SUBMISSION – DAVID GRANT

ITEM 11 OF THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED DECEMBER 7, 2022 REGARDING 2023 LOCAL IMPROVEMENT INTEREST RATES

Sent: Saturday, December 10, 2022 8:36:47 PM

Personal information
Full name: David Grant
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Organization:
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City: Winnipeg
Province or territory: Manitoba
Postal code:

Delegation information
Committee: Council
Committee - council: Opposed to the recommendations
Committee - other: N/A
Agenda item (number and title): 11. Interest rates for LIP work.

Service inquiry: Register as a Delegation, Submit Comments in writing
Participation preference: Via Zoom

Comments in writing: I am opposed to the Council action. I agree with the interest rates scheduled.
With respect, I would like your help in dispelling some of the myths involving LIP.
In Item 11, the text says this interest will be charged to those choosing to pay for the improvement work that they wanted, over a number of years. This suggests that the homeowners had a choice in having the work done, and in paying for the work when it was done, or making annual payments.
We should probably draw a line between capital work that provides a net and material improvement in the residential property, and those which only fix what is broken. If a hidden sewer or water main breaks, and is repaired or a section is replaced, no improvement in functionality can be measured. How is that an LIP?
If the city decides to perform a TBO (a thin layer of asphalt over the existing pavement of the roadway) homeowner input is neither invited nor allowed. In 2 TBO projects in 2021, the adjoining streets, of identical age, had failed more dramatically than the ones that got the TBO. This suggests that the decision is not based on the will of the residents, nor on an objective analysis of the roadway.

The exact wording of #11 says in part "When a property owner chooses to have a local improvement financed over time, as opposed to paying it outright, the property owner is charged interest on the local improvement at the established rates over the financing period chosen." If there is no evidence of the homeowner making this choice, then the city would seem to not have the moral authority to charge substantial interest.
With respect, may I suggest that Council ask Staff to look into the degree of free-will involved in the decisions to perform TBO work, versus full reconstruction, and in making payments versus paying in full. Of note is the fact that the city obfuscates FIPPA inquiries into this matter.
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