Minute No. 180
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – January 11, 2023

Item No. 3 City of Winnipeg Charter Amendment to Allow for the Addition of Fines and Penalties on Property Tax Bills

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services and adopted the following:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service provide options to allow for the addition of unpaid fees related to the administration and enforcement of the Neighbourhood Liveability By-law 1/2008 and the Vacant Building By-law 79/2010, directly onto the property tax bill of offending property owners.

2. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back in 180 days to the appropriate Committee of Council.

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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Orlikow,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On January 17, 2023, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On January 11, 2023, the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services recommended to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service provide options to allow for the addition of unpaid fees related to the administration and enforcement of the Neighbourhood Liveability By-law 1/2008 and the Vacant Building By-law 79/2010, directly onto the property tax bill of offending property owners.

2. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back in 180 days to the appropriate Committee of Council.

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

Lexington Slater, submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On September 22, 2022, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks:

Moved by Councillor Gilroy,
Seconded by Councillor Lukes,

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – January 11, 2023

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

WHEREAS the community by-law enforcement division is responsible for carrying out inspections under the Neighbourhood Livability By-Law No. 1/2008;

AND WHEREAS provisions set out in the By-law identify applicable fines and monetary penalties for specific infractions;

AND WHEREAS the collection of unpaid fines and monetary penalties are sometimes sent to a collection agency while others are added to the real property taxes, pursuant to section 187 of the Charter;

AND WHEREAS it can be difficult for the city to recoup all of the fees sent to a collection agency due to change in company ownership, and other methods of evading payment of the fines;

AND WHEREAS recouping the costs associated with the enforcement of the neighborhood liveability by-law will ensure a safer and stronger sense of community among neighbors and will also ensure that property owners are being held responsible for the maintenance of their properties;

AND WHEREAS when these fees are applied to the property tax bill they must be paid, and if not, the city has means to take over property due to non-payment of property taxes;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg does not currently have the authority to add certain fines to real property taxes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Winnipeg request the Province of Manitoba to amend the City of Winnipeg Charter to allow for the addition of fines and penalties, not limited to those listed in sections 185 or 186, directly onto the property tax bill of the offending property.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 28, 2022, the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services laid the matter over to its meeting on January 11, 2023.