Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – February 14, 2023

REPORTS

Item No. 9 Request for the Establishment for a Ukraine Humanitarian Fund

COUNCIL DECISION:

On January 26, 2023, Council referred the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee, namely:

1. That the City of Winnipeg create a Winnipeg-Ukraine Humanitarian Fund for the purpose of aiding those suffering from the unprovoked invasion by Russia on the sovereign state of Ukraine;

2. That all donations be matched by the City of Winnipeg on a 1:1 basis;

3. That all funds be transferred to non-profit organizations operating in Ukraine, for humanitarian purposes, on a monthly-basis, upon identification of beneficiary organizations and the establishment of a secure transfer process;

4. That the federal government of Ukraine be requested to assist in facilitating the transfer and direction of funds;

5. That the City of Winnipeg structure the Winnipeg-Ukraine Humanitarian Fund to allow for income tax receipting for any private charitable donation made, be it individual or corporate;

6. That the Winnipeg-Ukraine Humanitarian Fund shall operate for a one year period, and at such time it will be reviewed by City Council to determine the continuation of said program, or upon the termination of all hostilities between Ukraine and Russia, whichever should come first;

7. That the relevant by-laws or policies of the City of Winnipeg and Council be amended accordingly; and

8. That the Proper Officers of the City of Winnipeg do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – February 14, 2023

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

COUNCIL DECISION:

On January 26, 2023, Council referred the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Eadie,

WHEREAS on 24 February 2022, the Russian Federation initiated an invasion of Ukraine, a major escalation of the Russo-Ukrainian War, which began in 2014 with the unlawful Russian annexation of the Crimea;

AND WHEREAS Russia has, among other things:

1. attempted to overthrow the democratically elected federal government of Ukraine;

2. used its combined arms, including its army, naval, and air forces, to attack military and civilian targets, resulting in tens of thousands of deaths, including innocent civilians, in attempt to unjustifiably encroach on Ukraine's sovereign territory;

3. damaged or destroyed over 500 Ukrainian heritage and/or cultural sites; and

4. has been found, by the United Nation's Human Rights Council's Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, to have committed war crimes in Ukraine;

AND WHEREAS it is incumbent on all levels of Canadian government, including municipalities, to mobilize in a national effort to aid Ukrainian's suffering from the unprovoked invasion by Russia on the sovereign state of Ukraine;

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg has among the largest Ukrainian populations in Canada on an absolute and per capita basis and it is a moral necessity for the City of Winnipeg to support its Ukrainian population;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the City of Winnipeg create a Winnipeg-Ukraine Humanitarian Fund for the purpose of aiding those suffering from the unprovoked invasion by Russia on the sovereign state of Ukraine;

2. That all donations be matched by the City of Winnipeg on a 1:1 basis;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

3. That all funds be transferred to non-profit organizations operating in Ukraine, for humanitarian purposes, on a monthly-basis, upon identification of beneficiary organizations and the establishment of a secure transfer process;

4. That the federal government of Ukraine be requested to assist in facilitating the transfer and direction of funds;

5. That the City of Winnipeg structure the Winnipeg-Ukraine Humanitarian Fund to allow for income tax receipting for any private charitable donation made, be it individual or corporate;

6. That the Winnipeg-Ukraine Humanitarian Fund shall operate for a one year period, and at such time it will be reviewed by City Council to determine the continuation of said program, or upon the termination of all hostilities between Ukraine and Russia, whichever should come first;

7. That the relevant by-laws or policies of the City of Winnipeg and Council be amended accordingly; and

8. That the Proper Officers of the City of Winnipeg do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

David Grant submitted a communication with respect to the matter.