Minute No. 372
Report – Executive Policy Committee – April 20, 2022

Item No. 17 City of Winnipeg Fuel Usage

COUNCIL DECISION:

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

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back in 120 days on the following:

    A. That the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to instruct all departments to immediately develop formal plans to reduce departmental fuel usage, which could include but not be limited to the following:

        i. A means to demonstrate to the public that City departments are actively taking steps to reduce fuel costs.

        ii. The implementation of no-idling policies, more efficient routing while travelling, travel to and from sites during off traffic hours, carpooling instead of sending multiple vehicles, running onboard devices using batteries instead of the engine, transition to smaller vehicles, purchase of hybrid or electric vehicles, and virtual inspections.

        iii. The coordination of large amounts of work in a single area of the city rather than having crews travel across the city to various worksites within the same day.

    B. That the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to request increased funding from the Provincial and Federal governments which are benefiting from the higher fuel prices through increased taxation revenues.

    C. That the Chief Financial Officer be directed to develop and present to Council a detailed breakdown of City fuel purchases by department and their sub-units, for each of the past 3 years which would allow for Council to monitor impacts of rising fuel prices and departmental efforts to improve efficiency.

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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,

That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted by consent.

Carried

David Grant submitted a communication dated April 27, 2022 in support of the matter.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 20, 2022, the Executive Policy Committee submitted the following to Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back in 120 days on the following:

    A. That the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to instruct all departments to immediately develop formal plans to reduce departmental fuel usage, which could include but not be limited to the following:

        i. A means to demonstrate to the public that City departments are actively taking steps to reduce fuel costs.

        ii. The implementation of no-idling policies, more efficient routing while travelling, travel to and from sites during off traffic hours, carpooling instead of sending multiple vehicles, running onboard devices using batteries instead of the engine, transition to smaller vehicles, purchase of hybrid or electric vehicles, and virtual inspections.

        iii. The coordination of large amounts of work in a single area of the city rather than having crews travel across the city to various worksites within the same day.

    B. That the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to request increased funding from the Provincial and Federal governments which are benefiting from the higher fuel prices through increased taxation revenues.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

C. That the Chief Financial Officer be directed to develop and present to Council a detailed breakdown of City fuel purchases by department and their sub-units, for each of the past 3 years which would allow for Council to monitor impacts of rising fuel prices and departmental efforts to improve efficiency.

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

COUNCIL DECISION:

On March 24, 2022, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Klein,
Seconded by Councillor Lukes,

WHEREAS on March 3rd, the firm JPMorgan forecast a possible end of year rise in price of Brent oil to US$185 per barrel. Last March, Brent oil was only at US$65 per barrel. US$185 would convert to over $3.00 per litre;

AND WHEREAS the City currently spends over $10 million a year on fuel for all vehicles including transit;

AND WHEREAS the rise in fuel prices to more than double the 2021 price range would result in an additional $10 million in annual costs to the City;

AND WHEREAS the City should plan immediately to address a potential doubling of fuel prices;

AND WHEREAS fuel consumption is operating costs, and the City cannot use debt financing to account for the increased costs;

AND WHEREAS the City cannot rely on its reserves, since they are already near their lower bounds having been drained over the past two years;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS the City could cut services, improve efficiency, introduce new revenue streams, raise taxes, or request additional funding from the Provincial and Federal governments;

AND WHEREAS cutting services and raising taxes is a disservice to the public unless all other options have been exhausted;

AND WHEREAS the first step should be to improve City operational efficiency.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to instruct all departments to immediately develop formal plans to reduce departmental fuel usage, which could include but not be limited to the following:

    A. A means to demonstrate to the public that City departments are actively taking steps to reduce fuel costs.

    B. The implementation of no-idling policies, more efficient routing while travelling, travel to and from sites during off traffic hours, carpooling instead of sending multiple vehicles, running onboard devices using batteries instead of the engine, transition to smaller vehicles, purchase of hybrid or electric vehicles, and virtual inspections.

    C. The coordination of large amounts of work in a single area of the city rather than having crews travel across the city to various worksites within the same day.

2. That the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to request increased funding from the Provincial and Federal governments which are benefiting from the higher fuel prices through increased taxation revenues.

3. That the Chief Financial Officer be directed to develop and present to Council a detailed breakdown of City fuel purchases by department and their sub-units, for each of the past 3 years which would allow for Council to monitor impacts of rising fuel prices and departmental efforts to improve efficiency.

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