COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Wednesday, March 22, 2023

The Council met at 9:45 a.m.

The Clerk advised the Speaker that a quorum was present.

The Speaker called the meeting to order.

The opening prayer was read by Councillor Duncan.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Mr. Speaker Councillor Eadie, His Worship Mayor Gillingham, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Dobson, Duncan, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Schreyer, and Councillor Wyatt.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. I think…first, I'd like to acknowledge our pages for today. We have Alicia Roho from the University of Winnipeg Collegiate as well as Max Novak from the MET School with us today. Thank you. We always…we always appreciate young people getting involved at the City level. Thank you very much for your service today. Councillor Lukes, you have a motion for a leave.

Councillor Lukes: Yes, for a…I'd like to make a motion for a leave of absence for Councillor Sharma.

MOTIONS

Moved by Councillor Lukes,
Seconded by Councillor Santos,

That Councillor Sharma be granted a leave of absence from today's meeting, due to a personal family matter.

Deputy Speaker: Okay, some family business. Important. All those in favour? Nobody is opposed? That is carried. Before I move into…we move into delegations…oh, sorry. Before we move into delegations, my colleagues and Public Service on the floor today, you will find at the coffee station a jar of cookies. So, as we…one each only. And there is a list of the ingredients and this is for the pages as well. As we get closer to noon, we know that our sugars get low. So, please help yourself to a cookie. All right, now we're going to move into...oh, I need a motion, please for an Acting Speaker for today. If somebody would move a motion to have Councillor Wyatt from the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee area to serve in that position. So moved. All those in favour? Nobody is opposed? That is carried. Thank you very much. Where am I here? Okay, I am at delegations, I believe. Pardon me, I worked my voice. All right, with delegations today, we're going to start off with those in favour of the Executive Policy Committee's recommendation report No. 1. And first up, we have Mr. Loren Remillard from the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce. Welcome, sir.

DELEGATIONS

Loren Remillard: Thank you. Just a correction, there's one fewer cookie at the station. I think you miscounted there, councillor. Sorry. Anyways, thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mayor Gillingham, members of Council. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today on the preliminary 2023 budget. And I just want to say, first time since the election being back at City Council, I want to congratulate, of course, returning councillors as well as returning councillors; Councillor Dobson, Councillor Wyatt and, of course, new Councillor Evan Duncan. So, welcome to City Council. Look forward to working with all of you as we move forward. I would also like to acknowledge and congratulate Mayor Gillingham for delivering a truly powerful and memorable inaugural state of the city address to our chamber crowd of 1,000 plus leaders. And of course, for the honorary street name, Loren Remillard Way. So, sorry, I think I meant the Winnipeg Chamber Way. Easy confusion there. The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce though, of course, is founded in 1873. We are Winnipeg's largest business organization. We represent more than 2,000 businesses employing 90,000 people from all sizes and sectors of business. The vast majority of our members are small and mid-sized organizations owned and operated in every neighbourhood in our city. We are dedicated to fostering an environment in which all Winnipeg businesses and all Winnipeggers can prosper. It is for those reasons and more that year after year according to Probe Research's Manitoba's Business Leaders Index, the majority of business executives identify our Chamber as the leading business organization, not just in Winnipeg, but

throughout Manitoba. So, on behalf of the Chamber, I am therefore pleased to appear before you in support of the budget. Let me state from the outset that the Chamber recognizes the City has come through a once in 100-year global health and economic crisis, the impact of which continues to hit our city and residents hard. Our Chamber commends the City and elected officials, notably, Mayor Gillingham in his previous role as Finance Chair for having the foresight and vision to put forward the multi-year budgeting plan. That foresight has allowed the City to navigate such difficult waters. The preliminary budget, as the final one in the initial four-year budget, sets the stage for discussions leading up to the new four-year budget cycle. That is…that is when even more heavy lifting will need to be done. However, that work is being made possible due to the foundation solidified in the 2023 budget. This budget creates stability and confidence. Stability in a feeling that the City has indeed found bottom and has begun to climb out of the hole created by the pandemic. And secondly, confidence in that the City will make that climb successfully because of the future-focused investments for economic growth and social well-being. Going into the budget process and in subsequent meetings with City officials, the Chamber's been advocating for strategic action in three key areas: a plan to strengthen our fiscal stability; second, to invest in core City services; and third, enhance economic growth and competitiveness. The proposed budget delivers on each of these in many ways. On fiscal stabilization, we applaud the shoring up of fiscal reserves and a requirement for administration to develop a plan to promptly address the shortfall of approximately $60 million from the Council mandated level of 6% of tax supported expenditures. On core service investment, we are pleased to see the collaboration with the Province on pursuing joint measures to address safety and homelessness in our downtown. Responsible investments in fire, police, the creation of the transit security service, along with investments in arts, recreation and culture, including $2 million for the new rec center for east Winnipeg; all welcome signs of a city increasingly focused on doing the right things right. On the economic front, Council support for our small and mid-sized companies, in particular, the freeze to the municipal business tax rate and increased exemption threshold helps our small business community to have a fighting chance for our recovery. Further, the investment in expanding permit staffing to enhance service to businesses investing in our community is a step forward in our calls to make Winnipeg the easiest city in which to do business. Now, we've been asked, why are we saying the easiest as opposed to the fastest? Well, leading up to the recent civic election, of all our members surveyed, 63% said starting a new business in Winnipeg is challenging and only 34% said the city is business friendly. And of course, we do want to applaud the City on those strategic infrastructure investments from Kenaston to Chief Peguis, to CentrePort Canada; all these will support more efficient and effective movement of people and goods essential to the long-term prosperity of our community at-large. The proposed measures are and should be seen for what they are: an investment and vote of confidence in Winnipeg's business community. We recognize that the next four-year budget cycle starting in 2024 will be critical in advancing these investments. In assessing this business…or this budget, there is opportunities to be seized as we look forward to the next four-year budget cycle. Notably, continued investment to ensure all business fees are reflective of the actual cost of the service rather than as a general revenue generator. Each year, the City collects in excess of approximately $10 million, equivalent to a 2% property tax increase in permit fees that is required to deliver permit service. So, it's something we continue to encourage Council to look at. Secondly, we want to see continuing focus on the City's core mandate and services with investments in enhancing, streamlining and simplifying city hall for residents. The Chamber is committed to working with Council on behalf of our members to identify future opportunities that will improve efficiency and efficacy of operations. This will ensure that Winnipeg is a community with infrastructure and services able to support a vibrant and competitive business climate and foster prosperity for all Winnipeggers. In conclusion, the Chamber believes the budget strikes a responsible balance between addressing the pressing economic and social needs of today with an eye to investments for the future. Again, thank you for the opportunity to appear today. I welcome any questions you may have at the appropriate time.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Remillard. Before we have questions, we'll introduce our next delegation who is in favour of the Executive Policy recommendation. Mr. Chris Lorenc, from the heavy…heavy construction association.

Chris Lorenc: Manitoba Heavy Construction Association.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Chris Lorenc: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Mayor, all members of Council. I endorse in its entirety the presentation made by Loren Remillard. Mr. Speaker and members of Council, foundationally we approach budget structures based on three pillars: growing the economy, socially progressive and environmentally responsible. We are on record supporting the '23 budget. Members of EPC and Public Works have read or heard me speak to that budget, including the local and regional streets program. But what I want to speak to about today touches on the future of our city. In particular, the opportunity and imperative to grow our economy so that all Winnipeggers can share in the dividends and the prosperity that will follow. You are to be congratulated for taking significant first steps in this budget by recognizing and supporting investments necessary to support sustained economic growth. First, an investment in the future of CentrePort Canada. Extending sewer and wastewater services to the CentrePort land south is the key that will unlock more than a billion dollars of private sector investment in the lands which are entirely within the city of Winnipeg. This investment will seed returns from that development just as the RM of Rosser has from CentrePort north. Your $20 million investment in sewer and water services moved the Province to contribute $40 million, for which we are grateful to get that

job done. Again, our congratulations. Second, an investment in Winnipeg's transportation arteries to expand our trade corridor network. The design studies for extending Chief Peguis and expanding Kenaston send signals to the business community, site selectors and capital markets to the whole of the country and beyond that Winnipeg recognizes the central role that trade corridors play in moving goods to market and therefore, supporting the economy. These decisions tell our trade partners continentally and globally that Winnipeg is a trade hub and that we are open for business. Why is that increasingly important? Winnipeg faces serious social challenges: addiction, crime, homelessness as we move beyond the hangover of the pandemic economic turmoil. We need to provide critical services to those in our community who are struggling. And that requires financial resources which is enabled by fiscal power. Without economic growth, the challenges are daunting if not impossible to address. But Winnipeg can only do so much with the current revenue streams that are available to it. That is why we implore you, Mayor and Council, to seize the opportunity before you now with a looming '23 provincial election. Press the three provincial party leaders to commit to a new funding model that more adequately and fairly shares the tax revenues and maybe opens new revenue streams. Winnipeg, all municipalities, need new revenues to provide the core and critical services a growing population demands and deserves from a modern world class city. The capital region hosts 66% of the provincial population and 70% of Manitoba's GDP and Winnipeg is at the heart of Manitoba's economy. We need a new funding model that does not leave Winnipeg begging cap in hand when time limited funding agreements expire, that gives deserved attention to the social and well-being issues confronting our city, and allows Winnipeg to plot an economic growth strategy with investments that will return dividends for sustained funding for all of our programs including the key social and cultural amenities. To grow Manitoba's economy, we must grow Winnipeg's economy. And the fastest way to that objective is through increased trade coupled with a new modern funding model that unleashes the potential of all municipalities. That is the way to sustain future prosperity and community well-being. As always, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Mayor and Council, we sincerely thank you for your public service and commit to working collaboratively with you in support of good governance. Thank you very much. Within five minutes, how is that?

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Lorenc. That's…was that from practice being a city councillor all those decades ago? Anyway, Mr. Poitras, does anybody have any questions from the Council members?

Clerk: I do see His Worship has his hand up.

Deputy Speaker: Okay, Mayor Gillingham, by all means.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you very much. I want to thank both of you for your presentation today. I guess my question is, is to each of you; you both have raised today or in the past that the need for the City of Winnipeg to work with the Province of Manitoba on a new funding model for the City of Winnipeg. And I'm wondering, in your specific roles…respective roles, if you are willing to continue to advocate for a new…to provincial governments or to provincial officials, the need for such model…new funding model?

Chris Lorenc: I am delighted to answer that question, Mr. Mayor. I think Council has heard the Chamber and our association for the last 5, 6, 7 years championing the notion that we need a new fiscal deal. In fact, it's part of seven pillars to guide economic growth that six business organizations have assembled around. We have in our discussions in all of our pre-budget submissions to the Provincial Government, including the pre-budget submission for budget '23-'24, referenced and asked the Province to consider and to move forward with a new funding model. There is…there is nothing new to the argument that the existing tax structure, revenue structure, turn of the century structure is inadequate to the tasks and the demands for services and investments that face municipalities today. So, it's not a matter of saying, we want more money. It is a matter of participating legitimately in growth strategies. It's a matter of legitimately participating in the sharing of the benefits of growth which return themselves back to the economies, not just the municipalities, but the Provincial Government, and by extension, all of us. So, absolutely we are committed to that.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Lorenc.

Loren Remillard: If I may, just…

Deputy Speaker: Oh yeah, go ahead.

Loren Remillard: Oh, sorry. Thank you. Absolutely, it is something that we have been advocating for a new civic revenue model for many years and continue to do so in our conversations with the Premier, her cabinet, her government, members of the opposition. This isn't a particular political party issue, this is a Manitoban issue. We need…what is frustrating about the conversation is it tends to be one that devolves into increasing, decreasing taxes, that's not what it's about. It's about the reality of our city having transformed over the last few decades. Technology, everything, our society has changed. Yet, we have a revenue model still based in futile thinking that property equals wealth and that's just not the realty today. There are companies that exist on smartphones that have no physical property. We must transform our thinking if we're going to transform our community.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Remillard. Mr. Poitras, is anybody indicated they want to ask a question?

Clerk: Councillor Schreyer has indicated question. Following Councillor Schreyer, we have Councillor Allard.

Deputy Speaker: Okay, thank you. Councillor Schreyer, please go ahead.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Mr. Acting Speaker. And I want to thank our speakers. Just now, an interesting point from Mr. Remillard that property does not equal wealth. Fascinating in terms of how the different levels of government tax and how on the municipal level we tax primarily on…based on property. So, thank you for that lesson. If I may give one as well, we are talking about a new funding mechanism and how we need new sources of funding from other sources of…from other levels of government. Let it be understood, to give a little history lesson, and it's in the 1980s that the Federal Government reduced its transfer payments to provincial governments. The provinces were then obliged to offset further costs onto the…onto the provincial…onto the municipal governments throughout the country. This started happening in the mid-late '80s. And even at that time, the deficits increased even on the federal level even when they were decreasing payments to the provincial level. All levels of governments since the mid '80s or a little bit before then started going into further deficit and further debt. Now, I'm pleased to see that we're looking and recognizing, maybe not accurately in terms of how it happened, but recognizing that we do need new revenue streams or a new way of looking at funding so that we don't really put the burden on municipalities. But in the end, the burden…

Deputy Speaker: Monsieur. Yeah, hey, hang on.

Councillor Schreyer: The question is, in order not to increase the burden on the taxpayer…

Deputy Speaker: Please put the question.

Councillor Schreyer: How do we deal with the biggest increase in our tax increases in the last generation and more, that being the cost of construction.

Deputy Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, please put your question.

Councillor Schreyer: The question's been put, thank you.

Loren Remillard: Thank you, Mr. Councillor. If I understand your question, what you are asking me is how does the City contend with increasing costs that it's facing and to generate additional revenue. If I understand your question being that, my response would be, as the Mayor indicated, we do need to work with our provincial and national partners to be able to identify…this is not just an issue facing the City of Winnipeg, but municipalities across the board. It is why in 2018, as we're a founding member of the Canadian Global Cities Council, we met with the Prime Minister's office advocating for a national urban agenda. Canada is one of the only G7 nations other than the United States that does not have a national urban agenda at the federal level. So, we need to be able to make sure that we're not just focused on, you know, how are we driving more revenue, but we need systemic change. But also, as part of that systematic change, and this is part of our conversation around the new deal philosophy, is that fundamentally we need to ensure that the City is empowered with the revenue mechanisms tied to economic growth so that when you're making those investments that you are actually seeing that return on that investment. Right now, that is not necessarily the case. In terms of construction costs, I can say honestly, as someone that is currently moving into a new office, I recognize the reality of the situation, but it's a global situation.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Remillard.

Councillor Schreyer: Second…second question.

Deputy Speaker: Please put it directly.

Councillor Schreyer: Sure. Thank you, Mr. Acting Speaker. Recognizing that it's not just Winnipeg, how do we increase taxes or funds for construction without making sure we abet greater inflation in the very industry that's had the largest rate of inflation in our lifetime?

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Remillard.

Chris Lorenc: Well, Mr. Speaker, it's a complex question for which there is no simple answer. Nobody in this country or on this continent encouraged Mr. Putin to illegally invade Russia...invade Ukraine and in the process, disrupt the global economy, disrupt supply chains, disrupt the ability of the global economy to move products to market. That wasn't clearly

the will of the western world, that was a decision made by Mr. Putin. We are all suffering the impacts of global inflation. It doesn't matter the country in which you reside in or the community in which you live. So, it would be inaccurate and certainly, incomplete to suggest that the inflationary pressures on our economy are somehow limited to just the industry that builds this country. With respect to revenue sharing and the sharing of the burdens, we have often asked Council to approach the senior levels of government with the notion that a 30/30/30 split on capital projects is really unfair to municipalities. If you take a look at the return on investment of any public sector dollar in growth, the primary beneficiaries are the Federal Government, then provincial governments, and last, municipal governments. And you have heard often time in these chambers and beyond that it's only 10 cents, roughly, of every tax dollar generated that finds its way to the treasuries of municipalities. The vast majority is obviously then split between the federal and provincial governments, which is why on the issue of the new funding model, we have said at least two things: this is not just limited to relationship between municipalities and the Provincial Government, but by extension, explicitly it has to include discussions with the Federal Government. On capital cost sharing, a model that recognizes the inequities currently in revenue generations should be revisited. The capital cost is not where your costs are in assets, it's the life cycle costs. And you are left not only sharing unfairly, unequal capital cost, but all of the life cycle cost. So, that model needs to be revisited. So, it's not just one issue, one answer, one solution, it requires a global review which is why we are suggesting and repeating our suggestion and hopefully, the suggestion will be acted on that we have an opportunity with the '23 provincial election to start an important, necessary, long overdue dialogue on the nature of the relationship, fiscal relationship, between the provincial and municipal governments and by extension, the Federal Government.

Councillor Schreyer: Third question.

Deputy Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you. Is it not…is it not understood that in the 30 years before the war in Ukraine and before COVID, in those very 30 years, that the cost of construction has gone up 20 times while the cost of…while people's…taxpayers' income only doubled?

Deputy Speaker: The third question, you are not…you're giving like a preamble.

City Clerk: The total time for questions in favour of this item has expired, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Yeah, can somebody move a five-minute extension? Thank you. All those in favour? Okay, go ahead.

Chris Lorenc: It's completely inaccurate to suggest that construction has climbed by a multiple of 20.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Monsieur…I'll remind people…okay. I'm going to remind you that if you take a long time putting a question, you are taking time away from other councillors. Monsieur Allard, your turn.

Councillor Allard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported March 2023, UN climate on…on the UN climate change. Just read the text, "The UN's international science panel on climate change has released what is likely its final report before the world hits 1.5 degrees Celsius, with warming one of the temperature targets that countries aimed not to exceed when they signed the Paris Agreement on climate change in '16. 'Humanity's on thin ice and that ice is melting fast'. United Nations' Secretary General Antonio Guterres at Monday's release of the latest synthesis report on the inter-governmental Paris panel on climate change. Our world needs climate action on all fronts, everything everywhere all at once." Are you not concerned about the opportunity costs of spending $1 billion for initiatives that will only increase the amount of automobile use, that will only increase the amount of greenhouse gas emissions, that will only…that will clearly not be climate action. Should we not be spending that $1 billion on things that will ensure future generations have a planet that we can live on?

Deputy Speaker: Question put. Mr. Lorenc or Mr. Remillard.

Loren Remillard: Thank you, Councillor Allard. Of course, we all recognize the pressing need to deal with climate change. But I think, you know, Mayor Gillingham said it best during the state of the city address when he was…when he was referencing crime, in particular, that we need to address the underlying causes, but we still have a requirement for safety. And I would say, that philosophy applies as well to climate change. The reality is, is that cars idling in congestion contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. You talk to the trucking industry, one of the…the worst things that you can see is when you have trucks having to stop and start and that's why free movement of vehicles actually is a net benefit. We all want to see greater use of public transit. We all want to see greater use of active transportation. But you still need to make strategic investments in the movement of people and goods. There's no point in just going down one road and in spite of the other things that contribute to the greenhouse gas emissions. I think those investments are a responsible investment to help reduce congestion which does drive greenhouse gas emissions.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Chris Lorenc: I would only add, Mr. Speaker, to Councillor Allard, that our industry is on record and we have repeated ad infinite and ad nauseum that we support active transit, that we support public transportation systems. That we do not support building for the sake of building. We support the use of capital budgets to invest to ensure that there is an appropriate return on investment back to the economy. We are also champions of recycling. And you know that entire story. In fact, we have taken a proposal to the Province upon which the Province is acting to strike a construction renovation recycling task force. Members of that task force include the City of Winnipeg. And I have had the…I have the distinct pleasure of co-chairing it with Colleen Sklar. So, we are absolutely committed to environmental practices, to recycling, to ensuring that the investments that are made in transportation are responsible, not simply for the purposes of building. We are not in the camp of build for the sake of building and never have been.

Deputy Speaker: Okay. Do you have a second question?

Councillor Allard: Yes, on the question of idling; are you aware of the concept of induced demand? Los Angeles tried to build their way out of traffic. They have a terrible road…well, they have a great road network that's always jammed up with cars. Are you not concerned that building these huge mega projects are going to end up with a bunch of cars still on the roads anyway?

Chris Lorenc: Councillor Allard, respectfully, you would have read and heard from me directly that one of the items we have been asking Council to review is the development of a strategic transportation plan which, in fact, addresses induced demands. We recognize that as an imperative. The other point to your question is that it is not as simple as saying build it and they will drive it. The investments that are being made in Winnipeg's local and regional street system by and large are to rehabilitate, reconstruct and replace existing assets that are beyond their current life cycle and beyond their capacity to carry traffic.

Deputy Speaker: All those in…sorry, Mr. Lorenc. All those in favour of extension?

Chris Lorenc: So, these are not investments that are inducing additional traffic. It is to accommodates the existing traffic and additional growth. We champion the fact that we are going to be a community of a million people by 2030. You have to have the transportation network not just to move people to jobs but products to market and you need to do it efficiently.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Allard: Final question.

Deputy Speaker: Third question, yeah.

Councillor Allard: Yes, would it…

Deputy Speaker: Put it directly.

Councillor Allard: Of course, yeah. Wouldn't it be better bang for our buck to fix the roads that we have instead of building roads that we can't afford?

Chris Lorenc: It's a balance, first of all. And secondly, you can't afford not to have a transportation system that efficiently moves people to jobs and products to market. Do you want to let Pembina Highway to go to hell in a hand basket? Portage Avenue, Keewatin, St. Mary's; pick your regional street that carries the vast volume of transportation and traffic in the city. Do you want it just to go to rubble? Is that an improvement? Is that supporting growth? Is that supporting wise use of transportation assets? Does that support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions? I don't think so.

Deputy Speaker: Okay, Mr. Remilard, did you want to say anything? No, okay. We still have a bit of time is there…Mr. Poitras?

Clerk: We do have Councillor Wyatt. Following Councillor Wyatt, we also have Councillor Chambers.

Deputy Speaker: Okay, Councillor Wyatt, please.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, through you. We often talk about the need for, you know, a share of growth taxes, yet…and the need to come up with systems. Yet, we are…we live in a province which ironically, historically, actually, we don't have to reinvent the wheel because it was invented before. That in the 1970s under the Schreyer government,

they developed a program called the PMTS, the municipal…Provincial Municipal Tax Sharing Agreement, whereby municipalities automatically got a share of both personal and corporate income taxes. And as the economy grew, we received a greater share based on a percentage formula. That was wiped out, ironically, under the Doer government, instead of a block share. My question is this; do you support the concept of the original PMTS and will you support lobbying to bring it back considering that it was historic in this province and it worked very well for many years?

Loren Remillard: Mr. Speaker, thank you, Councillor Wyatt for the question. We support the addressing the challenge that is our revenue model. Absolutely. But let's make sure that we open ourselves to a discussion of all potential options to be able to achieve that objective. I think one of the great challenges that we see, be it on this council floor, on Broadway and in Ottawa is far too often we allow ourselves to fall in love with our preferred solution and forget about the problem we're trying to actually tackle. So, it becomes an argument over, I think my idea is the best. When in reality, we need to step back and say, what challenge are we really trying to address? And what you have just…the issue that you raise is one of, how do we make sure the City is an active participant in the economic…in the benefits of economic growth? The program you referenced was one model, but I would like to think that a lot has changed over the last 50 years since Schreyer was in power. And we've got…we've learned a few things since then, so maybe we should open the table to some other new ideas.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Did you want to make comment, Mr. Lorenc? No.

Chris Lorenc: No.

Councillor Wyatt: I guess…I guess a lot has changed and a lot hasn't changed. The share of the taxes that we receive in terms of corporate and (inaudible) tax, we don't receive that any more. At the very least, we got it back…

Deputy Speaker: Councillor Wyatt, we're not having a debate.

Councillor Wyatt: My question…my question is…my question is, will the Chamber commit to researching the previous model and either proposing the same model or something modified so we do have a specific…because we all talk in circles with the other levels of government if we don't actually come forward with suggestions.

Loren Remillard: Mr. Speaker, thank you, Councillor Wyatt. I can say that the Chamber not only can commit to researching thought leadership and bringing ideas to the floor of Council and Broadway, we have been doing it since we started down this road many decades ago. This is not a new concept that's being discussed at the Chamber, the notion of, we need a new revenue model and we continue to research ideas such as that as well as other ideas. I mean, this has to be a community activity. It can't be a Chamber thing. It can't just be City government. It can't just be administration. We all have a vested interest in seeing this city grow and succeed and have the tools to be able to get there, to make the infrastructure investments and the environmental investments.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Remillard. I didn't hear anybody move extension, so we're…what? Well, I will call the question. All those in favour of an extension? I'll…hang on, I'll call the…all those opposed? That sounds about half. We'll have to have a standing count so I know what's going on here. All those in favour please rise for an extension of five minutes.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Chambers, Dobson, Santos, Schreyer, and Wyatt

Nays

Councillors Allard, Browaty, Duncan, Mr. Speaker Councillor Eadie, Councillor Gilroy, His Worship Mayor Gillingham, Councillors Lukes, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 5, Nays 10, with Councillor Sharma absent.

Deputy Speaker: Okay, so we will move on then. Thank you. I think that the Winnipeg Chamber is having an event where we can debate with them what they should or shouldn't be representing for the City of Winnipeg coming up in April, I believe. All right, I am sorry, Kate, I keep pronouncing it the same way as my voice synthesizer does. Delegation we have in opposition to the EPC's recommendation, we have Ms. Kate Kehler and…from the Social Planning Council, and Mr. Ryan Beardy from the Gang Action Interagency Network. You two together will have 10 minutes to speak in opposition.

Kate Kehler: Thank you. My colleague just stepped out for a moment. We are running looking for him. But in the meantime, can I hand out…I sent everybody this yesterday, but I was late with my electronic submission. So, is this something…these are just my written remarks in more formal. Is that something I can do?

Deputy Speaker: Yes, go ahead, mister…Councillor Orlikow?

Councillor Orlikow: Do we want to just switch the order and then have the other delegations speak first?

Kate Kehler: We can. Are you guys ready? Do you want to go?

Deputy Speaker: Is that what you prefer?

Kate Kehler: Yeah, we can do that. That will give Ryan a little bit more time.

Deputy Speaker: So, are you talking to Mr. Champagne and Ms. Mary…is that the switch, Mr.…okay. All right. I don't think we need a vote for that. We'll just accommodate them. So, pardon me?

Councillor Rollins: On the matter of this…her submission, Mr. Speaker, she had asked if…you know, if we could put it on the record. She will be back as my colleague Councillor Orlikow is saying. However, we are seeking clarity to, Mr. Speaker, while you have it rolling around in your head that her submission, she missed the deadline by 10 minutes. So, she is looking to put it on the record so it forms part of the record today, Mr. Speaker.

City Clerk: So, that would require a suspension of the rules, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Yeah, I'll, well…Councillor Rollins is…

Councillor Rollins: Mr. Speaker, I'm willing to move.

Deputy Speaker: Yes, please. Put you motion.

Councillor Rollins: Yeah, so moved that we…the submission by Ms. Kehler on to the record for today, Mr. Speaker. She missed the deadline. It's a waiving of our Procedure By-law.

Deputy Speaker: Call the question then. All those in favour? I don't…is anybody opposed? That is carried. Oh, yeah, that's carried. Okay, now, that is on the record. Are you ready to speak, Ms. Kehler and Mr. Beardy?

Michael Redhead Champagne: No. it's Michael and Mary.

Deputy Speaker: Oh, it is. Okay, thank you. So, that is on the record. So, they won't be...so just for clarification Mr. Clerk, just clear…I was having trouble hearing a bit. But so, Mr. Beardy and Ms. Kehler are not presenting today, is that correct?

Mary Burton: That's not correct. We're switching.

Deputy Speaker: Oh, you're just switching. So, you're switching up the 10 minutes and the five minutes?

Mary Burton: No, we're still going to get five minutes, they get 10 minutes.

Deputy Speaker: Five minutes. All right, so at the microphone today, colleagues, members of Council, we have Mr. Michael Redhead Champagne as well as Mary Burton from FearlessR2W. All right. In opposition to the Executive Policy.

Michael Redhead Champagne: Yes, very opposition.

Mary Burton: Lots of opposition.

Michael Redhead Champagne: Good morning everybody. It's great to see all of you here today. And thank you all, of course, for the work that you do making our city a better place. We, too, want Winnipeg to be a better and safer community. We also, though, in doing so, believe that our budgets need to reflect the values of our city. I know Mayor Gillingham has spoken passionately recently about the importance of taking care of everybody in Winnipeg, especially our relatives that are struggling with harmful substance use, also our relatives that are struggling with homelessness, even going so far as framing it in such a way as a battle for the soul of our city. And I think that that truly is what is at stake when we're having conversations like we are having here today. And when we're having conversations as we have been, as Mary, myself

and our team and community members have been having with many of you in committee meetings and private conversations. And the reason why we are opposing this budget is because we feel like this budget is not reflecting our value. Mayor Gillingham specifically to my face said that we can do both transit police and community safety houses, but I only see in the budget $5 million for transit police and I don't see $5 million for community safety hosts. Now, what community safety hosts are and what they do in our city is they are trained security guards. They get the exact same 40 hours of security guard training that the folks from Garda receive. All right, just like a standard security guard. But they also get an additional 130 hours of anti-racism, de-escalation, accessing community resources training. And so, for us, when we're here advocating for community safety hosts, we are here saying that we understand and recognize the need for security in our community. We recognize the need for safety which is why for the last two years as members of the community working group with the libraries and as citizens of this city, we have been working hard to make sure that the community safety host model is working well within our libraries and specifically at the Millennium Library. The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls calls for justice, 15.7 asks us to create time and space for relationships based on respect as human beings, supporting and embracing difference with kindness love and respect. Learning about Indigenous principals of relationships specific to those nations and communities in your local area of work and put them into practice in all of your relationships with Indigenous people. The community safety host is based on local Indigenous knowledge, specifically the concept of kinship. In my language, we call that wahkohtowin. It means that we treat one another like we are relatives and we don't treat people like they're an unwanted part of our community just to be removed out-of-sight, out of mind. And so, our community safety hosts have de-escalated 209 of 260 emotionally escalated events that they've been involved in at the Millennium Library. That's 80% of the interactions that they've had where police did not need to be called because de-escalation actually worked. We've diverted eight people from being unsheltered in the cold. We have given a warm referral of social services for 569 people and administered life saving Naloxone treatment to nine people. And so, these are some of the numbers of what can happen when we invest in community-based solutions such as the community safety host initiative.

Mary Burton: I want to talk a little bit about this, but I wanted to mention before I go into that, I heard a lot of words today. A lot of important words: reconciliation, poverty, homelessness. No, these are words I didn't hear today. The I only word I heard today was reconciliation. My question, and I hope that I get a chance to hear each and every one of you the answer from this; what does it mean to you? Reconciliation to me means that we all have the right to have a home, a job and integrity. The problems that face our people, everybody, not just Indigenous, our people, our poverty, homelessness, suicide, food security. Someone mentioned the global pandemic, that hit everybody in Winnipeg hard and everybody in the world hard, but it hit Indigenous folks even harder. It hit low-income people even harder. We have taken people who have barriers to employment, barriers to transportation, barriers to getting appropriate work clothing.

Deputy Speaker: Okay, two minutes.

Mary Burton: Thank you. Thank you. We have taken these people from these…these places of hardship and we have given them a hand up. We have helped them get a job. We have helped them get transportation. We offer wraparound supports for those people. I have seen nothing in this budget for non-profits. Everything is for businesses, everything is for police. Where is your…where is the money for the non-profits? Where are the money…where is the money for the North End? Where's the money for the inner-city? When is the inner-city and the North End going to be important again? Because it is important to me. It's important to Michael, it's important to my colleagues. It's important to the people who are working as community safety hosts to have a job. It gives them a sense of pride. And to be…and to have that pride, it actually makes them want to go to work. It makes them want to be productive members of society. They already wanted that to begin with, we have just given them a hand up to do that. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. All right, before we entertain questions, is Ms. Kate Kehler and Mr. Ryan Beardy ready to present?

Kate Kehler: All right, thank you. Good morning. It is late in the day in terms of this budget, however, we are here to inform and engage in the hopes that it is not too late. That the situation of Winnipeg continues to worsen for far too many of its inhabitants is apparent everywhere. And unfortunately, the City's response continues to be to over-invest in what does not work. We continue to spend more on policing, taking up more than a quarter of the overall operational funds. An additional police force in the form of transit officers for an additional $5 million. Winnipeg has attempted a similar approach, though not on buses, through the Downtown BIZ patrol in the past. The Downtown BIZ admitted it was a costly failure. We now have a completely different approach in the Downtown Community Safety Partnership, which while initially modeled on Minneapolis now resembles more of what the Bear Clan and Mama Bear Clan have always done, which is all to the good, but I have to point out that the latter two get very little comparative budget…funding and…or no support at all, which is one of the main through lines that delegations have tried to bring forward. The City must do a better job at balancing approaches. Pennies are tossed to small initiatives that even if proven to be successful, have to rely on unstable and insufficient funding while the pipes, pavement and police dominance in the budget prevails. Our annual campaign 2000 reports have long proven that poverty is both racialized and gendered. In this year's report, we have also focused more

on details of the harmful impacts of poverty, especially in the early development stages of life. While the report speaks to the province as a whole and is broken down by federal riding and not city wards, Winnipeg is still home to the majority of the province's population, so our findings are transferable. We also know that Winnipeg's centre is the urban federal riding of the highest rates of child and family poverty and is actually third highest overall across the country. 31% of these children were in poverty in 2022. As to the rest of the city, Winnipeg north was 23% and the other federal ridings ranged between 12% and 16%. It is now 2023, neither the pandemic, nor its effects are over. Almost one in four of Manitoba's children under the age of 6 is growing up in poverty. Consistent and prolonged interactions with stressors like poverty can cause traumatic stress, also known as toxic or chronic stress. Children exposed to toxic stress at an early age are more likely to develop behavioral problems and stress can damage areas of the brain that control the capacity for planning and reasoning. As a result, children with high levels of toxic stress may experience impaired judgment, memory retention and self-control. And this is where child and family poverty effects the City's bottom line; emergency services, police, fire and paramedics, the most expensive and least effective interventions have to deal with our failure to not do cognitive damage to our children through an all government approach to poverty reduction. Just as an additional information, children the lowest income quintile have higher child mortality rates with a suicide rate that is four times higher than those in the remaining four higher income quintiles combined. Everyone understands that the funding freeze from the Province has meant difficult decisions have been made in the past…in the past years. However, the City has received an additional $30 million this year and there is an acknowledged need that there…a new and fair funding model must be found. The City has more…should have…should have more in the future and so, has to do more. The City has many levers which…with which to mitigate poverty. Fund the poverty reduction strategy by making the two, not just the one, housing positions permanent until we end the housing crisis. Appoint the staff lead in the Mayor's Office. Do more to support the second goal of the strategy that speaks to supporting Indigenous children, youth and families. Indigenous youth 18 and under are more than three times as likely to be in poverty than non-Indigenous youth. A key lever of the City would be an additional staffing to the Indigenous Relations Department. At least three positions with an operating grant that allows them to identify community priorities and then act on them even if that means needing more money. Smaller operating grants to Mama Bear Clan, Bear Clan and to support Circle of Life Thunderbird House so fill it to its original purpose would not only be a good faith…good faith gestures, but have immediate and tangible effects based on the outreach work they do. All of the above would be at an estimated cost of about $1 million. As noted, Indigenous people are vastly over-represented in poverty, but other people of colour are as well. 40% of Arabs descent as opposed to 20% of non-visible minority, for example. Immigration status also plays a role. Children and families that have recently immigrated between 2016 and 2019 represent 18% of those living in poverty. Fund the Newcomer Welcome and Inclusion Strategy. The alternative municipal budget estimates that cost to be less than half a million. Other essential initiatives deserving support; the washroom at 715 Main and the community connection space along with community safety hosts. Mary and Michael spoke both to those…to the…especially community safety hosts most eloquently. They are deserving because they are working. Both have saved lives right in real time through overdose preventions and connections to services that help with long-term stability. Combined, these are all estimated to cost less than $5 million you are putting towards transit security force. So, as you bring forward a balanced budget, we're asking for more balance.

Ryan Beardy: Thank you for having me. Mayor…Mr. Mayor, City Council. I am excited to be here. This is my first time addressing, so thank you. My name is Ryan Beardy. I am the Coordinator of the Gang Action Interagency Agency Network here in Winnipeg. The Gang Action Interagency Agency Network is a network of agencies working on grassroots solutions to gang issues in Winnipeg. We are also responsible for the 2017 bridging the gap report. So, it has most likely been echoed here numerous times. GAIN seeks to achieve...pardon, I'm a bit nervous. GAIN seeks to achieve fully social inclusion for all young people, adults and their families and having sustainable access to resources and support systems in order to avoid and exit gangs. We collaborate with community resources, services and agencies to address the needs of our clients. We are actively working to address the underlying social factors that contribute to gang violence in our city. We have a strong mentorship program where changing lives in the city, in our community. I am also a person of lived experience. I grew up in our city's North End. And after a long journey of education and redemption, I've worked in the city for the past six, going on several years. I've studied politics at the University of Winnipeg, so a different career choice might have had me here or maybe one day I will be, who knows. I am not here to give you heck, actually, I'm encouraged by some of the efforts you're taking, especially in regards to the housing strategy which is only one of two pillars, I might add. I am not here to ask for money for myself, as well. I am here to ask that you fund these resources that I need to do my job effectively. It's…this esteemed Council wishes to admit to addressing gang issues at the community level, then I need investments in that community. I am not here either to say defund police, although $8.3 million is a significant investment and increase. I would ask for equal investments in community. You know, equal investments in grassroots solutions, in evidence-based solutions, in these underlying social problems that I always hear talked about, yet we have a rising climate of gang violence, rising climate of random…seemingly random acts of violence. Personally, when I see random acts of violence, I see a community in crisis, especially having climbed out of a deep and dark valley myself and understanding some of these issues. You know, we have champions and heroes here that are doing the work, that are doing the research and I believe we should…we should be listening to them. You know, 80% success rate, wow. 209 out of 260 emotionally escalated events. These are the events that effect our community at a ground level. You know, rising crime and violence, do we have a gang problem, I was asked before as a coordinator. And I would like to say that, that

we are a very populated urban center that needs to look at or not care so much for our people problem. And some of these resources need to go to these frontline…frontline services that help me. Again, apologies, I'm a bit nervous. I'd like to equate that this is rising gang climate and violence to a bathtub that's overflowing. And when you have an overflowing bathtub, sure there's a place for mops, sure there's a place for cruisers and increasing that police budget, but we also have to simultaneously turn that tap off. We have to get to the root causes and these underlying social factors. And that's what we're doing here. And that's why, in closure, I would like to ask that you…that you fund these programmings that help me to intervene in gangs, intervene in that crime, to address it and to rehabilitate these young people that come to us for opportunities. You know, I ask that you fund the community safety host, the downtown…the community connection space at the Millennium Library and reiterate a lot of the points that my colleagues here have said. Thank you for having me. I'll keep my points rather short. Megwich.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Beardy. Very…that was a great analogy. Thank you so much. Mr. Poitras, is there anybody who wants to ask questions?

Clerk: Yes, we have Councillor Wyatt and then Councillor Schreyer and Councillor Mayes.

Deputy Speaker: Okay. By all means, Councillor Wyatt, you may proceed.

Councillor Wyatt: Yeah, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise…

Kate Kehler: May I ask for clarity, are we all up for questions? Mary and Michael as well?

Deputy Speaker: Yes. Yeah.

Councillor Wyatt: Yeah, and I repeat my question to anyone who wishes to (inaudible). Thank you, first of all, for coming down and speaking to us. I call it the urban health crisis that's facing us right now in our city, that's trauma-based. The resident, we've now, I think more and more of society is learning or understanding, but maybe not making the connection between what happened with residential schools, government active policy of smashing families over generations, one community targeted. That if you do that to any community, you're going to have trauma affecting them for multiple generations. And that's what we're struggling with today in our city with the terms of mental health, people struggling with addiction, homelessness issues. I hate the term calling people the homeless because it's stigmatizing that people have to be homeless, not at the…not homeless. What can we do to…first of all, I guess I have a two-part question. First of all, start at…

Deputy Speaker: You can ask a second question.

Councillor Wyatt: Okay, I will ask the second question. My first question is, I guess, about the Federal Government in terms of their historic role in these policies and bringing them to the table. What can we do? We in the past had multi-year programs here. We called them, like, Winnipeg partnership agreement, core area initiative. What would we do for a large multi-year program that would tackle mental health, addiction, the housing needs, training, job training, but sustained over 20 or 30 years? And I am talking not like a million, I'm talking big dollars that would hopefully help a whole generation try to right the wrong of the past the best we can in this generation. What can we do to get our Federal Government to come to the table and say, almost like the Kelowna core that Harper later cancelled that, you know, was to make an agreement with the First Nations of BC that was never…no treaty signed.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, councillor…

Councillor Wyatt: What could we do to get that going?

Michael Redhead Champagne: I think that it is prudent for us in this conversation to be pointing the finger at the municipal level, not at the federal level. Don't worry, we are going to them too. They are on our list. And we're going to make sure that we do as best as we can to engage every level of government. But we think that right now there is an opportunity before Winnipeg and that's the opportunity we'd like to focus on, what Winnipeg can do.

Deputy Speaker: Did anybody else…

Councillor Wyatt: I guess, I don't see why…

Deputy Speaker: Was there any of the other members of the presenters wanted to answer that question? No, go ahead, councillor.

Councillor Wyatt: And I didn't mean it as a way of pointing fingers at the Federal Government, rather, how can we get…how can we get a dialogue going with yourselves informally, more formal, right? And then, to have these solutions come forward so that we can go forward together to the Federal Government to work cooperatively to achieve something like this? That's really where, you know, my intent of my question. I don't want to point fingers at any…I don't care who is in power right now, right. It's been going on for years. So, how do we get back to (inaudible) in terms of that value, any suggestions?

Ryan Beardy: I think the main suggestion I would have would be continued dialogue, to reach out and continue that conversation with us outside of this chamber and we could look at, perhaps collaboratively looking at new solutions. And as was indicated, we are advocating to other layers of government. But I do see a value in the different layers of government collaborating to these solutions, absolutely. But that would take continued dialogue with community level.

Mary Burton: I agree with Ryan. He…this is a starting point, okay. We are at a…at a crossroads here. We are at a starting point where we're reaching out to you guys to tell you what we need. And then we can move on from there. We can…we…like Michael said, we are reaching out and we are trying. We are saying to the City, you can help us, you can take care of the people of this city very easily. But we're…we are not stopping here. We are going…we're going to continue to go on and talk to the Provincial Government and then we're going to talk to the Federal Government and then, hopefully, we can get some kind of secure dialogue where we know that we are actually being heard.

Kate Kehler: I only want to add that I guess, you know, I echo the points. Like, we are here to speak to the City and what the City can do and that's where Winnipeg Without Poverty came from. That was…and what led to the poverty reduction strategy, it was the ideas that we looked at what levers the City actually had to do with…to deal with poverty as opposed to thinking it's just social services, that's provincial, that's the feds. So, we do want to emphasize that control…that…those levers for the City. I guess…but we're…none of us…we all understand that more money than the City has is required to deal with this. So, as always, we are always willing to work with you. We worked with the City to develop the poverty reduction strategy, the newcomer inclusion strategy, and yes, we can take this. Our child and family report card goes to the Province. We've dealt with…we've met with Minister Squires on it. We continue to do that work for the bigger and the larger picture. And I just want to point out, like, the only thing that trickles down in trickle down economics is austerity. And unfortunately, it hits the people at the bottom much harder than anybody else. It's Chinese water torture, I would say, as opposed to just a trickle.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Third question.

Councillor Wyatt: Yeah, and just quickly, not a lot of preamble, but I just quickly; I had the opportunity to spend two and a half days in a training session set up by Mayor Bowman for City managers. By the time it was over, everybody was saying, how do…how could all Winnipeggers learn from this? How can we raise the level of education of the general public of Winnipeg, you know, in terms of these issues? Because that's where we can mobilize the greatest if we had more proposed understanding. Especially in the connection between what happened with the history, the residential schools and the trauma and the struggle we see today in so many faces in our…

Deputy Speaker: So, the question is, how can we educate people around these…thank you.

Councillor Wyatt: How can we…right. How can we better inform, educate general (inaudible)?

Deputy Speaker: All right, go…you can…you can answer now, please.

Mary Burton: Okay, the Winnipeg library is a good place to start. The Winnipeg library has a really rich area on, I think it's the second or third floor that has a historical room. And in that historical room, there are many, many historical documents that date back to residential schools. Don't ask us to educate you. We don't have the energy or the emotional capacity to do that.

Michael Redhead Champagne: But we can point you to the places where you can find the information. And we want to…like, part of why we're is saying, we want more funding of the libraries is because we literally know that that's one of the places that citizens of Winnipeg can go so that Indigenous people ourselves don't have to stand in front of you, break our hearts open, share our personal trauma and our own challenges we've been having in our own life and our own personal experiences. And Winnipeggers can go and see these books, documents, reports that have been authored already by our relatives and our families that have gone through these processes and they've shared their ideas and the recommendations are concrete and sound. And that's why I referenced in my comments the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls calls for justice. One of the whole sections is specifically for all Canadians and a lot of folks will invite Indigenous speakers to come and speak sometimes at those reconciliation trainings that you mentioned. And often, I will be able to be in those spaces and say, how many people have read the calls for justice? And the amount of

people who don't even put their hand up and I haven't read the calls for justice, makes me question how can I ask for more? How can I, as an Indigenous person, ask citizens of Winnipeg to do more reconciliation when the one request that we've had of them, read these calls for action and these calls for justice that our families had to go through such pain and trauma and relive those negative things in order for them to come into fruition, you won't even look at those. So, if people aren't going to look at those things, then I am at a loss at what comes next because we can't even get you to read the basic.

Ryan Beardy: Answering that question simply, I think leading by example, for me as a mentor in the community, leading by example and showing the youth, the values that I wish to instill in them. I think this council has great opportunity to fund the community safety space at the downtown library and thus, lead by example and show Winnipeggers what we are investing in.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Yeah, okay, okay.

Kate Kehler: And I'll just…and I will make a final note. It is in my presentation as well. To the…need more public education. The public, actually, is getting on board with that. I want to point out PAX polling information where we were asked if you want to reduce crime. If you only had two choices, more on policing or more on poverty reduction. 62% said more on poverty reduction and only 19% more on policing. So, the public is more…is understanding this and that is what we've got to invest in.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you. 60 seconds preamble. I was raised on the…thank you. I was raised on the principles of government for human dignity and integrity and to balance budget, including a sustainable construction industry. And here's the proof, in the 1970s in two terms, not only did this provincial government get…were pushed and worked with the federal government to get rid of the residential schools in this province, but at the same time, also built 14,000 affordable housing.

Deputy Speaker: Mayor Gillingham moves extension for five-minutes. All those in favour? Nobody is opposed? That's carried.

Councillor Schreyer: A government that worked with and pushed the federal government to get rid of all the residential schools in this province, and at the same time, in just eight years, built 14,000 affordable housing units. And I know that sounds ridiculous, because we're not even close to this date. And they did so, now…and what I mean, not just for human dignity, but a sustainable economy, including the construction industry, they did it in a balanced budget. After eight years, it was a surplus budget net. After eight years. That's what can happen in this province. We saw it, it really happened. It was a progressive era. Now, we don't even do one tenth of that for affordable housing, let alone all the other challenges we have. Yet, all our taxes have gone up and we reduced services. And I want to know if you would work with us to see what's…where…where we learned from the past, just as Councillor Wyatt said to the (inaudible)…

Deputy Speaker: Please put your question. Other people want to questions, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Would we work together to see what we have done in the past that is better learned from our elders?

Michael Redhead Champagne: I think we have been working with you. I think we have been on community working groups, we've informed strategies, we've come to Council, we've come to committee meetings, we talk to our relatives, we talk to neighbours, we continue to advocate as best as we can. And so, the answer is, obviously, yes, we have no choice. If we want our relatives to have a better life, we have no choice but to work with you. And so, we will. But what I want to say is that, for you to ask if we will work with us, I think that we have demonstrated, everybody up here, has demonstrated. And specifically, I will call on the community working group at the Millennium Library that has done so much of the heavy lifting around this specific topic that has done a lot of valuable knowledge-sharing and community connection; that to me is evidence that we are willing to work with you. So, yes.

Mary Burton: I want…I just wanted to add one more thing. I mentioned this the other day when I was here, but I'm going to go into a little bit more detail. One of my friends, I used to work with her, she was a brilliant, brilliant policy analyst. She was amazing at her job. She was an amazing writer. She fell to addiction and she was on the streets. And she has…she had so much potential. She had so much going for her, but she fell to the streets. She fell to addiction, she was homeless. That community connection space at the Millennium Library was her lifeline, it kept her alive. She was able to find resources that she needed. She was able to find temporary shelter when she needed it. Once that connection centre closed, she lost her life. She is gone now. One of the most brilliant minds I have ever known passed away because her

lifeline was shut down. And that is only one story of many from the community connection space. We have been working and lobbying with you for three years on this project and you are closing it. And you're…you've closed it because of one incident. And it had nothing to do with anything. Nobody would have been able to avoid that terrible incident. And I have…I feel for that young man's family.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Mary Burton: But give us a chance. Give us a chance be to prove what we can do. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Yeah, thanks.

Councillor Schreyer: Second question.

Deputy Speaker: Yeah, put it directly first.

Councillor Schreyer: Fair…fair enough. It's just that, do you believe that your government, our government needs to explain better to you why we used to do things that we've been…that we no longer do? As an example, we talked about the police budget increase and while other things don't. And the other things have increased even more than the police budget. The construction contracts have gone up four times higher than the police budgets in the last generation. Do you think we owe you a greater explanation in terms of why we're not doing what we used to be able to do?

Deputy Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, I think you asked the question at the beginning.

Mary Burton: Okay, the construction budget is horrifying, it's scary. But it doesn't...it doesn't…it affects climate change and that's that. And I agree that that needs to be looked at again, but that is not my expertise. My expertise is people. For the…for the people part of this...can you please just repeat your question?

Councillor Schreyer: Say what you wish, I know you know what you are talking about and please carry on.

Mary Burton: Okay. My expertise is people and dealing with people and helping people get a hand up in life.

Councillor Schreyer: Extension.

Deputy Speaker: All those in favour? Anybody opposed? I don't think so. Just a couple. Go ahead.

City Clerk: For how long, Mr. Speaker?

Deputy Speaker: Oh, sorry. Just two-minutes. You can go ahead, yeah.

Mary Burton: I've got two-minutes? Okay. I will try and make this as quickly as possible. I can talk forever. I work with people and I need…my point here is, Council, that please invest in the people of this city. Invest in the people who are working to make it a better city. The police budget is alarmingly large, but that is something that needs to be looked at but not at this very moment. My bottom line is, please, please invest in the people of this city. Show us that you care about us.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much. I guess…oh, I think you have a third question, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: I'm fine. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Yeah. Who is up? Councillor (inaudible)?

Clerk: Councillor…Councillor Mayes.

Deputy Speaker: Councillor Mayes, you wanted to ask a quick question?

Councillor Mayes: Quick…10 years ago, I stood right there, I was not on EPC, I advocated for transit security. It was not including in the budget. So, I guess, Kate, it's a question for you just given the time. You used the term police to refer to the security staff that are proposed to be added on transit. You know that is not the terminology that's used in here. And you have been a very eloquent and critic of actual police budgets. I guess my frustration is, ATU is not opposed to this, Winnipeg Labour Council came to us in 2012 and said, "That the Labour Council still firmly believes that without an established police or security presence on Winnipeg transit vehicles, the situation will not likely improve." Could you

commit to meeting with me, maybe some of us and ATU and the Labour Council, because I feel I'm being…it's taken 10 years to get through something that the ATU has clearly wanted, that the Labour Council's wanted, and yet, here we are being told it's not perfect. So, would you be willing…and I know Councillor Allard's worked very hard on transit security. Councillor Gilroy, Councillor Morantz, when he was here. So, can you…can you commit to meet with us, at least I'd be interested in getting everyone around a table.

Kate Kehler: Do more than a…do more than a one…

Deputy Speaker: Extension of time to answer the question here.

Kate Kehler: Time to answer the question? Okay. So, yes, I mean, obviously words matter and I choose words purposely. But it is, actually, a reflection of the fact that the Province is changing legislation to potentially allow this new security force team, whatever you want to call them, to be armed if at some point…if that's a decision that is made. So, that is why I use that terminology. So, the…yes, we understand. We actually just presented our findings the other day to the Manitoba Federation of Labour. And of course, the ATU was there and asked for my slideshow so they can go back to his…go back to his board. So, he didn't say I don't want the police…he doesn't want the security force, obviously, but we have common ground there and we're more than happy to meet and discuss that, better solutions because this is something that the city…we've proposed other solutions in the past, such as looking at fares and the problem because most of the points of contentions are around fares and fare disputes and what are we going to do about that because we don't actually have a low-income bus pass. In Winnipeg, we have a discounted one, but it does not qualify as a low-income one. Thanks.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: All right, thank you for the answer. And that is time up for questions. Although, I know my colleagues, we do respect what you all have to say, but we could talk if an item on very difficult issues. So, we're going to move in to our business agenda at this point. I don't…yes, thank…thank you so much. I will note that all of R2W is in the Mynarski Ward. Okay, sorry. Mr. Clerk, you can assist me just before we proceed to Report No. 1 on the Winnipeg Police budget. If you could just…I didn't have time to listen. We have amending motions to EPC's report Item 1.

City Clerk: Not…not on the Police Board item, just on the second item in front of EPC.

Deputy Speaker: Yes, that…okay. Can you just…I think there is a Motion 3. Is there a Motion 2? Motion 1's going to…

Clerk: Motion 2 was just circulated. Yeah, with respect to the main item of the budget, not with respect to the Police Board recommendation.

Deputy Speaker: Right, okay. So, we'll move to the Police Board and then…and then I'm going to have the Clerks read aloud the 'Therefore be it resolved' for the amending motions, okay? If that would be…would be helpful for your Speaker today. Okay, so we're moving on to report Item No 1 – The Winnipeg Police Board's Police Budget Recommendation. And to present the report, we will have Councillor Chambers, the Chairperson of the Winnipeg Police Board, speak to this report item.

REPORT OF THE
WINNIPEG POLICE BOARD
DATED MARCH 10, 2023

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am presenting this morning.

Clerk: Just…just need to introduce the item.

Item 1 – Winnipeg Police Board – Preliminary 2023 Operating and Capital Budget Recommendations

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Mr. Speaker, I am presenting the Winnipeg Police Board's...

Deputy Speaker: Yes, Mister…

Councillor Orlikow: The gallery to Council get back together. We just have the conversation going on in the back.

Deputy Speaker: I'm sorry, pardon me?

Councillor Orlikow: The conversation's going on in the back…

Deputy Speaker: Oh, oh yeah. I should have made it clear, I let one applause go, but if the people in the…watching the proceedings today, we do have to remain quiet so that we can all hear each other in our debate and discussion and voting. So, that would be appreciated. There. Thank you, Councillor Orlikow. All right, Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the third…third time. I am presenting this morning to Council for their consideration, the Winnipeg Police Board has met and has…is presenting a $326 million operating budget for the Winnipeg Police Service for 2023. It is required to maintain an adequate and effective police service here in Winnipeg with the proviso that there are risk associated with the presentation of this budget, including a potential $9.2 million over-expenditure request based on expend or management target that was asked of the service by City administration. The board advises Council that its estimates with respect to the mill rate amount is approximately $280 million, and then, an additional $45 million of targeted revenue for the service. Again, that $45 million of revenue estimate is exactly that, an estimate, and not realized yet in terms of its contribution to the operating budget. The board does indicate that there are several risks associated with this budget, including the addition of critical positions in the 911com centre. Without the associated fund…funding inflation on fuel and fuel parts and equipment and IT maintenance agreements, as well as a growing demand for policing service relative to the increasing number of calls for service and the increase in the population of the city. I have always advocated as well, it's not just a population increase that we are seeing. The city size itself is increasing and police are responding to calls at greater distances, which does impact on response times. There is also the volume of major critical incidents', escalating violent crime and complexity of investigations. Unfortunately, in 2022, the City of Winnipeg saw 20…50…54 homicides, a record number here in our city. And the amount of violent crime that has increased here in our city as well that has left Winnipeggers feeling unsafe, especially in the downtown area. There is also a collective bargaining agreement that is being negotiated with labour relations at this point that we are waiting to see how that may have an impact on this budget as well. And that contract had expired in December 31st of 2021. So, we've been without a contract for almost two years…this year in December, it will be two years without that contract. So, again, these are the operating risks and unfunded capital risks that present themselves in this budget. And we need to ensure that, as a mandated service, we can't turn off the lights and stop answering the phones once that budget does run out. So, again, we are asking Council to consider this recognizing the inherent risks that still are present as a result of the demands for service not met by the budget needs. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: That was…oh, I'm sorry, Councillor Chambers. Thank you for your presentation. Is it the will…is somebody want to speak to this or are we going to call the question? Call the question, okay. Oh. Councillor Wyatt, please go ahead.

Mayor Gillingham: Just a point of clarity, Mr. Speaker. Is the motion to…I believe the motion is to receive as info as per…

Deputy Speaker: It is, that's correct.

Mayor Gillingham: All right, thank you.

Deputy Speaker: That's right, but you can still speak to it. Yeah.

Councillor Wyatt: Through you, may I speak, Mr. Speaker?

Deputy Speaker: Yes, Councillor Wyatt, please.

Councillor Wyatt: Okay, thank you. I rise. It's…we have a unique situation where under the rules that have been established with the police…creation of the Police Board, that we as a council can approve the budget. We cannot direct in any way, shape or form the operation, but we can approve the funding. It is a unique situation where, you know, we…as a civil authority or any civil authority, you don't want to be directing the day-to-day operations. However, we want to direct overall policy, not just in terms of funding, but in terms of policy going forward with regards to the approach between police and the rest of the community and the operation of the police service. The…it's fair to say that, and I don't think I am exaggerating when I say, that morale amongst the service today is quite low. I think this probably started during the pandemic, pressure felt across North America with the incidents' in the United States and the black lives matter movement, that the…what happened with the trucking here in Canada last sum…last…a year ago February. That…and the…and their protest here in Winnipeg that the challenges of the police service and the feeling amongst them is low. On top of that, I've met with members of…in the last year, met more than once with the executive of the Winnipeg Police Association. Heard from them in terms of the struggling…struggles that their own members are having in terms of their own health, including their own mental health and the lack of supports that exist there in terms of whether it be therapy or people they

can reach out to for assistance, that it's extremely limited as it stands right now. Combine that with the fact that we as a city have been unique facing challenges because as was previous delegations, those in our streets who are suffering with the trauma of government policies beyond ours that have implemented. And no doubt, also municipal and provincial governments which have been, at the very least, not interested in their issues in the past, have added to the situation that the police must face on a daily basis. And I guess the frustrating part is, as a member of Council, we're here to approve their budgets, receive it as information, but ultimately, approve their budgets via the operating budget and capital, that we cannot have…you know, when a member of Council moves a motion on this floor for consideration to the Police Board, it doesn't even appear on their agenda because of the fact that, apparently, according to the by-laws, they don't have to put it on their agenda. And this is something which is very concerning because, ultimately, the police need to be accountable to a civil authority. They just don't operate in a vacuum. They are accountable to a civil authority because that's the basis of our democracy. We don't have…we're not in a police state where the civil authority is accountable to the police or the army. And the irony is that, when you want to have a dialogue about service, we are told, well sorry, now you are interfering in operations of our service. The motion that I moved calling for the offices to be open; seconded by Councillor Allard, strongly supported at the Police Board with Councillor Duncan, I think is a bare minimum of community-based policing. And I go back a little ways, unfortunately, to the days of where we didn't have any community-based policing under Jack Ewatski, very limited. And then we moved forward, made great strides under Chief McCaskill who was so committed to community-based policing and community outreach, and the idea that we need to be proactive instead of reactive all the time. And the idea of having a…and now we are spending tens of millions of dollars of capital money to build the third regional and finishing the four district model implementation. Yet we know full well that office will not be open to the public based on what is happening now at the east and west district station. And that's…that's…makes no sense in terms of the capital dollars we're spending. If we wanted to put a kiosk which I call…apparently has been proposed that there be a kiosk with a…you push a button, it comes up on the screen, somebody's on the screen, I call it the Max Headroom solution. If anybody's old enough to remember him from the 1980s. You know, talk to the…talk to the talking face on the screen. That's an insult to the taxpayers and ratepayers of the city to actually have something like that proposed. I would hope if we're going to do that, there is no need to spend tens of millions of dollars on a new police station, we could just have kiosks around the city and screens, save tens of millions of dollars, but we need to get back to a bare balance. We created the Police Board, ironically, the push at the time, and it was a previous government under the NDP who felt that there could be a greater dialogue and greater civilian dialogue between the police and civilian authority. The actually…the opposite is happening, where there's actually less. And we are…we're getting a disconnect happening where we are not even sure as a Council what we can and cannot do in terms of influencing the operations, not in the sense that we're…we're telling them what to do on a daily basis, but we do hear from our constituents and the needs and the issues. And for us not to be able to communicate that back and to have that heard at the Police Board, especially if we move a motion on the floor of Council that doesn't show up on their agenda is extremely frustrating. We have to change the system that it stands right now. We are giving the…the police, when I first got elected, 2002, the largest department in the city of Winnipeg was Public Works. Within four-years, the police had eclipsed that department and continues to grow. Per capita, I was told…I was kind of surprised by this when mister…Councillor Chambers told me at the Police Board that the Winnipeg Police has a per capita in terms of number of officers to per capita ratio is actually in decline. We had for years had ramped up the service and that we're now, I guess, the growth of the population have not kept up. And so, may…you know, I think that adds probably to the scenario or the situation now in terms of morale in the service that officers are scrambling. And I know as a fact, my constituents on a Friday and Saturday night, I know as a fact, I'll…the chance of a service car being in my ward or on the east side of the city or Councillor Browaty's ward, Councillor Mayes' ward or even Councillor Chambers ward, or Councillor Duncan's, they're…you know, we've gone on the ride alongs, they're flying into the neighbourhoods they need to be in. And that…and therefore, the idea of having a service centre at the very least.

Deputy Speaker: Can you conclude? I'm not hearing a motion to…you move?

Councillor Wyatt: To have the service…

Deputy Speaker: All those in favour? Okay.

Councillor Wyatt: To have a service station open, they're calling for 24/7, have a service station open for the public where there will be people. And you ask any kind of psychologist worth their weight in gold, in terms of, you know, body language, being there, physically having somebody versus somebody on a screen, you can see all sorts of things that you can't pick up on a virtual reality scenario. And you know, so I would…you know, I'll be supporting the budget today. I'll be supporting the budget which includes the funding for the police. But I really impress upon members of Council, the Mayor, the Chair, we need to do something here in terms of getting back to what Bill Bratton called the broken windows theory of policing. The…you look after the broken windows, the other stuff can start looking after itself. And we proved that in around 2005 when we unfortunately had an incident in the city where gang violence, a young man was shot outside a 711 on Sargent. Wrong place, wrong time. And we implemented Operation Clean Sweep, it was called. Officers literally walked the beat, talked to people. Said, okay, you jump parole, thank you, come with us. We were able to actually…the neighbourhood overnight, the residents…probably the safest neighbourhood in Winnipeg after that…that operation. But it has to be

proactive. And further to what the previous speakers and our delegations here said today, we also have to, with the Winnipeg Police Service, have active policy to come up with plans to reform the justice system because the justice system of this province, it only perpetuates criminality. Doesn't give hope. Doesn't give an alternative to those who want alternative to the different life. You know, you hear the stories of young people going in to Stony Mountain coming out owing money to the Hells Angels.

Deputy Speaker: Are you concluding?

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you. That is my conclusion. Thank you very much.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Poitras, is there anybody else who wanted to speak to this report that's submitted for information?

Clerk: I don't see any other speakers.

Deputy Speaker: No? Okay. To close, Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to point out to Councillor Wyatt that the board does set the strategic vision based on consultation with the community and stakeholders, which is then the responsibility of the Chief to operationalize or implement through an operational plan on an annual basis. So, I will just ask you to maybe look at the business plan that the Chief has created with his executive that is online. I also, in terms of response to, you know, the question about community-based policing, Chief Smyth has created a role…a new executive role for Superintendent Emerson whose sole responsibility is to build those relationships and partnerships in collaborations with key community stakeholders and groups that will help reduce the demands on the service through better collaboration with the community. With that, Mr. Speaker, I do move that Council consider this motion or this budget as information.

Deputy Speaker: Yeah, thank you. I'm going to call the question. All those in favour? I haven't called…all those opposed? Would you like to be recorded? No? Okay. Thank you. That passes. And Mr. Clerk, we are going to introduce the Executive Policy Committee.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED MARCH 21, 2023

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, there are two items on this report. Item 1 is the 2023 Operating and Capital Budget. Item 2 is the 2023 mill rates…Mill Rates for the Education Support Levy and Special Levy.

Deputy Speaker: Yeah, and there's no consent vote on this. So, Mr. Mayor Gillingham to present report Item No. 1, please.

Item 1 - 2023 Operating and Capital Budgets

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present in support of the operating capital budgets for 2023. I do want to first of all, express gratitude to so many people who've been involved in making this day possible. I want to begin with expressing appreciation to Councillor Browaty as our chair of Finance for his great work on this budget. And to the Budget Working Group members: Councillor Lukes, Councillor Wyatt and Councillor Gilroy for their efforts as well. To all City Council colleagues who've dialogued with Councillor Browaty and others and had input into this budget. I want to thank members of the Executive Policy Committee, also. And as we know, behind the scenes it's a whole team of outstanding individuals in the Corporate Finance Department who really make this possible. So, to Ms. Catherine Kloepfer and Ms. Liza Pablo and the entire team who are here today, our gratitude to you for all the efforts that you have put in over the months to get us to where we are today here with the opportunity to vote on this budget. I am just going to take a moment, also, to say thank you to members of my staff who have assisted in…you know, for many hours in putting the budget together. I do also want to just highlight a couple, I think, important investments in this budget. And I'm very pleased to see that this budget, budget 2023, offers significant investment in the City of Winnipeg services. Services that the people of Winnipeg really…really rely upon. Today is International Water Day and because it is International Water Day, I want to start there and talk about the fact that this budget includes an investment of $18 million more for our nutrient removal plant for the North End Wastewater Treatment Plant. Very important. We are making efforts as a City Council to invest in our water and our water quality. I also wanted to acknowledge, first of all, of course, that our water does come from Shoal Lake 40 in Treaty 3 territory, and acknowledge that historic gift to the people of Winnipeg that has been flowing for 100

years. The budget also…if you could just take a couple more minutes and then turn it over to Councillor Browaty to share my time, that the budget includes a significant investment for our tree canopy. An increased investment of $3.6 million to protect our tree canopy. It's an increase, in fact, of $4.7 million total in trees over last year's budget. An investment to increase the budget in our 311 department so that we can reduce the call wait times so citizens have, you know, less time on hold waiting for their call to be answered to get to the services that they really, really need. A $1 million increase of new investments to support the additional 24/7 safe spaces for unsheltered and at-risk individuals. One of our delegates asked what we are doing for individuals in vulnerable populations, that is one of the investments…an incremental investment that this budget makes. Also, an investment to improve transit service and restore the goals to restore transit to a full-service capacity by the end of 2023. There's also an investment of $12 million more for regional and local streets, $3 million more for active transportation investment. And so, that's a significant incremental investment to get more people walking and cycling throughout our city. And as was noted, $2.8 million to take the next step in the planning and design of our…of two key trade routes: Kenaston Boulevard and Chief Peguis extension. I'm also pleased that we have $400,000 incremental in getting back to restoring the budget of the Winnipeg Arts Council and I'm pleased to see that in this budget, as well. And then, $250,000 to support the operations of the Downtown Community Safety Partnership. And just yesterday, EPC, Executive Policy Committee, added a few changes, one of them being $150,000 into our…really, into our Community Services to improve the lifeguard situation that we know that we as a city but other cities also are struggling with and want to recruit and retain lifeguards. There's so many great investments in this budget and I think it's a good budget for the people of Winnipeg. And it sets a stage for us to go into our next multi-year budget. We've already started with the first phase of the next year's multi-year budget as we started the strategic planning process, which step one in the next multi-year budget. So, there's more I could say, but I'm going to give the rest of my time to Councillor Browaty.

Deputy Speaker: Okay. Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much. We didn't coordinate our speeches very well. I have a lot of overlap with what Mayor Gillingham's just said. First of all, congratulations to Mayor Gillingham. This is the final year of the City of Winnipeg's first multi-year budget. It really helped us through the COVID pandemic to ensure we had a disciplined process. And again, you know, it put us in a much better position. I would like to start by thanking the Budget Working Group. Following the election in October, we got to get to work very quickly. So, I'd like to thank Councillors Gilroy, Councillor Lukes, and Councillor Wyatt for your work on the Budget Working Group. To all of Council, very much appreciate all the time you took through the standing policy committee process to get to today. Corporate Finance staff, all the controllers and directors of the departments, the Mayor's Office staff, again, it's been quite the process to get here today. Again, the 24…2024 to 2027 multi-year budget is going to be on us very quickly here. We have a lot of work to do in the coming weeks and months. I look forward to working with all of you, as well as Winnipeggers in that process, should the Mayor Gillingham give me the opportunity to continue in this role. This is a great budget. It's balanced both in terms of dollars, as well as where new investments are going in terms of, you know, we heard from people this morning in representing business and industry, as well as those representing social services in our communities. A 25% increase to 311. Wait times have become an issue, we've all heard it, this is way to start addressing that. Neighbourhood action teams; finding those little things in neighbourhoods that are problematic, that are multi-disciplinary. That's a great investment to our city going forward. A citizen portal; right now, I alone probably have half a dozen non-City employee type logins that has the City services. The idea is, overtime to consolidate them. So, you have one access for your library card, for your transit Peggo card, for a whole multitude of things; your assessment. The idea is, in the future, perhaps to be merging those together. We've got CentrePort; huge investment in the future of our city. Getting that water and sewer out there is pivotal. Trade route corridor; again, northeast Winnipeg, north Winnipeg, building the Chief Peguis Trail, it's about both commerce as well as growing our city. We need to grow up and we need to grow out. Our initial investment in Naawi-Oodena; having the staff there to get that process going is important. We are certainly…this is a part of reconciliation as well as land claims. As per last year's budget, we are forecasting an increase this year in permits and inspections. And we are making some additional staff permanent. We have more work to do on this file and look forward to doing that in the multi-year budget. New investments in Downtown Community Safety Partnership. Through the pandemic with less people downtown, the problems we have in our downtown became highlighted and I think they worsened. So, this is a good group that's doing a lot of good work in our downtown area. Again, we made a very small but initial…initial investment towards capital improvements for the entry of the Millennium Library. We know we need to do more and more will be coming forward following the safety audit which we'll be getting a report from our CAO in the coming…in the coming weeks. Our tree canopy, it's remarkable. Our…the people doing the strategic plan took their time during the election to look at all of our campaign platforms. Apparently, the most universal item that was in all of our campaign platforms, the tree canopy. Winnipeg is iconic because of our beautiful tree canopy. They provide shelter, they provide so many benefits to the environment. And again, I think we all love our tree…our tree canopy. We continue working on our biggest capital project, the North End water pollution control centre. The sewage plant, it's by far the biggest in the city. Making it…making these upgrades is pivotal to the health of Lake Winnipeg and our water. Very important, again, on national…International Water Day. We're continuing our transition to zero emission buses thanks through funding from multiple levels of government. Our combined sewer overflow; there's that ick and gross factor, as well as the environmental impacts of diluted raw sewage at times going into our…into our lakes. Yet again, through the Mayor's policy platform that he campaigned on, property taxes are being

increased only by 3.5% as well as $1.50 on frontage levies. This year, we were actually planning to have a fairly notable decrease in our, what I believe, is one of our most important investments in the city, that being our roads and streets. The end of the accelerated regional street program, because of funding from other levels of government, was coming to an end. Thanks to the increase in the frontage fee and items in Mayor Gillingham's platform, more money compared to the multi-year budget is being added to our streets. People were talking about our history and not forgetting our history, both at our Millennium Library, the other big piece we're doing to help celebrate our 150th anniversary of the city of Winnipeg is recognizing our past by making a massive investment in restoring our Archive Building just over near city hall here on William Avenue. There's the St. Vital bridge rehabilitation, the north transit garage, parks and recreation enhancement program; conditional money in there this year. Recreation and library facility investment strategy, our libraries. We spent…we've invested in so many libraries over the years.

Deputy Speaker: Yeah, Councillor Duncan. All those in favour? Nobody's opposed.

Councillor Browaty: I'm trying to keep it all in there. Thank you. Our libraries; compared to when I started, they were all…a lot of them were very old. We've reinvested and upgraded or replaced so many libraries during my time on Council. And a huge feather in the cap, I think, for east Winnipeg, East of the Red Rec-plex. We have money in there to do a detailed plan to get it to a Class 3 cost estimate so we can go out and find other levels of government that are ready to help support us to make this project a reality. And other…

Deputy Speaker: Excuse me. Order.

Councillor Browaty: And again, yesterday we did from the public through the whole process, we are making some changes to the budget. Our social procurement action plan. One FTE is being put into the budget this year. I have been and visited some of these social procurement programs, they're getting people that really couldn't find a job to become productive members and get a job, to become taxpayers, support their families. The stories that come out of these organizations are wonderful. I think it's a good investment. Lifeguard recruitment and retention; as many Winnipeggers recognized yesterday morning when they tried to sign up for swimming lessons, classes cancelled, classes not available because we don't have a lot of lifeguards. There was an issue, of course, through the pandemic. A lot of people left the area of lifeguarding that were in it previously, and other people weren't being trained to become the next generation of lifeguards. So, we're doing everything possible to ensure that we train lifeguards and we get them into the City's system. This additional $150,000 announced yesterday helps with that. The Ma Mawi bathroom on Main Street, 715 Main Street, we're funding some additional funds there to ensure that it stays open through the end of the year at the 10 hours per day. Libraries; again, we know there will likely be…need to be a year…an in-year adjustment to work with community safety initiatives. And again, to those folks that were here this morning, we don't know what that's going to look like yet. Is it going to be just security at the entrance or is it also going to be having those ambassadors, the…inside the branch as well? So, again, those are my introductory comments. I encourage everybody to vote for the budget today. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Browaty. We have Motions 1 and 2 from monsieur…Councillor Allard and seconded by Santos. First motion, as I understand, you need to move to…?

Motion No. 1
Moved by Councillor Allard,
Seconded by Councillor Santos,

WHEREAS the public service has determined that a reduced fared could increase Winnipeg Transit revenue and that transit affordability continues to be a barrier for participation to using Winnipeg transit for some residents of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS St. Boniface Street Links has been designated the homelessness outreach organisation east of the Red River, that the y communicated that they require a net new contribution of $220 000 for the 2023 fiscal year in order to continue their outreach operations and that federal funding for addictions support requires outreach;

AND WHEREAS a City-wide community garden program makes a more sustainable city and that acceleration of funding will benefit Winnipeggers by making such a program available sooner;

AND WHEREAS the Public Service has previously estimated that upgrading the Winakwa Community Centre wading pool to a spray pad would require $1,200,000.00 in capital funding;

THERFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Item 1 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 21, 2023 be amended as follows:

- *Add the following new Operating Budget Recommendations:*

"X. That a one-time grant of $220,00.00 be awarded to St. Boniface Street Links, funded from the General Revenue Fund.

X. That $240,900.00 be approved for one Project Coordinator (WAPSO Grade 4, including estimated annual salary and benefits) for a two-year term for the creation of a City-wide Community Garden Strategy funded from the General Revenue Fund."

- *Add the following new Capital Budget Recommendations:*

"X. That funding be allocated for a consultant to assist Winnipeg Transit in refining and calibrating the planning model of the Winnipeg Transit Master Plan in order to reduce cash fares by approximately $0.25 annually, until such time as the cast fare is $1.00, funded from the General Revenue Fund.

X. That $600,018.79 be allocated to converting the existing Winakwa Community Centre wading pool into a spray pad, funded as follows:

A. $46,700.00 from the St. Boniface Park Rehabilitation and Enhancement Program

B. $323,000.00 from the St. Boniface Emergency Response Recovery Program

C. $130,318.79 from the St. Boniface Ward Land Dedication Reserve Fund

D. $100,000.00 from the 2023 St. Boniface Parks Rehabilitation and Enhancement Program

and subject to the City obtaining confirmation of funding from other sources for the remaining $600,000.00 required to complete the project.

Councillor Allard: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to rescind Motion 1 with consent of the seconder and introduce Motion 2 because of a typo on the St. Boniface Street Links.

Deputy Speaker: We'll get into that. From Councillor Santos, you're...

Councillor Santos: Yes, Deputy Speaker, I support rescinding Motion No. 1.

Deputy Speaker: Okay. All those in favour? Nobody's opposed? That is carried. If I could have the Clerk read the 'therefore be it resolved' of the motion.

Motion No. 2
Moved by Councillor Allard,
Seconded by Councillor Santos,

WHEREAS the public service has determined that a reduced fared could increase Winnipeg Transit revenue and that transit affordability continues to be a barrier for participation to using Winnipeg transit for some residents of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS St. Boniface Street Links has been designated the homelessness outreach organisation east of the Red River, that the y communicated that they require a net new contribution of $220 000 for the 2023 fiscal year in order to continue their outreach operations and that federal funding for addictions support requires outreach;

AND WHEREAS a City-wide community garden program makes a more sustainable city and that acceleration of funding will benefit Winnipeggers by making such a program available sooner;

AND WHEREAS the Public Service has previously estimated that upgrading the Winakwa Community Centre wading pool to a spray pad would require $1,200,000.00 in capital funding;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Item 1 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 21, 2023 be amended as follows:

- *Add the following new Operating Budget Recommendations:*

"X. That a one-time grant of $220,000.00 be awarded to St. Boniface Street Links, funded from the General Revenue Fund.

X. That $240,900.00 be approved for one Project Coordinator (WAPSO Grade 4, including estimated annual salary and benefits) for a two-year term for the creation of a City-wide Community Garden Strategy funded from the General Revenue Fund."

- *Add the following new Capital Budget Recommendations:*

"X. That funding be allocated for a consultant to assist Winnipeg Transit in refining and calibrating the planning model of the Winnipeg Transit Master Plan in order to reduce cash fares by approximately $0.25 annually, until such time as the cast fare is $1.00, funded from the General Revenue Fund.

X. That $600,018.79 be allocated to converting the existing Winakwa Community Centre wading pool into a spray pad, funded as follows:

A. $46,700.00 from the St. Boniface Park Rehabilitation and Enhancement Program

B. $323,000.00 from the St. Boniface Emergency Response Recovery Program

C. $130,318.79 from the St. Boniface Ward Land Dedication Reserve Fund

D. $100,000.00 from the 2023 St. Boniface Parks Rehabilitation and Enhancement Program

and subject to the City obtaining confirmation of funding from other sources for the remaining $600,000.00 required to complete the project.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Okay, so to introduce it, Monsieur Allard.

Councillor Allard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, I worked with a couple of colleagues with the intent of making an amendment to this budget in a way that...well, for me, in my case, make it a budget that I would be willing for…willing to vote for despite what I think is, really, the wrong direction, as I stated earlier, on opening Pandora's box of a $2.8 million investment for functional design, Chief Peguis Trail and Kenaston. A billion dollars is a lot of money. And it's just…it's just so much money. And it's money that we're going to spend today and it's money that we're going to have to spend. It's money that my daughter's going to have to spend when one day, I hope she is in Winnipeg and I hope she's paying taxes either…either through her own property or through…or through a landlord. It is just…it is…it is…it is a number that is hard to understand. And over the campaign, I learned a trick, I guess, my…one of my favourite books is 'The Little Prince'. It's the second most popular book in the world after the bible, at least the second most translated book after the bible, 'The Little Prince', 'Le Petit Prince' (inaudible). Anyway, one of the things he says is, it's a book to…it's a book to adults and, really, asking them to remember, what are the important things in life? And one of the important things in life is, what do you…what do you…what do you like to do? And so, I have been asking that on the campaign trail. And wow, do people open up with all sorts of cool things because they are not expecting you to talk about…talk about them, they're expecting you to make a pitch about what…what…what you're going to bring to the table. So, the reason I mentioned that is that I like to read. And one of the things…one of the books I read recently is called 'How the World Really Works' by Vaclav Smil. It was…Vaclav Smil is professor emeritus at the University of Manitoba. He lives in St. Vital, I think. And really changed my perspective about how the world works; the economy and where we are…where we're going as human beings, as a species, where we were and where we're going. We are about 100,000 years old. I hope we last another 100,000, but the trends are very bad. And if I am…if I'm very positional on the issue of climate change, because I really do think that we are in an existential crisis and that we do need to do everything that we can in order to address climate change. So, in terms of the…in terms of this motion, in terms of making the budget better, I campaigned on three or five major themes, depending how you split them up. But one of them was safety. And when I say safety in terms of addressing crime and the root causes of crime, I think we've had an addictions and homelessness crisis in Winnipeg and St. Boniface Street Links has been doing tremendous work in St. Boniface east of the Red. They are the…they are the homelessness outreach organization for east of the Red. They indicated to Council through Executive Policy Committee, to myself, that they needed…they needed a net new $220,000 in order to continue outreach operations. They are also supported by the Federal Government, which is predicated on their outreach operation to address addictions as part of their programming. They do excellent work. I am trying to dig up the report of their performance. They have been supported by our Public Service. They have been supported by Council. They are supported in this budget, but there was an ask from Street Links to increase their budget this year in order to increase their operations. And I thought, you know, on this…on this budget that it would be a reasonable thing. I think councillor…sorry, Mayor Gillingham, I think…I think he said at some point that homelessness and what is going on in the streets keeps him up at night. Well, it…when I was hitting…when I hit…when I was knocking on doors, this is the number one issue that came up. What is going on? What do we do about this? And I would say, well, I mean, I'm a social…I'm a liberal arts student, I have a master in public administration. We know, we know how to deal with these issues, but as a society, we've decided to not…not deal with them. And the issues are…the

solutions are housing, social services, healthcare, wraparound services, addiction services. We know…we know how to address the homelessness crisis. We need to put the money to address the homelessness crisis. And those are the things we need to be spending on: early childhood education, full stomachs, all that stuff. It's not things you get return on investment right away, it's things that take time. But it's thing that we know work. And we need not look farther than the Scandinavian countries to see how successful society can be when you have cradle to grave support from the state. So, Street Links was one. Councillor Schreyer has been working as the…on food security strategy. And at the Planning, Property and Development Committee, I moved a motion to…as per…as per Councillor Schreyer's request, accelerate the funding so that we can get that initiative going city-wide. Again, on…on the benefit to this program to the City of Winnipeg, I think these are…these are small investments that make a huge difference in terms of quality of life for people, for mental health, for people's…for people's health, bodily health. And then finally, I want to commend Councillor Santos for having the courage, when Councillor Santos was first elected, to campaign on free transit and then to ask Council for free transit. I was really, really disappointed when the committee that I…that I was the chair of voted against a report on what it would cost for free transit. Other jurisdictions do free transit. There is no jurisdiction to my knowledge that does free transit, that does it as a municipality. They all have state support. But how can we go ask for the state to fund free transit if we don't even know how much it costs? And how do we…how do we know how much it costs if we don't ask for a report for how much it would cost? And so, that's what Councillor Santos asked for. And this is…this is…this is walking back Councillor Santos' original request which was free transit, to making transit more affordable. And we have a report in the DMIS system that shows that transit could actually make more money if we charge less. We are losing riders. Transit is losing riders and in order to do the work to know what that…what that sweet spot is to maximize transit revenue, they need a consultant to do that analysis. And so, that's what that's about. And then the…the last is really a clerical thing. And when we vote, I would ask that we vote clause by clause. But the last…the last is a simple amalgamation of ward funds that are…that I would like to get Council endorsement on in order to kick off a spray pad spot, a wading pool upgrade project. So, that is the motion. In terms of…in terms of climate change, I…there was a recent article by the CBC that I…that I shared, but I see I only have two minutes and I won't be able to get through all of it. But I mean, the bottom line is, we need to act now. We need to do everything in our power to act in order to address climate change or the earth will go up two degrees Celsius, which is…which is too much, which means geopolitical turmoil. It means people having to vacate entire countries. Icecaps are melting. The sea levels are going up. It is…it is catastrophe that is waiting to happen. And I know this has been done before, but I want to do it again, and I asked my daughter for permission to do this this morning. I said…I said, Camille, can I ask my councillor colleagues today on your behalf for more action on climate change? And she said, yeah, of course. Of course, papa. Of course, I want to see more action on climate change. So, my daughter is 14. If I am lucky, I will live to be 80 years old based on today's average longevity. My daughter will then be 53. I know this has been heard before, I don't know if you've heard it, but the conversation is between a parent and their…and their child. And the child is saying at 53 and the parent is old and doesn't have much life left. But they are saying, why didn't you do something when you could, when you were in charge? We are actually in charge. We are the government. And so, if this is existential to me, if it's existential to the human race, we are in charge. So, when I am 80 years old, if I get to be 80 years old, I want to be able to tell my daughter, yes, Camille, I did everything that I could in order to fight climate change because I knew as the scientists did, as the UN does, as I think people generally know that we need to fundamentally change the direction in which we are going. The UN report says we need to stop burning coal by 2030. We need to stop burning natural gas by 2035. And this is to achieve the 3 degrees. And so, I mentioned Smil earlier, Vaclav Smil, Bill Gates has named him as his favourite author. Bill Gates said that his work was humbling.

Deputy Speaker: All those in favour? Any opposed? No, okay.

Councillor Allard: How much do I get to wrap up?

Deputy Speaker: Two-minutes.

Councillor Allard: At the end? My closing thing.

Deputy Speaker: When you close on it, I think you…

Councillor Allard: I get eight minutes?

Deputy Speaker: When you close, yeah.

Councillor Allard: Okay, so Bill Gates said of Vaclav, one of the reasons why he found his book to be…his favourite author, or that author to be his favourite author, is that he found his work humbling. And Vaclav talks about how we as human beings are terrible at preparing for risk. And he talks about orders and magnitude. And so, what is a billion dollars? Well, the Latin prefix would give it giga, so it would be a giga dollar. It means one with how many zeros? It means one, two...I should know this. It means lot of zeros.

Deputy Speaker: Nine.

Councillor Allard: It's orders of magnitude, ten to the power of nine. It is a lot of money and that's jus the money we're putting upfront. That's not the cost of expropriations, that's not the cost of maintenance, that's not the climate cost of all of the…all the…all the CO2 and the…the other emissions that are going to go. Not to mention, the concrete is one of the most energy intensive things that we do here on earth. Vaclav says modern society is built on concrete, ammonia; which is used for the fertilizer, plastic and iron. Those are all very energy intensive things. And this is one of those things. And so, not only are we encouraging people to use cars. Not only do we know that building all of the roads in the world is not going to fix traffic problems as we have seen in Los Angeles. And so, that's…that's really my big beef with this budget. And probably going to be talking about this for…for the rest of the term, is that I think this is really fundamentally the wrong direction. That billion dollars should go to our Transit Master Plan. And I want to be able to tell my daughter if I do live to be that long, that yes, I did everything I could, Camille. And maybe we achieved that…maybe we achieved holding at the 2%...2 degrees, maybe not. I hope that we can, but we need to act.

Deputy Speaker: Monsieur Allard, thank you. We need that. All right. I think at this point I would like to call lunch until 1:00 p.m. Are…is everybody okay with that? All right. Then we are adjourned until 1:00 p.m. hopefully sharp, kids. Your Speaker will endeavour to be here right at 1:00 as well. Thanks.

Reconvened meeting of
Winnipeg City Council of
March 22, 2023, at 1:07 p.m.

Deputy Speaker: I would like to call the special meeting of the City of Winnipeg City Council back to order on this March the 22…what is it, 22nd, 2023. And of course, we are still meeting here on Treaty number 1, home and traditional land…lands of the Anishinaabe, Ininew, Dakota people and where we get our water from Shoal Lake 40 Treaty 3 and we get most of our electricity from Treaty 5. And up next to speak to the amendment and the budget, we have Councillor Santos.

Councillor Santos: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Thank you to my council colleague, Matthew Allard, for writing the amending motion. I believe each of these simple asks where we have each been advocating for over the last few years should be in this year's budget and not wait for the multi-year budgeting process. Time is of the essence. Winnipeggers are asking for this government to deliver actionable items and I'd like to move the needle with these simple strategic investments now where the long-term outcome will be beneficial to Winnipeg as a whole. Each of these items, we know, are what makes the social fabric of our society. It is the relationships and connections we make with one another making us all part of a common thread of a society as a whole. I am just going to speak to one part the motion, which is the affordable transit. Funding for the consultant's report is not in the current operating budget. I am disappointed that EPC did not add the recommendation, but here we are in a democratic society, I am standing up again today to request Council's support. More people moving throughout the city is a key factor in economic growth. The Mayor has specifically stated that he is interested in our city's economy. That is why I'm here giving further reasons to support this amendment. Affordable public transit provides economic relief by removing the burden of transit costs to get to work, school or even grocery shopping. It is within our own municipal jurisdiction and services to move the needle of economic recovery with an affordable, reliable and safe public transit system. An affordable transit system is proven to stimulate the economy. There is a strong real economic growth benefits to increased transit ridership with these types of programs, in particular, to low-income populations. They can save or keep that money that they would have spent on transit and instead it will flow directly back into the local economy at small businesses or towards better housing. Increased mobility equals increased working population. Yes, we have many complex and inter-connected challenges with poverty, social assistance and education in job programs, most of which are the responsibility of other levels of government, but it is still within our government to participate in lifting families out of poverty. Another thing I would like to quickly highlight which I didn't in the last two speeches I made earlier this month, is the savings the City could receive administratively. A $1 cash fare transit system would simplify the transit system. In many cities they discovered savings they didn't expect. Savings that ultimately made the program much more affordable for the government and its citizens. While cash fare policies do eliminate revenues collected, they also reduce the operational costs associated with setting and collecting fares. Think of it this way, we will no longer need to allocate time and resources to do fare policy research by the administration. Or ask yourself this, how much do we spend on administration costs to disperse, collect and account for all the different types of fares; with cash, Peggo cards, and all the paper tickets. Removing these costs needed for a multi-tiered fare system will allow the opportunity for the administration to focus on quality and effectiveness of the service. For example, we are having some severe challenges and wait times for our Transit Plus services. The savings associated with setting and collecting fares could alleviate those challenges and increase the quality and effectiveness of the Transit Plus services. This consultant report would help identify the larger administrative savings associated with affordable transit and make a

plausible case and strategy for other government investment…investments to provide economic, social and environmental paths forward for our public transportation system in Winnipeg. Right now, we can maintain our fiscal responsibilities. This consultant's report will allow us just to investigate the feasibility and short and long-term outcomes of how an affordable fare system could benefit Winnipeg using data from other cities. We need to be bold because the gaps have gotten too wide and people are falling through the cracks. While we might be one of the last jurisdictions to examine this policy during our current crisis, we could be leaders and roll up something more permanent. Deputy Speaker, I will use the rest of my time to speak to the entire budget as a whole. The last eight years, unfortunately, were not the greatest for our city. The lack of investment in people, it showed. Compounded with inflation in gas, food, and interest rates, we have more crime, more homelessness, less people riding the bus and now we have a report stating that we have one in four children living in poverty. We have an exodus of young people who do not want Winnipeg to be their home. We have small local businesses shutting down and more empty storefront businesses in our downtown. But what I see in this budget is a small window of opportunities, a simple step in the right direction to repairing the damages that occurred in the last eight years. Simple investments in the community, and more noticeably in Point Douglas Ward, Sir William Stephenson Library renovations, Billy Mosienko and Charlie Gardner ice rink repairs. Preliminary design to replace the Freight House outdoor pool, City of Winnipeg Archives located at 380 William Avenue. Further in…with further investments in active transportation, $2 million in northwest hydro corridor phase two. $2 million in active transportation project improvements to assist in the northwest hydro corridor. $4 million in Keewatin Street active transportation infrastructure puts a smile on my face. So, I also want to state that I do support some of the Mayor's further campaign pledges and investments, to protect and renew Winnipeg's tree canopy, support new investments in additional 24/7 safe spaces for unsheltered and at-risk residents. Increased transit services to its full capacity. Transit safety initiative and restoring the annual operating grant to Winnipeg's Arts Council. Lastly, thank you to EPC yesterday to support the additional funds required to maintain 10 hours per day operations at Amoowigamig for 2023. And the soil remediation plans to remove the lead at both West End Memorial Hockey Rink and Mission Park. In closing, we know public services are the essential elements of what makes a community deemed important and why it is worth living in. Again, the social fabric of our society. We have a long road ahead. I know we're just finishing up the last year multi-year budget, but from what I'm seeing in the actions that are being taken right now are not bad in comparison to other budget years. We have already started the next multi-year budget process earlier this year. I'm going to ask for a two-minute extension. I definitely was a pessimistic. As the saying goes, I went into those meetings with my glass half empty, not too sure what to expect. I have a bit of PTSD from the previous term, but I kept my mind open. And when I left the meetings, my glass was half full. So, I am willing to work with everyone here but I will not stop advocating for a socially balanced budget. It is my hope that Council will support the simple amendments today to move the needle with these strategic investments now where the long-term outcome will be beneficial to Winnipeg as a whole. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you councillor…thank you, Councillor Santos. I believe Councillor Schreyer is up next.

Clerk: Rollins.

Deputy Speaker: Oh, sure. Pardon me. Councillor Rollins, you're up next, please.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I want to thank my colleagues for their comments that they put on the record and the amendments. 2023 is the…is not only the first full year of this term, but it is the final year of the multi-year…thank you…the multi-year budget. And I feel that we should actually kind of mark this moment, Mr. Speaker, because what we did in that multi-year budget, that heavy lifting that our then Finance Chair, now Mayor did, was just immediately…we immediately felt the benefits literally two days later when we were closing down during the pandemic and every budget year since. And so, I want to acknowledge our staff and the previous council and, of course, the majority of the members of this council for that structure. It is one I believe in. And it's one today, as we mark this final year and this final budget, I believe we should reflect on and find some strength as we go into the next multi-year and find a renewed sense of commitment. There was amazing, amazing things that we did structurally. Mr. Speaker, Councillor Santos mentioned some of them: the 24/7 safe space that leveraged…leveraged, frankly, provincial worth of $8 million from the Federal Government on 24/7 safe…safe spaces. I don't think I am telling tales out of school to know that there is actually more coming on this from the Provincial Government. My colleague in the legislature Rochelle Squires told me so and she's a woman who does what she says she's going to do most of the time. So, that…that is…is a good thing and a good structure or reason to get behind multi-years. We did a generation of difference to my colleague Councillor Mayes who was very poetic in many of the multi-year updates and the initial multi-year. In fact, he's experienced the full range of emotions in this chamber when he came to those generations of water and waste investments that we needed in multi-year. And I like it, Mr. Speaker, when we experience the full range of emotions in this chamber because we know the passions of Winnipeggers and reflecting them as we do and have an opportunity to meditate on them perhaps when we are doing our meditations and our prayers like Councillor Duncan did this morning. It is a good opportunity. So, that was a structure of the multi-year I was…I was really proud of. I was, of course, proud of the little things for the library system like library free fines that we did in the multi-year, and more. On to this budget, this budget reflects the feedback of not only the Chair of Finance but each and every member of Council. And you see it in that last item that Councillor Santos

talked about, the Weston schools. Mr. Speaker, you know that I was chair of board of the largest and oldest division in this city, the Winnipeg School Division, and I want to acknowledge their work because the Province capped them on a $405,000 field remediation. And Winnipeg School Division ended up paying $57,000 from their own budget. And we are getting around to doing it now. And that was something that Mile Rendulic and Paul Kochan shared with us and at a Protection, Community Services and Parks meeting, Mr. Speaker, you will recall. And they shared their 7 of 10…their 10 sites and the findings that they got in terms of lead for kids playing in fields. We care about that here. We're seeing two schools remediated, I think two adjacent schools' fields. I think they are the same thing, so does my council colleagues, some of them. So, we are getting to it in this budget. That feels good. So, when Mary Burton asked us this morning, what about the inner-city and what about the North End, I do want that Weston School item, the adjacent property to Weston School, say I do want her to know that I see that. I do want her to know that I see the grant for Ma Mawi. I do want her to see, of course, as we all do, regional roads and sewers upgrades. We do want to see, though, the climate resiliency and justice items. And to this, I turn, Mr. Speaker, and stare meaningfully into the eyes of my City Centre colleague, Cindy Gilroy. I could feel the echoes of Cindy Gilroy in Budget Working Group when I saw the two jobs for the sustainability office. And when we know as a council and through, again, Protection and Community Services and Parks that we passed tree motion after tree motion that reflected that climate resiliency and adaptation was most acutely needed in the inner-city and we know those jobs will be focused on that. So, when Mary Burton asks a very important question, what about the inner-city, what about the north, I need to be able to centre myself and state very clearly that in this budget, there it is reflected. I also want to say very clearly that June 7th, 8th, and 9th is when I, as councillor of Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry, will be holding advanced planning on community safety, housing and climate justice forums in my ward. And of course, they'll be open to the whole of the city to get ready for the multi-year. June 7th, 8th, and 9th in the Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry Ward. Why? Because we do see something else in this budget. We see a bit of a…a bit of a conflict around what makes the city safe. And we heard it in delegations, Mr. Speaker, when in the past three years we know around Millennium Library, community has been engaged in profound act of love on what will make Millennium safe. And the concept of work that, yes, we have funded in terms of the community connection space and community safety officers was the result of that work. And the past three years they've really mounted that. Taking people from the EIA program, changing them into community safety officers, and they have 20 ready to go, Mr. Speaker, and it does…it is upsetting that it's not reflected as a holding space in this budget. Why? Because the very people that are on EIA, it may have had lived experience, and you heard it in the words of Mr. Beardy today on the floor of Council, have garnered results in de-escalation and more. And so, that is something that we need to lean into hard and while in this budget, there is reflection of community safety work, it may not have been as reflective of what has gone on and community has created. And I want to acknowledge that, too. And I want to say, mine will be the open door. I am grateful for the DCSP funding and I'm grateful that the Archives building is featured in this budget so strongly as a 150. And I look forward to matching each and every councillor with an archivist buddy so that we can go forward and produce something fun and that acknowledges that past. So, for all this and more, including the social procurement jobs, including the neighbourhood action teams and including what will never be talked about is the lessening the reliance on vacancy management and what I think is a huge feature of the push on this budget, the $4.2 million for the negotiated settlement for CUPE. I will sit down and be proud to vote for the budget. I won't be supporting the amendments today because I just believe that we have Public Service directed evidence on resource assistant for youth and more and Marion Willis and Street Links, in particular, was…have been funded within that pocket. Thank you very much.

Deputy Speaker: Are you…okay. Thank you for concluding, Councillor Rollins. I wasn't hearing anybody moving extension. And if somebody pleases to do that for our…one of our colleagues, please speak it out loud, okay? All right, Mr. Poitras, who do we have next up on the list?

Clerk: Councillor Gilroy.

Deputy Speaker: Oh, okay. Well, nobody else has indicated? All right, Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To all my councillor colleagues, today is a big day for all of us, the day that we do the budget and that's always a very big time. I would like to thank Councillor Browaty for his hard work on this. And all my councillor colleagues because I know all of us have contributed in some way to…trying to put our little piece of the budget that we would like to see in the budget. So, I am here rising in support of today's budget. I will not be supporting the amending motions that are in front of us here today. There's just a lot in there that I would like more information on before I move further with that. Some of them are very, very good. So, hopefully, we can see those coming back to Council so we can maybe do a deeper dive into them. So, first up, I would like to really talk about some of the really positive things that I see in the budget. And I think, primarily for me, the first thing is the property increase. That is just so desperately needed that we have been lacking for years and years and years. So, I know that lots of people are kind of wanting to see us really dive into some of the stuff in terms of what we can do and spend with that money that I think that…that will come up to debate in the next year budget. And I'm looking forward to that debate because I think we've got lots of work to do. You know, we've got years and years of stuff that we haven't funded and hopefully, now is the time that we're going to start dealing with some of the things that we haven't been working on. So, in terms of poverty reduction, I am really happy

to see that we are funding the washroom. I just really want to thank EPC for their work on that and getting that in there. I think that that is a critical safe and (inaudible) space for people and it has been a real asset to the downtown and to the people that are really needing a safe washing space. And you know, the people that are working in there are also providing that support, supports that are needed to get people to where they need to go, whether that's looking for housing, food, any of those things. The staff in there do amazing work. The 24-hour safe space, I won't go on, desperately needed. Keeping our housing staff so we can make sure that we're celebrating affordable housing, that's still a key. We have to make sure we keep that going, make sure that that program keeps spinning its wheels so we're getting affordable housing out fast as a city. The downtown safety strategy, making sure that we're having the downtown community teams doing that outreach. Working with the neighbouring communities, which I am really hoping to see happen in…with this latest budget, is making sure that they can work closely with areas like Spence that are close to the downtown. We know that that…that our downtown boundaries are not kind of within those limits. The downtown boundary…boundaries do go towards the University of Winnipeg and we need to make sure that we're providing adequate supports to all areas of the downtown. Helping to see that we're putting investments into that. I am also really excited to see that we are helping to recruit life…lifeguards. And I think, in particular, in inner-city neighbourhoods we are really struggling because some of the lifeguards that are there are not wanting to work in the inner-city. So, I'm hoping that when they listen to us right now, people that have the ability in human resources, to really look at how do we attract and retain people that are from neighbourhoods where we want them to actually work? I think that that is critical, making sure that we provide a free lifeguarding program so inner-city kids can participate into becoming lifeguards is critical. So, I am really excited to see that that's part of this. And also, social procurement. When we look at social procurement, it's really important that we're looking at…we heard Michael Champagne talk a little bit about what he is doing. That is social procurement right there. So, we need to make sure that we are doing social procurement, making sure that we're hiring people with lived experience and making sure that we're changing lives in the process of when we are hiring staff. And I think that that's critical. Very happy to see what we're doing in climate change. And I want to thank…thank EPC for listening and adding two extra staff for our climate change office. I think my…Councillor Matt Allard has said…you know, his speech today said a lot in terms of his younger daughter, who is 14. My kids are on me. We have to act now. Having the staff in order to do that work is critical and I am glad to see that we are acting. We also are investing more in the tree canopy. I know that that's something Councillor Orlikow always…I can always count on him to making sure to get that in the budget, so thank you for that. And, of course, the Mayor's commitment on restoring our transit, that's critical. I mean, for my neck of the woods, we have…I know that we are doing this, Councillor Lukes, but I at least have one of the more transit riders in the city…one of the most transit riders in the city. So, it's really critical that we make sure that we have a good…good transit system that is moving people around and having the ability to take them to A to B. And funding our sewage treatment plant and funding our combined sewer overflows are just critical. So, I'm glad to see that we're investing in those things. Now, some of the concerns that I have regarding the budget and moving forward is that we are looking at investing in things like extending the Chief Peguis Trail, the Kenaston…the Kenaston bridge. Now, those things concern me because we're seeing a de-investment within our inner-city. The same city that we call Winnipeg, that started the original Winnipeg, we are not seeing those investments. We have an Arlington bridge that is about to collapse that we can't use. And I shouldn't say collapse, it's scaring the public, but it can be decommissioned at any time. And urban studies 101, so I hope the profs are listening to me at the University of Winnipeg, I'm still remembering my…what my profs say, is those boundaries do matter. That railroad track matters. And if we close that bridge, that matters. When we talk about poverty reduction, I don't even want to think about what we're going to see if we can't have people access that bridge. It is far more than even car traffic, it is about people, they walk the bridge, they cycle the bridge. So, I am really concerned what I'm seeing. When we see the Louise Bridge, another bridge that is key for an inner-city, that's connecting to neighbourhoods, we've got no plans for them. And at the same time, we are spending money, again, after…after these major transportation things that I think is not going to help benefit the economic development of Winnipeg. Because if you look at the downtown neighbourhoods like Detroit; Detroit right now is seeing major revitalization into its downtown because it's reinvesting, because it's looking at how they're growing their city. And so, now when you want to look at economic developments, they have people wanting to go to their cities, the downtown Detroit. They're having businesses start in downtown Detroit because they've made those investments. And that is what we need to do as a city. And so, I am really concerned that we are moving away from that. And I do want to acknowledge what some of the…some of our delegates said here today. There is a de-investment of inner-city neighbourhoods. We know it. We know just by the capital budget here, the investments that we're seeing that's going to suburban neighbourhoods. Now, I don't want to get into the debate over suburban versus inner-city because I think that those things matter to those neighbourhoods. Can I ask for an…usually I'm not a talker, but today I am.

Deputy Speaker: Extension is moved. All those in favour? Okay.

Councillor Gilroy: But here is the thing, if we are going to invest in those…in those things like the rec-plexes, you know, new firehalls, we have to make sure that we're providing the same investments back into the inner-city. So, I don't have flashy new things going on in my neighbourhood. I don't have any flashy new projects. And I don't think Councillor Eadie has flashy new projects. But what we're needing is the things that matter; which is the programming, the operational dollars that we are not seeing, because this budget will be cutting those things. I had a call from a community club that's going to see less funding going there to run their recreational programming from the City. Those things matter. So, I am really

looking at moving forward. I know that I am supporting the budget that's here…is here in front of us here today. It's my opportunity to talk to all of you because I need all of your support, all of your thinking to make sure that we do look at the inner-city as a place that we need to fund and invest in and not just look at the surrounding neighbourhoods and the suburban areas because I do support my suburban councillors. I think those things are important, too. But I need you to look at investing in these inner-city neighbourhoods. And we're getting letters, I'm getting letters and calls about people that are concerned over garbage, over cleanup, over homelessness. That's all…I know that that's an issue in many neighbourhoods, but in our neighbourhoods, it just…it's even more. So, and those are operational dollars that we can't really change. We have no room to maneuver, right? It's not that capital money that we can give out to, you know, these big capital projects. What we're needing in the inner-city is some of that operational stuff. So, I look forward to this debate in the next multi-year budget. But I am really hoping…I'm sorry. Can I ask for…okay, I will be quick. I usually don't talk. But just, I'm really hoping that you look at this next budget coming up, you look at this budget now and you see, okay, I'm listening to you, Councillor Gilroy. And we do need to have a better talk on how we're going to share this investment and how we're going to create a space that is equitable for everybody. So, thank you to my councillor colleagues. Thank you, again, to Councillor Browaty and our Mayor. And looking forward to supporting the budget that's in front of us here today. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Who would like to go next? Who is it? Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you, Councillor Eadie, Mr. Chair. I rise today, I'll be supporting this budget, both the capital and operating. And I would like to just make my comments, my initial comments, just to talk about maybe the future in terms of going forward. This is the last of a budget which is, I understand, the last of a four-year budget cycle. I am new to this since you've started this. And I can say that I am interested going forward on the next four-year cycle. But just to speak to the challenges that we're facing as a city, which I think are significant. We have and we heard even today in delegations, the need for renewed partnership with our Indigenous community, which still feels disconnected on many fronts with ourselves, with city hall and with policy going forward. The need for a community which, by and large, out of any other community in Winnipeg, has been subject to public policy of the last…since confederation, which has significantly impacted large members of swaths of that community, which we can literally see in our streets on a daily basis. We must find initiatives to go forward to assist that community to overcome the trauma that they are feeling today. This is something that we have no choice but to address. As far as I'm concerned, the Indigenous community also offers hope for us in terms of the challenges we face today in Winnipeg; in terms of our infrastructure, in terms of our challenges, their culture, their history, their heritage, their respect for mother earth offers hope for where we need to go forward as a planet and as a community. And that takes me to the next challenge we have, which is the…I don't call it a climate change, I call it the climate crisis. As was pointed out, the United Nations just two days ago issued a report highlighting, as Councillor Allard spoke to it earlier, the need for immediate action on what is happening on the planet today. We, as policymakers, cannot be blind to what is happening in the world. And the failings I would largely say of the policymakers and high levels of government to rise to the challenge, more so than ever, it's going to become incumbent, I believe, on lower levels of government to rise to the challenge, to make the climate goals possible since we are literally on the ground buying vehicles, running fleets, building buildings where we can actually have an impact, one community after another across this country when it comes to climate change. We must make the climate crisis a top priority as a Council. As a councillor who represents an area that has grown by 20% in the last…since the last census of 2021, growth is a constant challenge for myself as a councillor. Managing that growth, calls that come in related to growth. Put a traffic light here, double a road here, build something here. We've been waiting for this for 25 years and it hasn't happened. Growth and other councillors in this chamber who deal with that on a daily basis as well is a massive challenge. We want to have the new taxes coming in. We approved the new housing developments. But we have yet, as a Council, figure out a way to facilitate and to manage that growth in an effective manner. And it leads me into issues like transportation. I believe we are at a point now where we must build light rail transit. Any city in this country that has hit 700,000 is already planning or building LRT in the city. We are also at a point, with all due respect to disagreements of some of my colleagues who spoke earlier, we are at a point where we need to build uninterrupted expressways, but ones that I call green freeways rather than the old freeways of the past. In other words, freeways that are totally electrified, give options for vehicles to have power charging stations along it. Targets for that…vehicles who use the newly built freeways must be all be electric and/or hybrid by a certain year once those freeways are built. We have no choice but to do this because we are heading towards gridlock, Council, in this city. When it comes to transportation, one only has to drive out here in about an hour and a half to see it on any kind of major road in this city, especially the so-called half built inner-ring road system. I speak to now the urban health crisis that we are facing as a city. We have a massive challenge with regards to that. The Mayor spoke about that in his state of the city speech eloquently. We have individuals who are struggling with homelessness. We have people who are on the verge of homelessness. We have people who are literally 2,500 to 3,500 to some estimates says high as 4,500 living in what the equivalent would be, is rooming houses. Tenement houses, if you ever walked in any as I have gone and seen, they're something out of the 19th Century. Something you would see in a Charles Dickens book. People living…they are marginalized, living in conditions that you wouldn't want to put your pet animal into. They're horrific. And yet, we have people living there. We have addiction issues. We have governments which are actually, in terms of mental health and addiction, collecting massive taxes now when it comes to alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, gambling. They're not even putting

5% back into treatment, rehabilitation, recovery and help for those who are there. If they did that, we'd have a revolution of change in this city and across this country. And yet, the biggest challenge we have out of all of that still is the trauma that they're struggling with that we can address the trauma, and more importantly, address the stigma tied to these individuals. And the…out of that stigma, which flows judgment where we judge subconsciously and consciously in our minds towards those who are sick and suffering in the streets and preventing us from rising above it and dealing with the trauma that they're dealing. If you've heard their stories, which I know some of you have, you would be amazed that they are still actually walking amongst us considering what they've suffered, especially in early childhood. We have a local food crisis in this city. Stats Can just recently came out that inflation is now double-digit inflation on food. The cost of food is now rising faster than ever before. Families are having a hard time, they're actually having to pick and choose on top of that interest rates where people are having to make tough decisions on how they can keep their homes. Remortgaging and refinancing their mortgage, at the same time, being hit at the grocery bill for healthy…food that we know, a lot of it not coming from here. Yet, we have huge opportunity for local food production, urban farming and the opportunity to grow the city's economy. On top of that, we have an aging infrastructure crisis, a crisis whereby our roads are declining. We're not being able to keep up with it. We're hammering with construction inflation that keeps going over and over, year after year, above the rate of inflation, which is outrageous. Within 10, 15 years, the cost of construction doubles with the construction inflation historically we have been seeing in this city. On top of that, we have our soft infrastructure, I like to call it; our rec facilities, our parks and the lack of programming that takes place in our city today. These are just to name a few of our problems. I'll go on to say that we also have a challenge with our policing system. To have police reform not just in terms of what we do, but in terms of the provincial justice system, which has become a somewhat of a revolving door. On top of that, no opportunities for individuals who want to change their life that we must work with the Province and the Feds to change. Finally, we have a culture in this city that the Mayor spoke about, also, in the state of the city that we must change. A culture where we need to be sending the message that we are open for business, that we want businesses to do business here, to make it easier for them, rather than harder. No more constant waiting for getting a permit. At one time in this city, you could walk into the Hamilton Building on Main Street and yes, you had to go floor to floor, up and down when the Planning Department was there, but you would walk out with your permit the same day. And that was considered a pain back then. They would love to have it now. Businesses would love to have this now if we could. The reality is, we have to change the culture in this city, but we also have to send a message that we are serious to stand by the law-abiding citizens. By-law enforcement must be a priority. We have to…

Deputy Speaker: All those in favour?

Councillor Wyatt: Right now, by-law enforcement is split up amongst various departments, there's no focus. And we have by-law after by-law we can see being broken, whether it be empty garbage in back lanes, whether it be signage that's illegal in the city, businesses not maintaining their landscaping, their fences. We have by-laws being not…and it sends a message to those that are voluntarily following our by-laws that the City doesn't care whether you break them or not. And our transit system is the same with the (inaudible) walking on. Yes, we need to have programs for those who can't afford transit, and we do have them. But those who are now…I am hearing from drivers that they think it's as high as 85%. I hope it's not that high, of people walking on the bus, but I guess in some routes it might be. Where they can walk on the bus and not pay. Meanwhile, you have the people who are going to work every day buying their monthly bus pass loyally to the city, supporting the transit fares and the rate structure we have today, but yet, watching people walk on the bus. Again, enforcement to ensure we have a fair system across the board. We have a four-year budget coming up. More importantly, we have a strap plan, which I thank the Mayor for pursuing. I hope…I know I haven't covered everything. But I also want to say that we do have hope. We know that maybe not our generation, but previous generations in this city have gone through a lot worse: two world wars, a great depression, a flood of 1950. This city has risen to these challenges in the past. Under the leadership, I know, of our Mayor, an ethical and hard-working mayor, I think we could have the courage together to go forward and meet these challenges. We…it is incumbent on us. We have, literally, on some of these issues, not much time to act. And I think the four-year budget and strat planning going forward will be the litmus test if we have the courage to see them through. Funding will always be an issue. Money will always be an issue. But first, we must have the vision. And I have always believed if we have the vision and the courage to follow-through on the vision, the funding will come. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Wyatt. Mr. Poitras, is there anybody else?

Clerk: There are. We have Councillor Chambers, followed by Councillor Schreyer.

Deputy Speaker: Okay. By all means, Councillor Chambers. I'm going to…I have to exit, so Acting Deputy Speaker Wyatt will be in place. The dean of Council number one.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And to you, Mr. Acting Deputy Speaker, I rise in support of the operating and capital budgets that are being proposed here for 2023. I recognize there are huge challenges coming out of the…this pandemic that has impacted our economies and the well-being of our communities. I also see this as an opportunity for

us to move forward as a Council and as a city as we make these deliberations that will impact all of the citizens of Winnipeg. You know, with 1997 flood of the century, and I bring that up to recognize the fact that Winnipeggers rallied together. We made certain that we were able to meet the needs of those that were directly impacted and were able to rebuild back better our city as we moved away from that…that significant event. You know, the floodway around the city was dug deeper and wider to prevent against future occurrences of flooding here in our city. So, again, Winnipeggers rallied together, we made sure that we were all, you know, pitching in and making sure that those that were significantly impacted were not left without. And I think that's where we are at right now in terms of coming out of this pandemic, that we all need to rally together and ensure that those that are most vulnerable among us, that their needs are being met and that we can help one another and move our city forward. This is a seminal moment in our city's history and in our future. It depends on how we are able to prioritize the needs financially and ensure we are positioning our self for growth and prosperity for all Winnipeggers. We must position ourselves to attract business and investment to increase our culture and the heritage of our city while removing the stigma of crime and the ravages of poverty. You know, it was said during the Mayor's state of the city address a couple weeks back, the term 'relentless hope'. It applies here and now, as well, into the future as far as our climate action goals are concerned. We have to have that relentless hope. I believe it's something, you know, for myself, that gives me that drive and determination to keep going. We see the potential of our city. And the potential of our city, of course, is its citizens. The greatest asset that the city has are the people, the diverse multi-cultural society that we live in. And learning from their lived experience, the talents that they bring to our city, that their…their contributions that they are making our city, we should all have relentless hope that we can do better and will do better. But we need to roll up our sleeves and get at it. And I think, you know, in terms of the work that we have done in the strategic planning session that we had and just how that rolled out in terms of all of us coming together, looking at the priority for the city and agreeing that these are the priorities of the city, independently and then working in collaboration. I think that speaks volumes because of the fact that we recognize what our city needs to move forward. We are all elected. And through Mayor Gillingham's vision in terms of having all of us have a voice at the table, I think it's making our Council stronger to move these issues forward. So, again, I support this budget, recognizing the challenges that we've emerged from and the challenges that still exist, but can also present themselves as opportunities to make our city stronger and be that beacon for all of the other cities across Canada. Thank you very much.

Acting Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Thank you, Councillor Chambers. The next speaker I have is Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Acting Deputy Speaker. Congratulations on your new role on one of your myriad over…I can say the decades now. Of course, I am inspired, again. I learned from my fellow councillors and I've got a few things to say. This is my ninth budget. I don't regret anything I have ever said at budget time. I look back, no one has corrected me yet about what I've said. However, I did have a discrepancy here today with Chris…former councillor Chris Lorenz. I have said, in a vague estimate, which we do use here when it comes to construction estimates. We deal with estimates all the time. I did say, in 30-years, we had construction increases of 20…20 times. Now, I have put in reports written down in pamphlets or even when I have put in a report in the Winnipeg Free Press, I have said something like 17.5 or 18...sorry, 17.5 times or 18 and a half times. So, when I say 20 times, I mean 17.5 times, 18.5 times. I was told, absolutely, totally inaccurate. Okay, look, I've said before and I'll say again, whenever anyone can correct me on something in which I am essentially wrong, I will thank them publicly. But I'm explaining where I'm from with this, because without specific accountability on these things, in which there's disagreement publicly on this in terms of a statistic, we need to hash it out. I am grateful, actually, for Chris Lorenz to challenge me on this because we need to know. Literally, the people in this room have to know. Because if we don't know, how are we going to solve our problems? We're talking about construction inflation problems, we're talking about the major reason why we increase our taxes over the decades. And so, if we can't answer the question, if we can't be on…all on the same page when it comes to the actual facts, how are we going to solve the problems? And why are we here today? It's a budget. Well, we're here to pass a budget. The budget increases every single year. Our taxes are increased, essentially, every single year. There was a phase where the net tax increase of the city, there was no tax increase for a few years, net. But in the areas that some of us represent, such as Councillor Santos or myself, numerous…numerous…numerous wards, numerous neighbourhoods in the city, there still was a tax increase. So, once again, I want to thank the taxpayers of Winnipeg. They are overlooked on a day like today. For all the thanks we give, we often forget to thank the taxpayers. And what do I mean? I mean all of the business owners. I mean all the workers. I mean the investors. I mean families, those that take care of each other, those that allow us what it takes to get into the workforce, to be part of our economy. And I thank every one of you, otherwise we wouldn't be here. Because let's face it, what we do do is increase taxes, spend the money and then somehow or another, we take credit for it. We also take the hit for it. I'm not denying that, but it's our job to account for why we are increasing taxes and where we are spending it. I was told today that I've made a comment…I've been making this comment for years, today I'm told what I was said was absolutely inaccurate. And that was that in a 30-year period, we had 20 times…or I've put it publicly on paper, 17.5 times increase in the construction budget and the cost of construction. So, I owe it to the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association, to every taxpayer and to this council where we stand on that statistic. Because if the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association and I cannot agree, well, where are we at? We need to know. Because once again, if we can't say what the problem is, how are we going to solve it? If we can't agree on what the facts are, how are we going to solve it? So, I believe we can go there. Now, I'll say…I will say this right now, if you take labour costs out of the…out of

the equation, in terms of the cost of construction or the construction increases over the…over a 30-year period, it's gone up more than 20 times if you take out the cost of labour, because that hasn't gone up 20 times. The cost of construction workers has gone about the same rate as most other industrial workers. About the same. Now, I need to tell you something, I come from a construction background. My family comes from a construction background partially. Farming, too. And I come personally from the construction industry as well. It's meant a lot to me. It's been an honour and a privilege in a way to work and to be employed in the construction industry. But I pulled my weight. So, in the same way that I say it's been an honour and privilege for me to work in the construction industry, I'd have to say, because I was paid fairly, I did my work, that I made my contribution to the construction industry. But what's really sad even today, people really believe that the main reason why our taxes went up is because of the police budget. Now, you may have your values on what you think of the increases in the police budget, because it is a notable increase compared to the increase of income by majority of taxpayers. It is larger than that. But it does not compare to the cost of construction. So, it is sad when people that want an investment in social services that tries to heal and limit the tear of our social fabric because of poverty and addiction, homelessness, what have you, those that understand, we need to make that investment. And when they believe that the majority of our tax increases went to the police budget, that's really sad, because it's not true. Why would we want to give them that impression? It's just not statistically accurate. Why would we do that to them? And to hard-working taxpayers who may have a more conservative values in terms of all their hard work and their taxes and they're not getting out what they used to for it. And they think that their tax increases went to social programs. They really believe that, and it's not true. Well, why would we want to leave them with that impression? Because you know what, we're…this is the first six months of new administration, technically, the most experienced new administration in the…since, well, maybe ever, technically. But it is the last budget of a four-year budget cycle. But I will tell you something, leaving people with the wrong impression in terms of where our tax increases are going is not going to help us set a proper budget and set a better budget. So, we better know and we better be able to explain why our taxes went up. Why we're decreasing certain services. But we still sell debentures, we still go further into debt. And we have never been at this point in my lifetime. It's never been this bad. COVID and the war in Ukraine notwithstanding, I am talking about the years before that. It's still the case. We are not in a progressive era. We're certainly not in a progressive era in terms of accountability to the budget. The fact that we have here, all our delegations. Well, we are in disagreement. I'm in disagreement with. We need to…

Acting Deputy Speaker: Your ten minutes, Councillor Schreyer. Is there an extension for two-minutes? So moved by Mayor Gillingham. All in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Councillor Schreyer: Well, just for that, I'm going to tell you something. First of all…first of all, I did say it's the first six months of a new administration, the last budget of a four budget cycle. And…but I do want to say something about Councillor Allard and Councillor Santos' additions, which includes Food Council in addition for $200,000 to increase community gardens. We're talking in terms of Street Links. $200,000, an important investment. That comes to about 1 10,000th of the budget. In this case, for…when it comes to the $240,000 for community garden, for food security, when we just admitted that the cost of food is going up. That is not much more than 1/10,000 of the budget. We have increased the budget a heck of a lot more than by 1/10,000 in this…in this…in this…in this budget. In fact, we have increased it, our taxes, by 3.5%. That's a lot bigger than 1/10,000 or 2/10,000 or 3/10,000, okay? I've got a bit of a lisp, by the way, so that was hard for me. So…but I do want to say something. I think we are learning something. And on that basis, for the first time, I will vote for the operational budget, but I cannot for the capital budget. Well, just as we had the indications by both groups of delegations this morning in which I literally…I literally…we literally had a discrepancy on the facts in terms of where our budgets are going. I had…I had a discrepancy with both groups. And if that can't sustain itself for the next budget, I'm letting you know. So, this time, given it is the last budget of a four-year cycle and a new administration, the first six months, I know we are trying and I know we're learning. It hasn't really applied itself to understanding of our capital budget and that can…you know want to do something about the environment? It's the cost. You want to do something about sustain…social…social programs? It's the cost. You want to do something about a sustainable economy and construction? It's the cost. Thank you. Merci. Megwich.

Acting Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. I turn the Chair back to you, Councillor Eadie, Chairperson Eadie. There…I have not seen any other speakers at this time, Councillor Eadie. Unless…oh, I see now Councillor Orlikow, Councillor Mayes. I'll turn it back to you, Councillor Eadie.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Had enough. Thank you. All right, councillor…did I just hear Orlikow?

Clerk: Yes.

Deputy Speaker: Please do, sir.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you very much. I wasn't going to speak, but of course, you all wanted to hear me. So, I'm going to get up and do my…hopefully not too long. Four more years. But I have been around for a while at Council, as some of you noted many times. Yeah, it's been a bit. And I've been proud to serve Winnipeggers. It's always been a…grew

up in a family where it was, if you have an opportunity to serve people, you serve. That's…and this is how I serve. You know, I'm on a few boards as well, but this is how I serve. And what I have seen through the days of Mayor Sam Katz who had his style, Mayor Bowman who had his style and then we have now, Mayor Gillingham who has his style. We have been moving Winnipeg forward. When we first came in, we had many opportunities, many new plans came in and some of them were a little bit more heavy based on the roads. Sometimes it moved around a bit to recreational programming. Sometimes we had…into the Winnipeg Police Service. So, every budget has its own thing. This one had a lot. This budget here had a lot. So, for Councillor Browaty who had to shepherd this through, I am pretty impressed to say the least. Because I can tell you, I was upset. Numerous times in these budget debates I was quite upset. I think people who were in the room with me and saw me leave and my face turned red. But you know what that is? That's called compromise. That's called…you know, it's not my way or the highway. It's not what, you know, one person told me I must do. It's how do I work with the majority of Council to get a budget through? And that is why I got up today to speak. We are going and Councillor Wyatt put it very eloquently, a not exhaustive list of the pressures that we're going to face going forward. And to Catherine who is the CFO, who is doing an amazing job, I'm just going to say the word that we all want to not say, the zipper. The zipper…not zipper merge, Councillor Allard, but the zipper of where budget right now versus the revenues that we have, we've spent a lot of years trying to close the zipper so they are kind of aligned up and that's really a great thing about the four-year. But that zipper is opening up again, and it's opening up in some areas very hard. So, the reason I mention that, is I hear a lot today about we need to go there, we need to do this and we need to do that. And I don't disagree with anybody. Where I get a little upset at is where I am…maybe some people call me fiscal conservative. I like to know how we're going to pay for it. That is really where I come from. Not that I tell you that your ideas are wrong, and sometimes I may look like that when I roll my eyes, which is unfortunate for me. I just have these facial control problems sometimes. But again, it's not that I think your ideas are wrong, everybody, it's just I don't know how we're going to afford it. And so, it's more of my internalization of, oh my god, these are such great ideas, we have so much opportunity, but I do not know how we're going to pay for it. I don't know if we're going to go into debt. Yeah, we could slash the police budget to zero, but that's not going to work. We could reduce our road budget to zero, that's not going to work. We can put all our money into social housing and into health care and social services, that's not going to work. So, this idea of coming together. I will be frank, I don't think this year's budget process was that great. It was a (inaudible) change, but again, it's kind of like COVID for me. We have to try to do things differently. And they're not always going to be perfect, but we have to be able to work together, try new ideas, and not cream each other every time it goes off rails a bit. Because we're going to go into this next year. We're all into strategic planning. You know, I kept giving my threes, because again, I didn't know how we're going to afford any of this stuff that we are talking about at the meeting. That's going to be coming forward in the later…in the later moments. I still don't know how we're going to do that. But again, I am willing to participate in that process, not specifically because I think there's going to be some kind of a magic that's going to happen out of this, but I think the magic that will happen about this and which I do see Council doing, and I do expect the fact that it's a lot to do with Mayor Gillingham's temperament, is trying to find a way that we can hear all voices. Even…even the, I call them the wild Wyatt plans. Great ideas. Great ideas. I just don't know how it's ever going to be…actually be operationalized, but they're really wonderful ideas. And so, we have to be…oh, you know I will. But again, that we have to create that room so we do have that opportunity. I was very disappointed the last Council round where we really had a divided Council. It was unfortunate. I understand why, but it really inhibits us from being able to go forward. So, we know we have massive challenge financially, socially, assets wise, we are…asset…our deficit's going up. I am not going through the whole list of things. But that said, in this budget, there are some pretty amazing things. And of course, I'm going to start off with the trees. Thank you so much for finally getting there. But I am also going to be a little bit of a yin and yang-er on that because we're not done. The trees aren't done. This is only one part of it. We still have to get the replanting money in more and we still have to do much more pruning and we still have a lot more to do with the trees. So, I will keep on that. I may win, I may lose, collectively, but we will all win with trees, just FYI. But there's also a lot of other things. We have, you know, the library system. We heard that today quite a bit. You know, I agree, the library system needs to be reviewed and figured out how we can improve our library system. That is my position. I thank you all for supporting that idea of at least we're going to look at it again. We have security at the Millennium Library. How are we going to go forward with that? That's coming up. We're going to have that debate together and we're going to decide how we can go through and fund it properly. That's going to be very important. So, there's many ideas. We all have our own. Again, what I always want to stress is that I will do my best to stay calm and listen to everybody. And I know that together we will make Winnipeg keep going forward because the challenges are astronomical. And not just for Winnipeg. Winnipeg is not the richest city in Canada, but it's…again, it's all throughout Canada and North America. Municipalities are having a huge problem. So, again, I will be supporting both of these budgets, I won't be supporting the amendment, mostly because I just saw it this morning. So, again, fiscally, I have to know where that money is coming from. I don't see it. You know, so that…I won't be able to support that, but those ideas are wonderful. So, let's bring those forward and we'll carry on with that conversation. So, again, I just want to thank you all for serving the Winnipeggers. It is not an easy job. I can tell you, Councillor Rollins, I don't know how she is still standing after being the Community Services Chair. That one is the soul of Winnipeg and you feel that pain coming from people because you are the backstop of the soul of Winnipeg. And it hurt. It was a brutal budget for me, because it hurt hearing what I had to hear. And again, it's true, though. It's true. So, how do…again, so I take it in that information and we have steps to go forward. It may not make anybody happy today because it's not done today, but we're going to do it in a reasonable way, collectively, so we can keep Winnipeg moving forward and work for the most

vulnerable people and also work towards making our economy grow. We have so many areas, but it's all they say, let's continue to this effort working together. Let's continue to try to make Winnipeggers proud of us, as we…I think they are. We see all that at last election, not many of us got booted out. Again, I think Winnipeggers appreciate what we are doing. That's what I believe. So, thank you all for what you're doing. Those who are not going to support the budget today, that's fine. That is your opportunity…that is your choice. I'm not going to hold anything against that. Does not have to be the old days of, well, you didn't vote for that budget, so I'm going to pull out that spray pad from you. That's not even in the realm of possibility, never discussed. So, again, vote how you must, but again, let's get ready for the next round which will be a very, very difficult year coming up for all of us. So, thanks.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Orlikow. And I am glad you like a little ribbing as you speak. I missed, Mr. Poitras, who do we have next?

Clerk: Councillor Mayes.

Deputy Speaker: Councillor Mayes. I'll call Councillor Mayes, please.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A different budget in that…I will be supporting the budget, I will not be supporting the amendment. I want to speak a bit to the amendment. But first, for me, a different process; first time in 10 years I've not been on the Budget Working Group. I feel I should apologize to Howard Falk whose job it was to always keep me calm. And then, so when I wasn't in, he wasn't in the Budget Working Group this year for the staff. So, hopefully a bigger Budget Working Group next year. I think that would be appropriate. But this year, a little different because this is the last year of the…of the multi-year budget. But next year will be the real…or this coming year will be the real challenge, the four-year budget to come. A number of good points have already been made. Councillor Browaty talked about the Archives and that…that…we should emphasize that. That is a problem we've had for years. We are addressing it. It is number 11 on our list of capital projects that we looked at back in December of 2019. So, very proud to support that. A warning that number 8 on that list is compost, so that debate is coming. So, that's looming in front of us, but one of the many challenges Councillor Orlikow has talked about. As to the amendment, I am not support of the funding sources identified. Councillor Allard's worked pretty hard on Windsor Park items. And I grew up for the first eight years of my life in Windsor Park and I'm working on a project now not far from this Winakwa Community Centre over with Beliveau and Windsor Park Collegiate. I hope to announce that in the coming months. Hopefully we can see this Winakwa splash pad come together. If it's just a technical matter of getting a budget page together, then come back and let's talk some more about that. If not today, then I would like to see that. I think Windsor Park, some people still see it as new, it's…I know this, it's 63 years old. It has its challenges. But in recent years, we've had through Matt or Dan Vandal, the tennis courts have gone in, the library has been rebuilt, the pool is still open, the new firehall is going in. This is…Winakwa had some money, more is coming if Councillor Allard succeeds in that. I've got my thing going on at Beliveau and Windsor Park. So, I think…I think some investment is taking place in Windsor Park. So, I regret having to vote against a motion that contains that, but hopefully we can work out at least that technical issue that Councillor Allard has. Now, there was some mention about climate change. I think, to be fair, at least arguably, this is our most progressive budget on climate change since I got here. As Councillor Gilroy's pointed out, to her credit, she certainly went to bat on those community energy incentive…or energy…the CEIR report, adding staff in to address that. We have done a lot on electric buses in recent years. We are continuing our commitment to Transit. Hopefully, next year we can make a bigger commitment to the Food Council. And again, the other big source, building heating. We have been…the CEIR staff will be addressing that and the issue of compost will be before us, certainly in time for the multi-year budget. So, that…that I do think we have…we are taking some steps forward on climate change. Last…last few things. As Chair of Water and Waste, I think it's incumbent on me to say a few things about that budget. We are continuing our commitment…we're going forward on North End on the biosolids, we're going forward, tentatively, in North End, the billion-dollar commitment for the third phase that will need help from other levels of government. We are continuing our commitment on…there's always been the traditional big three: water mains, sewer mains, CSO. Well, the third of those, CSO, next year we're going up 50% and we're going to be holding that for four-years. And hopefully, holding that off into the future with some help from provincial governments. So, to councillor…then Councillor Gillingham's credit, in last year's budget, we went from 30 to 45 in each of four years of the multi-year budget, 50% increase. So, we are…we are delivering on the CSO budget. Hopefully we can deliver more. And instead of the big three in the budget every year, now we will have a big four: the water meter reserve has been set up and the water meter, 10s of millions of dollars are going into a new water meter program. So, not terribly exciting, unless perhaps you're CJOB who seemed excited when they called me and wanted to interview me. So, I was happy to talk about water meters. But it's one of those small things you do here and it's going to be $150 million program over the life of this council and in to the next council. Also, we are setting up the climate change reserve. Something Councillor Allard had suggested a few years ago. So, that's also in this budget under the Water and Waste part. So, couple more things I wanted to mention; it does matter, the public input. You see it in the CEIR report, you see it, certainly, in the social procurement positions that have been added in. In my own ward, there's a guy named Ray Giguere who I've known for decades, who was in high school with me. We didn't run in the same circles because he was the rock and roll critic for the newspaper and I was the reach for the top guy. But you know, we're friends now. We got along since I came back, I got elected, he

has been after me for years to do something about Riel Park where there's softball. So, I'm very pleased there's a commitment to that. So, it sometimes takes us many years to get to these things, but in salute to Ray, you know, these things do come around. It sometimes can take a decade, but we are making commitments I think throughout the city to recreation. Two final things: I did want to…I hate to come down from the intellectual high point of Councillor Allard talking about 'Le Petit Prince'. My late father, a French professor, would have loved that. But you know, I heard an Eric Church quote on the radio this morning. And Councillor Klein loved this line. I used to try to…and the image is…the line is, "Everyone…everybody's got their arms around everybody else's shoulders." And it's a wonderful image. We are not quite there yet. Councillor…Councillor Orlikow's right in saying, we had a very divided Council last time. If there's one thing I know about Mayor Gillingham, he is trying. He is trying to bring more people in. We aren't, everybody's got their arms around everybody else's shoulders just yet. Maybe we can get there through the strategic planning, but I think at least the good faith effort is there and you see it reflected in the budget. But the final thing I want to talk about, I think the final thing, is the transit security. It's not police. People are using police deliberately and I'm going to deliberately correct them because that…I've seen Mr. Kelcey, other members of the Mayor's staff have written on this issue, the word 'police' is very deliberately not used. It is talking about a security presence. It's talking about doing something about security on our transit system. I stood right there and I wasn't on EPC in January of 2013, and I asked EPC members to put in provisions about transit security and they did not. And the next year I was on EPC and we did put in six new positions, six inspectors. Councillor Wyatt backed that. Councillor Swandel, actually, backed that. So, we took a step forward. It hasn't solved everything. Here we are, it's a decade later. I talked about this at EPC, I did a motion with then Councillor Vandal mid-2013. I'm not voting against that after 10 years. I'm voting for this budget. I…maybe the nuance isn't exactly what some people want, but we're making commitment to transit safety. We have talked to ATU for years about this. We had the Labour Council in here over a decade ago. It's taken this long. I want to give credit to councillor…sorry, Mayor Gillingham for taking a step forward here. It's a major funding commitment. Yes, there may be grievances from various different bargaining agents. And hopefully we will sort that out, we'll get the money out the door, we'll get the people on the bus and we'll do something, after a decade, meaningful about transit security. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. Who would like to go next? Councillor Browaty, Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Schreyer: The vote into separate votes for capital and operational?

Deputy Speaker: We're not moving to that point yet. There's others to speak yet, I think. I'm sorry, Mr. Poitras, is somebody…

Clerk: I'm not…not seeing any other speakers.

Deputy Speaker: Then I would like the Acting Deputy Speaker to take the Chair, please.

Acting Deputy Speaker: I'll take the Chair.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you very much.

Acting Deputy Speaker: Are there any other speakers before I…oh, Councillor Eadie. Thank you very much.

Councillor Eadie: You didn't think I wasn't going to speak to it?

Acting Deputy Speaker: I thought you were being generous with the Chair.

Councillor Eadie: I guess I'll begin my speech, starting off with the last speaker. I did put my arm around the Mayor's shoulder when he was elected. And he is a sincere man who is trying his best. And I brought you all some cookies to let you know that it's…I am not mad at any of you. But my speech will be somewhat different. Oh, I will just tell you right off the hop, I will stand by my principles. I'm a principle person when I vote. I know there is a lot of negotiation, compromise, working back and forth. And that's always been difficult for me since I was elected in 2010. Because I got elected, I had certain principles that I formed as a young person growing up the North End and in Winnipeg overall. And I have been watching city hall now for, well, my first speech in this chamber was in 1991 just before Council was shrunk. I was here to speak to a difficult issue, which our previous speaker has worked very hard at, which is, at the time, it was called Handi-Transit. I made a presentation. But anyway, I digress. I will be voting for the capital budget. Although, there's one item in there I am quite upset about. But I will be voting for that. But on principle, I cannot vote for the operating budget. And let me begin by saying where I think the most difficult thing to do, and every mayor has a certain style, but I will say, that the finance side, the treasury side, it hasn't changed at all. A mayor comes in, you know, and we heard a former mayor in the last campaign thinking, you know, the City is still cash rich somehow. I don't think so. And it's going to…and it's because of what I am about to speak about now. The previous mayor, actually, you know, in various questioning of people who presented, liked to indicate that we didn't raise any property taxes for 14 years. Although, Mayor Katz did raise property

taxes at one point to add some officers to deal with gangs and to put more cars on the road because the city has been growing for quite some time. And anyway, so…but that mayor never did anything either. They made a promise about how much they were going to raise taxes. They didn't look at the reality once they got inside. They commit to it, and the only thing that happened in the last four-years, I would note, is that we raised 2.33 every year, but it was all for capital. And we just let the operating sink and sink and sink. And then, that former mayor who used to know there was a lot of cash around, well, we used up all that cash for cash to capital, pay-as-you-go. We used that all up because, what we didn't do, is we weren't covering off on the property tax our internal inflation, that's a grow item…inflation is a growing price situation, a cost. And everything costs more. And so, that inflation, it was dealt with…much of it was dealt with by, we have these excellent new property taxes everybody talks about. So, we have these property taxes. This year I think the estimate...I didn't…it wasn't noted in the appendix one, but you know, property taxes are going up, what, 31 point something million dollars. Of that, about 20 whatever million is related to 3.5% of which 1.17% is for operating. And…but I estimate it's $8 million. The problem with the City over the years, is that that money, that new $8 million I think it might be, it might only be $6 million. I don't know the exact number. But every year, property taxes go up because we add new property. Now, what should have been happening was, Calgary, Edmonton, other cities, they deal with internal inflation for operating by raising their property taxes. Yes, we can pretend to be…well, some people are proud that somehow, we have the lowest property taxes. But what happens in cities that are growing, and they are growing, is they have to deal with internal inflation to provide the quality services that a city should provide, which includes what some people call soft, I don't call it soft, hard operating dollars, hard costs are…because it's hard. How are you going to solve the issues that Mr. Beardy perfectly described to you today? Perfectly described to you today. Perfectly described to you today. I…when I heard that man speak, I thought, well…and there is somebody who grew up in the North End too, and understands the situation out there on the street. He understands that if you don't turn the faucet off, you are going to be dealing with garbage all of the time. And since the 1990s, when I first got started, alls I do is, the so-called soft stuff gets cut; community services, recreation, leisure, all of this stuff continuing in this program. So, if you look at it, what should have happened is, we should have dealt with the inflation to keep the existing services instead of reducing service as we did. And then, the new money coming in, yeah, we used that, but a lot of it was to offset inflation on other stuff, when what we should do is, and this is what I am hoping because part of the (inaudible), alls we did was talk about the expense side. I don't want to live with a promise of X percentage increase in property taxes for operating. 1.17 is a good start and I appreciate that that promise got applied to the last year of this four-year budget. And I applaud Mayor Gillingham, he is working towards this. But ultimately, that new money should be used. So, $8 million this year. We hear about problems about the cutting cycle. We have Sage Creek, we have Waverly West, we have…Transcona has boomed over the last whatever. Lots of growth, which is really cool. That is good. Same with Old Kildonan, lots of growth. All that new money, what should be happening with that money, gets divided up so that you can add in enough staff and enough equipment to do the properly…proper grass cutting, proper pruning of forestry, proper this, proper that. And in all of our budget presentations, our Public Service who did an excellent job through this four-year budget, some new people, things are going good, but the ultimate issue is, is that there is not enough money in operating to deal with the services that people expect and want. I am not going to go into all of them, but they presented to us what percentage of their operating budget it was of the total budget. So, we have issues with libraries. What we should do is…

Acting Deputy Speaker: Moved by Councillor Schreyer, a two-minute extension for Councillor Eadie. All in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Deputy Speaker: What we should do is, take that $8 million and say, right now, we are hearing about libraries, recreation, community centres can't deliver what they need to. They need more money. What we should be doing is, what's the priority of splitting up…that's new money. Don't fold it into the mill rate to reduce it. Raise what inflationary costs that you need for the inflation this year in 2023. Use part of the $8 million to increase grass cutting services, to increase library services. You know, and then you can use some of that money to build the new libraries that we need. And I have to tell you, I've been quite depressed, quite sad. We have grown a lot in Old Kildonan. What do we say? We just ignore us. And then, Councillor Gilroy expressed everything I needed to express in regards to the Arlington Bridge. But again, I am going to vote for it because you're going to spend $850,000 to find out it's going to be over $1 million or more to keep that thing going for 25 years when what we should be simply doing is updating the Class 3 estimate to current prices, let the councillors who know that we need the Arlington Bridge, lobby the other levels, they'll find a program, we'll cause the thing. The City needs to ensure that they have the money. Let's replace that bridge for 100 years. I don't care what the Heavy Construction Industry says.

Acting Deputy Speaker: 30 seconds.
Councillor Eadie: Industry. I will conclude and just simply say, that that bridge is…residents of Winnipeg, for over 100 years, have been using that bridge and we continue to need that bridge. Thank you very much.

Acting Deputy Speaker: Thank you for the speech, Councillor Eadie. Thank you. We have Councillor Sharma joining us remotely, I have been informed. And I require a motion to allow her to join us remotely.

Moved by His Worship Mayor Gillingham,

That in accordance with Rule 9.1(9) of the Procedure By-Law No. 50/2007, Councillor Sharma be authorized to participate remotely

Acting Deputy Speaker: So moved by Mayor Gillingham. All in favour? Opposed? Carried. I shall pass the Chair now back to Speaker Eadie. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Wyatt.

Clerk: There's no further speakers.

Deputy Speaker: Councillor Sharma's just joining the meeting for…to hear? Okay. All right, so we have no more speakers. So, I am going to entertain the closing by Councillor Allard on his amending motion.

Councillor Allard: Eight minutes, right? I'm just going to speak a little bit of French.

Translation of French Spoken:

Councillor Allard: So, thank you to my colleagues for your attention.

Deputy Speaker: It's going through the wrong channel there.

Councillor Allard: Is that how it's going? Can I get my time back, though? Can I get my time back?

Deputy Speaker: Yeah, you can get your time back.

Councillor Allard: Should I keep going? Is that how we're doing interpretation?

Deputy Speaker: Here, let's let her try…

Councillor Allard: May I start over? Yeah, okay.

Translation of French Spoken:

Councillor Allard: So, I would ask, please…I would please ask to support my motion that amends the budget. There are many reasons why I believe this budget it problematic. We spoke a lot about collaboration. For me, the thing that breaks my back in this budget is that I campaigned on security. I campaigned to support, in particular, St. Boniface Street Links. They have asked us for money. I proposed an amendment. I believe Councillor Schreyer said how small it was compared to the total budget. It's really a small percentage of the total budget. Councillor Mayes says it all the time, there are things that we like and there are things we don't like.

Councillor Allard: Well, the reason why I find it very problematic to vote for this budget is that I had a clear mandate. I had…I was elected with over 10,000 votes. I had five priorities: sustainability, raise the value of our lands, be environmentally sustainable, transportation options for Winnipeggers, safety; that's on road safety and it's about safety adjusting the causes of crime. And Street Links and Marion Willis embody that, I think. And Marion said she needs $220,000 to keep her operation going. So, I didn't finish on Vaclav's (inaudible) and Bill Gates, I wanted to finish because I realize I didn't make the link. So, why does Bill Gates like Vaclav's bill? Why is it…why is a professor at University of Manitoba Bill Gates' favourite author? He called this…he called his work humbling. I think he called his work humbling because he realized that much of his time had been spent on things that were not existential to the human race. As you know, Bill Gates has a foundation now and he does much charity work. And his latest interest is in energy and how we don't have enough of it. And so, I sent around a pie chart of the climate action emissions, OurWinnipeg Climate Action Plan. You can clearly see that 50% of our emissions come from motor vehicles. And so, when I say a billion dollars on a road mega project is the opposite of climate action, it's the opposite of addressing our climate crisis. It's stoking the flames of our climate crisis. And so, I don't…I really don't like that part. And we are opening the door with, I think it's $2.8 million investment for functional design, which may open the floodgates of a billion dollars of concrete that has an opportunity cost. It could be…it could be…it could be recycling, it could be more transit, it could be our Transit Master Plan. The most formative event that I had, and many of you were here, was when I promoted the Marion and Archibald road widening and underpass project. That's where…that's when I was born as a city councillor. That is where I found my feet and found my philosophy, which is urbanism. I read a book called…it's called 'Triumph of the City'. And it really got me excited about being a city councillor. And you know, some people might think it's not the highest level of government, but if you read this

book, you might think, why would you want to be a member of any other level of government? So, it's called 'Triumph of the City: How our Greatest Invention Makes us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier and Happier'. So, that's 'Triumph of the City'. It's…it talks about how if we build dense, big cities like New York, and we are not New York, we are Winnipeg, so the concept being, the more we are like a city, the more urban we become, the more wealthy we become, the more we act on climate. And I hear many words about climate action. I focus on, as a city councillor, actions that are going to reduce our climate emissions. The policies are, we know them: they're transit, they're organic waste recycling, they're insulating our buildings. That is pretty much it. And when we expand the word road network, we are…we are heading in the right…we're heading in the wrong direction because it's going to mean more emissions. So, in terms of the motion, the splash pad zoning money, there's a deadline problem. It's all ward funds. It's all allocated. The intake date is April 24th for the provincial funding program. And so, that is why I put that in the…in the Council motion. We…most of us voted for 50% mode shift. Spending billion…spending a billion dollars on a road expansion project is not going to help us move in that direction. And I don't think the Transit Master Plan is going to save us, not if we're…not if we keep going down this road, pun not intended. And so, just go back to the UN report which was, I think, really…well, I don't know, I think it affected a lot of people. I think a lot of people are concerned. The…this is the CBC, once again, posted March 20th; these may be the UN climate panel's last words before we hit 1.5 Celsius limit. The International Panel on Climate Change says we'll likely exceed lower Paris target, but there's still hope if we do these things. Well, the things that are listed, and we are not doing them, and that's what's frustrating. I talk to people, almost everyone says they believes in climate change. Almost everyone says they believe in climate action. Not everyone. Not pointing anybody out. But we need to…we need to marry our actions with the policies that will combat climate change. And we know what they are; they're transit, insulating our buildings and organic recycling. And building roads is going in the wrong direction because it's going to make that 50% slice bigger. And so, that is why I really don't like that direction. And I campaigned on these themes. And I find that this budget, generally, is problematic for…for really, that reason is the billion dollars on roads. The reason I brought forward the amendment is that I was prepared to support this budget. I…it doesn't…I don't know that I'm going to have support for it, doesn't sound like a whole lot of people are supporting it. And like Mayor Bowman used to say, like, budgets are about putting water in our wine and coming to some kind of agreement together. And so, I really didn't feel that this year. I mean, I don't think these are big dollars that we are talking about. And I don't think that…that St. Boniface Ward…I've got 30 seconds. I'm just going to close on a personal note. Can I get a two-minute extension?

Deputy Speaker: All those in favour? Nobody is opposed?

Councillor Allard: I just want to end on a personal note.

Deputy Speaker: Conclude.

Councillor Allard: Am I good, do I have it? Okay, all right. So, I hear about climate change, but we don't act on it. And so, I'm going to close with my dad. I talked about my daughter and the conversation that I hope to have with her when I am 80 years old and she's her 50s. Well, my dad is living with cancer, he's 66. And like the Petit Prince who loved sunsets, the sun is setting on his life and he is looking at the end. He's worried about our future. He's reading about climate change, renewable energy. We're talking about solar power, wind power, renewable…renewable batteries. On climate change he says, our hearts and our minds need to meet, because on an intellectual level, we all understand we need to do something. But on a practical level, we do the very opposite much of the time. So, please support my motion. I campaigned on safety. I campaigned on safety which includes road safety. That is another point I don't like, there's over $6 million unfunded road safety warranted, but unfunded projects. I will recognize…like, the budget does address the part of that, $1.3 million. And that's another reason…that's another thing that I don't see addressed to my…well, to my satisfaction in this budget. So, anyhow, I put a motion on the table. Thanks to my colleagues who have put in their feedback on that, what they would like to see in the budget. And I would be prepared to vote for this budget, but I don't think it's particularly compatible with my campaign. And as such, if my motion fails, I will not be supporting it.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Allard. To close on the budget, it's Mayor Gillingham.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I speak on behalf of all of us, you have done a good job today. So, thank you very much. Appreciate that. I won't be supporting the amending motion that is before us. But I just want to close with a couple of comments and I won't take all of my eight minutes. First of all, I want to thank all my colleagues for their comments today and their contribution, again, to this process. I was moved that Councillor Schreyer indicated he will support at least part of the budget. I think during my time as the…as the Finance Chair, I think for six years I tried to convince my colleague from Elmwood-East Kildonan to vote for the budget. I don't think he did once, but today he is. Relentless hope. But in all seriousness, I want to close with this, I do want to point out just one thing that I know Councillor Browaty noted briefly, but it's something that occurred between us tabling the budget six weeks ago now, giving everybody more time to look at the budget. Between tabling the budget and yesterday, that's the increase in funding from the Province of Manitoba to the City of Winnipeg. What that's allowed us to do, and that is a new baseline, that $16.7 million increase, which becomes the new baseline kind of through future years has allowed us to make two primary allocations, which I

think are very, very important. They don't seem as exciting. They…it's not a splash pad, it's not, you know, an FTE, it's not in a certain department, but I think it's a responsible decision that we are making today. One is to put a little bit more of those funds into our Financial Stabilization Reserve, which worked the way it was supposed to work. It was a rainy day fund and it rained for three years and we drew down that reserve. This will help us by putting $4.6 million of that provincial money into our Financial Stabilization Reserve, will take us to a balance now, still well below our 6% target, but I think around $18 million going into the next year, somewhere in that neighbourhood; $17 million, just under $18 million. That is important for us. I think that's responsible. And the other primary allocation of that provincial funding is $11.4 million that will help towards the corporate efficiency target. And that will help up reduce the corporate efficiency target in the 2023 budget from $33.5 million to $22.1 million. And I know I have heard our Speaker today, Councillor Eadie, maybe not say it today, but in years past, he certainly has talked about the fact that what that corporate efficiency target can represent is vulnerabilities within departments that may lead to reduction of service or not an increase of services over the years, as they're trying to meet that target. And so, by taking $11.4 million of the provincial money and allocating it to reducing the corporate efficiency target, what we are collectively doing if we vote for this budget in that way, is we are…in a sense, we are protecting front line services because we are lifting some of the pressure off our departments. Now, Councillor Browaty when we were together the other day in a media scrum said it rightly, and I completely agree, we do expect our departments to operate efficiently…efficiently and carefully and prudently, but we also recognize that the target we had initially, the $33.5 million corporate efficiency target was a pretty significant target. This lifts a bit of the pressure off our departments and I think it gives them something that's a little more reasonable as a target to hit. So, I just wanted to point those two matters out. I want to acknowledge and thank the Provincial Government for lifting, finally, after years of a freeze, lifting that funding freeze. It's alleviated some of the pressure. There's still a lot of work for us to do as a Council. Certainly, through the next year as we head in to the 2024 budget. But we will begin those discussions in earnest as we complete the strategic plan in the coming weeks and months and then into the multi-year budget deliberations. But in this moment, I just want to acknowledge those two allocations of that provincial money, which do…I think are prudent decisions on our part through this budget. So, with that, Mr. Speaker, those are my comments. And I'm calling…hopefully, everyone will support this budget. I acknowledge those who've said they won't. But I do call upon you and ask you to call the question at this time.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much, Mayor. We're…the first vote is going to be on the amending motion from Monsieur Allard and Councillor Santos. I was going to ask, Mr. Clerk, I can't remember. Is it in order to separate each of the 'be it resolved' in this amending motion and vote on each? Or do we need to vote to suspend the rules?

City Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Procedure By-law does allow for any member to call for a separate vote on each resolve, but not on the sub-resolves. So, there are three resolves in the main motion in front of you; one on the operating budget, one on the capital budget and one on the proper officers clause.

Deputy Speaker: I am asking about the amending motion from Monsieur Allard and Councillor Santos.

City Clerk: You can certainly break that one up as well into any of the...

Deputy Speaker: Can you help me with the structure, Mr. Clerk? I need advice, is each on of the 'be it resolved' in there an individual standing one or is it…are they sub (inaudible)?

City Clerk: So, there are…

Deputy Speaker: So, there are…

Deputy Speaker: No, Councillor Allard was asking.

City Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are two resolves in the actual motion in front of you; one in regards to the operating budget, one in regards to the capital budget.

Deputy Speaker: All right, then…

Councillor Wyatt: So, even though there's two resolves, the second resolve is broken up where you have a subsection a, b, c, and d, could that not be considered two separate votes?
City Clerk: You would have to suspend rules in order to undertake that. The Procedure By-law does allow for a separation of votes at the request of any member, but only on the individual resolves. So, the resolves would be the two bullets; one add to the operating budget, one add to the capital budget.

Deputy Speaker: Right, thank you.

Councillor Wyatt: I would move suspension of the rules, Mr. Chairman, to allow us to vote on four separate items on this one motion being amended.

Deputy Speaker: On the Allard/Santos amending motion?

Councillor Wyatt: Correct.

Deputy Speaker: All right, I'm going to…just to help me out, because I can't see, I'm going to call all those in favour of the motion, could you please rise. I think Councillor Wyatt just moved to suspend the rules.

Councillor Wyatt: Items versus the two sub-items.

Councillor Schreyer: Point of order, is that the suspension of rules?

Councillor Wyatt: Correct.

Councillor Schreyer: All right.

Deputy Speaker: So, again, I'm going to need some assistance here. So, I'm going to ask all those in favour of Councillor Wyatt's motion, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Santos, Schreyer and Wyatt

Nays

His Worship Mayor Gillingham, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Dobson, Duncan, Eadie, Lukes, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins, Sharma and Gilroy

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 4, Nays 12.

Deputy Speaker: Okay, so it's clear now. We're going to…I'm going to…just hang on. No, I'm going to…okay. Do you have a point of order?

Councillor Mayes: Clarify…we had Motion 1 and Motion 2. I see no difference between the two except that they…

Deputy Speaker: We…they removed Motion 1, which has a spelling mistake. And we are voting on motion…we are voting on Motion 2. 1 was withdrawn at the beginning of the meeting. Okay, yeah, okay. Hey, hey. Okay, we don't…I just explained that to them. My word stands, right. I'm the Speaker. Right. I explained it to them. All right, so I am going to call the question then on the amending motion from Councillor Allard. Motion 2 from Councillors Allard and Santos. What? No, we…that was the motion we got from Councillor Wyatt. Please rise and speak…

Councillor Mayes: Point of…thank you.

Councillor Wyatt: Point of order, I moved to suspend the rules because the Procedure By-law does not allow us to break it down in subsections. However, I believe the Procedure By-law does allow us to have the two resolves automatically voted separately, without having…requiring a motion.

Deputy Speaker: That's correct. And that was on request of Councillor Allard, Monsieur Allard. So, I'm going to call the question then on the two…on each one separately. These are…this is on the amending motions, okay. So, yeah, first one's the operating recommendations in the amending motion. All those in favour? Any…who's opposed? Yeah, I need a…okay, I'm going to call recorded vote on everything here because I am having a hard time hearing everybody here. So, I'm going to…okay, all those in favour of the operating 'be it resolved' in the amending motion, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Eadie, Santos, Schreyer, and Wyatt

Nays

His Worship Mayor Gillingham, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Dobson, Duncan, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins, and Sharma

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 5, Nays 11.

Deputy Speaker: Yes, motion…resolved is lost. Now I'm going to ask you to…we are voting on the 'be it resolved' for the capital budget. All those in favour, please…yeah, yeah, no. All those in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Eadie, Santos, and Schreyer

Nays

His Worship Mayor Gillingham, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Dobson, Duncan, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins, Wyatt and Sharma

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 4, Nays 12.

Deputy Speaker: Okay, that…amending motion is defeated. We will now move on to the unamended…well, we'll move on to the main budget report. And I think I heard somebody call for a vote on…but somebody wanted a vote on the operating separately and the capital separate, right? Okay. All right, recorded vote, so all those in favour of the operating budget, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Gillingham, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Dobson, Duncan, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Schreyer, Wyatt and Sharma

Nays

Councillors Allard and Eadie

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 14, Nays 2.

Deputy Speaker: Okay. All those in favour…oh, sorry. So, motion is carried. Operating budget is passed. So, now I'm going to call the question on the capital budget. All those in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Gillingham, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Dobson, Duncan, Eadie, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Wyatt and Sharma

Nays

Councillors Allard and Schreyer

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 14, Nays 2.

Deputy Speaker: Okay, the capital budget is carried. Congratulations Mayor Bowman and…well, it was his last. But anyway, thank you, Mayor Gillingham, Councillor Browaty. All right, so I believe we are moving in to Report No. 2 which is related…well, I'll let you…

City Clerk: Prior…prior to that, Mr. Speaker, you should call the vote on the third resolve, which is simply the proper officers clause of Report 1.

Deputy Speaker: Oh, I'm sorry, pardon me. I will call the vote, all those in favour of Clause 3? Anybody opposed? That is carried. Thank you. Sorry about that, Mr. Clerk. I wasn't listening to Mr. Gameiro when he told me.

Item 2 – 2023 Mill Rates for the Education Support Levy and Special Levy

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. To introduce, Mayor Gillingham.

Mayor Gillingham: I think we'll just…I think it's pretty straightforward. I welcome…call the question, unless others want to speak to it.

Deputy Speaker: Does…there's a traditional, does Councillor Wyatt want to speak to it? No? Good. All right, there we go. Thank you. So, all those in favour? Those…you want a recorded vote? You can just say nay and be recorded as in…all right. All right, all those in favour, please rise. I didn't call the…I didn't call the question on the nays. I hadn't…I didn't call the question yet.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Gillingham, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Dobson, Duncan, Eadie, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Schreyer and Sharma

Nays

Councillors Allard and Wyatt

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 14, Nays 2.

Deputy Speaker: It's carried. Thank you very much. We're on to by-laws now, I believe. And Mayor Gillingham to introduce first reading on...

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Before we vote on the remaining…on the by-laws, I just want to advise Council that By-law 32/2023 is not being read today because recommendation 1 LL 3 of the budget we just approved refers to the by-law…refers the by-law to the 2024 to 2027 budget review process. And so, I would move that the following by-laws be read a first time: By-law 30/2023, 31/2023, 33/2023, 34/2023, 35/2023, 36/2023, 37/2023, 43/2023, 44/2023.

Deputy Speaker: Okay, I'm going to call the question. All those in favour? Is there anybody opposed? Okay, please have that recorded, Mr. Clerk.

Clerk: By-law No. 30/2023, By-law 31/2023, 33/2023, 34/2023, 35/2023, 36/2023, 37/2023, 43/2023, 44/2023.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Mayor Gillingham.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that By-laws No. 30/2023, 31/2023, 33/2023 to 37/2023, both inclusive, and By-law No. 43/2023 and 44/2023 be read a second time.

Deputy Speaker: All those in favour? Anybody opposed? Councillor Wyatt to be recorded. Thank you. That's carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 30/2023, 31/2023, 33/2023 to 37/2023, both inclusive, and By-law No. 43/2023 and 44/2023.

Deputy Speaker: Mayor Gillingham.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you. I move that the rule be suspended and By-laws No. 30/2023, 31/2023, 33/2023 to 37/2023, both inclusive, and By-law No. 43/2023 and 44/2023 be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Deputy Speaker: All those in favour? Those opposed? Councillor Wyatt record…okay, thank you. I just…

City Clerk: Prior to adjournment, Mr. Speaker, there was one by-law that was missed. It's only for first reading.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS - 1ST READING ONLY

Deputy Speaker: First reading the by-law, yes.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you very much, clerks for that. My apologies, colleagues. I move that By-law 46/2023 be read a first time.

Deputy Speaker: All those in favour? Is there anybody opposed? And that is carried. That was the boring by-law, which we will vote on again tomorrow, I believe.

Clerk: By-law No. 46/2023.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. That's it. And before adjournment, I just wanted to thank the Public Service, once again, for your great work. Lots goes into this whole budget thing. And we'll be back here tomorrow. So, Councillor Gilroy moves adjournment. All those in favour? Mr. Clerk, roll call.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Mr. Speaker Councillor Eadie, His Worship Mayor Gillingham, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Dobson, Duncan, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Schreyer, Wyatt and Councillor Sharma .

Council adjourned at 3:01 p.m.