Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – July 13, 2022

REPORTS

Item No. 2 Waiving of Fees for Business Improvement Zone Organized COVID-19 Recovery Events

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service:

1. That this report be received as information.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Browaty,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in.

Yea:	Bowman, Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Gilroy, Mayes, Rollins	7
Nay:		0

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 18, 2022, the Executive Policy Committee directed the Winnipeg Public Service to report back within 60 days on the following:

1. Assist COVID recovery by waiving fees for Business Improvement Zone organized recovery events for permits such as:

    A. Closing of Parking Lanes

    B. Street Closures

    C. Special Events Permits

    D. Any other applicable permitting expenses

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 2, 2022, the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS at the April 8, 2022 Winnipeg BIZ Alliance meeting, the BIZ representative discussed events organized by business improvement zones to assist with recovery in our respective zones;

AND WHEREAS many of the zones are planning events such as street parties and other customer attractions to stimulate business for member businesses;

AND WHEREAS fees such as noise permits, street closures and closing of parking lanes can be supported by the city through the waiving of these fees and other fees that may arise;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee recommend to the Executive Policy Committee that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to assist COVID recovery by waiving fees for Business Improvement Zone organized recovery events for permits such as:

1. Closing of Parking Lanes

2. Street Closures

3. Special Events Permits

4. Any other applicable permitting expenses

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: **Waiving of Fees for Business Improvement Zone Organized COVID-19 Recovery Events**

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
M. Dryburgh	M. Jack	N/A	M. Jack

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In May 2022, the Executive Policy Committee directed the Public Service to report back on the following motion:

> *Assist COVID recovery by waiving permit fees for Business Improvement Zone (BIZ) organized recovery events for permits such as:*
>
> *A. Closing of Parking lanes*
> *B. Street Closures*
> *C. Special Events Permits*
> *D. Any other applicable permitting expenses*

City Council has already approved fee waivers for Special Events and Use of Street permits for block parties and street festivals in 2022, resulting in estimated forgone revenue of $31,000.

To implement Council's direction to waive Use of Street permit fees the Public Service is not charging a permit fee for a street closure. However, organizations are being charged for related items such as lost parking meter revenue and traffic services for placement of temporary traffic control measures, if applicable.

Waiving charges for lost parking meter revenue for all street festivals, block parties and other events would result in estimated additional forgone revenue of $150,000 in 2022, with BIZ organized events accounting for approximately $10,000 of this amount. Waiving charges for traffic services for street festivals would result in estimated further forgone revenue of $75,000.

It is difficult to determine the impact of waiving charges for "Any other applicable permitting expenses" (which corresponds to item D in the motion) as each permit fee associated with each BIZ organized event will be unique.

Given that City Council has already approved significant COVID-19 support measures and the City continues to face significant financial challenges from the pandemic, no further fee waivers are recommended at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That this report be received as information.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On May 18, 2022 the Executive Policy Committee directed the Public Service to report back within 60 days on the following motion passed by the Lord-Selkirk West Kildonan Community Committee:

> *Assist COVID recovery by waiving permit fees for Business Improvement Zone (BIZ) organized recovery events for permits such as:*
>
> *A. Closing of Parking lanes*
> *B. Street Closures*
> *C. Special Events Permits*
> *D. Any other applicable permitting expenses*

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no implications associated with receiving this report as information.

HISTORY / DISCUSSION

City Council has approved significant measures to assist residents and businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic and the recovery including one-time grants, deferred payment of property and business taxes, capital investments and a wellness fund to support safe, socially distanced activities.

Council also approved a waiver of permit fees related to Special Events and Use of Streets for block parties and street festivals in 2022 within the 2022 Balanced Budget update.

To implement Council's direction to waive Use of Street permit fees for block parties and street festivals the Public Service is not charging the permit fee for the street closure itself. However, organizations are being charged for other costs related to the street closure such as lost parking meter revenue and placement of temporary traffic control measures, if applicable.

The City's current estimated forgone revenue for waiving fees for Special Event permits and Use of Street permits is $31,000 in 2022.

Waiving charges for lost parking meter revenue for all street festivals, block parties and other events would result in estimated additional forgone revenue of $150,000 in 2022, with BIZ organized events accounting for approximately $10,000 of this amount. Waiving charges related to traffic services for all street festivals would result in further forgone revenue of $75,000. These estimates are based on 2019 actual events.

It is difficult to determine the financial impact of waiving the fees for "Any other applicable permitting expenses" associated with BIZ organized COVID-19 recovery events (which

corresponds to item D in the motion) because the permit fees associated with each event will be unique.

The proposed fee waivers in the motion passed by the Lord-Selkirk West Kildonan Community Committee were endorsed by the Winnipeg BIZ Alliance (which is comprised of the 16 BIZ zones) at its meeting on April 6, 2022. However, City Council has already approved significant measures to help businesses and residents address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City also continues to face significant financial challenges related to the pandemic with COVID related losses currently estimated to be approximately $220 million. And, the City is currently projecting a shortfall of almost $54 million in the 2022 Tax Supported Operating Budget. Therefore, no further waivers of City permit fees or other charges are being recommended at this time.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** **June 16, 2022**

Project Name:
Waiving of Fees for Business Improvement Zone Organized COVID-19 Recovery Events

COMMENTS:

There are no financial implications in receiving this report as information and no additional fee waivers are recommended at this time.

Jocelyn Peters - June 16, 2022
Jocelyn Peters, CPA, CGA
Manager of Finance & Administration (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with the departments listed below, and they concur with its content.

- Corporate Finance
- Planning, Property and Development Department
- Public Works Department

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Leadership and Good Governance. Policy 1.8 - Pursue municipal revenue generation based on a predictable, equitable and evidence-informed methodology that offsets service costs while achieving this Plan's sustainability goals.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan and it was determined that this Plan is not applicable to this specific report.

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy and it was determined that this Strategy is not applicable to this specific report.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
Prepared by: Matt Dryburgh Senior Manager, Economic Development and Policy
Date: June 16, 2022