood because the money just isn't there. And we should go to the Federal Government as well and say, listen, we have got this much money…and the Province, we are throwing this into riverbank stabilization. You throw in some money, let's have a program for the whole city because even the Province owns property in this city that needs riverbank stabilization and they are not even spending money, Madam Speaker. So, you know, just to conclude, I couldn't convince my seven colleagues. And this is the beauty about the seven colleagues and our work, we worked through this respectfully with each other. Everybody is afraid to raise taxes. And we have COVID now, but if we had provided in the budget in the first place, Madam Speaker, we would have been able to reduce the taxes we projected that we were going to put on the people to help them. But remember, there are a lot of people doing really well in this city that don't need a tax credit. We are helping out the small businesses, maybe we should have targeted restaurants a little more rather than just giving a credit to a certain annual rental value. We could have done that and so on and so forth, Madam Speaker. I will not be voting for the budget. And you know, there are good things in there, but they can't do anything and they are not telling you that in 2023, it's a disaster. It's going to be a disaster. And our current mayor will be gone. Ditched us. Left us with what, Madam Speaker? Left us with what? I am not voting for the budget unless…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Unless…just conclude. I won't vote for the budget unless Council passes the amending motion.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. And we don't need to impugn motive as to why someone may or may not be moving on. Yes?

Mayor Bowman: I move a motion that we continue to 12:30 p.m. and then break for 30 minutes. If I could, please.

Madam Speaker: There's a motion on the floor to continue with the meeting and recess at 12:30 p.m., pardon me? Yes. And that requires two-thirds. All in favour? That is carried. Councillor Eadie, you've spoken. Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support of budget 2022. I would like to thank the Mayor for the opportunity to sit on the Budget Working Group. I know I share a voice of people throughout our city who cares about issues of poverty, housing and climate change and we see that reflected in this budget. I want to thank Councillor Gillingham for his work as Chair, having the difficulty of navigating this budget. I know we often hear about the inequalities in the process from those who are not in the Budget Working Group, however, I do feel that in this budget, more than others, we have…it has been far influenced from those that were not in the Budget Working Group. I have to give the credit to Councillor Gillingham who has done a great job advocating for the issues that people…that people were raising that were not in the room. I believe the best thing about municipal government for me has always been the challenge of working across party lines and differing views that help shape our city budget that reflects all of Winnipeg. This is a highly unique way of budgeting in our political world. We all can share on what we don't like in the process or within the budget itself. That is easy to do in our political climate. However, we have to pass a budget and that's the reality. We are also not all going to agree on what we…what the budget should look like. There are always things each and every one of us will agree that are great recommendations and others will think they're poor choices. That is only human and the nature of our work. No system is perfect especially on our…in this political world. And I could…if I could build a budget myself, it would look quite a bit different, right, Councillor Gillingham? I learned earlier on that it is not always the loudest voice in the room or even the smartest person that leads during the tougher times. It is the person that knows the art of compromise and the understanding that you are not going to get everything you want. It is the ability to listen to those that challenge you and most importantly, it is also the gift of finding the good among the bad. This is one of the hardest things to do when you are working on a budget and having to make tough decisions. Criticizing is the easy part, and I have done that. What was hard was finding the common ground. At the end of their day, there needs to be trust that you have come together to build a budget that works for all Winnipeggers regardless of where you live or the income level you are at. And I believe budget 2022 does that. And I would like to share some of the highlights that I think are really important in this budget for all of Winnipeggers and those that are residing in my ward. For…we are investing more in homelessness and poverty. And I'm very…I am very happy to see that. We just passed poverty reduction strategy and some of the key things like polls that they have in there, we are moving on. Funds allocated for housing staff to work on the Rapid Housing Initiative to help move projects forward for affordable housing. Transitional and supportive housing as part of our End Homeless Plan and the Poverty Reduction Plan. They will work along with our housing coordinator that works on affordable housing in Winnipeg. This is part of the request of the funding out of the Poverty Reduction Strategy. Funds allocated to Indigenous relations to work on truth and reconciliation and poverty reduction for Indigenous youth. Requests for that funding out of the Poverty Reduction Strategy. And I'd like to thank Councillor Santos, this was something she was really pushing for; free menstrual products in City buildings. There's a…we're going to do a pilot project and this is making sure that every woman and girls have access to menstrual products within our City-owned buildings. and I think that that is really important work that we're going to be doing. And although Transit is struggling financially, we are going to continue the low-income Winn pass fare reduction to 40% savings utilizing the Winn Pass. And in 2023, it will be 50% reduction to transit payers for low-income families and children ages 11 and under ride for free. Public washrooms for our homeless population so everyone has access to public washrooms and community supports. And of course, I know Councillor Santos raised stuff about the washrooms, but it's critical for us to know that other levels of government are also contributing. There's lots of other grants and stuff that have been made available. So, we're also not going to be the only ones supporting both the Main Street Project and…and the bathroom funding. So, you know, there is supports out there. And we shouldn't be the only one funding it, right. This really is more of a priority for our Provincial Government than our city…city government. Funding for projects that work related to the Un Safe Cities portfolio. We are finally going to have some funding for the UN Safe Cities portfolio so we can do some of that really great work and initiatives that we are doing. This year we're really hoping to do another scoping study and I'm really happy to see that we are finally moving in the right direction in terms of the UN Safe Cities work. And of course, you know, funding for the Main Street Project to help with their vehicles so that they make sure that they are reaching out to our homeless neighbours to make sure that they're getting rides to our shelters and the supports that they're needing right there on the streets. For climate change, we are investing. We're accelerating our combined sewer overflows for flood mitigation. And I know this isn't exciting. And I want to thank councillor…Councillor Mayes for this because he really pushed for this. And this isn't exciting. Nobody talks about it, but it's like that and the North End treatment plant, which I'll probably get to, is one of the most really critical things we can do in terms of climate change right now, especially when we have OurWinnipeg and we're wanting to make sure we are building up and not out. We need to make sure we have the infrastructure and we're putting the priorities in place to make sure that we're not overflowing into our rivers and lakes and protecting rivers and lake. And in spite the transit funding and ridership, we are continuing to invest in our transit system. We are moving forward with our Winnipeg Transit Master Plan. And that is so critical for mode shift and dealing with our Climate Action Plan. We need to move forward and invest in that. And we are doing that. We are looking at zero emission buses for the first time. That's really exciting. Our rapid transit corridor preliminary design work, it's going to happen. And that is critical if we want to be able to move…move people around the city but also in terms of there's a major part of the population that don't drive and we forget about those. And that's our…that's a lot of our children and a lot of people that can't afford cars or, you know, don't choose not to have cars.

Increase operating funding to help maintain our tree canopy. And I want to thank Councillor Orlikow, he has always been a champion for that. And we do need to continue to invest. And I hope that when we come back with our tree plan there will even be more investment, but it's making sure that we are prioritizing our trees and we hear it again in this budget. We heard from the community that we want more community collaboration when it comes to climate change. So, I really appreciated the amendment to make sure that we are asking our CAO to make sure that we are having a climate change action committee, we're working with our stakeholders and we're…we know as a Council what we are doing on climate change, but also our community stakeholders and how we can engage them and them be involved in climate change. And I think that that is really critical. Sorry, I never speak more than 10 minutes. Can I have a little extension?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Klein moves extension. One minute. All in favour? Contrary? That is carried.

Councillor Gilroy: And for my community budget, and this is…I've sat on the Budget Working Group now for a while. And this is the first time…and I've seen many councillors get many different great things for their ward and this is the first time I am getting a splash pad for my community. I am very, very excited about that. And I…for the first time, I think my community will feel like they are getting something that will be celebrated. And I am very excited to see that we are getting a spray pad and the funding for that. So, I want to…I just…I am very grateful for that because my community really deserves it and they need it. And I've supported a lot of councillors along the way and their different wards, so I am happy to see it here in this one. Funding for R.A. Stein craft room renovation. And of course, the Valor Community Centre lighting and window grant. And of course, the Economic Recovery Plan for our downtown that's been hardest hit in terms of the pandemic. Sorry. I never talk.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Klein moves the other half of the one-minute extension. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Gilroy: It's just, it's so vital that we…that we make sure that we have a healthy vibrant downtown and making sure that we have the money and we're investing in our downtown is key. And I want to make that a huge note because that is really key. So, thank you Councillor Orlikow for your work on that as well. And funding for staffing for permits in our department, like, we've heard over and over again how we need to make sure that we have the right staffing. You know, it's our homeowners that are taking out permits. We need to make sure that we're staffing that appropriately. And we heard that from our stakeholders, too. Emergency signals for our buses, that's really critical for the work that I'm doing with UN Safe Cities. And of course, the roads and back lanes are continuing to be funded which are really in deteriorated conditions in many of our wards, but for a lot in mine. So, I am very happy that those are staying. I just want to thank everybody. I know everyone's been working hard on this budget whether you are sitting, whether you're on the committee or not on the committee. And I want to thank the non-Budget Working Group for their amending motion, but I will be not supporting the amending motion and I will be supporting the overall budget.

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

Councillor Rollins: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. I am glad to be able to slide in before lunch. I will be supporting budget 2022. My contiguous colleague in River Heights-Fort Garry pointed out I am the second last voter here if we call a recorded vote. And so, I don't…I don't want anyone to not know where I am headed. I won't be supporting the amendment and it's not because I don't see some city-wide pieces in the amendment. For instance, the $300,000 that I know, Madam Speaker, you are a champion of with respect to increasing councillor's ward allowances. I think it is important to point out that this is a COVID budget. And during COVID, I in particular have been looking for an increased ward allowance just to be able to get at all of the calls I am getting. And Madam Speaker, I will note, sadly, that in this budget term unlike any other in the last three years that I am getting more anti-vax sentiment in my office than I am getting budgetary requests. More people writing Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry with respect to their anti-vax status, the fact that they can't enter a building like this or a community centre for their youth because their children are not vaccinated. In advance of omicron, I think it is really clear to spend some of my time in budget to say, we will not be a healthy city socially or economically if you don't get your vaccines. Thank you. And I would encourage everyone to get their booster and if they do not have them and they cannot come to work and they shouldn't be visiting seniors or shelters that they get their actual vaccines. It is the only thing that will keep us standing economically, socially and literally keep us standing. So, I am saddened today that the budget interaction and the engagement that I am getting and maybe other councillors are, too, Madam Speaker, are about vaccination status going the wrong way and not sufficiently about budget. But in terms of who we heard from, and we have spoken today about trees please. We saw Chris Lorenc, we saw Loren Remillard, we saw the Social Planning Council here. We saw Kate Kehler and Molly McCracken and those that we…that come to visit every budget and I am glad for it. And we saw people, including those folks from my ward, from OURS Winnipeg, to keep us going on trees. And I am grateful. So, I want to spend a moment to thank those. I notice, though, in the budget amendment, you know, that I don't see what is reflected in budget. For instance, I don't see an increase, Madam Speaker, that I would have liked to see; the 24/7 washrooms. I don't see that in here. And that's perhaps because the majority of the folks thought that there is sufficient money. And I want to turn and thank Protection, Community Services and Parks. Councillor Orlikow has served this term. Councillor Santos has served this term. Councillor Nason is new, Councillor Chambers is new that replaced them, and

the enduring support of Councillor Eadie. I really think that this committee has shaped budget 2022. And I think that because every month during the pandemic, we have focused on vulnerable and unsheltered in our committee. And this budget…this budget, Madam Speaker, has really looked at over 3 million, actually, thanks to councillor colleague Gillingham and budget chair, forwarding $650,000 for the new shelter in Disraeli. Over 3 million of the continuum of mobile services in housing is in this budget. And thanks to my council colleague, Councillor Gilroy, almost $1 million is really to support housing first. And I am really grateful for these structural considerations in budgets that are here during the pandemic and will endure after, so long as I live and breathe. So, budget 2022 also invests, and thanks to PCSP, in Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service, someone who is driving to that front line, who has had their fair share of COVID. There is the most significant investment in their master plan in this budget. And that has been tireless work of PCSP, in fact, to understand the master plan, see where it's going and mitigate risk, Madam Speaker. And I am really proud of PCSP for that attention to detail and really going for it when it comes to the master plan for Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service. I am enormously proud of what the women of Council has achieved. We passed…and the men. I don't want to ignore the men. We passed the Poverty Reduction Strategy and it is not going to just collect dust. Instead the two housing polls are funded. Number one, housing and number two...sorry, the two poverty reduction polls; housing and Indigenous children, youth and families. Yes, with an additional staff person for Indigenous Relations Division, but more grant money so that youth in this city, Indigenous youth in particular, can participate including in employment. And I am very proud of that. I am also proud of the structural steps in building a city for everyone. Those are some of them. But also, some that my council colleague fund…followed-up, the food safety…the Food Council Committee and the UN Safe Cities. We are building a city for all in this budget and I think that's important when we're called on to be city builders, including equity, diversity and inclusion office which is funded in this budget and you can see those investments. We have had many folks come together on community services and parks and recreation and many more. And in this budget and amendment yesterday, there is $90,000 to look at growth in our community centres. I want to say, I don't think that's as transparent as it could be. So, as the Chair of PCSP, I will commit to sitting down with the GCWCC in making that plain how we came to that math in the hours before budget launch. I also think we can continue that discussion with stakeholders in the park and recreation strategy coming forward. And as Chair, I think it is important to question and consider what we have done in budget and consider how we have done more protection, more community services and more parks even in difficult times, Madam Speaker. That is why some of the reasons I'm supporting budget 2022 today. And I look forward to the discussion.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Orlikow.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Well, this will be the final budget for some of us. Not sure what the Mayor is up to. He's being alluded to, but I keep hearing mixed messages from the man. But again, some of us will be deciding to retire, some of us will be deciding to carry on, some of us will just plain lose. But that is a fact. So, this is quite an exciting time. It happens every time. I have been doing since elections for a few years now. So, it is an exciting time to…I don't have time to reflect back on…I won't say previous, as Councillor Eadie showed before and some of the history of our budgeting process, and it has changed. So, it has changed for the better. So, first of all, I want to thank the Mayor for his time and his effort to put forward really one of the most fundamental changes to the four-year budgeting cycle. That is, rather than kicking the…kicking it down the line year by year trying to hop along and try to figure out things. Very difficult to keep track of the budget. This four-year budget cycle provides some certainty in the planning for departments and for councillors and time for us to look at addressing some larger scale issues. So, again, that to me is an incredible advantage that we have had this term. I also want to thank him for continuing to try to find ways to draft the budget while addressing concerns by a number of people who are outside of EPC, which is the mandated group to do the budget, by asking Councillor Chambers and I not to sit on the Budget Working Group. I'm not sure why people don't understand that, but that's what happened. I wasn't too pleased when the Mayor asked me to do that. He knows, he is nodding his head now because I kind of yelled at him a lot. But again, when I got reflected back on the fact that this is an opportunity to show people that Council's a whole, that we work together. You listen to the needs of the councillors. And so, I was no longer part of that meeting and nor was Councillor Chambers. So, while I was not in the hours budget deliberation by EPC, I was able to access Councillor Gillingham with ideas and suggestions like we all could. We all could do that. And I do want to thank Councillor Gillingham for the (inaudible) to listen and explain even when our conversations we had, numerous of them were not that pleasant. We battled pretty hard. I think there was a few hang ups once in a while. But again, Councillor Gillingham was always willing to accept my next phone call even though I maybe stepped over the line a few times. So, again, and to the Budget Working Group. You know, I know I am getting accolades for bringing this budget forward and had those hours of meetings with you, which I did not. But I do believe you have done your job in a COVID budget and also with the parameters that we had and brought forward a very balanced budget. So, again, thank you for all your hard work. I do believe this budget is a way to make Winnipeg one great city for all. It's a step forward in that direction. I will not be supporting the amendment. Quite simply, I find it a little bit…first of all, fiscally irresponsible. Well, first of all, the whole front page is, you know, talking about the EPC plus two model. I think I've addressed that. So, that's…I understand the concerns that's still raised about not being more of a part of it and we've got to continue to do…find ways to get people more involved. But again, the idea of using the fiscal stabilization reserve for operations, that's fiscally irresponsible. That I cannot accept. It's always easy to find ideas as we see, but sometimes, the ideas have to be acceptable to others, including using a fiscal reserve for operating. That to me is a…you know, might as well just buy a million trees or do

something like that fiscal stabilization reserve. But we also don't know how long COVID will last and what the future will hold with climate change. This fund needs to be sustained to be able to help limit the property tax increases that potentially could happen and/or the…and/or the service cuts that may happen. So, again, I don't do that. And we also just 20 days ago, 20 days ago we got together and we…and I was quite optimistic. A 16-0 vote to go ahead with this COVID recovery plan. I thanked you all for that at the time. However, now it appears seven councillors decided to change their mind and go do an arbitrary ask out of the $10 million without the other members of Council as having a say in that one. Again, we just voted 20 days ago on this. So, again, fair enough. People can change their votes, but after 20 days, it seems a little quick to be changing your vote after that. But again, I respect the fact that people are concerned about that money and I can pledge to you today that, again, however this vote works out today, whoever votes what, the $10 million is still there for all of us to have the safe process, open and transparent process, that we voted on 20 days ago. So, again, I think that is still the way to go forward. I do support the budget. The budget as presented. We all know and we've heard it today that the City is facing increasing problems of generally simple lines are increasing costs, not enough revenue. And this isn't just the City, this is just...I'm kind of…tried it…this isn't the Mayor's problem, Mayor Bowman's problem. It isn't councillors problem. This has been going on for a lot of lot of years and it's a worldwide issue. Mr. Lorenc talked today about we need to have a new fiscal plan to have some more growth revenue coming directly to the city. Yes, we do. Again, we know the previous provincial government was very difficult to work with. Maybe that could happen in the future, but that was not happening. So, we are faced with these COVID costs. We're faced with the existing problems of before where we have the separation between our revenues and our costs. And you are right. The problem going forward is that. It starts opening up all over again and there's going to be some hard choices to make going forward. But again, the budget does do things that I am quite happy about. Again, I've always wanted to and it's actually Councillor Rollins who kicked me in the chops a few times on this one, is what I go, you know, it's not our City business to be dealing with these issues. I have turned the corner quite hard on that now because they were all tied together. We need to be doing more work in the social atmosphere. We need to be getting in there supporting. We can't do it by ourselves, but we can lead in certain areas to try to address some of the inequity issues that we are facing throughout our city. And some of our rec plans and other plans that look at that modelling is quite impressive, so I'm hoping that will go forward. The roads; yes, roads are very important. In the innovative way that the department…even though I was trying to take that money for trees. To use the road budget back till the operating for one year was quite brilliant and it did take away the funding source I wanted, but it was made…I understood why. I do like the forestry, I think we definitely could use more. But again, I don't get everything my way, no one does. But again, the forestry is helpful. And on keeping the taxes down, I don't believe that it's time to keep raising taxes. I think people are struggling. There was some councillors, and that's again part of the democracy debate, which one; do we want to raise taxes, do we want to sell golf courses, do we want to sell buildings or do we want to cut services? These are all part of the decision-making process that we go through in the budget. So, going forward, it will be a challenge. However, Council has made some foundational steps including plans that they're putting forward including the four-year budget cycle and in continual finding ways to improve the process for all, it puts us in a pretty good stead. We're going to have some very big challenges whoever's here for next budget time, but I believe if you follow the plans, use fiscal responsibility and continue to try to work together, we will get through this for Winnipeg, to make Winnipeg great for all. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We as councillors all attended Council briefings and heard from our economists on the grim financial forecast right at the onset of COVID-19. We heard about the various models as a result of the different waves of COVID-19. I can't recall if we talked about wave four or potentially now wave five with the omicron variant, but these are all things that we as councillors heard and that will impact our city with respect to the revenues that we receive that have been greatly impacted. Yet the expectation of service is still there and the commitment that we have to moving our city forward is still there. And the vision that we want to keep our city moving forward through growth and economic activity. I want to take the opportunity to thank Councillor Gillingham. You know, and I wrote an article for the Lance talking about the budget process. And I thanked him publicly in that article talking about how he was able to meet with me and I identified the priorities of the St. Norbert-Seine River Ward based on the interests of the constituents that I serve. And I note that during the discussions that we had Councillor Gillingham had his pad and paper and his pen and wrote down, you know, all of the information that I was able to relate to him with respect to my ward priorities. And I know that he took those initiatives forward to the Budget Working Group. I was on the Budget Working Group as Deputy Mayor from 2018-2020 and had the opportunity to sit in and collaborate during those discussions. This year, I was laser focused on the police budget and the challenges that we had with that. And did not have the opportunity as our Deputy Mayor, Councillor Orlikow, had indicated to sit in on the Budget Working Group discussions, but still had an opportunity to provide input which was critical, again, in moving some of, not only my ward initiatives forward, but city-wide initiatives as well. And I recognize that there are some really good things despite the fact that this is a COVID budget. One of the things I was happy to see was the increase in water and waste and the commitment towards the combined sewer overflow separation, which I think is huge, Madam Speaker, in terms of attracting investments of developers to our city where the infrastructure is aging. And they have no clue on what is below the surface. Not sexy, we don't talk about everyday, but it does have a huge impact on our development and we need to address it. And this budget does address that in a very

meaningful way. Councillor Orlikow also talked about the Economic Recovery Strategy and the $20 million that's available for discussion with respect to downtown and areas outside of the downtown in terms of our communities and neighborhoods. And the opportunity for every councillor to provide input into where and how those dollars are spent. This is an important economic recovery strategy and incumbent of all 15 elected officials here in this room and our mayor who is also elected to participate in that process. So, I…I am happy with the way this budget is. In terms of the amending motion that was presented, the councillor ward allowance is something that I struggle with. I'm three years on City Council have gone through three executive assistants. Each time that you hire a new executive assistant, there's a training component that goes…goes on with that and it takes times for residents to get acclimated to that new individual. I'm happy to say, I've got a really strong executive assistant that I would like to compensate fairly, but recognizing that, you know, we are the lowest of all jurisdictions across Canada. And the fact that our EAs don't have a pension plan to commit to their future, I mean, these all have an impact on the turn around of our EAs who are the frontline of communication with our constituents. It is not only our constituents, I receive calls from all over the city with respect to various issues, especially with respect to policing. So, I know the demands that are placed on my office, whether it's e-mails, whether it's social media tech, whether it's phone calls, I know what the demands are. I try to be accessible to my constituents 24/7, you know, through social media and trying to respond to the various requests that they have. So, I recognize that we need more supports, especially with the calls…the complexity of calls that we're receiving, whether it's about mental health, addiction, whether it's about the whole vaccination process. I am receiving calls that are part of the provincial response or federal response and trying to navigate, you know, and coordinate the response to those individuals even though it's not part of a municipal response. So, I recognize the limitations that I have in terms of not having or being able to compensate my executive assistant to the demands that are posed by the community. But this budget does recognize the fact that our EAs do not have a pension plan and has put a process in place to address that. I wasn't intending to swing for the fences because I recognize the limitations of this budget, the reduction in revenues and the fact that we definitely need to get back on a course for economic recovery. And where we get our downtown back to the place where it is safe for our residents and safe to attract festivals and concerts and conventions to our city through an acknowledgment that we are a safe city. That will help our economy as well. So, I recognize that this Economic Recovery Strategy is very important to our future as a city and where we are going. I will be supporting our 2022 budget update of the four-year multi-year budget. I will not be supporting the amendments, recognizing the hard work that has been done. I do want to encourage all councillors to come forward with their ideas, suggestions and recommendations for the Economic Recovery Strategy that we will be debating in early 2022. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Chambers. With that, we will now recess and reconvene at 1:00 p.m. thank you.

Reconvened meeting of
Winnipeg City Council of
December 15, 2021, at 1:15 p.m.

Madam Speaker: Good afternoon. I would like to reconvene our Council meeting, special meeting, on the budget for December 15th, 2021. Our next speaker is Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Thank you. Cheers from the crowd. Madam Speaker, we have heard many times, you know, even in the few short years I have been at this table. I am glad I am at the table this time as opposed to the back table. About the process. You know, the budget was tabled, you know, about 20 days ago. But delegations started the next business day. So, that gives a lot of time for people to digest the budget. It gives a lot of time for collaboration, consensus, concessions, alternative ideas. One business day for one of the groups. And then, you know, that's on top of other business that was going on during the time. So, we have a process that, you know, affords us a couple hours, you know, through the process for collaboration, opportunities to send our suggestions through the process. We make applications to the standing committees either through our community committees or through the standing committee. I moved two motions that were adopted to the standing committee because the identification of funding was a criteria in my conversations with the budget chair. You know, great that you want things, but where is it being funded from? So, for the last couple of years, I focused on joint ventures in Transcona west and that of the Park City Commons joint venture. Lots of money has gone in to the City Land Operating Reserve. It was an identified source of funding. It was a reasonable ask, particularly based on some prior precedent that some councillors that may still be on Council were rewarded with. 2014, there was a couple million for the Jonathan Toews Community Centre expansion project through the City Qualico Riverpark South joint venture. 2015, 600,000 from the City Qualico Riverpark South joint venture for the Dakota Alumni Field project. And as late as 2020, a further quarter of a million dollars from the City Qualico Riverpark South joint venture to the St. Norbert-Seine River Ward land dedication account. So, $2.85 million from the City Qualico Riverpark South joint venture to projects in budget past. Again, as I say, the challenge was to identify funding to support budget referrals. I believe that was done and it was fair and reasonable projects that were identified. One of the ones was Councillor Mayes championed his want and desire to have tracks…running tracks re-surfaced in every corner of the city. I have one that's in a City park. But

unfortunately, those that are on EPC, and I'll specify EPC this time, not the Budget Working Group, made the decision on the yea or nay and they only landed on two of the projects. And I understand, I can't have everything. But you know, people haven't said it and I don't think I have heard it, this is an election budget. We are going into an election next year. And there is a lot of darkness that is looking past 2022. You know, our Community Incentive Grant Program, our Prep Program, those are taking some serious hits and/or being eliminated after next year. You know, my ask for the Transcona reinvestment was a total of $2.1 million as originally submitted to the standing policy committees that then went up to the Executive Policy Committee. But again, the EPC members voted and allowed $630,000 with $70,000 coming from…additional $70,000 coming from Land Dedication Reserve of the Transcona Ward to advance two projects. They were very important ones as we talk about mode shift. But it's also fixing something that should have been done since about 2008, is to focus on completing these long legs of active transportation. And that Pandora Avenue East trail being finally completed to enable residents, not just from Transcona but from around the city to explore our city. In the budget, yes, there is finally something to connect the…it's called the Transcona Trail to downtown or extension. It is not actually the Transcona Trail. It is extension of Reenders to get to East Kildonan to down…to get down Panet to find its way through a bike route so people can find their way in and out of Transcona. But back in 2018, that was the number one priority that came back from a report was to move forward with that. So, glad that three years plus later that is finally getting done. The Day to Kildare…or sorry, the Day Street from Kildare to Transcona Trail, again, as part of our road renewal project, we renew and add active transportation alongside when we renew roads. But putting it in the middle of a block or a road with no connectivity to either side when we have a very well used trail made sense. So, that is why I advanced that. Now, you know, understanding, you know, the economic realities of our city, that I can't have everything I want, I came back with an option. A much, much reduced option from the millions, tens of millions that have gone into the Land Operating Reserve which the Budget Working Group had no issue balancing the books of the City of Winnipeg with. But from the growth of Transcona to reinvest into Transcona, I felt it necessary to, again, push forward with at least two projects that are in the amending motion. One I even conceded one further step by deferring to 2023 to allow time. But nonetheless, with the erosion of a 2014 promise that Council members that are likely still around this table moved to properly fund park renewal in our city. Transcona, my predecessor had a program, Transcona Playground Renewal Association, that was spun down because of the commitment of Council to properly fund park renewal. But alas, subsequent councils and mayors decided that that was not a priority, that other things had greater priority. I, again, want to applaud the six colleagues who spent considerable time and energy the last week plus collaborating, building consensus, making conceptions, and most importantly, building trust amongst us. Because the seven of us together, we are an odd couple. We are an odd bunch. But I…that is part of the thing that I love about Council. You know, I worked with my council colleague, Councillor Mayes on seconding a motion with regards to Handi-Transit or Transit Plus to improve what I have heard from residents and users of the service. That an Ombudsman motion has said it is not meeting the needs of our community. To try to put a spark in that. You know, and I get told that, you know, that the budget numbers that are in here with regards to it, it's…I should be celebrating that. The 9…I think it is $9 million over the next couple years. Well, ten members of Council, I believe it was, voted for that change to answer the call from our residents.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Klein moves extension. All in favour? Contrary? Two-minutes. Carried.

Councillor Nason: Thank you. Thank you, colleagues. What I'm getting at, and I will try to wrap up, because you know, there are more speakers. You know, we've heard that this budget did not have EPC plus two. But those that I perceive as holding the balance of power, those two votes that can make a difference, of the 16 members that are in this council floor have an opportunity to say that status quo is not enough. We have had enough. That doing budgets the way that we have done them year after year after year, outside of changing the page numbers this year, these budgets look the same. It's a four-year budget. Yes, we've tried to figure things out to make sure that they work out. You know, I heard my council colleague earlier talk about the $300,000 added to our ward allowance that it is not, you know, really a priority. These members that oppose that additional allotment across all 15 members, please remember that many of those members do not get the top ups that are afforded to those members of EPC or other designated positions as given by the Mayor. Our group worked together. We developed our voice together. Not everybody got what they wanted. There were concessions made. But I am proud of the work that we did and I am going to support them. And I hope that I can find two members of this council that are strong enough to say that we need to do something different in our city for the benefit of all 15 wards of this city. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Nason. Mr. Deputy Speaker, my opportunity to address Council. If I could pass the Chair to you.

My Deputy Speaker: Yes. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Please do.

Councillor Sharma: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Finance Chair, Councillor Scott Gillingham has brought forward a budget today that has largely solicited input from nine members of Council. He has worked hard, no doubt, on the budget, but that effort could have gone further and included all members of Council who represent their respective wards in Winnipeg. The same broken record has been shared in this chamber many times previously and again today. I have been

elected to office for…this is my 11th budget, similar to Councillor Eadie. He stated that earlier. The amending motion was put forward in good faith. And if further amendments were needed to make it work, that could have been done on the floor collaboratively. That could have taken place. I have seen that happen before on many issues that have come forward in this chamber. We heard in the opening remarks by Mayor Bowman and our Finance Chair Councillor Gillingham that because of the global pandemic, and the challenges it brings, this budget is important. And in my opinion, that is precisely…that is precisely why all hands should have been on deck and each member of Council that was duly elected by citizens of Winnipeg across this city should have been involved. That did not happen to the extent it should have. I am speaking my truth today. It's an unprecedented time with this pandemic and our residents expect and deserve participation from each of us. Full participation. My son follows politics, it's really difficult to explain to him how things work here and why they work the way they do over and over, the same broken record. He is 16. He will be voting soon. I am glad he is interested in things like debate, municipal politics, federal politics and provincial politics, but it is difficult for students to follow this. And is this really collaboration? I mean, that is a big theme that's been out there; transparency, openness, collaboration, working together, and that is not what I am seeing on this budget. And it is very, very disappointing. Collaboration is lacking. But most councillors, I believe, whether you're on EPC or not on EPC, you don't have much of a choice here. We work within a system that pits one against the other. It does that really, really well. It's shameful and it's something I find very difficult to subscribe to. I think most councillors around the chamber probably feel the same and state these things either quietly or loudly. With all due respect to the hard work put into this budget by parties involved, I am putting it on the public record once again today, did the same last year, that I believe with elevated and fair engagement involving all members of Council in an equitable manner, the result would be no doubt better decision making for the citizens of Winnipeg that we all serve. I am putting my name on the ballot in 2022, and I really hope we see change in terms of collaboration at least during the budget process. The pandemic is not going to be in the distant future…distant past any time soon. We really need to come together in a different way.

Madam Speaker: Any further speakers? Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I stand today in…and rise in support of the budget that's before us and in opposition to the amending motion that's being proposed. The City of Winnipeg Charter is abundantly clear. This is provincial legislation. EPC presents a budget. I've been around this council chamber now longer than anybody else. Yeah, I mean, that's a…that's a noose over my neck, it's also…gives me some insight because I have been here longer than everybody else. And I have to say, no, I am not the youngest anymore either. But I have to say, Councillor Gillingham has really done an outstanding job trying to listen, trying to balance the requests of 15 other people around this table. In this case, on the Budget Working Group, there was, you know, a variety of opinions on many topics to be very charitable to some of the debates and discussions and arguments we had, frankly. Not to say too much. But again, I have been on the inside and I've been on the outside. I was just doing some of the math here, I've been on EPC now maybe just slightly longer than I have not been on EPC. My first four years I was not on EPC. I was an outside councillor. I was one of the people that was not having any say on getting the budget done. Well, let me tell you about my first four years on Council. Chief Peguis Trail was not on the books. I campaigned on in 2006. I lobbied the mayor, I lobbied the Province, I spoke to the Federal Government, I wanted to see it in there. Guess what? A non-EPC member got a major piece of capital in there. Disraeli was a little different, it needed to be done. There was structural problems and there wasn't as much to say about that. Not in my ward, Elmwood-East Kildonan Ward, but it had a massive impact on residents of North Kildonan. The original proposal was to close the whole thing down for 18 months or longer, I think, and re-route traffic onto other major regional streets. It was going to be chaotic throughout northeast Winnipeg. It was going to impact northwest Winnipeg, Main Street was going to be (inaudible). It was going to impact St. Boniface because all sorts of other bridges would need to be used to get people in and out of the downtown. I worked with the Public Service, they kept looking. Is there a way we could keep it open during construction? The P3 helped, but also, to be frank, Premier Doer who was on his way out of town and you know, hearing complaints from his wife who lived back in North Kildonan, I think also helped, too. But regardless, you can work as a non-EPC councillor to get things done for your neck of the woods, for your part of the city. Find out what makes sense, hold hands and find a way. And I have to say, I mean, congratulations to Councillor Nason and some of the other…my other colleagues around here. You made requests, you explained why they made sense. We found a way to accommodate many of those requests in this budget. Again, just proving to the point, you don't have to be on EPC to get projects that make sense into the budget. I have to say…I have to thank Mayor Bowman for holding the line on many of his campaign promises going back to 2014. We have had social service type groups present to us recently. They want to increase taxes by 7, 8, 9%, property taxes. That's on seniors. That's on the working poor. You've held taxes at 2.33%. You can and should be very proud of that, Mr. Mayor. Some of us would prefer a smaller amount, sure. Zero or a decrease. And others, as I just mentioned, would like to see it a lot more. I think 2.33% was fair and you stuck to it. And we are finally investing in our infrastructure. During your time in office, we have built libraries, arenas, bike paths, our tree canopy and Transit facilities. Most important…importantly, we finally started to make meaningful investment and progress on our roads, regional streets, local streets and bridges. This is huge. And that continues in this budget. Our emergency services continue to be a large amount of our budget. And things, I think to some degree, things have sort of gotten under control in terms of the unprecedented escalations that were in there in the past. I mean, we have to all realize, though, the policing, paramedics, fire protection, I hear a siren right now, are key municipal

services that the public expects us to provide. Now, we have poverty issues in our city; addictions. A large amount of our emergency services budget is related to that. While I question some of the decisions we've made to get into the social services that should be part of the Province's $2.1 billion annual investment in our spending in Family Services and Housing. I recognize that we have a massive problem, some of my colleagues want to throw scarce municipal resources into the space. I understand that. It's a balancing act. And that's what's partially in this budget. So again, I think everybody around this table genuinely wants what is best for their constituents. We come from different places. The process before us isn't perfect, but I do think it is workable. And I think if anybody around this table wants to be part of that they can, whether they are sitting around the Budget Working Group, whether they're on EPC, whether they just want to make meaningful contributions, you know, through the Finance Chair, through other members of Council and through the Mayor. So, again, I encourage every one to support today's budget and thank our staff for all of their work behind the scenes to make this all happen. To my colleagues on the Budget Working Group and to all of you for representing your communities and the city.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next is Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Thank you. Can you hear me okay?

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Allard: So, I'll be making my budget speech in French and English. So, notice to my colleagues on the French interpretation. So, I will be voting against the amending motion and I will be supporting the Executive Policy recommendation for this budget.

Translation of French Spoken:

Councillor Allard: This document represents an act of compromise between numerous interests and diverse priorities of Winnipeggers. In particular, I would like to approach certain questions for which I fought for and which influenced the final decision on this budget in the name of electors and future generations. I would like to focus my attention on a few points in the below text. There are new investments in the St. Boniface Ward. So, $400,000 will go into a (inaudible) park in my ward at the Champlain Community Centre. Supplementary funds of $5.3 million is being maintained for the improvements to the Bonivital Pool. $27.3 million in investments in new gas pumps, notably in St. Boniface and in Windsor Park. Lots of new renovations to local and regional roads in our ward. A few important notes on transportation. $510.2 million over six years in engagement for (inaudible) in the Canadian infrastructure renewal fund for the implementation of the new directive plan for transportation. The financing for cultivating domestic transportation is maintained at pandemic levels, save for the re-establishment of the pre-pandemic level for the next budget. A few strong points regarding active transportation. There is financing growth of more than 54% for active transportation this year. So, it's more than 54% because the amendment to the budget represents an additional $700,000 in the proposed amendment for new active transportation in Councillor Shawn Nason's ward. The amendments that I have per year attacks the problems with road renewals where bike paths and pedestrians weren't integrated during construction, so our politics and efficient use of money are required. The active transportation projects that end with surplus will be returned to active transportation instead of being used to balance the budget. A few strong points on climate change. $28.6 million will be invested into Forestry to protect and reconstruct our tree canopy. A working group is forming to fight against climate change and is being established at the highest level of administration. There are new engagements in regards to active transportation and public transportation and funds to put towards our Climate Action Plan are included in the budget. A few important points on infrastructure. $164 million in one year for regional and local street renewal, another record. A report that I asked for will open the door towards integration with things like trees and embellishments in our community roads as it will be renewed with these funds. On the matter of homelessness, we have $1.1 million to support programs outreach vans. We have $500,000 for public toilets. $500,000 to administer funds of the Rapid Housing Project. $150,000 to put an end to (inaudible) in Winnipeg.

Councillor Allard: Now, we must consider that this budget begins the process of exploring, but does not yet fully tackle the unsustainable rate of spending growth in both roads and policing. Police costs have doubled from 16.9% of our budget in 2000 to 26% in 2022. This is not sustainable. I appreciate the report requested with the 2021 budget update moved by Councillor Gillingham which asks for a recommended sustainable funding model that taxpayers can support. Lastly, on the roads budget, it's no doubt a priority of Winnipeggers to improve the condition of our roads. This council has delivered on record road spending. This record level of spending doesn't even come close to what is required to keep expanding and maintaining our road system. In order to be serious about repairing our roads, we would need to significantly increase spending on them. We can't do that at the expense of other vital spending such as recreation, water and sewer upgrades. Fundamentally, we have fixed many roads, but we have not fixed the problem with our roads. Our net infrastructure deficit cannot be eliminated by simply spending more on roads. We must confront the fact that the only way we can maintain a sustainable, high-quality road network is to change course. We need to invest in the more affordable, the more efficient infrastructure and services that will support more people walking, biking and taking public transit. We have a large-scale

structural problem that the next Council and likely councils to come for many years, if not decades, will have to address. I'd also like to provide a special acknowledgment to the work of Councillor Shawn Nason who collaborated with the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works on incorporating great new projects into this budget via today's amendments with a sizable commitment from his ward funds. He made an excellent presentation and identified funding in order to make these projects viable. I commend him for getting concrete results for his ward using the same method that I have successfully used both on and off Executive Policy Committee.

Translation of French Spoken:

Councillor Allard: To conclude, I have battled in this budget for public transit, active transportation, for action against climate change and for my ward. You will see that in the budget and the proposed amendments by Executive Policy Committee that there are compromises that I am prepared to approve. I am excited to pursue collaboration with my community and my colleagues to make St. Boniface and Winnipeg a stronger city in the coming days.

Councillor Allard: With that, Madam Speaker, that concludes my remarks.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. First of all, as always, I do appreciate so much the hard work that goes into sustaining at least on a temporary basis and an annual basis, this city's good work every day, the good work that people do. And all the hard work that goes into creating this budget. I really appreciate it. And in particular, the intention…good intentions people have and the sentiments involved in putting together this budget as every year. Usually I support the budget when it comes to the standing committees because I…symbolically, because I support all the work that goes into it before we have the ultimate budget vote. In this case, I thank everybody involved. But also, let's not forget, I'm going to thank the taxpayer. And that means everybody. That means everybody who helps create wealth, helps create our society, whether it is their provision, their work to create goods and services, to care for each other and to create the society that creates the wealth from which we have taxes to have our governments, which is why we are here. So, right now, in this position right now we've been very accountable to the taxpayer, but to everybody. But just remember, how we are here. Just remember. We have to remember what this is all about: the taxpayer, their taxes. And as everything…all costs are going up, their taxes are going up. And what we should be telling them when it comes to their vote next year and how they are going to tell us what their priorities are in terms of the budget. Now, it's been said that people don't care so much about the budget as certain individual issues within politics or within the budget. But I can tell you this, we don't talk about the budget like we do these other issues. We don't. When is the last time the City of Winnipeg put out, you know, a press release on why we have some fundamental problems with the sustainability of our infrastructure budget and get into it. We get into all sorts of stuff. We get into the budget…the police budget, which we should. But we don't nearly deal with the sustainability of our budget when it comes to the big one and it's not the police. That might be second, but that is another story. Now, of course, today it had already been challenged because I said that the police budget is not a quarter of the budget. It is a quarter of the operational budget. But why would I…why would I…why would I say? Why would I want to say that to people? I don't want to mislead people into thinking that the police budget is a quarter of the budget. That is like saying infrastructure is 100% of the budget because we are only dealing with the capital budget. Like, so there is a reason why I say that because it's true. The police budget is not…it's been increasing, but not at the same rate as infrastructure. But we haven't been ignoring the police budget. We've been ignoring, in terms of accountability and explanation through the media and directly to the public every…any way we're obliged to do so. We don't explain to them what is going on. But today we are talking about having a system of openness and accountability regarding our infrastructure. Well, I respect those comments. But how are we going to do that? Does this budget address that? No, it doesn't. And I have been talking about this for seven years, eh. So, don't be surprised where I am coming from here. I need to see commitment to openness and accountability to our entire budgetary future. And we've already talked this morning about accountability and openness regarding infrastructure. So, when are we going to do that? Show me where it is in the budget. I am not sure who's got left to talk. Show me where that is in this budget. And you know what, because of the intention, I will vote just on the intent because we are not there yet. We're not there yet in terms of intention…showing our intention in terms of telling people or trying to find out officially what our problem is because we can't continue this way. Can we agree on that? I am not the only one to say that in this council chamber. There are people voting for this budget saying we can't continue this way. That we…that we actually don't have a sustainable system right now, a sustainable budget right now. Now, if there is any proof that we need a new structural understanding of our budget, well, you know, we passed the poverty reduction plan. Okay. It is an excellent thing. It is excellent intentions. But the reality is that the City can't do this itself, but the City can find out what the problems are. Is…like, is this a five-year, ten year plan? Because I know something, poverty is going to be around in ten years. Poverty's been getting worse pre-COVID. So, why…what is it about a two, three-year plan for poverty reduction that gives me confidence in our ability to handle poverty? Well, we need a fiscal plan to deal with poverty. You can't separate economics from our social priorities. And is that in here? No, it is not. But it can be one day, I think. I think it's going to have to be one day. I don't have much time. In terms of pilot projects, in terms of…here's one, in terms of feminine products. Just so you know, they are Plan Elmwood. They're

already in there. I am not sure if they call it a pilot project, but they are already handing out hygiene products to people. And I've seen it with my own eyes as I've walked with Bear Clan. And you know, hats off to Liz Plett and Lorraine Taylor for the work they do with Bear Clan Elmwood to help these people that need it the most in a very, well, it's pretty straight up. Nothing very political, they just get it done and they hand things out to people as we see them living in homeless encampments. In my ward on both sides of the river, both sides of both bridges. Trees. Okay, look, I really appreciate the intention of bringing trees into this. Part of…part of the…part of what we deal with…we are dealing with with trees isn't actually part of the budget because we are talking federal funding and things like that. So, that's great. But so, the question is, to me, in terms of sustainability and the ecology in terms of trees is, remember, the City's goal has been only to replace half the trees we've cut down. That is our goal. Replace half the trees we cut down. So, with this new tree allocation, how much are we going to get done? Because our goal has been 50% reforestation. But we haven't even been achieving a third. Haven't we only been doing a fifth? So, where does this bring us? I want to know. I just want to know, where does this bring us? Does this bring us past the 50% mark? Are we going to replace more than half the trees? I don't see it here. So, what am I supposed to do? I appreciate the intention and I appreciate the sentiment in terms of a short-term budget regarding trees. I need a long term one. The trees in my neighborhood, we just…the one just 30 feet from my house, 100-year-old tree, just got taken down. So, we know when it comes to (inaudible) when it comes to trees and the ecology, we are not talking two years. We're not talking 10 years. We need a long-term sustainable approach to this. Now, in terms of the amendment, I support the amendment. I almost always support amendments to motions that I am not...very often support amendments to budgets that…or motions that I'm not going to…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie moves extension. All in favour? Contrary? Two minutes. Carried.

Councillor Schreyer: I almost always support amendments to major motions even if I don't support the motion if I feel, logically, self-honestly, that the amendment makes the motion better. I believe this motion makes the budget better. That is all. It was a collaborative process to which I see an enhancement to the budget. I think it is unfortunate that given the process of all things that these things haven't been given its consideration, but that's politics. Don't be surprised that I support the amendment. Nonetheless, why wouldn't I? Watch out. This is what we have to watch out for. We know…hope we know that construction inflation, you ain't seen nothing yet. Watch what happens in the next year, in the next two years. And we're going to be…what worries me is we're going to blame our new economic woes coming up on COVID and certain supply link…supply chain problems. And that's all very well for the short term. But you see, we have already been having these problems for years. So, I'm going to make a prediction because I do make predictions here to test the reality of my perspective. And I say them publicly. So, I am saying that…that we are going to have a big construction inflation problem coming up and we're going to blame COVID and the supply link problems, whereas, these are going to be almost like the last straws that break the camel's back because it's been going on for years. So, don't blame the short-term problems when we are dealing with long-term systematic problems and we're not (inaudible). We have to create long-term solutions, not just deal in the year, two or four. I have already been here seven years, so what is a four-year plan to me? We've got to think long-term. I appreciate all of the work that gets into this. It is not the end of the world, it's just not something that I can support based on that priorities as I have been expressing to this council for the last seven years. Thank you.

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

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much. Well, having sat on a Budget Working Committee…a bunch of working committees in the past, I know an incredible amount of work goes into the crafting a budget. And this year, like last, has been even more difficult with the added complexity of the drastic financial impacts of COVID. There are countless presentations, sharing of information, discussions, use of influence and deals. Many deals, many compromises. I want to thank the Budget Working Committee for their efforts and the Deputy and Acting Deputy Mayor who I know have offered input and to Councillor Gillingham who I prefaced every budget conversation we had with, it is not personal. I know he felt my frustration. I would also like to thank the Public Service and especially to Catherine, the new CFO who's been incredibly responsive to many of my questions. I have had the opportunity to work with incredible leaders over the years who've recognized how to leverage and build strong teams. Leaders who have encouraged strategic thinking, innovation and action within their team. To move mountains, to elevate team members and to ultimately secure great successes in whatever they endeavor that they are seeking. Bob Rowley, founder of the farmer's market. Paul Jordan, former CAO…CEO of The Forks North Portage. Chuck Loewen, private local technology firm. Michele Augert, CEO of Dakota, to name a few. Incredible leaders who I have had the honour of working with on a team. City Council is a team. We were all elected to ultimately improve the quality of life for all Winnipeggers. Mr. Remillard spoke of this earlier, residents want to see the team working for the betterment of the city. The current mayoral regime is ending. The leadership style and modified application of the governance model is ending too. And I know I am and many others are very thankful change is coming. There is an opportunity to once again seek a leader, to select a leader who truly understands how to build a team and more importantly, how to leverage the many incredible talents of that team. A leader who recognizes the value all councillors can bring to a team. I really look forward to election 2022. Leadership qualities will form the basis of my re-election platform. As for the budget, it is impossible for me to scrutinize a $2.4 billion budget in just over two weeks. It's

impossible to understand all the financial implications in just over two weeks. My opinion, the process to create the budget is as important as the end result. For many years I have stated I am not supportive of the budget process. And today, I continue to retain that position. And for many years and today, too, the Mayor and EPC state we are following the governance model. Yes, for sure, we are following the outdated 25-year-old governance model, but there is nothing in the governance model or the Charter that restricts department budget briefings, budget risk list reviews and budget discussions on issues with all of Council. Leadership restricts that information dialogue, not the model or the Charter. In a governing regime, if you say it enough times, people begin to believe what you are saying. They believe the words. Saying that this budget process is open and transparent over and over again does cause many to believe that that is the case. But we all know, it couldn't be further from the truth. And I really appreciate Councillor Sharma's comments to these points. I am optimistic about the upcoming election, the team building and true meaning of collaboration will dramatically improve. It will improve, I believe, because Winnipeggers understand the current governance model is not enabling the best decision-making process for our city. And residents will seek to elect a mayoral candidate who will work to reduce the divide and discourse and will seek a leader who actually possesses comprehensive leadership and team building expertise. Of course, I am in support of the motion I seconded. And I am absolutely appreciative of all the work and efforts my six council colleagues put into it. It was a…it was an incredible process and I want to thank everyone. But I know now after listening to previous presentations, it won't receive a majority vote. With the motion I was hoping to see more equity for all. There are many positive initiatives in the budget as we have heard this morning. I have as many reasons to vote for the budget as I do in vote against the budget. The impacts of COVID are going to be severe next year. They are currently. Drastically more severe if we don't have external federal or provincial funding supported. And the need to generate revenue and income is paramount. You know, I felt like flipping a coin. How am I going to vote? Because, again, does my vote even matter? Out of the nine votes that are secure, does my vote even matter? I will be supporting the 2022 budget because I made a commitment to our city building partners, our city building partners to do all I could to ensure the inclusion of a strategic infrastructure plan. A plan to identify capacity, to actually start determining the cost of development and to determine where we can continue to grow our city. I made this commitment as I acutely recognize the billions in economic spin-off from the construction and development industry in our province and in our city. Whether through its roads…whether it's through roads or homes, our dire need to generate revenue and do all we can to improve the quality of life for Winnipeggers is paramount. I want to thank Councillor Gillingham for also recognizing this need and ensuring the $3 million was included. If anyone really understands the whole impact fee scenario, this was at the crux of why it failed. We didn't have a plan. We didn't know the cost of development. While I am very supportive of all the social offerings included in the budget and voted to support all of them, feel free to invite me to any of your events or announcements, we…I truly believe we have to make money in order to spend money. The strategic infrastructure plan will allow us to generate revenue. It is my primary motivating factor in voting for this very budget, which again, I will say, I think the whole thing is a facade. I don't think it's a truly democratic process. But I do and I have made a commitment to the community that I work with daily to see strong economic development and revenue happen and we need this plan. In closing, again, I am thankful this current governing regime is coming to an end. And I see a brighter future for an improved budget process in the years ahead because of the many discussions that we're having today and that we've had in the past. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next speaker, Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Councillor Orlikow may not have had the time to look backwards, but I have had the time to look backwards. So, I will be making some comments about following up on you and Councillor Eadie and some of the…some of the other budgets that have come and gone. It is worth noting, it's the Mayor's final budget and I want to speak a bit to that. First, some thanks. I think I failed to thank Mike Ruta last year because I was in the midst of one of my periodic fallings out with him. But I regret that and I want to thank Mike for all the years he put in here. And our excellent new CAO, Catherine Kloepfer, Lisa Pablo. And I was looking…I had to do some research back on the December '13 vote and it was Scott Fielding, Jenny Gerbasi and in the back, you could see Howard Falk who's been with us for, I think, every budget that I have been here. So, Howard, my thanks as well. He's always been a very good source of humour and information on these budgets. So, and I will come to Councillor Gillingham at the end, perhaps. A few words about…well, I looked at my notes from December 2013 when we were voting on the '14 budget. Big letters across the top: HIGH ROAD. And I thought, there's some…there's some advice I should have taken more often in my career here, but I'll try and take the high road here today. I am not going to…I'm not going to support the amendment. I'm not going to criticize anyone who put it forward. In fact, I'm…in fact, I am rather impressed because for years here, I've always wondered why people didn't…who weren't supportive didn't try to come together more. And so, kudos. I mean, there was an attempt made to come together with a package. Unfortunately, it came a bit too late. But you know, this process invariably aligns you with some of your friends and against some of your friends. That's always a source of regret. It is the nature of the process. Councillor Nason has supported things of mine. Councillor Sharma has supported things of mine. I have supported things of theirs. It's kind of the nature of what we do here. Luckily, it hasn't all been EPC versus everybody else. I think I lost…I think voted against doing a multi-year budget and lost 15 to 1 or 14 to 2. So, I could be upset with everybody, I suppose, based on that. I certainly was on the losing side on the Starlight vote as people have reminded so. It, you know, there has been some…there have been some ups and downs here. So, it's a process that probably should be looked at

under a new mayor to see if there can't be some way of trying to get more involvement right from the start. I have to say, people who voted against right from the start and then come and say, well, why didn't you do something for me? it's kind of like, well, you made some insinuations in past speeches that weren't very flattering. So, I have to go to bat for myself and my interests as well. So, I also think that the process is simplified in the eyes of the critiques understandably. I mean, after Browaty spoke, I thought, you know, yeah, I've been…I was outside EPC the first two and I have been on…I have had very good fortune for being on it nine straight budget groups. This isn't, we get everything we want. As Gilroy said, if I wrote this myself, it would look a lot different. And she's right. Mine would look different than Gilroy's, I'm sure. So, it's always, as Allard said, again by the French, 'compromis', it is a lot of compromise. It's a lot of compromise. So, but it isn't just, we get what we want, there's a triangular aspect to this. My frustration is often been, we're handed draft budgets from the staff and you go, where is my toboggan slide thing that I put in last year? Oh, we took that out, we didn't think you need it. Where's my money to revitalize (inaudible)? We took it out. We didn't think you needed it. Councillor Lukes backed me heroically back in about 2015 when she was on EPC, put in an extra million bucks for gravel lane work. You go to the next year's budget; oh, we took it out. So, I am sure people on the outside feel hard done by. I often feel hard done by. I'm sure a lot of my colleagues feel hard done by. I'm sure some of the staff feel hard done by. So, hopefully, under new regime here there is some attempt made to try and bring some of this together. But you know, this is…this is a process where I think Councillor Gillingham, as I said in the paper today, has made every effort…has made efforts to come up with a fair budget. So, I mean, Councillor Gillingham's probably one of the most honest, hardworking people I've ever worked with. Not in my political party, but I have to say that, having been…I think I've been in the labour force about 40 years or full-time probably 30 years. And it's…you know, I really respect Councillor Gillingham and the efforts he's made to try and bring people on board. You know, it's all, everything in there is for EPC. Well, look, there's $60 million in CSO work and I know that because I fought for that. None of that is in my ward. That is helping largely Councillor Eadie's ward. He went out of his way to say, I didn't ask for that. He's right on that, but that's where the impact's going to be. There's a new Parks building in Councillor Lukes' ward. There's a new Parks building in Councillor Nason's ward. There's a…page 103, there's a whole plan to rebuild a whole pool in Councillor Santos' ward. So, to sit here and say, oh, the north (inaudible), it's all for the EPC, well, there's at least four good examples. There is not a splash pad coming in my ward. No, there is not. There are some…there are some things I want in here, like the CSO, but there's not a splash pad coming in St. Vital Ward. Councillor Nason is right, he should be getting some money out of the joint venture proceeds. That did happen in St. Vital. Councillor Swandel got some. I got some. Councillor Chambers, arriving new, with zero money in the LDR and a newly created ward got some. I think all fair. I think fair to give Councillor Nason some from the money that's poured in from the Transcona joint venture. So, I actually support and pleased that amendment was put in. That was something I certainly support. So, one can look at this, I think, in a number of different ways. I certainly am not going to criticize anybody. But you know, you're talking about bullying and coercion. Well, let's just try and put aside the alienation when we get to the $10 million that's still out there, 9.5, the gas tax. We'll still have a debate about that. No one's interests are being disqualified. I would like it all in St. Vital. Some people would like it all in their ward, I'm sure. I have to say, if you look at page 99, that's the $50 million provincial money that came in. Look at where that is specified. There's none in my ward, none in Allard's ward, none in Browaty's ward, I know that. What is specified? Seven Oaks Pool, Old Ex Arena, Turtle Island Neighbourhood Centre, Magnus Eliason Rec Centre. There are several that aren't in EPC members ward. So, I felt hard done by by the $50 million, but it's a compromise. You try and work things out. So, that's…that's…those are my comments in terms of process. And certainly, there is money in here that's going to different wards. And I find it sort of hard to listen to people saying it's all just going to EPC wards when the facts are…are different. And the amendments made yesterday were a further attempt, I think, to…splash pad in the Old Kildonan Ward. If that's not enough, that's fine. People have the right to vote yes or no, but I think one has to be honest and lay out facts here. Some other points; I think it's incumbent to talk a bit about water and waste issues as I am the chair of that committee. Well, that's…go back, where were we in 20…December 2013, final…final budget under former Mayor Katz. I think we'll see we didn't vote in U Pass, but that changed a few months later. So, you never know what might be coming a few months from now. Maybe with that $10 million. We put in all of $75,000 to the Inuit Art Gallery. And under the current mayor, we've put in, I believe, $5 million to the Inuit Art Gallery. Good thing, good process. Under the former mayor, we were just getting underway with keeping the Sherbrook Pool open, we've continued that. We were just getting underway with the regional roads reserve. We kept that all eight years. We had Garth Steek telling us 3% property tax increase was unconscionable. We have never hit a 3% property tax increase again, so I think, you know, we've certainly made some progress. The Mayor and I have sparred a bit over the years about whether things were a total mess back there in 2014. I was part of that group, so I didn't think so. One thing we were doing in '14 was some work on arenas. I hope to do some work on arenas before this term of office is out. I'll need about 40 minutes of extension. That's a joke. Thank you, Councillor Klein.

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

Councillor Mayes: All right, pick up the pace here, Nason. Water and waste; the traditional big item. And there's another change under this mayor, we have a Water and Waste Committee. We have some scrutiny on these items instead of it being at the end of the IRPW agenda. So, the traditional bigs are still in there: water main renewal, sewer main renewal. We've got a third thing now, water meter renewal; $77 million, not in EPC member ridings, it's all across. Fourth thing, the traditional big, was CSO, $30 million. We've increased that by 50% over the years, it's $60 million. Not increasing rates to

do it. Not increasing rates to do it. We have been able to find it from within. It's a huge environmental initiative. Very proud of that. Very proud to see that in that. I think is opening the door, hopefully, to the Province and the Feds to join us and get that billion-dollar program done. Not in 2095, the last leg is to be done in Councillor Allard's ward by the Whittier Park, La Vérendrye combined sewer districts, slated to be completed 2095. We'll have to send Councillor Allard's sons, since my sons will be in their 90s by then. It's like, this is not an acceptable timeframe. We've got to speed this up and we are taking the first step to do that. So, of the plan that we voted on, infrastructure plan in December of 2019, it was an advisory plan, but we're doing six of the top ten there. We actually are focusing on some of our main things. The number one thing: biosolids. And we're doing that number three thing: water meter renewal. So, in closing, you know, I said to Councillor Gillingham, I have two big priorities: I want to get the…another track down in Browaty's ward. I want to get a basketball court. He said, no, you're not getting number one, we can fund number two, but you make it work. You try and make it work. And that is, I think, a good summary, a good end note to…you have to try and be creative. You have to try and do some things. So, I am happy to try and keep working on that with Councillors Browaty. Happy to try and keep working with Councillor Nason on his Bernie Wolfe track. But I think we've come a long way in eight years and I'm pleased to support the budget and will not be supporting the amendment. But it's…I do want to say, I think…I think Councillor Gillingham has made every effort to try and bring everyone on board. Can I get…

Madam Speaker: Two minutes, yeah.

Councillor Mayes: Okay, thank you.

Madam Speaker: It would be a suspension of the rules vote.

Councillor Mayes: I won't need that.

Madam Speaker: I will call for a vote to suspend the rules to have a further second extension. All in favour? Contrary? That is carried. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Yeah, I'm just…Councillor Schreyer is right, in a way, we should have…probably have more time to debate the budget than we allow ourselves. I think that's probably a fair point. But in terms of taking the high road, I do think it's an unfortunate process in some ways in that you have to vote against people who have supported you on other matters. You have to vote against some of your friends sometime. But I do think efforts were made this round to try and get people, not everybody, but trying to get some consideration made. Councillor Lukes, certainly, has gotten some very good projects for her ward this term. Hard work by Councillor Lukes. I don't begrudge that. But I think we still will have months to go here, yet. I think we're going to have to keep trying to work together. I think there is still $9.5 million to be allocated under gas tax. I hope to get some of it on that project Nason and I have talked about it. I'm sure others have different views. But I just think it's worth putting out a factual foundation. It isn't all for EPC. Look at page 99, you know, none of that is going into my ward of that…of that allocated money. So, there are always contests. There's a lot…I would say, the one session we had was probably the most acrimonious session we've had. Maybe there was one with Wyatt. Maybe there was one that was more acrimonious, I give you that, but probably the most acrimonious session we've had. Even the notoriously graceful Councillor Gillingham said at one point, I wouldn't laugh at that, to me. And people walked out of the room and walked back in. It's not an easy process. It's not like all of us get everything we want. Far and away, not that. But I do hope going forward, if I am back, Councillor Orlikow has announced that some of us are going to lose, so one never knows, but if I am back, certainly, yes, I would be interested to see these. There's some…some way in which we can at least start the first time out with everybody in the room. And if you can't live with it, then so be it. But I do think efforts were made this time and I will be supporting the budget.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Klein.

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In listening to some of the comments, which I appreciate, from all colleagues, it is clear that you'll believe what you want to believe. First of all, nobody claimed who was on the working…Budget Working Group or not. The group clearly stated that the balanced power lies with EPC plus two and that it was about the process, not just the special interest items to some councillors. No matter what, a budget will be passed today. A budget that we have to ask why will it pass? Maybe it is because…maybe it's because of a select group of EPC plus two appointees had many meetings behind closed doors with the Public Service. They had the ability to negotiate for projects in their ward as equals. Or maybe because they were granted greater access to fruitful department details and discussions. But what we don't know on the outside, we are not behind those doors. Did they debate what fiscally responsible actions are needed to sustain the City and residential services? Did they give any consideration to the pending new wave of the pandemic, which is now impacting Ontario? Over 30% of their new cases are the omicron virus. Did they factor in the increasing inflation rate and what impacts it may have on expenses and capital projects? Did they implement zero-based budget reviews or even assign an objective to reduce expenses by lien or six sigma assessments? The real assessments. It's not identified in the budget book. We don't what happened behind closed doors. It won't pass because

of the fiscal prudence it exhibits or by addressing the top priorities of all residents and our future. Maybe, maybe, it will pass on the many ribbon-cutting opportunities given to ensure a supportive vote and steer attention away from the real issues, as noted in some of the speeches. Well, this councillor who's not on EPC is getting this. Those with the financial acumen realize this is not a budget that addresses the priorities of our residents. It doesn't exhibit true fiscal responsibility. It doesn't outline clear fiscal objectives, just cuts to residential services and the Public Service and the promise of more. A budget should address the priority of residents, reflect what is best for our city and form a solid foundation for the economic viability of our city today, tomorrow and beyond that. One-time $9.5 million spending that will focus in the end on political optics is not actually a feasible economic plan, certainly not a recovery plan. It doesn't grow or stabilize our future. Most notable, it is not respectable of all elected officials. It's not a budget I can defend because I'm not a part of it. I don't know what was said behind closed doors. It's not personal, but it's certainly not how I would prepare a budget with colleagues that were equally elected as I. Over the last several years, City Council has been divided by design. A majority group of Council members are appointed to the mayor…by the mayor and referred to as EPC plus two which represents a voting majority of Council. That is what we've said. It creates division and is most evident during the yearly City of Winnipeg operating and capital budget process. Proven today. Members of this city council have publicly shared multiple times their disappointment with the lack of openness and transparency of the budget working process where members are provided with less than two weeks to conduct proper analysis, scrutiny and due diligence on a budget that is over $2 billion. It's not about the gifts, it's about the facts. Not who gets what. The councillors who are not members of EPC plus two are typically disregarded under the current strong mayor model and are provided minimal opportunity to engage in the budget debates of ward-specific requests. As uncovered and reported in the Winnipeg Free Press article titled, 'Closed Door Majority' Winnipeg's Mayor's unofficial EPC plus two puts him at an unfair advantage, Madam Speaker. That was on December 20th, 2019. In 2014, the Winnipeg Free Press interviewed candidate Brian Bowman, Madam Speaker, who told them EPC has traditionally, and I quote, "Been a breeding ground for patronage and comfortable top ups". That fosters division on Council and mistrust among the public. He was right then and that is right today. Nothing has changed. Is it wrong? All EPC plus two members are praising the Finance Chair, Councillor Gillingham and the Mayor. Those not on that group are not, really. The budget process favours a few and fails many because many concerns of this city are not fairly represented. It is the process, folks. Not you personally, it's the process. The amended motion before you is fair and reasonable and reflective of the entire city. We worked together as a team and considered all members of Council's specific requests, even those that you put in in the budget. Working with this group the way we did was enlightening. I learned much more about my colleagues. I saw their strengths and abilities at work. I saw their passions to do the right think. I was honoured to be a part of this group. They are leaders in their own right who want to find common ground and work to get things done for Winnipeggers. They want to be heard, not ignored or treated like the child at an adult table. The omnibus motion before you as it is should be passed unanimously. It won't be. This is your chance, though, to stand up against the political status quo, inequality and behind closed door meetings and out dale…outdated style of back room politics, but really, it's the right thing to do. It's unfathomable that people elected to the offices that we are given the privilege to serve could pass a budget that has not considered the impact of another potential pandemic shut down. The impact of growing inflation rates will have a direct impact on our expenses and cost to capital projects. Let's not forget the rising interest rate and the opening…operating money required to simply service the debt we already have which has doubled under this leadership and Finance Chair. Doubled. In fact, more than doubled some would say. A budget that doesn't commit to greater fiscal responsibility during these challenging times that…in a budget that doesn't address risks, is dangerous. Our city wanted vision. They want people and elected officials to provide them with the confidence in their leadership as a group, not a small group of a larger group. They want safe neighborhoods and they want to be proud of the city. They don't want back room deals. We are told about all the great investments such as the CSO. Well, we have…we haven't used the budget that we have had for years. How is that good budgeting? We are addressing an issue that we failed at for several years. The North End treatment plant, I'm hearing lots about that. Again, it's failing…failing to address the issue. It's not because of good budgeting, it's because we've ignored it and for years, took the profits from Water and Waste to patter general revenues. Active transportation's investment doubled, but no talk that the regular investment is cut in future years. But we can't say that because it wouldn't make for good…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gillingham moves extension. All in favour? Two minutes.

Councillor Klein: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Carried.

Councillor Klein: Doesn't make for good tweets or good election platforms. Roads and back lanes are getting done, yes. Congratulations. But isn't that what people pay taxes for? That's what we're supposed to address, not celebrate. We are supposed to say, hey, look, we are doing what you put us here for, we're using your money wisely. We are going to spend more to offset the COVID of impacts. Great. But we are not planning for the potential next wave financially. We are reacting. That is not responsible budgeting. But what this budget and all the talking points don't mention, the cuts to public safety when we are poised to break the record for homicide and violent crimes in our city again. It's a fact that can't be denied. It doesn't fix 311. It doesn't improve snow clearing. It doesn't implement 20th century water billing services to residents. It

doesn't address transit safety. It doesn't address the dire need for more public trash and recycling receptacles. No. And in fact, it doesn't address the risk because there's no contingency for the many, many, many court challenges this leadership is faced with. Parker Lands alone, that will be coming out soon, could impact the city budget by $30 million. That is not in there. It won't be passed because it's a budget that addresses all of the issues residents care most about. Maybe it will pass. Maybe because of the dysfunctional strong mayor model of EPC plus two. And I know, if I don't support the budget, my ward will be ignored and punished to teach me a lesson. Klein didn't support it, let's not give him anything. And those games, just so you know, only anger one of the largest wards in the city. They don't impact me. I am not moved by bullies. You can't buy my integrity. I don't respond to that. The reality is, this is not my budget. It's not Councillor Lukes, Nason, Santos, Eadie, Sharma or Schreyer's budget. It is an EPC budget plus two. We are going to have financial issues in the months…I'm just finishing up. In the months and years ahead, how can we vote yes and later say, we told you so? We can't, right? We have to vote no. The Public Service will be back asking for more money, maybe for more officers as crime in Winnipeg continues to top the national average.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Klein, thank you. Next speaker to close, Councillor Santos, on your amendment and the main item.

Councillor Santos: Okay. You guys can hear me okay?

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Santos: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Lots of great debate on the round. Wholeheartedly agree with most comments made today. Passion and sincerity is truly inspiring because I know we are all passionate about the city. And I do truly believe that we all want the same goal. And I believe no matter what the outcome is today, and no matter what each councillor votes for today, I don't think anyone can hold any one personally accountable because I know you are all doing what you feel is necessary to hold your moral compass accountable. I did want to highlight on something. I think it's important that the public understands that within this budget there was a section that specifically deals with the Canada Community Building Fund of $9.5 million. This is supposed to be used towards projects that support economic recovery throughout the city and specifically in underserved areas. These funds were yet to be allocated. And is my understanding that the recommendations from each community committee would assist in how the funds would be utilized throughout the city. One of the criterias in this economic recovery was to use the framework from the wading pool rationalization and spray pad reinvestment strategy that I advocated for last year. Did you know, Madam Speaker, that a comprehensive list of locations was developed for new spray pads within each of the 15 wards? And did you know, Madam Speaker, that this was never made public last year when Council approved the framework until today. This framework that I advocated for was never intended to be plagiarized or politicized. The information in our high needs and underserved communities and one of the crucial aspects of this report and really highlighted the needs to have an action plan for our civil service to work with while recommending and organizing these projects. This was a decision making framework for our civil services that not only looks at rationalization of older wading pools being replaced with new spray pads, but it also looks at filling gaps in services in other areas that do not have facilities. I have said this in the past that when we as a council go to Community Services with funding in hand for new spray pads, they needed a blueprint of our priorities which are to service underserved areas and to possibly use old infrastructure in new ways. When we are looking at making these investments in our neighborhoods, we as a council should be united in trying to improve our community, check the environment and allow all Winnipeg communities regardless of income levels to have the same access to spray pads. This is what I advocated for. And to my surprise, there are three new spray pads that have been added in today's capital budget together with an allocation of $2.3 million from the Canada Community Building Fund. So, I asked myself, how is this possible? How did three new spray pads get ahead in the capital budget book with support from the Canada Community Building Fund when the direction from each of the community committees hasn't yet been finalized? How did these three new spray pads get ahead in the capital budget book without an administrative report that outlines the decision making framework to prioritization factors that corresponds with the comprehensive list of locations? Madam Speaker, how do you expect me, as someone who's been involved in three years of budget processes, three years worth of internal report briefing discussions, supposed to believe that these three new splash pads are coincidentally supporting three members of the EPC plus two? I would like to personally believe that my gut intuition is wrong and I want to believe that the Mayor does have the best interests for all of Winnipeg. However, from my personal experiences over the last three years, and with the questions I have outlined above, is just one example of why it was difficult for me to be in alignment with the Mayor on major issues surrounding the future of Winnipeg. So, I think it would be a great value that the Mayor shows a sign of good faith and prove my gut feelings wrong by supporting the amending motion that allocates some of the $9.5 million Canada Community Building Fund to support what was recommended as a priority within the comprehensive list. I think it's important that EPC plus two also shows a sign of good faith and support for all of the other fair and reasonable recommendations brought forward by us seven councillors. Again, these recommendations are not reducing services. We are adding more because we know the city can be further improved and all the while still being fiscally and socially responsible. I have to say, if the amendment motion does not pass, which it seems like it won't, it will be difficult for me to support a budget that continues to be a disservice to all Winnipeggers and only meets the other

councillors who are not EPC members halfway. I cannot support a budget that continues to be with the…continues with the same old investments. A city that does not make pedestrians and cyclists a top priority, where AT gets $24.3 million over six years, while roads receives $164.7 million in one year. A budget that keeps services at bare minimum and only offers $2 million to support the vulnerable population. If I supported the budget without the amendments, that means I'd be supporting only 50% of the services, a status quo budget and I just cannot morally in good conscience support that. And it is exactly the same reasons why I didn't support it last year. These challenges we are facing today are complex. And I won't…it won't be solved overnight. It requires a complete examination of our social system and looking for opportunities to stop politicizing our own government policies and strategies. I do not like the political threats of having to play ball just to get something I want in the budget. I'm just someone who honestly, deeply cares about this city and all of its citizens. And so, I still have good faith today. We've got a good amending motion that works in collaboration with the Mayor's and EPC amendments. With the whole package together, it shows the public that we do care about each other. It is on that very basic level that shifts the political culture and makes everlasting change. This is what I believe Winnipeg should be about. And this is the time for action. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor to close.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Firstly, I want to thank all of the delegates who came this morning, all of whom were in support of the budget. This is the first budget I can recall where we didn't have anyone in opposition. I think that speaks to the strength of this budget. I also note that this is during a time when we have more accessibility to…for delegations to speak remotely as well. So, I do want to just note that. I, too, want to echo the comments of Councillor Rollins. I have certainly received more anti-vax hate and trolling during this budget cycle than anything remotely touching criticism on the substance of the budget itself. And so, I will use this opportunity to once again remind all Winnipeggers to get please go get your vaccine. It's one of the ways in which we can support the healthcare heroes in our ICUs. One of our council colleagues has accurately stated today that her approach to COVID differs from mine. And that is…that is true. I believe in science and vaccines because I believe facts and evidence matter and they should in our budget discussions as well. The amending motion states that eight members are appointed by the Mayor to develop the city's budget priorities for the 2022 preliminary operating and capital budget. This is false. The Budget Working Group, as structured…as required, at least in terms of who submits it, is structured as EPC in the Charter, the provincial legislation. I have in past years invited the Deputy Mayor and the Acting Deputy Mayor to participate in the Budget Working Group. And I appreciated the input of all those that have acted in that capacity. Much the same when we recently hired our CAO, invited non-members of EPC. Councillor Eadie was a valuable contributor to that effort. That was submitted to EPC and then EPC made a formal recommendation to Council. And so, if we are going to talk about opening…opening up greater dialogue, we should support those efforts and others that we've seen demonstrated by Councillor Gillingham and others during this process. I think, you know, EPC, as I mentioned, was the Budget Working Group this year. Statements to the contrary by members of Council are patently false and they diminish the civil discourse that our residents expect of us. Information was readily available by our CFO who was available to answer any questions during this process. So was our Finance Chair. And I inquired this morning to see how many members of Council have logged into the finance system recently. And I was advised today that no member of Council has logged in to the finance system in all of 2021. That information is more open and transparent for members of Council than ever before. And so, to suggest that information was not available, again, is simply not true. I will just close my comments by saying, you know, the substance of the budget and the positive changes within it are strong when the main criticisms are processed and not matters that directly affect the residents that we all serve. I want to thank Councillor Santos and Lukes for bringing forward an amendment. I do think we should be held accountable for the motions and our votes. I appreciate the fact that it is very clear priority here, they are set out in the motion. I will not be supporting them, however. But I do appreciate the fact that an effort was made to bring forward substantive amendments. We should be held accountable by the residents we serve for our votes and for that reason, I will ultimately ask for a recorded vote today in both the amending motion and the budget as a whole. And I will defer the balance of my time to Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Klein: Point of order, Madam Speaker. I'm just wondering, is the…is the…is who went into the financial system and not went into the final system…financial system, is that available to the public or is that special access?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Klein, we will have to take that offline. And send your question to the CFO or the CAO. Thank you. Mr. Mayor, you are sharing your time, are you?

Mayor Bowman: Yes, I am.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Just a reminder, and thank you to all my colleagues for their comments today. But a reminder, again, that while inflation in Winnipeg is at 4.5%, we've worked very hard to ensure that this budget keeps City services affordable for Winnipeggers. And so, this budget balances '22 and '23 with a year-

over-year increase average of just 1.3%, which is certainly well below the rate of inflation. We are very cognizant, very aware in our deliberations in putting the budget together that the price of many things are going up at this time. So, we made every effort to keep the year-over-year increase affordable for Winnipeggers. I will not be supporting the amendment as moved by Councillor Santos. I do not support the recommendations because using the financial stabilization reserve to increase councillors' ward budgets, increase…to add on-demand service of transit at this point would be irresponsible. We are still relying on the financial stabilization reserve in the middle of a pandemic. I don't support the amending motion because it predetermines where the economic recovery investments will be made when just as Councillor Orlikow said when just 20 days ago, Council had already agreed unanimously to have the Public Service report back to this body by March of 2022 after considering the recommendations provided by all of the community committees. I don't support this amendment because EPC…in EPC's amendment yesterday on the budget, we've already included $630,000 for active transportation in the Transcona Ward. And I don't support the final part of this motion, 2x, because the pedestrian…a pedestrian signal crosswalk on Roblin in front of the zoo is already identified on page 45 of 2022 capital budget. That project is there already. I am certainly asking all of my colleagues, Madam Speaker, around the chamber to vote in favour of this budget, both the operating and the capital budgets that rebalance 2022. It builds upon the strengths of the multi-year budgets that we established back in 2020. And this budget, it contains investments to make sure that the services prioritized by Winnipeggers are funded and the services that Winnipeggers…reflect Winnipegger's priorities are there. It also makes significant investments in the future of Winnipeg. It builds our city for the future to meet the needs of a growing city. And it also reflects priorities by many, many councillors that have been articulated and expressed to me in the development of this budget. I will make a comment, though, just regarding, perhaps, the view that I hope is not…you know, I hope it doesn't exist, I fear it does exist by some councillors who maybe want the investments without taking the responsibility of voting for the budget that funds them. There are some that want to cut a ribbon and take credit for what is in the budget without taking the responsibility of standing up and voting for the budget. It is like the person who orders drinks and appetizers for the table and then leaves the restaurant when the bill comes. So, I would ask those who see any priorities of theirs reflected in this budget to vote for the budget. Vote for a budget that builds our communities across the city that builds our wards, that builds our city. Vote for a budget that builds the future of our community. And I am asking today, Madam Speaker, for a recorded vote. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. I will now call the question on the…first of all, the operating and capital budget. Yeah, we'll have…yes, on the amending motion first. Okay, all in favour of amending Motion 1? There's a call for a recorded vote on the amendment or on the budget vote? All in favour of amending Motion 1, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Nays

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

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

Madam Speaker: Amending Motion 1 is defeated. On to main budget. All in favour of the capital and operating budget, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Nays

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

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

Madam Speaker: And the budget passes. No new business. Councillor Browaty moves adjournment. By-laws, yes. Thank you, Councillor Browaty. Mr. Mayor, by-laws. Just for first reading.

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

Mayor Bowman: I move that By-law No. 122/2021 be read a first time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Three are recorded in opposition; Councillor Eadie, Councillor Klein and Councillor Nason.

Clerk: By-law No. 122/2021.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Mr. Mayor.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mayor Bowman: I move that the by…the following by-laws be read a first time: By-law 110/2021, By-law 111/2021, By-law 114/2021, By-law No. 115/2021, By-law 120/2021 and By-law 121/2021.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? They were read all together, Councillor Eadie. Which one do you want? Which one? Okay. Councillor Klein and Nason recorded in opposition and Councillor Eadie. Yes, I'm getting to that, thank you. Mr. Clerk. It's the BIZ one.

City Clerk: I believe Councillor Eadie is referring to By-law No. 121/2021 to create a small business tax credit for 2022.

Madam Speaker: So, Councillor Eadie noted in opposition to the other four…five by-laws. Okay. Thank you.

Clerk: By-law No. 110/2021, 111/2021, 114/2021, 115/2021, 120/2021 and 121/2021.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Councillor Eadie, same thing? Yeah, Councillor Eadie. So, Councillor Nason and Eadie…Councillor Nason and Klein noted in opposition and Councillor Eadie in opposition, but not to 121. Thank you. Yes.

Mayor Bowman: I move that By-laws No. 110/2021, 111/2021, 114/2021, 115/2021, 120/2021, that's a tongue twister, and 121/2021 be read a second time, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Mr. Clerk, please note the same recordings for opposition. Thank you. Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 110/2021, 111/2021, 114/2021, 115/2021, 120/2021 and 121/2021.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. I think that's it.

Mayor Bowman: No, I've got…

Madam Speaker: Is that it, Mr. Clerk? I believe so. Unless you have a different paper.

Mayor Bowman: Third reading, yeah.

Madam Speaker: Okay.

Mayor Bowman: I move that the rule be suspended and By-laws No. 110/2021, 111/2021, 114/2021, 115/2021, 120/2021, and 121/2021 be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Yes. Thank you. Mr. Clerk, that is noted, three in opposition. Same as above. And that is carried. Thank you. That concludes the agenda. Councillor Browaty moves adjournment. All in favour? Contrary? That is carried. Stay in your seats, please. Roll call.

ROLL CALL

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

Council adjourned at 2:47 p.m.