COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Thursday, March 24, 2022

The Council met at 9:38 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 Chambers.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Councillors Schreyer, Santos, Lukes, Mr. Deputy Speaker Councillor Eadie, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Mayes, Nason, Orlikow and Rollins.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Councillor Lukes, you have a motion, please.

MOTIONS

Moved by Councillor Lukes,

That Councillor Nason be appointed Acting Deputy Speaker.

Councillor Lukes: Yes, I do, Councillor Eadie. As the Chair does not require a speaker…as the Chair does require a speaker and Deputy Speaker for every Council meeting, I'd like to move the following motion in the absence of the speaker, that the Council appoint Councillor Nason as Acting Deputy Speaker for today's March 24th, 2022 Council meeting.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Lukes. I'll call the question then. All those in favour? Is anybody opposed? That is carried. All right, we'll move on to announcements…or welcome of guests…welcome of guests, sorry.

Councillor Chambers: I do have a (inaudible), Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: We'll get to leaves of absence, I believe, after the announcements.

Councillor Chambers: Okay, thank you.

INTRODUCTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Deputy Speaker: If…if…okay. How I have the proceedings laid out before me. So, we have no guests, I believe, in the audience. So, we move to announcements, which brings up our Mayor Bowman to let us know how this month has been going for the city.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and welcome to the Chair. Living as we do in the province with the largest proportion of Ukrainian Canadian residents in our nation, cherishing the contributions of Ukrainian Canadians in every sphere of life, we feel the call to make a difference during this crisis. At this time, I'm asking each of us to pause for a moment of silence for those lives lost in Ukraine. And I'll have more to say after that, please.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mayor. And we will call for a moment of silence now. Okay.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you. Since our Council meeting in February, we have watched in shock and with grief at the injustices that have been inflicted upon the Ukrainian people. The brutal invasion of Ukraine has shaken us to the core. Generations of Ukrainian women and men have helped build our city and make it what it is today. Winnipeg is at the very heart of the Ukrainian movement. Winnipeg has countless ties of family and friendship with Ukraine, including our sister city, Lviv. I've communicated to the mayor of our sister city, Lviv, and have provided financial assistance to their city for resettlement efforts. I've corresponded with the Prime Minister, with Minister Melanie Joly, Premier Stefanson and Minister Eileen Clark to discuss our efforts as Winnipeggers, Manitobans and Canadians in helping refugees into Winnipeg. I've

had the opportunity to meet with many members from our…from the Ukrainian community, from Winnipeg schools to dance groups, to organizations, to people that have immigrated here. I've attended a church service and sent letters of support to Ukrainian churches throughout Winnipeg. I've heard the heartbreaking stories of families fighting for freedom. Sleeping in parking garages to avoid being bombed. Running from their homes with a small bag towards safety. Trying to connect with family, but not receiving an answer. Begging family members not to travel to Ukraine to look after an aging parent that cannot escape. They are brave, they are resilient, we stand with Ukraine, slava Ukraine. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mayor. That's…okay. Councillor Mayes, you have an announcement.

Councillor Mayes: Yes, somewhat difficult to follow that. And obviously, my thanks to the Mayor for making those comments. I think that's appropriate. What I want to talk about…well, one thing I think we're doing slightly better at here over the years is councillors are being advised of staff retirements. So, I wanted to take a moment; tomorrow marks the last day of work for one of our Parks staff who I've worked with over the past decade and as we all have, I think: Donna Beaton. So, I just wanted to note that and to thank Donna for her years of service to the City. In a difficult job dealing with developers, doing parks planning, I didn't always agree with Donna Beaton, not all councillors always did. I remember sitting in the bar with then Councillor Swandel after a meeting where he was…he was upset with some long forgotten point now, but I will say, Donna…I didn't always agree with Donna, but she always was prepared, she always looked out for the interests of the city, she was always, I found, professional with the councillors, had respect, it was a sense of working together. Can't say I always feel that with our Public Service, I wish I could, but I wanted to highlight that I thought, here was a staff person who was never flagging, who always put the time in, professional, well prepared, passionate and I thought really made an effort to have a good working relationship with the councillors. So, I want to wish Donna well in retirement and I think starting…I think tomorrow's her last day, so I do want to thank her and we continue to…continue to build the relationship with the Public Service. So, when I'm out there in some of the new areas: Sage Creek, Bonavista, Royalwood, I know Donna's had a hand in planning there, and I want to thank her for all the work she's done on behalf of the City. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. I'll go with…Councillor Gilroy has an announcement.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge International Women's Day, which took place on March 8th. A day in which women around the world are celebrated for their achievements, talents, skills and contributions to home and public life. And I'd also like to acknowledge my councillor colleagues; Councillor Rollins, Councillor Santos, Councillor Lukes and Councillor Sharma. In partnership with the Community Services and Indigenous Relations, the Winnipeg Safe Cities Initiative have an event that brought together women from the newcomer and Indigenous communities. And I want to thank Councillor Santos for her leadership and participation, which made the event such a success. We know that representation is conduit to equality. It is…it was my pleasure to join the Women at Work Committee for a discussion about what it means to be a woman in politics. Winnipeg Safe Cities continues to work with the Vehicle for Hire and Transit Advisory Committee to address women's safety on transit and in taxi cabs. In April, Winnipeg Safe Cities also…also will be meeting with representatives across City departments to discuss on how we can further collaborate to reduce and prevent sexual violence against women and girls in public spaces. This will be followed by embarking on a multi-year strategic plan that solidifies the City of Winnipeg's commitment to enhancing women's safety. The City of Winnipeg was an employer, partner offering a free webinar to all City employees to learn more about gender equity through the intersectional lens. I want to thank our CAO and team for finding this webinar and providing the opportunity for participation. Thank you very much.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gilroy. Councillor Gillingham, you have an announcement?

Councillor Gillingham: Yes, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I, too, want to just thank the Mayor for his comments about Ukraine. We all stand with Ukraine. I know there's so many in Winnipeg that are coordinating effort…relief efforts in some manner or another to support the people of Ukraine, including, I know Pastor Gerry Michalski and the congregation of Soul Sanctuary. My announcement today is that recently Team McDonald from the Deer Lodge Curling Club won the Manitoba Junior Provincial Championships. And today, they leave for the Canadian Championships in Stratford, Ontario. On March the 12th, the community had a send off for Team McDonald at the Deer Lodge Curling Club. And so, on behalf of all of Council, I want to wish Jordon McDonald, Reece Hamm, Elias Huminicki, Alexandre Fontaine and Jayden Rutter and coach Blaine Malo, all the best of luck at nationals in Stratford, Ontario.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. Councillor Rollins, you have an announcement today.

Councillor Rollins: I most certainly do. Mr. Speaker, between the 1950s and mid-1990s LGBTQ2S members of the Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP and the federal public service were systematically discriminated against, harassed and often fired as a matter of policy and sanctioned practice by the Government of Canada. The Purge Fund was legally required to use funds from LGBTQ2S purge settlement for specific reconciliation and memorialization projects, Mr.

Speaker. That included a national monument to be a visible landmark that acknowledges discrimination experienced by Canada's LGBTQ2S community. I stand before you today, Mr. Speaker, the very, very, very proud city councillor, something that we can all be proud of in the city of Winnipeg because Public City was announced today, just half an hour ago, as the winners of that national monument in…that will be a legacy in terms of this period, inspiring though, further action and advocacy, no doubt. The winning team, and I'm quite emotional today, Mr. Speaker, because, you know, many Winnipeggers were rooting for them to win this national monument that will stand in Ottawa. The winning team is, of course, lead by Public City, Liz Wreford, Peter Sampson, Taylor LaRocque, but also, artists Shawna Dempsey, Lorri Millan and Elder Albert McLeod, all enduring advocates…enduring advocates and traditional knowledge keepers in terms of Elder Albert McLeod. It is important to always remember where we've been, but with this monument and staged space, reflective garden and more, the nation will, hopefully, never repeat the history of the '50s and '90s where people were followed, interrogated, abused and traumatized by their own government and really have enumerable reconciliation and memorialization activities in that space. And I'm so proud of Winnipeg today, Mr. Speaker, and so proud of Team Wreford, Public City and all those that supported what will be the most beautiful national monument, no doubt, on Ottawa's grounds.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Rollins. That's exciting news. Councillor Santos, you have a motion.

MOTIONS

Moved by Councillor Santos,
Seconded by Councillor Eadie,

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

Councillor Santos: Yes, I'd like to move a leave of absence for the Speaker, Councillor Sharma, due to her absence for a personal family matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, thank you. That's a seconded motion. All those in favour? Is there anybody opposed? No? That is carried. Do we have a motion for Councillor Allard from the Riel Community Committee?

Moved by Councillor Chambers,
Seconded by Councillor Mayes,

THAT Councillor Allard be granted a leave of absence from today's meeting due to a personal family matter.

Councillor Chambers: That will come from me. Request a leave of absence for Councillor Allard…or sorry, request a leave of absence for Councillor Allard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Excellent. All those in favour? Are there any opposed? That is carried. Thank you.

MINUTES

Councillor Klein moves that the Minutes of the meeting held on February 24th, 2022, be taken as read and confirmed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Klein. All those in favour? Is there anybody opposed? That is carried. Thank you. Moving on to delegations. We have Mr. David Grant who is appearing before Council on the following: in support of Item 7, 9, 10 and 11 of the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 16th, 2022, regarding Winnipeg Police Service Funding Model, Return to work plan for the Winnipeg Public Service, 2022 Mill Rates for the Education Support Levy, Additional Riverbank Improvement on Lyndale Drive and Disaster Prevention…Disaster Prevention Climate Resilience Program. And in opposition to Item 5 and 15 of the report of the Executive Policy dated March 16th regarding Restrictions on Funding Announcements on the Election Year and School Division Litigation. Mr. Grant, are you…oh, sorry, one more here. Item 1 of the report of the Standing Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment dated March 2nd, 2022 regarding Landfill Gas Beneficial Use Business Case and Class 3 Estimate. Items 2, 5 and 6 of the report of the Standing Committee and Policy on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works dated March 8th, 2022, regarding Public Engagement on Transit Safety, Update to the Manual of Temporary Traffic Control on City Streets, Requiring the Installation of Low-Mounted Flashing Lights at Pedestrian Corridor Signals. And Mr. Grant, you have 10-minutes, I hope you can fit that all in.

DELEGATIONS

David Grant: Thank you very much. I want to thank…offer thanks to Your Worship, councillors, and you hard working staff, of course. On EPC No. 5, I'll go through these in the order in which they appear on your agenda. On EPC 5, Funding Announcements; I must applaud Council for taking new steps to enhance the integrity of our election process. I like the idea of a black out period between…before city elections. I recall that a similar period has been in place for years provincially. I believe that theirs has exemptions. For example, for multi-level announcements. I do not believe there should be exemptions like that, of course. I note that the Integrity Commissioner's idea of a black out period before elections is absolute and six-months long. I would suggest that you make the funding black out period match the integrity investigation black out period at six-months and not two-months. I believe that you should specify that there will be no loopholes. We hear this week that Quebec will give every voter $500, just in time to influence the provincial general election. This is a serious issue. On EPC No. 7, WPS Funding; I like the status quo, so the…and the bottom line of this process is a happy ending. On the other hand, WPS had two funding controversies before this PR process began. The process ignored both. Number one, how much funding should we devote to the Police Service? Number two, should these funds be from the City's coffers or from the profit generated by WPS operations? While the total cost of generating this report is not mentioned, it was money wasted. The public consultation, as it was called, fails to grapple with either matter. It is obvious that this report was intended as nothing more than a diversion or I've worked out that way. If asked, the public would have told Council to remove this conflict of interest from the shoulders of this very essential service. If I had asked for this consultation, I would feel cheated by what we cannot. No. 9…EPC No. 9, Return to Work. I believe this is already in…underway, listening to the CAO, but Council has a chance to bring life back to downtown. I hope that you can set an example for other employers in this way. On EPC No. 10, this one may not really be a problem, but I thought I'd mention it. While the mill rate and total collected are in the hands of the school boards and the Province, they are the product of an assessed value times a mill rate. This raises an issue which scares many homeowners. If you have lived in your house long enough for it to rise 50% in value in the last few years, that does not help pay the taxes for those struggling to live. While we were promised that taxes would not rise more than a few percent per year, some folks fear that huge increases in assessed value could result in big increases in the taxes owed. If this fear is unfounded, and I hope…pretty sure it is, may I ask the City allay such fears. EPC, there's just in time for sending out the notices and stuff. Anyway, EPC No. 11, Riverbank Protection. When I worked in public works in Ontario, in Windsor, we did everything we could to prevent the erosion. Developed some new technology, it's been a while. I strongly support this work and I think Winnipeg should do more to protect it…the banks of its rivers. EPC No. 15, Schoolboard Litigation. This one surprised me. Money being paid by one part of the government to another part is not a big deal for me. It's all taxes and it all goes to a good end, we hope. On the other hand, when two of those parts of government use our tax dollars to fight each other in court, that starts to worry some people. If you're not planning to keep what you win in court, why not abandon the fight right away? It does seem interesting that we have two different things going on, we can call it at city hall. We have lawyers fighting against schoolboards and yet, we have a motion to just give away our…anything we win. So, I just suggest that we should abandon the fight right away if we're not going to keep the money. On Water Committee topic 1; as I pointed out to EPC, this is on the sale of landfill gas. I see that we last…at last have some numbers with a cost estimate. I see that no one pursued the idea of using this very dilute methane stream to generate electricity. I explored this idea when I was a Hydro engineer. The far less expensive clean-up changes the cost benefit a lot. So, if you have to clean up the…this gas to make it part of the natural gas system, that costs a lot of money. If you just have to take out the water and the dirt from it, that's very cheap. So, I did this for a cost estimate and cost analysis for many years for natural gas consumers and producers like (inaudible) oil and (inaudible). In those days, companies would dismiss an idea if its economics were as dismal as this one, and dismal is being polite. When the interests of stakeholders are respected, you'd never spend $10 million, plus $2 million a year while expecting income of only $300,000. This is a monstrous use of taxpayer money for no tangible benefit. On IRPW No. 2, Transit Safety. While asking those who use transit is a great idea, I believe we should begin with what city hall seems to call an environmental survey. What do other transit systems to reduce crime that we don't? Let's publish a list of these steps, then we can focus on actual crimes in Winnipeg and what Winnipeg bus riders like me express as their fears. So, it just strikes me that there's two approaches to that. One is what other people are doing to increase safety and what's bothering our bus riders because we really should…need to deal with that problem. On IRPW No. 5, the Zipper Merge and Signage. While I believe in this process, I believe we need far more than just some signs. Do we have a plan to deal with the greed and anger at the merge point? Those who have done this know that sometimes people will be timid and let the whole lot in, and sometimes, when it's your turn, somebody will act like they're going to hit you, cut you off. Keep in mind that our drivers in Winnipeg quite often can't get a yield sign right and those have been around for decades. On IRPW No. 6, last topic finally, Crosswalk Lighting. For its entry drivers and those using active transportation, although we didn't call it that back then, have been reminded with a red light when there is danger. They stop. Winnipeg's only remaining crossing points without such reminders have proven to be very dangerous. We need to add red lights to remind those crossing the road at our crosswalks. They would say, don't walk, just like the lighted signs at traffic control lights. On the low amber lights; there was a short time as the current overhead lights go on, that they are out of view of the driver. Adding low lights, as people have advocated, will help make drivers more aware of a brand new amber when they are very close. These lights only help for the second or two before the car arrives at the crosswalk. Do you have any objective…this is an important one, I think. Do you have any objective analysis of crosswalk safety by a professional?

Please let us see us…see it. If not, why not? You employ some very good people, please let them speak on this issue. I'm specifically referring to your Traffic Engineering staff. I believe if they had such a report it would point to the decisions of those crossing. A red 'don't walk' sign at crosswalks would help. Records show that I suggested to councillors years ago that we need a red lamp to deter pedestrians until vehicles have had a few seconds to stop. A red 'don't walk' light would face those considering using the crosswalk. A few seconds after the button is pushed and cars have had a chance to stop, the red light would go out. This can be done in conjunction with the new low ambers. Same project. The 'don't walk' and the low ambers for drivers could be on the same steel box. Without these red lamps, person on foot has no reminder to watch for cars. I think increasingly now, those of us on foot, and I do this myself, those of us are…can be distracted. Now, I try never to be distracted. I don't own a cellphone and don't read while I'm walking on the sidewalk, but this stuff happens. I believe that only these red 'don't walk' lights can reduce crosswalk injuries. And thank you very much for your time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Oh, right on time. Thank you, Mr. Grant. Did my colleagues have any questions? No, Mr. Clerk? No questions. I just wanted to point out one thing, Mr. Grant, in terms of the property taxation, the mill rate, is applied to an apportioned amount of the assessed value. Is that correct?

David Grant: Probably. I'm just expressing concerns I've heard from the community that people think if my house, theoretically, has doubled in value in 20 years, am I going to be paying twice the taxes? And I'm pretty sure they're not, but it would just be nice to send that message out when people get their tax bills this year.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right. Thank you. Moving on to mister…Mr. Benjamin Hecht and Andrew Buck from Pitblado Law on the…in opposition…on behalf of the Winnipeg Taxi Association, in opposition to autumn…Item 3 of the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works dated March 8th, 2022. Vehicle for Hire's Annual Report and, I think, by-law amendments. You have ten-minutes, gentlemen.

Benjamin Hecht: Thank you. Good morning. Thank you. Thank you for permitting us to appear before you today. We…we are here on behalf of the Winnipeg Community Taxi Association, and you should have received our written submission which was filed with you yesterday. The association represents Winnipeg's largest taxicab companies, including all of the taxi drivers who use their dispatch services. This represents the vast majority of drivers who are small business taxicab owners in the city of Winnipeg. We are here to speak about the proposed amendments to the Vehicle for Hire By-law or VHS…VFH By-law. We appeared before the Standing Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works on March 8th, and you have our submission from that appearance, in addition to the new submission filed yesterday. Everything we wish you to consider is on our submission, but we wish to take a few minutes to focus on some of the most important points that we want you to consider. In a sentence, what we are requesting is that Council direct the Public Service to correct certain deficiencies in the by-law that are procedural unfair to drivers. As it stands, the proposed amendments would allow Vehicle for Hire Office to issue tickets to drivers without conducting any investigation or hearing from the driver about the incident. In other words, the by-law contains no requirement for an investigation. Driver conduct provisions are not like parking tickets, they sometimes involve subjective interpretations of incidents. As such, our position is that you recognize that everyone's voice should be heard before enforcement action is taken. It is really a basic principle of natural justice. And if you would indulge me, I will expand on this briefly. The principles of natural justice exist as a safeguard for individuals in their interactions with the state, or in this case, the City. Those principles stipulate that whenever a person's rights, privileges or interests are at stake, there is a duty to act in a procedurally fair manner. The principles of natural justice concern the general manner in which…in which a decision is made. That is, the how, not the…not the what of the decision. Procedural fairness does not concern the correctness of the decision once made, rather, the principles of natural justice help to ensure that the decision maker followed the proper procedure in arriving at their decision. The association, to be clear, categorically supports passenger safety. It agrees that provisions that establish clear rules and procedures for driver conduct are to everyone's benefit. But…and it's a big but, both the rules and the enforcement mechanism must be fair. Issuing fines to small business owners without at bare minimum obtaining their account of the incident and reviewing video surveillance that is readily available to the Vehicle for Hire Office is not fair, in our respectful submission. There is a screening process for tickets, but that only arises after the ticket is issued. And that's…after that screening, there is an appeal process, but we submit, this places the burden on the drivers to contest fines which may not have been supported by the facts in the first place and that is simply not fair. The association has communicated its concerns to the Vehicle for Hire Office and we appeared before the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works to speak to these very issues. The association also has in the past reach out to…reached out to community stakeholders about these concerns. That outrage has not yet been answered or resulted in any fruitful discussions with other stakeholders. I want to assure you that the association is not raising last minute concerns and is not taking its position with the intention of seeking delay. What it does seek is a procedurally fair by-law. Its concerns have been on record now for some time and it is not accurate or fair for anyone to say that any delays that might ensue are the Taxi Association's fault. We have heard from the Vehicle for Hire Office in-person, on telephone calls and at the Public Works meeting that a fair procedure does not need to be codified in the by-law. They have said that no driver conduct tickets will be issued without an investigation. And they have said that it is not appropriate for a by-law to prescribe how enforcement should be carried out. With all due

respect, we say, if the Vehicle for Hire Office is committed to doing in practice what the association is seeking, why can this not be codified in the by-law? Or at minimum, set out in a clear guideline which applies to the enforcement of the by-law. And further, why should it not be codified? The Public Works Committee's recommendation was that the Public Service be directed to report back to the committee in September about its collaboration with the industry. We appreciate that. But no one should have to labour under an unfair enforcement mechanism in the meantime. Now is the time to get it right before it is implemented. Consultation should happen before by-laws are brought forward for approval, not after the fact. There are other concerns with the by-law, which you will find in our submission to the Public Works Committee, but in the interests of brevity, we will not speak to all of those concerns, other than to note that clarity regarding the interpretation and application of the driver conduct provisions is necessary. I'll give you but one example of a provision of the by-law that lacks clarity. In the by-law, there is an offence for lewd remarks. Vehicle for Hire has said, the meaning of lewd remarks can be found by consulting the dictionary. Again, with respect, we say that we and you, councillors, can do better and that we all should do better. More clarity is in everyone's interests. The association wants to be part of the solution and it has in the past called for an overall review of the regulatory by-laws and policies. We have heard throughout this process of the vital role that is played by the industry in ensuring accessibility to members of our community who do not have access to the private transport providers in our city. But at the same time, we know that statistics show that being a taxi driver is a dangerous occupation. Driver safety is a matter of key import that needs to be considered, along with the importance of passenger safety. The driver safety initiative is therefore a positive development, and the industry looks forward to playing a key role in that initiative, including substantive measures to provide an infective enforcement mechanism to target passengers who submit drivers to violence, racism, fare jumping and other abuse. We thank you very much for considering these matters carefully. They are of major import to the industry and the Taxi Association. Thank you very much.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Did your colleague want to make comment as well? You're both on the same ten-minutes.

Andrew Buck: No, thank you, Your Worship, nothing in addition.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, thank you. All right, colleagues, indicate to the Clerk if you would like to ask our presenters questions.

Clerk: Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: Yes, thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And through you to the delegate this morning; thank you for your presentation today. We've been discussing this through the IRPW Standing Policy Committee, and I just wanted to ask you that you're aware that there is audio and…audio and video technology equipped in all of the taxis that provide a full context of the interaction between the driver and the passenger. Are you aware of that?

Benjamin Hecht: Of course we are, yes.

Councillor Chambers: And that, again, I am all for innocent until proven guilty if…or the presumption of innocence, let's put it that way. And that the video and audio will provide a full context of the interaction in terms of that investigation that ensues.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That's the second question to you.

Benjamin Hecht: I wasn't sure if there was a question there, but if there is, I think that we don't dispute, obviously, that the best objective evidence will come from a video or audio recording of a live event, but to my point earlier, the video and the audio may record a remark which may be considered to be lewd by the person who received it, but is it? On what definitely is it a lewd remark that would lead to a $500 fine being issued to the driver? And two more points: one, there's nothing in the by-law that confirms that before issuing a ticket, Vehicle for Hire must look at the video and audio. Or two, that it will interview the driver and the passenger to see about any perspective that is not available from the video and the audio.

Councillor Chambers: So, last question to you then, there is a code of conduct that is provided for all drivers; is there language in there that needs to be tightened up to address exactly what you've mentioned in terms of a lewd comment and codifying exactly what that may be in terms of a range or series of words that could be triggering for some people.

Benjamin Hecht: I believe the answer to that would be yes, but I'll defer to Mr. Buck to correct me if I'm wrong. But I think the short answer is, yes.

Andrew Buck: Thank you very much. I'd agree with that. I think the code of conduct is a more digestible document, in my view. But I would…to say it would be easier for consumption by both taxi drivers, members of the public, as opposed to reading through the by-law. And so, I think the nuts of bolts of what we'd be seeking would ultimately be set out in the by-law, and then it could be phrased in, perhaps, a way that's a little bit more digestible with the code of conduct. But any additional clarity, I think, would be appreciated.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you very much.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yeah. Does anybody else have questions, Mr. Clerk?

Clerk: Councillor Schreyer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, please.

Councillor Schreyer: Sure. And thank you. I'm not sure if our delegates today can answer this, because I'm…we're going back…part of the problem we're dealing with is that the City now has to take responsibility for what used to be provincial jurisdiction. And so, we're influx in a sense because I don't get the impression that we've exactly…it's all shifted over effectively. It's not the fault of the City, so much as now a challenge for the City to go through its process of providing at least…at least as good of a mechanism. Do we feel that there are lessons learned from the previous process, the previous format through the provincial taxicab board? Do we feel that…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, hold it, hold it. That's your first question, councillor.

Councillor Schreyer: Okay, yeah. Sure.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That's your first question from…so, just for understanding, he's asking if the previous legislation regarding taxicabs had a codified process regarding customer/driver incidents.

Benjamin Hecht: And I…and he was…councillor was correct in assuming I can't definitively answer that. It would be a little bit speculation, a little bit anecdotal, but…and I'll defer to Mr. Buck, again, who's been in the weeds a little bit more than me on this. But I think that what Vehicle for Hire would say is that the current by-law, before amendments, took over most of the provisions of the Taxicab Board legislation, including the enforcement process. And it was problematic in many ways on its own, and based on experience, I don't have any issue, I don't think the association has any issue with efforts being made to have a better process and more defined terms and provisions. But I can't speak to the rest of it. I'm sure the association could speak at length. And again, would be happy to liaise with the Public Service in those discussion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, second question.

Councillor Schreyer: Sure. That…that means that we…community…Taxicab Association, they're asking for further consultation before we make these decisions?

Benjamin Hecht: Correct.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Third question, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: That's fine. That's what I needed to know. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Clerk.

Clerk: Councillor Nason.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Nason, please.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I've never played a lawyer on TV or otherwise, so I will ask a question if I may. With regards to the Vehicle for Hire, is it a level playing field when it comes to taxicabs versus other ride sharing programs in the city of Winnipeg with regards to requirements that they have to undertake?

Benjamin Hecht: Without a legal background, I would tell you that would be what we would call a rhetorical question and I would say the answer, according to the association, would be a firm no. It is not a level playing field. Some of the reasons why it's not level were touched upon in the written submission we filed having to do with onboarding and licensing process, which for the taxicab industry, can take significant time and for the private providers, can be done in a matter of days. I

would say it's not a level playing field, as well, on a key issue that is not really addressed in these by-law proposals, but since you've asked the question, I'll answer, which is, the significant problem that the taxi drivers and the industry have related to fare jumping is not really a problem for the private providers who have your bank account or credit card on-hand before they pick you up for their trip. And a lot of the problems that arise in the industry relate to issues about passengers being unable to pay, unwilling to pay and drivers doing everything they can in order to try to secure payment without threats or violence, of course, but they really have no mechanism. They don't have payment in hand. They pick up the trip and they hope you will pay, just like a store hopes you will pay before you walk out, the taxi driver hopes the passenger will pay before they exit the cab. So, I'm sure the association could give many more firsthand examples of why the playing field is not level, but it's not.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: No further questions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No further questions. Mr. Clerk, is there anybody else?

Clerk: Councillor Rollins.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Rollins, please.

Councillor Rollins: Sorry, I stand down, Mr. Chair.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Pardon me?

Councillor Rollins: I'm standing down, Mr. Chair.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Oh, you're standing down, thank you. Anybody else with questions?

Clerk: His Worship Mayor Bowman.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Bowman…or Mayor Bowman, sorry.

Mayor Bowman: Firstly, it's good to see you both. Thanks very much for presenting today as well as for the clarity in your submission on behalf of your clients. I've had an opportunity to review submissions that you made to Council. If I ask a second question, I'm not allowed a preamble, so I just will…will remind you that only the mayor can be worshipped and the Speaker is…and the Speaker…so you cannot worship Councillor Eadie, despite what you may think of him. Of course, he's the Speaker today, and I say that because I know both of you and hopefully you'll appreciate the humour in that. But the submission is very clear as well as your presentation today. My question for you is that, should this matter be referred back to committee, would you be…would you be willing to have dialogue to try to better…better address these concerns before…before the submission is ultimately voted on by Council? And of course, I say that, you know, hoping some of my council colleagues on the committee may be able to apprise of any time sensitivities on this matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. An answer.

Benjamin Hecht: Thank you, Your Worship. As my preamble, I would say that it would have been appreciated by both Mr. Buck and I had you corrected the Speaker as to the pronunciation of the law firm from which we are presenting. But with that in mind, the answer is, 100% yes, absolutely. The association, including Mr. Buck and I, would be pleased to be a part of any ongoing dialogue and collaboration. And we would hope and we have asked that that take place before this by-law is finalized.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Mayor Bowman.

Mayor Bowman: No further questions. No further questions, thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No more questions. And I just want to confirm, the submission is on the Council record that they submitted?

City Clerk: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is attached to the agenda.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. Thank you. And I will just let the delegation know before they go, I have a little bit of a history with your firm and I'll pronounce it any way I want. Thank you.

Benjamin Hecht: Thank you very much. Have a good day.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Take care. The…Mr. Clerk, did we have the Social Planning Council registered in delegation?

City Clerk: No, sir. That's the end of delegations.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. I received an e-mail from Ms. Kehler, I think it is, from Social Planning Council. Did she submit something for today's meeting?

City Clerk: Correct, sir. There's a written submission from Ms. Kehler attached to one of the items on the agenda today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Excellent. All right then. Just…I'm sorry? I just want to clarify; so, we're going to proceed today before the Mayor introduces the Executive Policy Committee March 16th, 2022 meeting, I just want my colleagues to know, the way we'll operate today is when you want to speak to a report, please indicate to the Clerks. And once the current speaker is done, the Clerks will let the next person up to speak to the reports do that. Is everybody clear on that? Okay, great. Thank you very much. All right, Mayor Bowman, to introduce the Executive Policy Committee meeting reports of March 16th, 2022.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED MARCH 16, 2022

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I introduce the report and move adoption of the consent agenda Items 1 through 15. I would like to stand down 10 and 15, please.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: 10 and 15? Okay, yeah. Okay, anybody else?

Councillor Klein: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I just needed the Clerks, I'd like to stand down Item 2 and Item 9.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: 2, 9, okay. Anybody else? No? Okay, so we're standing down 2, 9, 10 and 15, is that correct, Mr. Clerk?

City Clerk: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. Yes, okay, then I will call the question on…2, 9, 10. Okay, I'll call the consent question on report Items 1, 3 through 8, 11 through to 14. All those in favour? Is anybody opposed? That is carried. Thank you. Mr. Clerk, to introduce the report Item 2, please.

Item 2 – 311 Call Centre Wait Times

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I'll wait to hear from my council colleagues, thanks.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Klein.

Councillor Klein: Thank you very much. I have an amending motion to this motion that was provided to all my colleagues. I'm not sure if you received that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: So, Mr. Klein, before you introduce it, I would like the Clerk to read the 'therefore be it resolved'.

Councillor Klein: I support that.
Clerk: Moved by Councillor Klein, seconded by Councillor Nason: be it resolved that recommendation 1 of Item 2 of the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 16th, 2022, be amended by deleting '60 days' and replacing with '30 days'.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Councillor Klein.

Motion No. 4
Moved by Councillor Klein,
Seconded by Councillor Nason,

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. *That Recommendation 1 of Item 2 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 16, 2022 be amended by deleting "60 days" and replacing it with "30 days".*

Councillor Klein: Thank you. The reason for the amendment, Mr. Chair, is I find it ironic that when it comes to 311, we're delaying items given the troubles that we've had with 311. And I feel strongly that we have to give some urgency as the stewards of taxpayer money and services to this item. And I believe that residents have expressed their frustration and their anger and their disappointment with 311 and I think it's time that we admit that we…it's struggling. I think many of us have said that publicly and out loud, but I would also suggest that we need to send that message of urgency to the Public Service. Many times during the three years I've been in Council, reports have been laid over, I would…I can't even venture to guess at what the percentage would be, Mr. Speaker. And I know we have in the neighbourhood of 140 reports still due, Mr. Speaker. And some of them are for items that are ward…ward specific and other issues, however, this is something that touches the residents. This is something that is impacting them in a bad way. I can't tell you the e-mails I get; I've been on hold for three hours, I haven't heard back. And I know it gets busy down there, we understand that, but it's our job then to work with the Public Service to ensure that they have the tools necessary to address the problems. And I really believe that by delaying this, it doesn't send the right message. Now, they could come back with some of the items and then this…that report could lead to a different one, but it shows that we're putting it into action. It shows that we are actually going to do something and not just put out…put it to the side until we hear back when…when it gets complete. Because I think everybody in this city that knows or has worked in the private sector, we don't have that option all the time. If you run a store, you don't have that option to tell your customer, I'm not working the till right now, I'll get back to you. Or I'll get you this product on this day and then continuously tell them it's going to be later, it's going to be later, it's going to be later (inaudible). So, my suggestion is, is that, in my…my request of my colleagues today is that let's work with our Public Service, let's send the message that urgency is required, that this is an important issue that we need to address. We need to know what the issues are, but we also need to know what solutions are, and not just one, we need a couple of solutions. Do we need to bring experts in from outside to help find those solutions? I mean, we could either spend our time and energy and resources delaying solutions, delaying reports, delaying action or we can work together to reinvent 311, to make it more customer friendly, to give the support to staff so that they're not feeling stressed. So, make sure that we have the right amount of people to deal with the workload. All of that is important, but all of that comes from our messaging by saying, we acknowledge you're working on something, we acknowledge you need a little more time, however, at the end of the day, we're only going to give you 30 more days, which I think is fair and reasonable, to come back with some items. So, that's the purpose of the amending motion of 30 days. I mean, really, think of all the residents that call you, all the e-mails that you get, do we want to tell them, well, we delayed it a little longer, we'll let you know if we can fix it another day. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Klein. Mr. Clerk, is there…

Clerk: Yes, Councillor Nason.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'd like to call on the CAO to be asked questions on this matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It's…it's my understanding it's at the Speaker's discretion as to whether or not questioning will happen. I would…I'm going to…for the reasons that 311…I mean, there's been a lot of stress this winter and so on. There is pressure. So, I'm going to allow for questions of the CAO. Cordial questions…cordial questions as to asserting the…how this…how this report will proceed back to Council, as it is only a request right now for a layover. So, Mr. CAO.

Michael Jack: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I'm equipped with a microphone in my…in my…okay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You're good?
Michael Jack: The Clerk has directed me to rise, so I will do it lounge style.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Jack. All right, so I'd imagine Councillor Nason had a question.

Councillor Nason: I do. As the head of the Public Service, my question for Mr. Jack is, what is his expected levels of service for the 311 system?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. CAO.

Michael Jack: I…yeah, thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the councillor; I think I know what the councillor is getting at, but in fact, we have a very detailed set of service expectations when it comes to 311. So, I would perhaps invite a more specific question. I don't quite know how to answer that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: So, as I understand your answer, and as I know, depending on what the 311 call is, there's different service expectations. So, Councillor Nason, do you have a specific question?

Councillor Nason: Yes, Mr. Speak…Deputy Speaker. Through correspondence that have been exchanged with Mr. Jack and all of Council, Mr. Jack did indicate that the 31 service…311 service was not meeting his level of expectation. I'm curious as to what his level of expectation is and did ask that in written form.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Jack.

Micheal Jack: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you to the councillor; I was…in that correspondence with Councillor Nason, I was referring to complaints such as constituents waiting online 45 minutes before having their calls answered. So, it really was more of a general statement. I would be happy to pull out the schedule of service time expectations and the service level agreements between 311 and each of the departments. I think there are numerous areas for improvement. I think I tried to make that clear in my e-mail to Councillor Nason. I think there are any number of areas where the outcomes are subpar. A 45-minute call on hold while awaiting to speak to a CSR, that is deficient. In terms of whether it should be 2-minutes or 45 seconds, I would need to break out the schedule to each of those interactions and exactly where they should be, but I know we're not there.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I think that was three questions already, Councillor Nason. Or Mr. Clerk?

Councillor Nason: Well, one he indicated, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that wasn't in clarity.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right, okay. All right, one more question, Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Yeah, so with regards to service level agreements, would that be something that Council approved as far as what would be deemed acceptable?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Jack.

Michael Jack: I don't recall whether the service level agreements between 311 and each of the service departments are something that have been submitted for Council approval, no. I will certainly look into that and provide the councillor with a follow-up response.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. Did anybody else have questions, Mr. Clerk?

Clerk: Councillor Chambers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Pardon me? Councillor? Councillor Chambers, please.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. With respect to 311, 311 is our front facing channel of communication to the public and accordingly, also to Council. To provide us with better insight as to what the pulse of our community is. There's so much about this that does need to be improved, to increase transparency, to increase accountability of us as elected officials in terms of being made aware of what's going on out in the…in our communities. I've heard consistently, especially throughout this last winter, just how…the experiences of Winnipeggers in contacting 311 and being placed on hold for lengthy periods of time. And…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Can you…can you put your question, Councillor Chambers. I know you get a preamble on the first question, but it sounds more like you're debating the report.
Councillor Chambers: No, I'm…and I will get to the question, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Just lost my train of thought there. I have heard about the experiences of Winnipeggers who have tried to get through 311 and have tried to leave reports and end up frustratingly hanging up, only to contact councillors' office. We're being overwhelmed by calls now to our offices that should be directed to 311. So, I'm asking, how…how quickly this can be improved to ensure that either we need to match the resources in our Council offices or we need to have a better front facing tool to provide adequate and effective service for the citizens of Winnipeg.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Jack. All right, did you get that question?

Michael Jack: I did. Yes, thank you, mister…I wasn't sure whether that was being asked sort of generally on the floor of Council or to me, but I, of course, paid attention.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Being asked to you, Mr. Jack.

Michael Jack: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Asking how quickly this will occur, councillor, there's a few things we are looking at. We're actually examining this next report as being pretty key…a pretty key piece of our decision making. So, I fully understand the urgency to get those answers prior to the report. I would ask for indulgence while we finalize that report, which I do think is going to get us closer to what you're speaking to, councillor. But 311, throughout the pandemic in particular, not solely due to the pandemic, has dealt with a number of issues including the ability to continue to retain a sufficient compliment of CSRs to get the work done. So, we have been looking for quite some time now at some HR and/or LR solutions, how we may have a more stable compliment, a more full compliment. If we don't have people there doing the work, that right away is going to impact the service, the call times, the call wait times, et cetera. I don't…it's not part of our long-term plan that you as a councillor would need to create a new 311 system within your office. We do have an existing 311 that you should be able to rely upon. It's my intent to improve it. It may not happen as quickly as some of the calls I've been hearing, but it's my intent that you will see improvement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Jack. I just…

Councillor Chambers: Second question. Second question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hold on. Hang on. Mr. Jack answered that question. I have to point out something. Being here first time in the Chair and being put with this, it's my understanding it's protocol that your question time, actually, counts as your speaking time, but what I'm going to do in this case is, given that I made a slight error as we moved forward, I'm going to allow people to put a quick question and it won't be counted against your speaking time if you wish to speak to this report. Okay, and actually, I'm only allowing for 10-minutes of questions of the CAO on this topic because it is a very detailed report, but right now, we're just talking about the layover for 60-days. So, okay, you have another question, Councillor Chambers?

Councillor Chambers: Yes, and very quickly. To…through you to the CAO; has there been any analysis done to determine whether or not the current resources match the demands of the city…or match the demands of residents in our city in the sense that our city's growing, there's a lot more people calling, being aware of City services, the complexity of their calls, does the resources in 311 match the needs of the citizens of Winnipeg and do we need to amp that up as well?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That's a pretty big question, Mr. Jack. Do you wish to answer that or get back to the councillor?

Michael Jack: No, I certainly will try, Mr. Speaker. Through you to the councillor; I will repeat one key component of my previous answer which is, this…it is this report in which we are going to try to provide some of those answers as opposed to me just simply improvising that today prior to the report having been submitted. I do think…if we were able to solve some of the current structural issues with recruitment and retention, then we might not be having the same resource discussion. So, what we know we're going to determine, there will be opportunities for efficiency improvement and process improvement to make the service more effective, but there are some of these other issues, again, like I said, if you've got fewer bodies than you need, then it doesn't matter what the budget says with respect to 311, you're going to encounter some operational difficulties. We are looking at ways to try to address that. If that does come with a recommendation that the budget needs to be examined, we will be candid about that and put that in front of you in the report.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Jack. I'm going to ask if anybody else has a question to put without a preamble. We all understand the topic.

Councillor Schreyer: Chair Eadie. Councillor Schreyer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, you'd like to? Okay. Please…please, no big preamble. We all understand the issue. Direct your question to Mr. Jack.

Councillor Schreyer: I understand. Fair enough. It's difficult to answer some of these qualitative issues. I'm going to ask one on quantitative. Taxpayers…taxes go up every single year, or the City's budget goes up every single year, so here's a…an easier one to deal with. Has the budget for 311 gone up proportionately to people's tax increases and the budget increases…the overall budget increases?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Schreyer: Has the 311 budget gone up proportional…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right, thank you. That's the question. Mr. Jack.

Michael Jack: Through you, Mr. Speaker, to Councillor Schreyer; no, I don't believe it has, but I don't have those year by year comparisons at my finger tips. I would be happy to get the…you know, a five-year graph for the councillor just to see where we're at in terms of comparative budgets.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Schreyer: Just to clarify, so we're saying the 311 budget is a proportionally smaller and smaller part of the budget every single year?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I don't think that's a fair question. He'll get back to you about that, Councillor Schreyer. He doesn't have all the budget material in front of him and he's said he would get back to you in regards to that. So, did you have a more specific question, Councillor Schreyer?

Councillor Schreyer: No. No, that's it. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Is there any other of my colleagues who wish to add some questions?

Clerk: Next, we have Councillor Lukes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Lukes, please. Not a lot of preamble, we…

Councillor Lukes: Sure, I'm not…I'm not really wanting to ask a question of the COO, I just want to have my 10-minute time allotted to speak to the report.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Oh, okay. All right. So, what I did was, because I slight erred, I said I'd give 10-minutes for questions and 10-minutes is probably almost up. Did any member of Council have a specific question for Mr. Jack on the topic?

Clerk: Mayor Bowman.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mayor Bowman, please.

Mayor Bowman: I'll stick to the question before us, which is the extension of time. My question for Mr. Jack is, the matter before us is a 60-day extension of time for the report. I think all members of Council are looking forward to receiving that in due course. If the amendment is approved, which is now asking us to impose a 30-day extension rather than 60-day, I guess the question is, really, just is that…is that realistic? Could we expect to get it back within that timeframe or is it likely that an extension of time would be sought 30-days later for another 30-days?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yeah, Mr. Jack, could you please answer the Mayor's question?

Michael Jack: Will do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to…to His Worship. Obviously, if the direction in terms of time extension is changed, we will, as the Public Service, do everything we need to. I think most of Council knows that a 30-day extension in terms of the upfront filing requirements to get it into the system, a 30-day extension really amounts to about a 3-day extension in terms of the department needing to finalize and get the report in well in advance. So, 60-days tends to be the minimum realistic extension that we would request if more time is being sought. And in previous communication that Councillor Nason referred to, we did discuss some of the reasons why we require this extension. So, yes, we would still prefer the 60-day extension to get the report back to Council properly. I would simply add that this report doesn't need to be viewed as the be all and end all. To think that the 311 management and staff are not actively attempting to work on issues would be false. So, it's not a matter of get this report back or else we can't work on solutions, we, of course, pay 311 management to always be actively working on solutions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Jack. It is my understanding that there is activity in this regard. Thank you. All right, I'm going to move on to debate now. I'm going to move on to debate now.

Clerk: Mister…Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe Councillor Klein has a question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I'm going to let…oh, sorry. Councillor Lukes or?

Councillor Klein: Klein.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Pardon me?

Councillor Klein: Councillor Klein.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Well, you already…you already presented. I ended question period. That was more than 10-minutes. In terms of questioning, as I said, I made an error. You get to close on the motion…on your amending motion, Councillor Klein.

Councillor Klein: Okay. So, for clarity, I don't get to ask the CAO a question?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You know what, I think it's pretty clear. I'm ready to start us on the debate.

Councillor Klein: Okay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You've already introduced the reasons for your amendments.

Councillor Klein: Okay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: And that's fine. I'm going to move on to the next speaker, though, on…on the report and the amendment. And I'm going to allow for Councillor Lukes to give us her debate.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you. Thank you, Councillor Eadie. So, I did send an e-mail to Council at one point when Councillor Nason was discussing this, but I'd like to put it on the record. So, I've worked on this improving 311 issue at city hall since 2014. One of my campaign promises, well, for both campaigns, was to improve communication with residents and the City of Winnipeg. I've tried to work with 311 to do improvements. In 2014, and Mr. Mayor will remember this, worked extensively with Ms. Linda Birch trying to apply new technology to 311 and improve the service delivery. 26 to 28…2016 to 2018, worked with the IT wizard Mr. Legare to identify issues with the 311 system; talking to residents and talking to the back ends. You will recall it still happens, but not anywhere near as much, residents would log on and see their case closed. I think that was a $50,000 IT solution that need and did happen, but seriously, it's not perfected yet. In 2019, I brought forward a motion to report back with information. In 2020, a motion…the report came back. I think that there are three main issues with 311 and we have to be very realistic about this, councillors. Number one, the back ends, the software systems, do not work within each department. Each department does not connect in to 311. When service requests come in, some departments run a completely different back end to deal with service requests. So, there's a big disconnect and that's why answers don't get fed back into 311. The second issue is, like Mr. Jack said, if we don't have the people, there's going to be operational difficulties. Over the last four years, the budget for staffing has enabled a reduction of 26 staff members. 2018, it was 101 staff. 2021, and this did come up in budget discussions with staff at 311, is now down to 75. So, adding staff…but…but adding staff doesn't…it's not going to make a difference in the overall perspective of actually getting answers back because the back ends don't speak. From a technological perspective, there has to be improvements. So, the third point is, every year, the Budget Working Group brings forward a budget with 311 reductions. So, Mr. Jack can go away. This report, like he said, will not be the be all to the end all because until we decide to invest in 311, there's not going to be radical changes. It needs complete technology upgrades and then it needs staffing. So, all of that costs money. It's the front end, it's…I think it's been appalling since I started. At one point, I was told when I was on the Executive Policy Committee, you know, don't keep raising this issue. Look, media articles were laid out in front of me saying, look, we don't want to hear about this anymore. I've made reports, I've made motions, but again, the bottom line is, we have to invest in it more than we are. There's just no…Mr. Jack can tweak and they can tweak and continue to tweak, but when the back ends don't talk to each other, and we don't have the staff to answer the calls, it's not going to function. So, I wanted to put that on the record. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Lukes for expressing your experience. Mr. Clerk.

Clerk: First up is Councillor Nason, followed by Councillor Schreyer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know, I moved the original motion and I knew a 90-day timeframe would have been tight. But the challenge was, at the time, there were challenges. Those challenges have grown exponentially since the time that this motion was introduced. Don't know if the effects of remote workplaces for our 311

team have laid waste to…to quality service. The challenges continue as we experience our spring melt. You know, I'm hearing from residents times of two plus hours of being on the phone. We see time and time again, I'm sure each and every one of our offices get e-mails where 311 is responding to a resident which says, due to, you know, an abundance of calls, responses are delayed sometimes a week before a 311 e-mail is responded to. Now, I had hoped to ask many questions of the IRPW Chair today, but there doesn't appear to be one to be able to respond today, but you know, when residents call me saying their house are being flooded and they can't get through to 311, where do they turn, Mr. Speaker…Mr. Deputy Speaker? They turn to our offices. And because of rules put in place in 2019, we're kind of limited as to where we can go. Now, reach out to the local streets person and say, please, for the fifteenth time this week, can you look at this matter? Because the process is to put it through 311. But what happens when you can't reach 311? Right? And then…now we're going to be talking…if the amending motion of 30-days doesn't sound realistic, because it's three days, so we're talking 210-days since the original motion. 210 days to come back with a report to say, what can we do to improve the 311 service? That's a long time. What can we do now? Those were types of questions I was asking of the CAO. We don't have answers. There is one person that's responsible for the Public Service. One person, that's the CAO. And it seems that that CAO is not able to effectively direct the Public Service for immediate action.

Councillor Rollins: Point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yes, would you…yeah, you're…you're impugning…

Councillor Nason: Okay, I'll withdraw that and I apologize. So, it is challenging because when I have seniors crying on the phone that a home that they've lived in for more than six decades is taking on water, they're in their 80s out there trying to save their property and they've got no one to answer their call, Mr. Deputy Speaker. What can we do to help them? We've got 16 elected representatives here that seem to be powerless to drive change in the 311 system today. We've had public representations time and time again from an individual, Mr. Ryback who's brought forward, you know, opportunities that he's willing to work with the Public Service. I don't believe those calls have been called upon for his service. The CAO asked myself with my background, more than a decade of international help desk, about working on this. That was only recently. We haven't had much in the way of engagement from the Public Service on our thoughts and how maybe coming together in some sort of brainstorming as a collective how we can work on this. I guess that will come when the report's tabled. But today, as residents in Transcona, there was media reports yesterday because of an 80-some…80 plus year old individual who was out there and is worried because his basement was taking on water and no one was responding from the Public Service. Two plus hours trying to get through to the Public Service. To have a response from the Public Service that says it will be 90-days for it to be addressed, a flooding issue to be addressed. I don't know about anyone around this chamber, but when your house is flooding today, getting a response that in 90-days it will be resolved, would be inadequate response. In fact, that leads to calls to the councillors' office and we become the de facto 311, officially or unofficially. When it's two plus hours to get through to 311, when it's over a week to get an e-mail back acknowledging your case with a 90-day resolution time from 311, councillors' offices get calls. So, you know, whether this amending motion passes or not, one of my colleagues did mention, oh, could a verbal update possibly be a solution? You know what, I believe the EPC have all kinds of magical powers to ask questions of the Public Service at their meeting. IRPW probably has as well. We could probably before this council's over today, write a referral motion. Who knows? But as we have a report that's due to come back, having a referral motion on it probably is, you know, duplication of effort and will further delay the other motions. But Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have a crisis. We have a crisis of confidence in the Public Service when it comes to the 311 service. I don't know if my colleague's trying to get the attention of the Clerks, I hope. The…if they don't have confidence in the Public Service, their default is going to be calling the councillors. And we've heard time and time again from Councillor Lukes with regards to limited resources in our offices. We're not equipped to carry through 311. If a resident contacts us with an issue that has not been registered in 311, we have to log it through our Council 311 service to 311. And even that these days is taxed to the max because of the overflow at the 311 service. We have a couple people, I think there might be three in the Council 311 service, that deal with requests from Council members. Now, if we want to be truly effective, we need to start looking at technology. There…you know, I know there's been attempts in the past, but you know, I've been lobbied by external vendors that provide technology to many centres in the States. Many major cities. And you know, as a former technology person, it is troubling when the Public Service isn't reaching out to work collaboratively to bring new technology.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I'm not hearing an extension.

Councillor Nason: That's fine. I can close. Thank you.

Councillor Schreyer: Extension.

Councillor Nason: No, it's fine. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Nason, you've made your points. Mr. Clerk.

Clerk: Next up, we have Councillor Orlikow…or sorry, Schreyer and then Orlikow.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Schreyer, please.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. A few things are important while we're dealing with this issue: one, people comp…bear in mind, what I've…I test the 311 system every once in a while and I find the staff, essentially, excellent. And they…we know the pressures on them. We should be giving that some consideration. And also, bear in mind, we also already did hear from our CAO. We didn't…we couldn't get into our specifics, but he did make the point that our City budget, people's tax increases, which go up every single year, the proportion of that that goes to 311 is less and less every single year. In other…and this is important. We should at least…Councillor Nason gave some excellent examples of the crisis that people go through and yet, people still have to phone 311. It's important because that's how the system logs the issues that the City's dealing with. So, despite the problems, we still need 311. We've got a problem…the 311 system, I would say, is systemic of the overall problem we have at the City. People's taxes are going up every single year. The City is, you know, doing more debentures every single year. Essentially, we're going into greater debt every single year. And yet, have people's increase to their services gone up proportionately? Have people's services gone up proportionately to their tax increases? To the…to the extent…and also, in proportion to the debt, the greater debt that the City and our governments getting into. Have their services gone up proportionately? Well, no, they haven't. We already heard that from the CAO. He'll give us the specifics on that in terms of how much…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hold on, Mr. Schreyer. I hear somebody have a comment.

Councillor Orlikow: Just to make sure we're on the same page; we're talking about an extension right now. That's what we're talking about.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right. All right, he's referring to the content of the report, that's true. I think you've made your point, Councillor Schreyer. Why…

Councillor Schreyer: Councillor Eadie, if I may…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Why should we expediate…why should we expediate the report coming back, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: The…I don't think we should. There's a lot at stake. I don't think we should. I understand why they want to do this, I get it. The problem is, consistent with what I just said, consistent with my speech so far, this is a pretty big issue, as explained by previous councillors, including those wishing to decrease the extension of time. But we shouldn't…in terms of the issue at stake, the extension of time, don't forget what's at stake here. We're going to have an extension of time to give a report. What's going to be in the report? Are we going to tell taxpayers why their taxes are going up? They're going further into debt as a government. The government's imposing this on them. And we're not telling why their 311 services…their crisis services are not going up proportionately to the tax increases. I think it's fair. And quite frankly, in terms not decreasing their extension, I think they should have the extension because I think they should answer questions like that so people know what's going on with their taxes, their government, their services. They're the boss, they deserve the accountability on something especially as…as important as 311, because for some people, that's all they ask for. That's all they ask for. Every once in a while, maybe once a year, maybe once every 10 years, they need 311. And this is what we're playing games with. And when I say games, I'm going to be polite about this, I mean, we strategize it into the budget in a way where we put a lot of unfair pressure on the 311 staff. Meanwhile, we could have more staff.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Sorry for the interruption, Councillor Schreyer, he is debating why we need to delay this.

Councillor Schreyer: These are the issues we need to deal with and that's why I'm not voting…I'm voting to maintain the longer extension so we can get as many good answers as possible. I don't believe everything I've said is going to be in the report by virtue of having a longer time to provide the report, but yeah, we're not going to answer this all in this report and we're not going to answer it all this season. But these are the issues, make no mistake. And if what I just talked about is not in the report for not…for having a longer extension, tells you where we're at as a city, doesn't it? You know, when you mess with 311, you're messing with Winnipeggers. And when you increase their taxes, when you put them…impose greater debt on them and they don't even…3…even 311 is, well, let's face it, not given the same attention, we're not giving the attention to taxpayers that we impose tax increases on them and larger debt. Let's have some good reports. Take as long as you want. Answer the questions. I think that's fair to give guidance to the administration for that, and you know why? Because it's not fair to the administration that this is what we do to them. We voted…I didn't vote for the budget, but this is the result of our budget.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You're back on the budget again, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: It's all about the budget.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Which is your point. And it's going to take several months to come up with a better budget, so okay. Is that it, Councillor Schreyer?

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much. Who's up next debate? And I will remind people, let's try to focus in on why it should be more expediated or why it's good to wait 60-days.

Clerk: Next up is Councillor Orlikow.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you, Madam…Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm…you know, I saw the motion today for 30-days and I've listened to our CAO speak and I'm fully aware that 30-days is not a lot of time, but I also know that they've been working on the report. So, the report may not be in its full roundness, I guess we'll say, in 30-days, it may have to be a little bit of an abridged version, but it starts that process forward. And as some councillors said today, there are a number of councillors here today that…including…I do want to give a shout out to all our EAs. This has been a brutal couple of weeks for all of us. I know in my office as well, and you know, I've had to actually jump in to do a lot of the casework as well. Again, it's been a really exceptional time even during COVID. So, I really want to give a shout out to the EAs, all of our EAs, and the 311 staff. They've been incredible. But again, it is an area that, as we've heard today, it's been quite stressed by my colleagues today that they want to get the ball rolling, so I'm okay with the 30-days. But again, I'm doing that with a little proviso that I understand that the report may not be fully completed yet, but as…you know, as some councillors have said, it shows that we're on it. It may be a step…a stepping stone to another more fulsome report, but I'm going to be supporting the 30-days.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. And thank you, Councillor Orlikow, for thanking our EAs and 311 staff. It is not easy. That's for sure. Mr. Clerk, who's next?

Clerk: No further speakers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No more speakers? No? Okay. Pardon me? Yeah, that's what I was about to do. Councillor Klein, you may close on your request for the amendment.

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good debate. You know, I do believe and I'll echo councillor's comments just a moment ago that we need to be taking steps. Even if it's baby steps, we need to be taking steps. I struggle to accept that 30-days is not attainable if we've been working on this issue and we've been hearing about it for almost seven years. I know things work slower in…in government, but that's really slow. And we're hearing…or what it says to me is that we're really not addressing the issues unless Council moves a motion, and I don't think that's true. I don't think that that's true at all. So, I believe that 30-days, they can come back with where they are today. I think asking the question that was asked of the CAO of, you know, can you do it in 30-days is kind of unusual because we've already said you've had 90-days, wouldn't the question be why didn't you achieve that in 90-days or that should be a question, that's a question a management person would ask. However, I heard today that it's three days and I have trouble accepting that because then I don't know if anything we say at city hall is accurate. If 30-days is three days, is 90-days nine days? Like, I don't…I don't understand that. I don't…but I don't have clarity and that's the problem with this. We're muddying the waters all the time and I would like to see the report come back in 30-days. I would hope that we're going to have to have more reports. I would hope that that's the beginning of the discussion for this committee. I would hope that we would become more engaged to help the Public Service. If it were short staff, why aren't we talking about doing more advertising to get staff? Why aren't we actively involved on campus? Why aren't we actively involved in communities throughout the city to bring people to the City of Winnipeg. Let's bring young people to the City of Winnipeg. I mean, let's look part-time options for students that are, you know, work…or live and go to school right here in downtown. These are…these are the concepts that come when you get these report and then it grows from that report. I think gone should be the days of we get one report, one idea and that's it, then you have to vote on that. I think we're better than that and I think we can do better than that. We have work to do for the residents. I will also acknowledge the work of the EAs that has been very difficult, but I also want to take a moment to apologize to all the residents. It is unacceptable to sit on the phone for two or three hours. That's not customer service. That's not what residents expect from the City of Winnipeg, from their tax dollars. We have issues. Let's admit we have issues, and let's put some urgency to those issues and start walking down the path to resolving those issues. Residents are disappointed, they're frustrated, we've talked about it a lot and I think we need to send the message today, we understand you're having issues, we want the report back in 30-days and we'll take it from there, maybe will have another and another one, but at least we're paying attention to it. We're not just putting it on a shelf and bringing it back, you know, when the time's right.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Klein. Mayor, to close.

Mayor Bowman: I'll just begin by thanking 311 staff for the work that they're doing. They are on the frontlines, like members of Council and our staff, and I know during the pandemic they have been providing additional support, also, to the Provincial Government in terms of enforcement-related calls. So, I do want to just take this opportunity to thank them for what they…what they do and continue to do each and every day. I noted Councillor Nason's comments with respect to engaging with Council, I would encourage all members of Council, I know that our CAO in e-mail correspondence to…I believe it was to…that Councillor Nason offered to welcome any thoughts that he may have…may have, given his previous work history in the area. And I would just take this opportunity to encourage all members of Council to relay any thoughts to the Public Service where we can find some improvements. I chuckled hearing about magical powers for Executive Policy Committee. If that were true, there would be no more winter, no more mosquitoes, no more potholes and no more Rider fans at the Banjo Bowl, but the reality it, there are no such magical powers. We do need to receive the report, scrutinize it and make some decisions. I'm okay supporting the 30-day amendment request with the…I think with the caveat of, you know, if the Public Service does in fact come back within those 30-days meeting the actual 60-days that is being recommended today, I would trust that members of Council would be respectful of the Public Service if they're not able to come in within that timeframe. But if sending the message to our residents that we serve that we are anxious to do our part once we receive the report, I'm…you know, I'm more than happy to support the 30-day amendment, but I just caution, if in fact that is the vote that carries the day here, I would just caution members of Council and the public that if our Public Service does ultimately need to come back with another 30-day request, I would support that at that time. So, hopefully, they could provide the report within the timeframe requested, but if not, we'll obviously respect that. Thank you, Madam Speaker…or thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Why, thank you, Mayor. I would remind the Mayor that it takes two-thirds the vote of Council in order to cancel the weather. All right. I'm going to…you wanted a recorded vote, Councillor Klein? Is that…okay, all right then. I will call the vote on the amending motion. All those in favour, please rise or indicate if you are on Zoom.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Lukes, Schreyer, Santos, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Mayes, Nason, Orlikow, Rollins and Mr. Speaker Councillor Eadie

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 14, Nays 0.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Nays zero. Are you still wanting a recorded vote on the amended report? All right, I'm just going to call the question. All those in favour of the amended report? Nobody opposed? Thank you, that is carried. Introduce, I believe, it's report No. 9, Mr. Clerk.

Item 9 – Return to Work Plan for the Winnipeg Public Service

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is…this report was received as information and that's the recommendation to Council. I do want to…I do want to just thank our CAO and the Public Service for the work that they're doing to return as many of our staff back to offices, especially in downtown Winnipeg, as possible. I appreciated the update that we received at the Executive Policy Committee recently from our CAO and trust that all members of Council had an opportunity to hear from him. I also want to just thank members of Council, including Councillor Klein, Councillor Nason. Councillor Gillingham has been…has also been very attentive to this issue as well as other members of Council and just want to thank him for that. And obviously, we want to see as many staff returning to work as quickly as possible, but as we received our update at Executive Policy Committee, our CAO was just mindful of some of the flexibility that's required in dialogue with respective employees and collective bargaining units.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mayor. There's no amending motion, so who would…I think Councillor Klein asked this to be stepped down.

Clerk: Correct.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, Councillor Klein, please.

Councillor Klein: Yes. Yes, sir, Mr. Chair. Or I think in the future I'll just say Chair and then we won't have any problems.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You can just call me Eadie if you want.

Councillor Klein: Okay, Eadie. I just stand…I don't want to get into a long debate about this. I believe firmly that, you know, we've approved a motion to forgive the rent for businesses in downtown Winnipeg in certain spots that lease property from the City of Winnipeg. Therefore, we must be acknowledging that there's a problem with the number of people downtown. I acknowledge that this is going to be a different return to work for every organization. That a lot of people are saying they want to work from home, and that's not a decision for governments to make, that's going to be a decision between employee and employer. And in this respect, you have to consider the fact that the CAO and Human Resources must deal with that. However, I'll just say this, it's disappointing to have management, executives, that haven't been having these conversations six months ago. The Government of Manitoba has already sent out e-mails to their staff indicating a time that they want all of them back to work. Now, again, respecting the fact that we probably have positions that could work from home, but we have to…we would have to improve that work from home: at communication level, appearance at committee meetings and so on. So, these are discussions, yet again, that should have been happening months ago. We knew the pandemic was going to come to an end, it wasn't a secret, everyone knew it was eventually going to end and we should have had our plans in place. I will note that, you know, the motion itself was received as information by EPC, not as Council, and I just…I would really urge my colleagues and maybe we'll just put another motion forward, to say, you have to return to…you have to have your plan done by the end of…by the end of April. But that's something that can come later or some other councillor can move if they wish. My disappointment is that, you know, the CAO can report to a committee, can provide, well, we're doing this or we're doing that, I'm concerned about this, I'm concerned about this, I'm concerned about that, when the rest of city is suffering. A plan is all I ask for, not a…not saying everyone has to go back to their office. Not saying it has to happen all on one day. None of that, just a plan. And you would think a corporation, a billion-dollar corporation, which the City of Winnipeg is, could formulate a plan. These are discussions that one would hope happened months ago, but appears haven't…haven't occurred yet. So, again, I'm not going to debate it. I'm obviously going to be opposed to it as receiving it as information. I thank the Mayor for his comments and acknowledgment. And yes, Councillor Gillingham who has also spoken to this publicly that the need to bring businesses back down…you know what, we need…we need a level of government that shows leadership. That says, there is…there is a way to get back downtown, get back to our new normal by following reasonably…reasonable approaches and put a process in place with the masks, whatever that process may be, that's what I was looking for. I was looking for someone to show leadership and I didn't see that. So, again, I don't want to debate it a lot. I will be opposed to that motion and we will try it again.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Klein. Is there anybody else, Mr. Speaker, who wishes to speak to this report?

Clerk: Councillor Gilroy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Gilroy, please.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you. Thank you, Chair Eadie. Yeah, I just wanted to talk a little bit about what we heard from EPC, just in case some of my councillor colleagues were not aware, because we did ask quite a few questions of our CAO at that time. And so, the CAO is working on a plan and they will be coming forward with a plan shortly. We also heard that the mandate has been, they are coming back, too, that they have been called back. They are being a little bit flexible with people that are parents that are home that now maybe they've been home for a year and a half and they now need to find childcare and arrangements. So, you know, and as an employer, I would really hope that we do that. As a parent, that would be very vital that we are making sure that we are providing that support to our staff. So, there is a plan in place. They have been working on it for quite some time. That will be coming forward quite soon. That's what the CAO directed at…at EPC. And you know, and there's a mandate for our staff to be back. The whole thing on supporting our staff, making sure that they can get back with regards to childcare, was very, very important. We do understand that we want to make sure people are back in our downtown and that was made quite clear at EPC through our CAO. He's making…he's making that quite clear to staff. So, we are seeing our staff back with just…there are a few that are requiring some work to make sure that they can adequate daycare in order to get back to work on the premises. But that work is happening. A plan is coming shortly, from what we heard through EPC. Looking forward to hearing that and more dialogue taking place at that time on regards how that's going to work. This has changed. COVID has changed the future, how we operate even within our…this own room, so we do got to look at how we're going to proceed in the future and I'm glad to see that those steps are being taken and that we are looking at working with our staff to make sure that we are a supportive staff force in terms of parenting and that we have the flexibility for people to try to find childcare. So, that's critical I think as a workforce. So, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gilroy. Mr. Speaker…Mr. Clerk.

Clerk: Next, we have Councillor Gillingham, followed by Councillor Lukes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Gillingham, Lukes, okay. Councillor Gillingham, please.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will be supporting this motion and I do thank Mr. Jack for answering questions at Executive Policy Committee. And the…what I heard from him at Executive Policy Committee is that there is an expectation now that staff be back in the office. Yes, a plan is being put in place, but the expectation is that where possible, staff be back in the offices. And that's good news. And because, as a city, and several said, including Councillor Klein, Councillor Nason, Councillor Lukes, many others have said that, for us as a city, to ask other downtown employers to bring their office workers back downtown, we have to lead by example. And because we now have said that it's the expectation for City workers to be back in the office, we can say, and I say today, and call upon the Provincial Government, Manitoba Hydro, Wawanesa Insurance, all the law firms downtown, anyone else who has staff with downtown offices, I ask that you bring your staff back downtown to the offices for the sake of the downtown's economic recovery. Also wanted to acknowledge that, as a Council, we have adopted the Economic Response and Recovery Plan which is very important. A key fact…a key feature in the Economic Response and Recovery Plan is investment in the downtown because we know that it's going to take more than just office workers who work downtown, Monday to Friday, 9:00 to 5:00, to see our downtown become a vibrant place. It's going to take investment in the downtown for people to move into downtown and consider downtown their home. And so, I'm glad that the Economic Response and Recovery Plan includes investment, tax increment financing and incentives for people to invest in housing in the downtown. And there's a lot of really exciting pieces in place that, hopefully, in the coming months now once the pandemic winds down, a lot of pieces in place for residents in the downtown to see that investment grow. The Forks has a whole plan in place for the development of housing in The Forks…on The Forks property. Of course, on the Market Lands, just across the street from where we're meeting, there's a plan for a lot of residents to go in place and a lot of development in that area that will bring people to this area to live and call this as a…as their neighbourhood, as their home, the place that they live in. Of course, on Main Street, we just have the largest building that has been constructed that is now opening up for residents to live there. So, there's a lot of pieces in place that will lead to the vibrancy of our downtown because we need people to live in our downtown communities. And so, this is a…I think this is one piece of it, that we need people to come back to work downtown. The City of Winnipeg will lead the way and getting our workers to come back to our offices and the downtown area, but we need other businesses to do so as well, and we really need to foster the environment where we're creating more and more space and places for people to live in the downtown areas and call the downtown neighbourhoods their home. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. Councillor Lukes. Councillor Lukes?

Councillor Lukes: Yes, thank you. Thank you very much. I'd just like to put this on the record; I'd encourage all of Council, I'll send you the link, to watch Economic Development Winnipeg's update that was provided to the Innovation and Economic Development Committee just this past week. We fund, quite extensively, Economic Development Winnipeg to provide experts and work on economic development for our city. Dayna Spiring's presentation on improving the health of downtown was very impressive. I think every councillor needs to listen to this and needs to listen to her perspective on staff back to work. There are sacrifices that have to be made by everyone and this pandemic has caused a lot of challenges, as we know, and I really think that we need to see, also, staff, anyone we can, back downtown because it is purely from an economic standpoint, we need those bodies back downtown. If we're looking at condensing office space in the suburbs or in…further out, if we're looking at condensing office space, we need to look at moving people…moving staff back downtown. I look forward to this report that Mr. Jack's going to bring forward, but I just wanted to put it on the record, Mr. Speaker, that I am very supportive of staff working downtown, as I sit in the suburbs because I have a kid with COVID. So, it's sort of a bit of irony there, but thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Lukes. Mr. Clerk.

Clerk: Next, we have Councillor Chambers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm in support of this as well. I did mention, actually, prior to the onset of omicron, if there was indeed a plan in place to have our workers resume their roles in the downtown capacity. The City ought to take leadership in this regard in bringing more staff back downtown and encouraging other businesses to make that investment as well in bringing their staff downtown. It speaks to, you know, the confidence that we have in our downtown area in…in looking at economic recovery. It's not just part of a strategy for downtown economic recovery, it also speaks to the issue of the concepts of sep…SD, or crime prevention through social development. We have to have a safe downtown to encourage people to come back downtown, not only from the perspective of businesses, but also, for the many cultural and social events that our downtown hosts; the concerts, the festivals, the arts and culture. We've made huge investments, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in places like Qaumajuq that was opened during COVID. There's so many businesses that have been open that took the courageous plunge to open their business during a critical and economic challenging time that we need to support by having bodies downtown. Again, as mentioned, having eyes and ears on the ground helped to support public safety for individuals that are coming downtown and we can only achieve this, Mr. Deputy

Speaker, by having people downtown in businesses, and then hopefully staying during the evening to attend or participate in any of the festivals or concerts or any of the social or cultural activities that take place in the downtown area. So, this is a first step, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in getting people back downtown in terms of the office spaces that they occupy from 9:00 to 5:00 or 8:30 to 4:30 or 10:00 till 6:00, but we have to have these individuals downtown to support that circle economy; they're going to be paying for bus fare, they're going to be paying for parking, they're going to enjoy any of the downtown restaurants that we have or shop, you know, at any of the stores that we have in the downtown area before they go home to their residential communities. And for the residents that are living downtown, they feel supported by having people in the downtown area as well. So, I'm supportive of this plan and hope that our CAO does work very collaboratively in terms of an economic recovery strategy that addresses, you know, getting our workers back downtown, is consulting with business, is consulting with service providers, is consulting with entities like Economic Development Winnipeg to look at every possible angle of getting people back downtown, whether it's through work or through social events that helps our city grow, especially in our downtown area. Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Chambers. Do I…I'm hearing some kind of music or something. Oh yeah, you're…okay. If you can mute your phone, that would be great, thanks. Mister…Mister…Mr. Clerk, is there anybody else who wishes to speak to this item?

Clerk: Councillor Schreyer

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, your turn, please.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Deputy Speaker Eadie. Look, I'm in favour of this. People said…essentially, you heard all the speeches, the biggest issue we're dealing with is…here is the reasoning being economic development, economic recovery and a safe downtown. That's what I've heard, that's what we've heard. A number of other important points, as Councillor Chambers made the point, to live our lives, to live our city…to live our lives, live our city downtown; cultural events and things like this. Extremely important. Quality of life. Why do we do what we do? Why do Winnipeggers do what they do? You know, why do they…why do we increase their taxes? Why do we put them into greater debt? Hopefully there's some reasons for it. I would hope it's about quality of life, but you need an economic framework for that. Obviously, that's why we have our budgets and that was the motivation, from what I've heard so far, the primary motivation for this issue. So, I'm going to stick to the issue, as others have: economic development, economic recovery. So, let's face it. My concern is that we blow certain things out of proportion. I'm not saying this isn't important, but if people are interested or doing this in the name of economic recovery and economic development, there's bigger issues. And so, if we're going to do this great, that means to be consistent, I would say, let's deal with some even far bigger issues to deal with economic development and economic recovery. And I'm not going to pretend, I'm not going to say to people that COVID is the main factor of the decade in terms of budgetary pressures and economic pressures, you know, on this city or on our governments. It's not. And if we're concerned about economic development downtown, we should look at what the hinderances are that force taxpayers that, you know, impose greater tax increases on the citizens of Winnipeg in the name of economic development and downtown economic development. And so, let's keep a perspective here. This is a good thing for all the reasons just explained; economic development, economic recovery and downtown…downtown economic development. But the reality is, that a sustainable budget for the City is more important for all sorts of reasons. It's just larger, it's just bigger, including for these issues we've mentioned today, which are the motivations for this by-law and this vote and this discussion. So, let's not forget. You know, let's face it, this year we've talked in terms of our budgetary challenges, we've just had our police…public consultation with police. We literally gave the impression….in fact, I've literally heard, with my own ears, members of city hall, public representatives at city hall, say…state point blank that the police budget is a quarter of budget. And it keeps fading, it's not.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, that report has…I believe has already been voted on. Or is that…that's a different report, the police budget thing. Could you speak to back to work?

Councillor Schreyer: Sure. The reason for the back to work, people say, is economic development, economic recovery, so we might as well understand the economics of things and not say that…like, this is the prime thing we're going to be discussing today for economic development, is back to work, as if this is the biggest factor? I'm in favour of this, but I don't want to give the impression, Chair Eadie, that this is the biggest challenge to economic development. So, if we're doing this in the name of economic development, let's keep perspective in terms of what influences economic development. What are our challenges? What are our hinderances? This isn't the big one, all right? Unless…I don't want to pretend that. I don't want to get…be walked out of this…after our speeches and our vote, given the impression to people that we're…we're doing the best we can, because we're not. This is one issue, but if we're talking, councillor…Chair Eadie, in the name of doing this, in the name of economic development, then let's deal with economic development.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right.

Councillor Schreyer: And economic sustainability, that's my point. Is it not everybody's point? Do we not all share that point of view?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Anyway, yes, Councillor Schreyer, sorry to interrupt you again, but that's fine. I'm just pointing out, though, that the…like, you may connect different things, but you know, that's a different report that was actually on our agenda, so I'd ask you to…like, let's not get into all the aspects of the City's budget in that regard.

Councillor Schreyer: Fine, Councillor Eadie. And on that same basis, I'd have to say, that we shouldn't talk about back to…back to work by-laws in the name of economic development. Same thing. It's all about economic development, it's all about the budget, and that's why I say what I say, Councillor Eadie.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right. Are you concluded, Councillor Schreyer?

Councillor Schreyer: No, I'm not. I just wanted to make the point that when we're giving perspective on things…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, please.

Councillor Schreyer: We bothered making speeches on this issue just now.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right.

Councillor Schreyer: On economic development.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right.

Councillor Schreyer: So, we've also talked about Economic Development Winnipeg and a presentation from Economic Development Winnipeg. That's fine with me. I appreciate that. I'm going to see this presentation, as Councillor Lukes has suggested. Good idea. But I'm not going to leave here giving the idea…when we're here...right now, all of us, just talked about economic development, miss the point and pretend in any way, shape or form that's my perspective that this is the be all end all of all the things we can discuss today at Council, that this is…this is…this is the big thing for economic development. No, it's not. It's accounting to our budget and explaining to people, to the taxpayers and citizens of Winnipeg, why it is their taxes are going up, we're going into further debt, and their services are going down. We want to talk about economic development, that's great. Not all in favour of this speech, but my fear is, that this is going to be the biggest…the biggest issue today and we're going to talk about rah, rah, rah, we're doing things for economic development and the big thing of the day is this back to work by-laws. I'm in favour of it, but I'm not going to pretend we're solving our economic sustainability problems. I'm not going to pretend this is solving our economic development issues. All right, why would I do such a thing? I hope we're all on the same page on this one. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. The City's employing people is economic development if we lay people off. Anyway, sorry, I'm debating now.

Councillor Schreyer: Yeah, I'm in favour.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Clerk, anybody else to speak to this?

Clerk: Councillor Nason.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Nason, please.

Councillor Nason: No…no groans, please. I'll try to be concise this time, as opposed to typically. The idea of the motion was to have a public plan available for recovery…return to work, sorry, my apologies. Mr. Deputy Speaker, what we have in front of us is not that. What we have is, thanks for coming out. No formal report attached, no referral for a report, but just to say, thank you for the intention. I can speak from personal experience with regards to return to work. My wife is a Provincial employee, they've been ordered back to work immediately following the spring break. So, they've been given a little over a week to get their plans together for childcare, to get their plans for supporting their lives for the past few years that have been sort of in a state of flux. What we were trying to do was to have the public understand what the Winnipeg Public Service is undertaking in a written format. That was the motion, it was for that to be made public. It may have been that we have an opportunity to have that as a public report to show other industries in the city of Winnipeg what we're doing to have our workers, the 8,000 to 10,000 if you include seasonal, what that plan is. That's what we were looking for. It's obviously that today's motion, there's no amending motion to further amend this. I certainly didn't have a lot of time to do that because I've been working as a 311 operator for the last couple of weeks. So, you know, I appreciate that

the…there was conversation and dialogue at EPC. Again, as operator for 311, did not have the opportunity to review that prior to Council today, but nonetheless, I do hope that we can all return to work safely. That, as witnessed today, we're now back around this table. I do wish my colleagues to be able to return fully as well that are not here today. But we are in a new normal. We do have to move forward. We've got significant inflationary pressures; the cost of gas is going through the roof, the cost of life is going through the roof. Now, admittedly, our City workers may have gotten very comfortable with not having to transport downtown, perhaps that's part of the challenge as part of return to work. But without a plan that's presented as part of this request, we won't be fully informed. But Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is what it is. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Nason. Mr. Clerk.

Clerk: No further speakers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No further speakers. Mayor to close, please.

Mayor Bowman: I'd just ask that you call the question, please.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Call the question. All those in favour? Anybody opposed? You wish to be recorded in opposition? Okay, thank you. The motion…the report passes to receive it as information. Report Item 10, Mr. Clerk.

Item 10 – 2022 Mill Rates for the Education Support Levy and Special Levy

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, Mayor, you asked to have it stepped down.

Mayor Bowman: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just asked that this be pulled, I just want to be recorded in opposition. I don't…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: So, you're calling for a recorded vote?

Mayor Bowman: And I'll…yeah, I'll wait for my council colleagues to speak. We have one other that would like to speak.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The other in opposition. Okay, would that be Councillor Gillingham?

Clerk: Councillor Rollins is first.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Oh, Councillor Rollins, okay. Please.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to acknowledge that the City of Winnipeg plays an important role on making sure that education is supported in the city of Winnipeg and municipalities like ours do so, and school divisions, another level of municipal government, do so too by raising the levy. There is an important piece to raising a levy to subsidize education and I want to recognize Winnipeg School Division, St. James-Assiniboia School Division, Pembina Trails School Division, Seven Oaks School Division, Seine River School Division, Interlake, Louis Riel, River East-Transcona School Divisions, for all that they do for Winnipeg's students. I used to represent a school division of 33,000 students, Mr. Speaker. As you know, there are several proud school trustees in this chamber, all of whom understand the role of the City in making sure that there is…that this piece of legislation is, essentially, enacted. While folks have these past four years stood and voted against this, Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize that currently in the province, there is no concept for an education funding model that does not include this. And I'm concerned about the role that austerity, on the one hand, and the lack of education funding model. A policy of worse that the Provincial Government seems not to be able to get back on or succeed in having a conversation about our most precious resource, our children. And so, I'm proud to stand today in support of this and in support of education. And I'm, frankly, a little fatigued to folks turning a blind eye on the structural impediments that children face in this province, including Winnipeg's kids, when it comes to a very naïve role of the Provincial Government that does not have an education funding model on Broadway. That continues a path to not having education funding models, so thank goodness we have votes in this chamber today, like today, that ensures that structurally something is working for schools, Mr. Speaker. Something is working on behalf and bodies like ours is working on behalf of children. And something is standing up, recognizing the role of school trustee-ship in doing the right thing opposite kids. And I want to recognize that these levies are different. They're different because school trustees like I used to be, like Councillor Mayes used to be, like Councillor Orlikow and Councillor Gilroy, forgive me if I forgot anyone, councillor…Speaker Eadie, forgive me, used to be. We used to raise levies in support of our students and they look different because different school divisions have different concepts of their students' needs. So, I rise today in support of this motion. I will always rise for school children, Mr. Speaker. And I will call on the Provincial Government to prompt them, Mr. Speaker, to get behind the work of figuring out an education model for the Province. The kids need it, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Speaking on my behalf as well, Councillor Rollins. Mr. Clerk, is there…?

Clerk: Councillor Schreyer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, you're up on the school division property tax mill rate.

Councillor Schreyer: Sure. I've given a speech earlier, I…last year, in terms of my support for our structure of having school trustees and our…the school divisions, as we do. (inaudible) to here today is a temporary conflict in terms of a greater issue, and the main challenges we have with either our involvement in this or the Provincial Government, is large. It…we want the government to solve these issues. We want the Provincial Government to solve these issues, but bare in mind, just remember something, we're not going to solve these issues without the acknowledgment that taxpayers don't…taxes are going up. Okay? They're…they're going up every single year. We're going into debt and the Provincial Government's going into greater debt every single year. So, where's the money going? So, we say we want the Provincial Government to solve this education problem, well let's give them some guidance because today we're just going to deal with a structure by which we'll…we're…you know, raising…raising taxes for a school…for our public school…for our schools, also. It's really important. But we're not dealing today with the issue. Yes, we're calling on the Provincial Government, some of us, to deal with the issue, but I'm not going to look any political…provincial politician in the eye and say, you solve this, without allowing some support from myself in terms of explain…helping them explain to the taxpayers, explain to the voters, explain to the citizens, explain to the ultimate decision makers giving them the information they need to have the real discussion. And it's not going to be happening today on this issue, but we'll be getting more and more of this every single year as governments and citizens try to deal with the fact that their taxes are going up, they're going further into debt, and education is becoming a lower and lower proportion of our budgets, of our tax increases and our debt increases. You want to solve this problem, answer those questions. Tell people why. Find out and tell people why. Is there another solution? Interrupt me on a point of order right now and say, well, what, we've done that, there is a solution, you don't have to do that. So, I'm waiting, okay. There is only other way…there is only one way; account to people for why their taxes are going up. They're going…we're imposing greater debt on them, their services are going down and issues like education, those primary concerns of government, their proportion to the budget is decreasing every year. So, let's find out why and then we can actually deal with the issue. These are little band-aids to beat. Little issues that actually deter us from dealing with the bigger challenge, because this is nothing…it's going to get worse and worse. Why? Because peoples' taxes are going up, they're going further into debt as governments who are imposing it on taxpayers and citizens and yet, the money is proportionally not going to education. So, where is it going? Okay, the biggest increase by far, the most massive increase in cost to the taxpayer, by far, is infrastructure. Okay? So, we want to deal, let's deal. That's the issue. And I…how on earth we're going to deal with the education challenge without accepting that and talking about this regularly, I don't know. I do believe that when we talk about our budgetary challenges like infrastructure, we'll actually be able to deal with education, but not until then. Until then, we'll just be having debates like today, which doesn't really solve the problem, but we say we…we put it on to the Provincial Government to solve these challenges, well, I think they deserve our help and that includes encouraging them, assisting them, to provide the taxpayers, the citizens, the parents and the students, the information they deserve and need to help solve these problems that are theirs. We talk about education, education's for people to have the training and the outlook to take on their future. Are we providing them the economic structure and the informative structure to let them know what's going on? Because that's the future. That's their future, and that's the future of the budgetary (inaudible). Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hold on. Hold on.

Councillor Mayes: I would hope we could deal with the other school division item before…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hang on, hang on.

Councillor Mayes: None of the last several minutes have related to the…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hang on. Okay, he…he's speaking to…he's almost finished. Councillor…

Councillor Schreyer: No, I'm done. I'm…I'm…we're talking about encouraging the Provincial Government…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right. Thank you. Okay. Thank you.

Councillor Schreyer: I didn't raise the issue.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Listen. Listen. Thank you for your presentation, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Moving on. Mr. Clerk, are there more who want to speak to this?

Clerk: No further speakers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Pardon me? There are no further speakers? Okay. All right then. What I'm going to be doing then is going to go back to the Mayor and then just so everybody knows, I'll call the vote and then we will adjourn for lunch. Okay, all right. Mr. Mayor to close.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is largely an annual administrative vote in which the Provincial Government requires municipalities to pass and assist with the…the levying of mill rate for education support. Part of the challenge has been that the school divisions…I should echo the comments of appreciation for the work that the school divisions and school trustees do. Many of our council colleagues are former school trustees, and I do want to thank them as well as the current school trustees and school divisions for the important work that they do in our community; educating future members of Council and future mayors and current leaders in our community. The Provincial Government, to Councillor Rollins' point, does owe a duty of explaining what the alternative is. They have previously announced the elimination over time of the…of this funding model and I would just echo and support the need for the Provincial Government to be transparent with parents and teachers and school divisions with how they plan to fund schools appropriately. This vote today is simply…it is an annual…as members of Council will know, this is something that we're required to do annually. I once met with former Premier Brian Pallister, asked why…why the City is…sends these out, because it does lead to confusion. People get their tax bill, there are increases that are, at times, significant from school divisions, that you know, we get calls here at city hall wondering why taxes have gone up. And so, even though it's very clear on the bill, if you look at it, you know, prescribe right down to the font size, who is responsible for what charges to taxpayers. People often will look at the bottom line and just see an increase. And so, I was told it was really for administrative efficiencies, to which I suggested the Province could, perhaps, send our tax bills out as an administrative efficiency. I don't think they'd ever do that because they would get calls for charges. And so, I'm glad…I appreciate the comments that have been made. I've historically, in recent years…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I'm sorry, Mr. Mayor, I'm just going to stop you just for one second. Councillor Orlikow is moving that we go past noon to conclude this report. Thank you, Councillor Orlikow. All those in favour? Nobody's opposed? That is carried.

Councillor Mayes: I would like to…I wanted to intervene to say, can we deal with the next report as well? I think there's only one other item…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I just called the vote. You were in opposition.

Councillor Mayes: I was trying to stop you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You were in opposition to the…sounds like you're in opposition to the…to just dealing with this report. I don't…anyway, I think it's going to lead to a lengthy…no, I'm going to…in the interest of efficiency, I called the vote. I heard everybody say yea, and I would just like to allow the Mayor to conclude on the school division special levies and provincial property tax levy as well.

Mayor Bowman: Out of deference to my colleagues, I'll conclude and just ask that you call the question, please. Thanks.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much, Mr. Mayor. Okay, all those in favour of the report, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Lukes, Santos, Browaty, Chambers, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Mayes, Nason, Orlikow, Rollins, and Mr. Speaker Councillor Eadie and Councillor Schreyer

Nays

His Worship Mayor Bowman.

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Deputy Speaker, Yeas 13, Nays 1.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The report is done. We will, actually, adjourn till 1:00 p.m. Colleagues, we'll adjourn for lunch till 1:00 p.m., unless, well, Councillor Mayes, you want to…okay, you want to move a motion?

Councillor Eadie: Well, if you can testify, I appreciate that, Councillor Eadie.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: So, you're moving to…

Councillor Mayes: I'd like to do a 15, which I think is the last and only remaining EPC item. If I'm wrong on that, then.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Well, it's not the last one because we have a notice of motion as well, Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Of the regularly scheduled agenda.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That is regularly scheduled, the notice of motion.

Councillor Mayes: Of the Items between 9 and 15, I think we voted on all of the Items between 9 and 15 except 15.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Anyway, we'll deal with…well, I'll call…all those in favour of spending lunch to deal with report 15? Is anybody opposed? Yeah, it sounds like that's carried. All right, Mr. Clerk, could you please introduce Item 15?

Item 15 – School Division Litigation

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I'll wait to hear from my council colleagues, thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right, I'm assuming Councillor Mayes would like to speak to this report.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. It does…it does, in a way, go with the previous item, so thank you for that. I'll try not to go on too long. This is a long running item. Long running enough that it was first raised with me by Trustee Rollins, whose remarks were very good there a few minutes ago. I wanted to commend her for that. This item is about, of all things, property taxes that are collected by the City of Winnipeg and the relationship with a number of the school divisions. It's a bit tricky with Division Scolaire Franco-Manitobain, but leaving that aside, there are, as Councillor Rollins laid out, several school divisions that lie either wholly or in part within the city of Winnipeg boundaries. We, of course, collect the property taxes, as the Mayor said, and remit the school taxes, but there are…there then remains the issue of school divisions pay property tax on certain of their buildings. They pay us, City of Winnipeg, property taxes. So, then it gets interesting from a legal perspective as to which buildings are exempt from paying tax. So, you've got two levels of government fighting based on the interpretation of a statute from a third level of government: the Provincial Government. So, this is all about interpretation of the Municipal Assessment Act. So, the…there are a number of these files currently going forward to the Court of Queen's Bench. It has taken years. They're to be heard in September. The matters were first heard by the City's own Board of Revision, and the school divisions won some and the City won some and various items have been appealed up, it's quite convoluted, but there are some test cases going in front of the Court of Queen's Bench. My own views are, perhaps, a little stronger than what's in this motion, but other councillors have indicated different views as well. So, this is a compromise. I want to thank Mike Jack for suggesting one possible compromise here. So, that's appreciated. So, the issue rides…it's very Canadian, really, it rides on interpretation…translation issue, which is Section 22(1)d of the Municipal Assessment Act says that there are certain school division buildings that are exempt from paying City taxes. The English version; exemption is, it's used…is used for a public school, but then…and I…without Councillor Allard here, the French will have to rely on me. So, you may need the (inaudible) as Councillor Vandal used to call the translation device. Even with my French, you might still need English because you might not be able to follow it in French, for those of you who speak French. But I will try. So, the French translation of Section 22(1)d is:

Translation of French Spoken:

Councillor Mayes: They are used for the needs…they are used for the needs of a public school.

Councillor Mayes: So, that translates, arguably, to: for the needs of a public school. A broader interpretation than the English, "For a public school". So, lots of dispute over that phrase.

Translation of French Spoken:

Councillor Mayes: They are used for the needs of a public school.

Councillor Mayes: So, there are…there are three different areas here that are under dispute. There are the buildings, the…

Translation of French Spoken:

Councillor Mayes: Offices for the clinicians.

Councillor Mayes: Speech language pathologists, audiologists, social workers. Also under dispute…

Translation of French Spoken:

Councillor Mayes: Space for the storage of desks.

Councillor Mayes: Desk storage and…

Translation of French Spoken:

Councillor Mayes: Bus garage.

Councillor Mayes: Which probably doesn't need translating; school bus garages. Should…are all of those for the needs of a public school. This motion deals only with one subset: the clinician offices. I felt strongly about this. We've all lost votes here 15 to 1 or 14 to 2. I was quite prepared to go forward with this even if I was to lose 14 to 2. I figured Rollins would be with me, so I figured it wouldn't 15 to 1, so in that case, I was still willing to go forward. I think it's a compromise. David Grant had a point there, which is, are you just fighting over this and giving the money back? No, there will be a court case. There will be some retroactive taxes owing or will be owing some back. So, it's not that, it's forward looking. After the court case, and if the City loses, it's all moot anyway, the court case…Court of Queen's Bench, if the City wins, then the Council of the day would look at, okay, what would it cost us to grant back the money we're getting for these buildings that have clinician offices. The clinicians matter. I spoke at EPC about how when I was first elected to school division in Brandon, I met this woman and I thought, is she an EA? Is she a teacher? And she said, no, I work for the school division, I'm a clinician. And I asked the superintendent who said, I run a small RHA out of the division office here, it's modern education. Where they there in '70s when I was at Hastings School? No, not to my memory, but now this is a much bigger part of education. I think if I…if my kids needed a speech language pathologist, I would hope one would be available. If somebody else needed a clinician, I would hope they'd be there. I think we need to recognize this is important, it's part of modern education. What will it cost? Well, we'll find that out if we win the court case and they'll be a report back. That's what this is trying to say is, let's at least send the signal, let's at least say, we see you. We see the importance of these people who work in these fields. We see you, we understand this. So, I will curtail the rest of my French remarks, but this one legislative change that should come, these appeals should go to the Manitoba Municipal…

Translation of French Spoken:

Councillor Mayes: The Municipal Affairs Commission.

Councillor Mayes: Not the courts. This has taken years and years and well, we know that, because Trustee Rollins raised it. So, this has taken years to finally get in front of a court. So, let's send a message that we see these folks, that we understand their importance. Do we know the exact cost? We can't know that today. It's not going to be backwards looking, it's going to be forwards looking after the court case to say, well, let's recognize the importance of these people in a modern school division. Finally, if you're undecided on this, listen to Gilroy's speech at EPC because it was terrific, it was brief, it was moving. She talked about her personal experiences in the school system and the importance of a clinician in her life. It was fantastic. So, even if you don't listen to me or Councillor Rollins, listen to Councillor Gilroy on this. I would encourage you. So, hope we can support his. I don't know what the vote will be. In a way, I'm just pleased to have been able to talk about this and to go on the record. So, again, thanks to Mike Jack for saying, you know, we do grant that money to certain organizations. That might be an option should the case pay out, and this way we aren't enmeshing ourselves, we aren't interfering in the litigation as it goes forward. So, it's a compromise, but again, I wanted to be on record and I hope others do to say to the clinicians who work for these multiple school divisions, we see you, we know you're important and once the court case is resolved, we may have to come back and re-visit this, but I think it's important to send this message today. Thank you. Thank you, Councillor Eadie, for letting me deal with that before lunch. That's appreciated.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That's fine. I was actually hoping to speak to it, but I won't now in the interests of moving along efficiently. Mr. Clerk, is there anybody else?

Clerk: Councillor Rollins.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Rollins, please.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think a fundamental question, and I want to recognize the mover, Councillor Mayes, Mr. Speaker, who has been an enduring advocate for school divisions, which is, no doubt, why Mayor Bowman appointed him as the School Board Liaison first ever in City Council's history. For me, are we building Complete Communities for OurWinnipeg is a question. And for me, this motion, Mr. Speaker, doesn't go far enough. Why? Because schools, district planning, buses, depots, I think are part of what we should be looking at. Why? For the simple matter that if a school zone…if a school division doesn't have, as they don't have, an economic policy that supports them well and good enough, as many don't right now because of the Provincial Government and their lack of economic model for education, then guess where that bussing ends up? It ends up…if a school division has to cut bussing as the Winnipeg School Division has had to, it's the City of Winnipeg. It's the City of Winnipeg that has to add a bus, and guess who that costs? Well, it costs the same taxpayer, Mr. Speaker. If we as a city decide on a more robust tax increment financing policy as we have, it's school divisions that forego the incremental tax. If Mr. Speaker, schools district plans that used to acknowledge and the Provincial Government legislation, again, was problematic here, if district planning as Councillor Lukes and Councillor Mayes and those that live in suburbs that are growing well know, if they don't effectively plan for school divisions, if they treat school divisions like developers, Mr. Speaker, which is, again, really taxing the same taxpayer, but anyways, I digress. There are several policy impacts that this city can echo positively or negatively, that impact school divisions. I agree with Councillor Mayes, Mr. Speaker, that we should stand today and send a message that we see the work of audiologists, speech language pathologists, social workers, and more in our school systems and that this is a relevant City issue for the reasons that I have stated because we believe…you know, we build here, Complete Communities that include the school divisions and schools as part of them, but I want to end with a story, Mr. Speaker, of our own Winnipeg School Division I went over to SKY to visit. I was a big proponent of our audiologists, speech pathologists and those that support students in their learning, Mr. Speaker, and they include school psychologists. This can be a SWAT team to many schools that experience trauma. And many school divisions when you're a school trustee, you support your school division through a few things. But what many folks don't know is that school psychologists, they're so few and far between, as all mental health resources are in this province, again, due to failures in the Provincial Government and the fact that they can't get on a policy horse to save folks. And…but the school psychologists in the Winnipeg School Division, for instance, they play a city-wide, if not provincial role that we had several contracts, Mr. Speaker, at the Winnipeg School Division for Grey Academy, for St. Mary's Academy. So, for councillors that, you know, are concerned about this motion, and I want to see a unanimous vote today, obviously, Mr. Speaker, it is important to recognize and see that isn't just a Winnipeg School Division or a Louis Riel School Division feature that, indeed, some of these assets play a wider role. And so, this motion just simply asks that 90-days of that court decision, a decision that, as Councillor Mayes described, is very important to school divisions themselves to settle out. Probably the most Canadian of Canadian cases. Why? Because many education systems around the world are not like ours. The Federal Government plays a role, Mr. Speaker, in education in other jurisdictions in a way that they just don't hear, which I've always found weird, but be the politician that calls on the Federal Government for a national education department. It quickly becomes a little odd. And Mr. Speaker, I'm afraid, you know, my colleague, Jeff Browaty, Mr. Speaker, might stand up again and say that I'm in the wrong space. But the…nobody does it like…quite like we do and that's why this council chamber, I'm really proud that we do occupy ourselves with the lowest, perhaps, form or adjacent form, I shouldn't say lowest, of municipal government school trusteeship and some of their ambitions, Mr. Speaker. This motion simply asks within 90-days of the court decision, an important court decision, a very Canadian court decision, that we gather back here and consider the costs of granting back two respective school divisions the annual City of Winnipeg property tax revenue for those properties with clinician offices. I think it would be the least we could do to just simply agree that we're going to come back and…to this forum and discuss it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Rollins. Mr. Clerk.

Clerk: Next, we have Councillor Gillingham.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is a pre-emptive motion. I appreciate that Councillor Mayes has brought it forward. I did not support it at Executive Policy Committee meeting, I won't be supporting it here. I do appreciate and respect my colleagues who have given years of public service as school trustees before being elected to Winnipeg's City Council, but our job in this chamber is to deliver…to fund and deliver City services, not Provincial services. And the concern I have is that, should the Court of Queen's Bench determine the school division properties with clinician offices are not exempt from paying…are not exempt from paying City of Winnipeg property taxes, the concept of the idea of granting back to the divisions those costs is in essence, subsidizing education. Is in essence, subsidizing a city…pardon me, a province…a provincial responsibility, which…who deliver education services. And we all know around this chamber

that the line between what the Province is responsible for and what the City's responsible for gets blurred time and time again. And we struggle with that. There's so many areas of overlap. But where we can make a clear delineation and say Province, that's your responsibility, this over here is our responsibility as a City, I think we should hold the line on that where possible. And this may be seemingly a small matter, but I think on this one, on principle, I think if it…again, this is a pre-emptive motion, but if the Court of Queen's Bench comes back and says no, school divisions are responsible to pay property taxes on this portion of property, I think that we as a City should stand with that and receive that determination by Court of Queen's Bench and not provide a grant back to the respective school divisions for those portions of the properties.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. Mr. Clerk, is there anybody else?

Clerk: Councillor Klein.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Klein, please.

Councillor Klein: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. And I will be…I will be brief. I appreciate my colleagues' passion on this matter. And Councillor Gillingham brought up some valid points about staying in our lane. Too often we swerve out of our lane at this level of government. I'm not going to support the motion, it's just the report, I understand that, but I think the message that I would urge my colleagues to do as opposed to moving this motion right now, is I would urge Councillor Mayes and others to form a working group, reach out to members of the legislation that are responsible, ask them to join that working group, and have these discussions in a manner that is respectful of each level of government, share your concerns. It's okay to reach across the table. I think the time of government and division of parties and stuff has to end. We're not getting anything done. This would be a much better way. I appreciate and respect Councillor Mayes and others greatly for their passion on some items, but really, it's about changing the way we've been doing it for the last several years. And that change would be reaching up, reaching our hand across the table with a working group and saying, we as Council, have an issue with this and we'd like to talk to you about it. If we're not getting any action from that, then of course, we have a different path we can take. So, I won't be in support of this motion, but again, I do urge my colleagues…and I would be happy to participate in that group as well if they chose to do that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Klein. Mr. Clerk, is there any?

Clerk: Councillor Chambers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Chambers, please.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm rising in support of this motion. In review and consideration of its content, you know, our students today have a much more complex learning environment than, let's say, I did when I graduated high school almost 40…well, 40 years ago this year. You know, our city, our province has been…its growth has been fueled by immigration, immigration from the perspective of skilled workers, as well as those that are considered refugees coming to Canada and specifically Manitoba, the city of Winnipeg, that have gone through traumatic experiences. So, when I look at the services that are provided in our school system to help create a more inclusive society or an inclusive city with respect to having students being in class that if they have needs that need to be dealt with, that they can be dealt with in that context with, you know, a clinician, with an audiologist, with a social worker. Again, so that they feel included in their schools and in their communities. So, I'm supportive of this from that perspective and that these services need to be part of the school system and therefore, should be exempt from paying those property taxes, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Chambers. Mr. Clerk, is there anybody else?

Clerk: No further speakers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Oh, sorry, did I hear somebody say yea? No? Acting Deputy Speaker, could you please take the Chair momentarily for me to…

Acting Deputy Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Eadie: Present my perspective.

Acting Deputy Speaker: Eight minutes on the clock.

Councillor Eadie: All right, won't take me even that long.

Acting Deputy Speaker: Thank you. We appreciate that.

Councillor Eadie: I just want to clarify why I will be actually voting for this particular motion that comes from our School Division Liaison. And I've heard solid, you know…for parking garages, utility buildings, so on and so forth, which I used to work out of the Winnipeg School Division utility building behind Tech Voc. The…mind you, back in the early '80s. The thing is, we the City, City Council, we are actually the property, the communities, the various communities all around. Whether you're in the suburbs or wherever you are, the point has been made that, you know, it's the same property taxpayers that are, well, and the…in the…well, partially funding the services provided by both school divisions and municipalities, City of Winnipeg. And you know, some people might ask, why do our own City departments have to pay other departments for services? Well, it's the cost accounting management…management…finance management perspective on the role we do to utilize that kind of thing. But one of…I just want to come back to the base. When we look at a school yard, that is greenspace that that neighbourhood also uses. It's not just used by the school. The kids who are in the same houses that are paying City property taxes are, you know, paying property taxes for schools. One of the biggest issues, and I'm voting for this, maybe because there does need to…I would agree with Councillor Klein. Besides just having a School Division Liaison, and we have a very good one in place at the moment, we don't know after the next election, but maybe what we should be doing is actually sitting down and working with the school divisions to say, you know, why is a ward asked to spend Land Dedication Reserve money on proper green sport recreation space in a neighbourhood? Why…and I've had this happen. And I support and have provided the dollars for these schools because it is the people in these neighbourhoods, not just the kids who go to school, it's actually, you know, your child could be going to private school, but you know, there's a close by schoolyard and you want to kick a soccer ball around in the evening, you go to…in my case, you go to the Governor Semple School's property and that's where you kick your soccer ball around. So, there really needs to be…and this is demonstrative, it's been around a long time, you know, there was a failure in the Maples, there was the concept schools and the City were together on this whole campus of schools, pools, community centres and there was some things that still needed to happen, and then what happened, some things didn't happen like the indoor track underneath the Maples Collegiate. Nobody wanted to pay the money. Nobody wanted to go to the taxpayer because it is the taxpayer, after all, who pays for it. And it would be the taxpayers who would…might have the opportunity to use that indoor track off school hours. So, I think Councillor Mayes here has brought to us something where we could say, Winnipeg's City Council is reaching out to the school divisions and saying, we together can do better. And so, for those reasons, I will be supporting this motion that's been brought forth by Councillor Mayes. Thank you.

Acting Deputy Speaker: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Do you want the Chair back?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I'll take the Chair back, thank you.

Clerk: Councillor Schreyer's indicating he wishes to speak.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, please.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you. And I appreciate everyone's remarks on this, everyone's point of view. And Councillor Eadie made a good point, we're talking about crossovers of jurisdictional financial responsibility, but then again, you know, when people want to be on common space and enjoy park space and kick the ball, well, look at that, they don't necessarily go to a City park, they end up going to a school…to a school yard. And that's a good point in terms of we end up having shared responsibilities to the reality and sensibility of why we do these things, why people pay taxes in the first place. So, yeah, we're going to have some jurisdictional issues. I don't think this is the biggest problem. I can certainly see what people are saying, you can't ignore jurisdictional issues, sometimes you have to draw a line. Where is that? Is it a fine line? Is it a big grey area? Where is it? Now, I have to…you know, Councillor Chambers was making the point, and I believe Councillor Rollins as well in terms of the services that the schools provide, they didn't always provide. Now, one thing I've never talked about is I have a speech impediment. And I know there might be people to say, yeah, the speech impediment is lack of impediment. But aside from that, I did have to take in junior high, I had an official…official…officially diagnosed speech impediment. And I did have to take sessions with a speech pathologist. And I could see…wasn't that helpful to me. I…it was important for me to recognize because I didn't even recognize it, and then what I did see is, I saw it in others, other people. I saw the benefit. Just as one example. So, these services are real. And as Councillor Chambers said, yeah, we're living in a more complex school environment than we have before. Peoples taxes have gone up, okay. Peoples taxes have gone up since I was in junior high. My son's in junior high right now. And people's taxes are gone up…the services are there for something. The education system is there for something. Presumably, for all our increases in the size of our economy, as we're told, for the increase in technology, for the increase…the absolute increases in taxes, there should be some benefit to a better education system. And on that basis, my concern is that the education system's going to be the fall guy for our budgetary problems right now. And I'm not going to lay that on the education system. So, in the end, what we're going to see is more and more budgetary conflictive issues. You know, because it's going to be harder and harder for governments to deal with their budgets when we're not even recognizing what our budget…the absolutely…the greatest budgetary challenges are. So, when we're not dealing with them, we're not going to solve them.

So, this is where we're at. We're going to see more and more of this. But one thing for certain, the resources that we can provide sensibly to our students, to our families, to help create a better future, those aren't just words, that's reality. So, these things are worth it and I don't want them to be caught up…caught out in jurisdictional issues in terms of who pays for what; the taxpayer does. And by the way, those students are taking on the debt imposed on them by their governments. And that's a fact. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. Mr. Clerk, is there anybody else?

Clerk: No further speakers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Did I hear somebody wanting a recorded vote? Or should I just call the vote? You want a recorded vote, Councillor Rollins? Yes, okay. Oh, the Mayor, sorry. Mayor to close, sorry. Pardon me.

Mayor Bowman: I'm good. I think all the points have been made by my colleagues on both sides of the debate. I would ask that you call the question, please.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Great. All right. Okay then, all those in favour of the motion, please rise or indicate if you're on Zoom.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Schreyer, Santos, Browaty, Chambers, Gilroy, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins and Mr. Speaker Councillor Eadie

Nays

Councillor Lukes, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Gillingham, Klein and Nason

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 9, Nays 5.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Nays 5. That is carried, right? Yes. All right, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Clerk. All right, we're breaking for lunch and we're going to be back at 1:30, please.

Reconvened meeting of
Winnipeg City Council of
March 24, 2022, at 1:32 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I'll call the meeting back to order. Acting Deputy Speaker Nason, please take the Chair.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
NOTICE OF MOTION

Item 1 - Rescinding Council Decision Regarding Vaccination Requirements for Elected Officials and their Staff

Moved by Councillor Eadie,
Seconded by Councillor Santos,

WHEREAS on September 29, 2021 Council adopted item 19 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated September 21, 2021, which required elected officials and their staff to receive a COVID-19 vaccination, within a timeframe that mirrors the City of Winnipeg staff;

AND WHEREAS it is the intention of the Government of Manitoba and its COVID-19 response team to lift requirements to use proof of vaccination cards in March, 2022;

AND WHEREAS City Council members and staff continue to have the ability to work remotely if potentially exposed to COVID-19 or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Manitoba and its COVID-19 response team will still expect Manitobans to follow appropriate practices to avoid contracting COVID-19;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council decision of September 29 2021, with respect to Item 19 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated September 21, 2021, regarding vaccination requirements for elected officials and their staff, be rescinded.

Acting Deputy Speaker: Thank you. I will. To the Clerks, can you please read into the record the Executive Policy Committee notice of motion? I don't…

Clerk: Moved by Councillor Eadie, seconded by Councillor Santos: Therefore be it resolved that the Council decision of September 29, 2021, with respect to Item 19 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated September 21, 2021, regarding vaccination requirements for elected officials and their staff, be rescinded.

Acting Deputy Speaker: And Councillor Eadie to open.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thank you, Acting Speaker Nason. I don't think there's a need for a lot of debate. Actually, what I'd like to do, in terms of this particular rescinding of the motion, I would like to acknowledge that all the public servants that were…fall under this vaccination order, I'd like to thank them. As public servants, they really understood that…and will always understand, actually, that when you have a pandemic of…pandemic of this proportion even if it goes down to an epidemic, this is a deadly virus. And I'd just…I believe probably 99%, I don't know for sure, I can't say for sure, Acting Deputy Speaker.

Acting Deputy Speaker: Deputy Speaker, we just need to pause. I think we've lost our online connection. No. I don't know if it's just our on…if it's the entirety or just…please deposit 25 cents. Do we need to take a…

Councillor Eadie: Acting Deputy Chair?

Acting Deputy Speaker: Five minutes? We need five minutes.

Councillor Eadie: Okay, thank you.

Acting Deputy Speaker: That's what happens.

Councillor Eadie: It's the electricity coming from my member across the table over there.

Acting Deputy Speaker: Well, it is the challenge that (inaudible). 15 minutes.

Councillor Schreyer: So, we don't…we don't share a border line, we share a border point. Yeah, a border point. Four…four wards converge.

Acting Deputy Speaker: Okay, colleagues, colleagues. For those online, we did lose connection and we're waiting to restore. So, please, just in case we suddenly go live, that you're prepared.

Councillor Schreyer: Could you…could you hear us?

Acting Deputy Speaker: Not till just now. It's about a border point or…you probably shared your conversation with the world.

Councillor Schreyer: It's a good conversation. We should do it more often.

Acting Deputy Speaker: Okay, we're going back now. Countdown, yeah. Okay, we're back live after that brief technical outage. Deputy Speaker Councillor Eadie has the floor and we'll continue. There's nine minutes on the clock, Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you very much. And just in case anything was missed, I'll just begin again. I don't think…believe there's a need for a long debate on this. At the time, the vaccination order were put in place for the public servants who work out of this building. It was…it was appropriate at the time to demonstrate the leadership of the Public Service, which is not just us councillors, but also, the people who work in our offices. And I would point out, although I don't know for sure, I'm pretty sure, 99% of the public servants who work out of this building are vaccinated. And it's because we, as public servants, trying to demonstrate our leadership in the midst of a dangerous pandemic that, actually, the virus was

killing people, and we all had to pitch in to try to achieve herd mentality…anyway. 99% is pretty darn good. And I don't know that in the future we will need to have such orders in place because I think that people in this day and…well, I shouldn't say that. Maybe it's another 100 years before we get a pandemic of this sort, but I doubt it. And so…and so, it's in people's memories and we know that people who work in the Public Service are leaders and stand up to do the right thing. And anyway, at this point it's just simply, everybody who's going to be vaccinated is vaccinated. And most of us public servants have our third as well. And the COVID situation has not gone away, but I think that we all understand that we have to lead and do the things so that we can protect the citizens that we work for. And anyway, that's simply it, just to rescind the vax order. The Government of Manitoba, of course, has removed issues related to vaccinations as well.

Acting Deputy Speaker: Okay. Thank you very much. Any other speakers? Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Sure, I'll be brief. I'll be supporting this. I want to thank Councillor Eadie and Santos for bringing this forward. Last month, I know that there was an effort to suspend the rules to vote on this matter. I didn't support doing so at that time, just given the status of the provincial public health orders. They have changed, and so, I do think it's appropriate that we rescind. That being said, I will just note, seeing reports of new hospitalizations from the previous week, as well as increases from the previous week of ICU cases. I just will, once again, stress that the overwhelming evidence from healthcare professionals is that vaccines are safe and they work at protecting…in better protecting one's health and the health of our communities. So, I just wanted to take this opportunity to communicate to Winnipeggers the importance of getting not only your double vax, but also your boost. That's something that we've seen is effective at mitigating the impacts of COVID. We all as a Council I know want the same outcomes for ourselves, our families and our community. And so, I did want to just take this opportunity to urge Winnipeggers to please get vaccinated and manage the risk accordingly. But very happy to support my council colleagues in bringing this forward. Thank you.

Acting Deputy Speaker: Okay, scanning the room, I see no other speakers. Councillor Eadie, you wish to close? Oh, I'm sorry. Councillor Santos just put her hand up.

Councillor Santos: Thanks, I just wasn't sure if there was anybody else on what I was going to speak. Appreciate the opportunity, Acting Deputy Speaker Nason, to put some points on the record. I'll keep my comments brief. I know we have a long agenda ahead of us, I don't want to continue to belabour this issue. So, I want to thank the councillors today for considering today's motion. It has been a challenging couple of months. And I want to reiterate, I respect and support Manitoba Health and Winnipeggers and also always had supported the public health orders. I believe everyone is doing everything possible to mitigate and adhere to the public health measures. So, we know the Province of Manitoba had shifted to the yellow caution level under the pandemic response system. And the provinces had planned…did move forward and removed the proof of vaccination requirements effective earlier this month. And therefore, I hope it's…everybody can support today's motion. I also wanted to thank the City Clerks and the CAO who worked tirelessly during this pandemic in order for Council members and City staff to be able to work remotely and continue to Zoom into Council meetings and other standing policy and community committee meetings. That's been very, very helpful and a great option for, not only us as councillors, but also for Winnipeggers who wanted to come attend as delegations. So, we know that COVID will be around, you know, indefinitely and it's my hope that we can continue to use this valuable tool and the ability to work from home if, you know, we're ever feeling sick or have any COVID-19 symptoms because it's a great option and I think it should be continued to be supported indefinitely. But again, I'll leave that up to, I guess, for debate if we ever come to a national endemic. I also think it's important to recognize and listen to public health officials. We need to be very respectful and mindful of citizens who want to continue to work from home, who want to continue to wear their mask or stay home if they're feeling sick. I think that's still a very good option for everybody. And again, I just want to thank everybody for this opportunity and it's my hope that Council can support today's motion. Acting Deputy Speaker, I'd like to call for a recorded vote as well. Thank you.

Acting Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie to close.

Councillor Eadie: Acting Deputy Speaker Nason, I have no more to say if you can call the question.

Acting Deputy Speaker: Okay. The question has been called. All those in favour…recorded vote, sorry. All rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Schreyer, Santos, Lukes, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Mayes, Nason, Orlikow, Rollins and Mr. Speaker Councillor Eadie

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Deputy Speaker, Yeas 14, Nays 0.

Acting Deputy Speaker: Motion is carried unanimously. Back to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yes, thank you, Acting Deputy Speaker Nason. I may need to call on you a little bit later as well. I'm moving on…okay, so we have Motion 1 that's being replaced by another motion related to EPC. Oh, sorry, by-laws first. Whoops, sorry. For first reading, Mayor Bowman. I'm sorry? We do do it, right? Oh yeah, okay. That's what I thought. Okay. All right, so we do have…I think there's a need to move suspension of the rules as well. We have, I think, one…it's Motion 1 which is being replaced by another related to EPC, Mr. Speaker. Is it automatic referral? All right. All right, Mr. Clerk, would you please…

Clerk: Certainly. Moved by Councillor Rollins, Seconded by Councillor Chambers: Therefore be it resolved that Councillor Gilroy be appointed as the Chair of the Winnipeg Committee for Safety for the remainder of the year term expiring on November 1, 2022.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay.

Councillor Rollins: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to suspend the rules so that we could hear this now. Time is of the issue, Mr. Speaker. We want to get a Chair in place so that the committee can proceed to their next scheduled meeting.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Excellent. Thank you. I'll call the question then. All those in favour of suspending the rules to deal with this report…motion? Is anybody opposed? No? That is carried. Thank you very much. So, we've heard the "be it resolved". The mover is? Councillor Rollins, do you want to speak to it?

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
MOTIONS

Motion No. 1
Moved by Councillor Rollins,
Seconded by Councillor Chambers,

WHEREAS the Winnipeg Committee for Safety is a citizen member committee mandated to advise Council on safety issues as they impact City of Winnipeg policies, procedures and services;

AND WHEREAS the Chair of the Winnipeg Committee for Safety is a member of Council appointed annually at the Organizational meeting of Council;

AND WHEREAS on November 3, 2021, Council appointed Councillor Santos as the Chair of the Winnipeg Committee for Safety for a one year term;

AND WHEREAS Councillor Santos has advised that she is unable to continue to serve as the Chair of the Winnipeg Committee for Safety, and has resigned from the position;

AND WHEREAS a survey of Council was conducted and Councillor Gilroy expressed interest in serving as Chair for the remainder of the term;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Councillor Gilroy be appointed as the Chair of the Winnipeg Committee for Safety for the remainder of the year term expiring on November 1, 2022.

Councillor Rollins: Just briefly, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank Councillor Santos for her service and thank Winnipeg Committee for Safety. I know that they are anxious to continue on their great work on behalf of Winnipeg and behalf of, you know, their safety report that I have the honour of moving at Council, Mr. Speaker. This just ensures them continued chairmanship of Councillor Gilroy to be appointed the Chair of Winnipeg Committee for Safety for the year, expiring on November 1st, 2022. The Winnipeg Committee for Safety is, of course, a citizen member committee mandated to advise Council on safety issues as they impact that City of Winnipeg policies, procedures and services. So, this is to get on with that work, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Rollins. Did anybody else want to speak to this?

Clerk: His Worship Mayor Bowman, followed by Councillor Chambers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right.

Mayor Bowman: I'll be brief. I just want to echo the comments from Councillor Rollins. The Winnipeg Committee for Safety does incredibly important work. In addition to the work that's conducted by the Police Board, I want to acknowledge our Chair, of course, PCS&P our Chair, Councillor Rollins, and members of Council broadly are able to positively impact safety matters through a variety of our efforts. I do want to thank Councillor Santos for her…for her efforts as Chair, recognizing she's resigned. And I also want to thank Councillor Gilroy for agreeing to step up in this leadership capacity. I'm happy to support it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mayor Bowman. And who is the next speaker?

Clerk: Councillor Chambers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Chambers. Please, Councillor.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I want to echo the sentiments of the Mayor in thanking Councillor Santos for her work as Chair of this committee…this committee. And want to thank Councillor Gilroy for stepping up to assume this role, if elected by this…by this council. The only thing that I would ask, Mr. Deputy Speaker, through you to Councillor Gilroy, the appointment of herself as Chair for this committee, that she work collaboratively with the Winnipeg Police Board as they identify safety issues and concerns in the community and perhaps even present to the Winnipeg Police Board so that we have an understanding of the work that they're doing and how we can provide that information to the Winnipeg Police Service as regular updates. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Chambers. It is not question time for the proposed Chair, but I would invite…

Councillor Schreyer: Councillor…Deputy Speaker Eadie?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hang on, I'm not…hang on. Hang on, please. Please. I just wanted to mention that at anytime, the Chair of the Safe City Committee and the Winnipeg Police Board can communicate to each other and establish those relationships as it was back in 2014 when I was a member of the Police Board. Anyway…

Councillor Chambers: Mister…thank you, Mr. Deputy, I just wanted to put it on the public record. Just so that there is the formation of that collaborative work. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Deputy Speaker Eadie. I do want to thank Councillor Santos for her work. I'm previous chair of one of the committees for safety as well. All members of the committee end up having their input and their take and influence somewhat the direction of the committee. And as well, to thank Councillor Gilroy for doing this again. She's done it before and she can do it again. We're all confident in that. And further to Councillor Chambers and Councillor Eadie's remarks about representation with the Winnipeg…the Winnipeg Police Board, there is in fact, I believe it's still the case, that there is a representative from Winnipeg Police Services on the Winnipeg Committee for Safety and that should facilitate in those concerns. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. Mr. Clerk, is there anybody else? No?

Clerk: No further speakers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, I'll call the question. All those in favour? Is anybody opposed? No. Carried. Thank you. Are there any more motions, Mr. Clerk?

Motion No. 2
Moved by Councillor Klein,
Seconded by Councillor Lukes,

WHEREAS on March 3rd, the firm JPMorgan forecast a possible end of year rise in price of Brent oil to US$185 per barrel. Last March, Brent oil was only at US$65 per barrel. US$185 would convert to over $3.00 per litre;

AND WHEREAS the City currently spends over $10 million a year on fuel for all vehicles including transit;

AND WHEREAS the rise in fuel prices to more than double the 2021 price range would result in an additional $10 million in annual costs to the City;

AND WHEREAS the City should plan immediately to address a potential doubling of fuel prices;

AND WHEREAS fuel consumption is operating costs, and the City cannot use debt financing to account for the increased costs;

AND WHEREAS the City cannot rely on its reserves, since they are already near their lower bounds having been drained over the past two years;

AND WHEREAS the City could cut services, improve efficiency, introduce new revenue streams, raise taxes, or request additional funding from the Provincial and Federal governments;

AND WHEREAS cutting services and raising taxes is a disservice to the public unless all other options have been exhausted;

AND WHEREAS the first step should be to improve City operational efficiency.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. *That the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to instruct all departments to immediately develop formal plans to reduce departmental fuel usage, which could include but not be limited to the following:*

    A. *A means to demonstrate to the public that City departments are actively taking steps to reduce fuel costs.*

    B. *The implementation of no-idling policies, more efficient routing while travelling, travel to and from sites during off traffic hours, carpooling instead of sending multiple vehicles, running onboard devices using batteries instead of the engine, transition to smaller vehicles, purchase of hybrid or electric vehicles, and virtual inspections.*

    C. *The coordination of large amounts of work in a single area of the city rather than having crews travel across the city to various worksites within the same day.*

2. *That the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to request increased funding from the Provincial and Federal governments which are benefiting from the higher fuel prices through increased taxation revenues.*

3. *That the Chief Financial Officer be directed to develop and present to Council a detailed breakdown of City fuel purchases by department and their sub-units, for each of the past 3 years which would allow for Council to monitor impacts of rising fuel prices and departmental efforts to improve efficiency.*

4. *That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the forgoing.*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. So, that's an automatic referral to…

Councillor Klein: No, Mr. Speaker, if I may, I'd like to move suspension of the rules to vote on this today, given that the oil prices have just hit over $103 USD a barrel. So, I think there's some urgency to this, and I would ask my colleagues to, you know, join me in supporting the urgency on this motion and dealing with it today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. And that's not debatable, right, Mr. Clerk? Yes, I'm going to call…okay. All those in favour of suspending the rules to debate this at this meeting today? Those opposed? Including me. That suspension of the rules fails. So, that's an automatic referral. All right. We'll do it more organized. All those in favour of suspending the rules to debate this report? Are you rising? Yes. Those on Zoom, please indicate.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Schreyer, Santos, Lukes, Klein and Nason

Nays

His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Gillingham, Gilroy, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins and Mr. Deputy Speaker Councillor Eadie

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Deputy Speaker, Yeas 5, Nays 9.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, the motion is defeated. So, that's an automatic referral. And I believe we're into by-laws now, is that correct? All right. Thank you. Mayor Bowman, to introduce first reading of by-laws.

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

Mayor Bowman: Sure, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the following by-law be read a first time: By-law 42/2022.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour? Is there anybody opposed? No? That is carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 42/2022.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Mayor Bowman, for the other by-laws.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mayor Bowman: Thank you. I move that the following by-laws be read a first time: By-law 9/2022, By-law 15/2022, By-law 31/2022, By-law 32/2022, By-law 33/2022, By-law 39/2022, By-law 40/2022, and By-law 41/2022.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mayor Bowman. All those in favour? Anybody opposed?

Mayor Bowman: I'd like to be recorded in opposition to 40 and 41 only.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Absolutely. Councillor Gillingham, are you…is…Councillor Gillingham, do you wish to be recorded in opposition to those two as well?

Mayor Bowman: 40 and 41, and they relate to school education.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: By-laws on levies and the other.

Councillor Gillingham: I think I supported that. I supported that, I didn't support the other.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Oh, did you?

Councillor Gillingham: Yeah.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right.

Clerk: By-laws No. 9/2022, 15/2022, 31/2022, 32/2022, 33/2022, 39/2022, 40/2022, and 41/2022.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you. I move that by-law…move that By-laws No. 9/2022, 15/2022, and 31/2022 to 33/2022, both inclusive, and 39/2022 to 41/2022, both inclusive, be read a second time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right. All those in favour? Mayor Bowman, you're recorded in opposition.

Mayor Bowman: Yeah, just 40 and 41 only, please.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. I…there was nobody opposed other than that? Okay.

Clerk: By-laws No. 9/2022, 15/2022 and 31/2022 to 33/2022, both inclusive, and 39/2022 to 41/2022.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. I think you have one more.

Mayor Bowman: Yeah, last time. I move that the rule be suspended and By-laws No. 9/2022, 15/2022 and 31/2022 to 33/2022, both inclusive, and 39/2022 to 41/2022, be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mayor Bowman. All those in favour? Anybody opposed? That is…those are carried.

Mayor Bowman: Just 40 and 41 only. Thanks.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yes. Okay, question period for the Mayor. Indicate for the Clerk and I'll…he'll let you know. No questions?

Clerk: Councillor Nason.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, Councillor Nason, please go ahead.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Nason: Yeah, through you Mr. Deputy Speaker just a question on EPC and procedure for the Mayor. We know we chat many times about EPC plus two here and I was privy to hear a meeting that was occurring before council today that involved the Acting deputy Mayor virtual meeting that was being broadcast throughout the common hallway on our side. I'm just wondering if that is a practice that has been undertaken to include the Acting Deputy Mayor and the Deputy Mayor in those pre-meetings.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Through you, Mr. Speaker. I do meet periodically with members of Council we all have regular Council briefings with the public service. But it is not uncommon for me to have meetings virtually, have not had too many in-person recently, but certainly via Teams with council colleagues including Executive Policy Committee members as well as our Deputy Mayor and the Acting Deputy Mayor. I would just ask that the councillor to please, I think in terms of respectful decorum, I wouldn't consider anyone a plus one or plus two. All members of Council are deserving of respect. Our Deputy Mayor and Acting Deputy Mayor do important work on behalf of the City. Other members of this council have served in those roles before and I… I do appreciate their efforts. And of course, given the responsibilities that could fall upon our Deputy Mayor or Acting Deputy Mayor in circumstances in which I wasn't able to continue carrying out my duties as Mayor. I think it is important that the lines of communication are open with them. And so, I have and will continue to do so.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Did you have a follow-up?

Councillor Nason: No. No follow-up.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Nason. No?

Clerk: Seeing no further speakers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, that's it. No more questions. All right, then I will move on to the Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment Committee I believe. The report of March the 2nd.

**REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
WATER AND WASTE, RIVERBANK MANAGEMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT
DATED MARCH 2, 2022**

Councillor Mayes: Yes, one item. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And…still getting used to that. One item only, which I'll be standing down. So, I think we…I guess need to hear from the Clerks first and then I'll introduce the one item.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Well, you're introducing the report. Okay, Mr. Clerk?

Item 1 – Landfill Gas Beneficial Use Business Case and Class 3 Estimate

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Okay, Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A long time coming for this one. Good that it's finally here. I'll be supportive. We all supported at EPC. My attempt to layover at standing committee was defeated by Councillor Nason and Councillor Eadie, I think. So, it shows that it's not all EPC getting their own way. The U of Manitoba and Terry Duguid MP have both wanted a chance to further look into this to see if we could make it work with U of M. I think a lot of time has passed. We had given layovers in the past. I think that the time has come to move forward. Certainly, nothing prohibits the U of M from contacting IGRS, which is the company that is on-site now doing the flaring. They have what is kind of a, well, it's a right of first refusal, really, over how we're going to go forward. There will be a negotiation with IGRS and U of M. Hopefully, we'll make contact and try and be part of that as well. So, good environmental initiative. It was good when we started the flaring back in 2013 and it's going to be better for the environment if we stop the flaring and get the…get the methane reused into renewable natural gas. It doesn't really matter for the climate if all of that renewable natural gas is burned at U of M or any one location or if it's burned across the city. The same net impact: less fossil fuel and natural gas being used, which is the goal for the city. So, it's a good initiative. There were two things added at EPC: one, an addition that I moved. It does seem a little odd that we have these targets in our climate change plan to reduce consumption of natural gas and yet, here we are increasing the supply. Well, it does make sense, given the methane, to increase the supply to try and convert it, but what can we do to look at reducing consumption of natural gas in our buildings, in the buildings in the city? Other cities are taking steps; Ottawa, Vancouver, New York. So, there's a paragraph added in here saying we want a report back on what other cities are doing. In essence, several cities are saying, after 2030, new builds cannot use natural gas for heating. That would be a big step. It's a high inflation period right now, people might have concerns about that. On the other hand, people have concerns about if we continue to just keep burning fossil fuels, what that…what that will mean for the environment. So, seems timely to get that report back. And the other…I'm in the opposition of actually praising Councillor Allard who I've been quarrelling with much of the term, but very good amendment here by Councillor Allard who isn't here. So, in his absence, I'll take the liberty of speaking on his behalf and saying, it's a good…it's a good amendment by Councillor Allard to saying the net proceeds of sale from this initiative, and there was some pretty inaccurate numbers cited by one of our delegates several hours ago, don't pay attention to that, just read the report, it's in the report, we'll make money. May not…it won't be immediate, but this will be a money making proposition. You don't know exactly how much because we've got to sort it out with IGRS. But Councillor Allard's amendment, which you'll see there at number four, was, "Council establish a new reserve fund for climate change initiatives funded by the net proceeds of the sale of the natural gas referred to in recommendation one." So, establish a new reserve fund is actually a pretty major climate change initiative. Well, might you say, well, like Councillor Gillingham, I've memorized appendix three of the budget which talks about…about all of our different reserve funds. Actually, strangely interesting reading. Everything from Brookside Cemetery reserve to workers comp reserve to…you'll say, well, there's already an environment one, right? There's like $100 million in the environmental reserve. That's largely been funding stored up and then used toward North End…toward the sewage treatment. So, to Councillor Allard's credit here, it's actually a fairly major thing that we would create a new reserve that would be fuelled by the proceed…thank you…by the proceeds of sale here, the net proceeds of sale, trying to set up something dedicated to climate change initiatives. So, I just wanted to highlight that. That was a good amendment by Councillor Allard and deserves support. So, I'll be supporting the report. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. Do we have any other speakers, Mr. Clerk?

Clerk: Councillor Schreyer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, please.

Councillor Schreyer: Yeah, thank you, Deputy Speaker Eadie. Once again, Councillor Mayes gives a great chronology of events leading up to where we are here, leading up to right here, right now on this issue, as expressed in this…in this motion. This is what I was sort of hoping for, for years. I find it almost too good to be true. Having said that, just a few things to say. The page one of the recommendation from the standing…the standing committee recommendation, number three, "That the Public Service be authorized to collaborate with Integrated Gas Recovery Services Incorporated to explore

any third-party funding available to assist in offsetting project costs to increase the value paid to the City for the raw resource landfill gas." I mean…I mean, we might be getting funding available, that's great. It's…I'm not against that. Just bare in mind, I mean, I'm not…as I see that, it's still going to be by the taxpayer of the taxpayer for the taxpayer. So, if there's other funding, presumably in this case, means funding from other levels of government and that's fine. If it's going to be investment…private investment, there would be a pay back for that and so there would be no increase to the value paid to the City, presumably, any funding from private parties would be an investment and they would get at least their money back. Hopefully, this is feasible. Now, it's not over. Look, we've been dealing with this for years, trying to encourage for years, last term working on trying to encourage reduced use of fossil fuels, of natural gas, in particular, in Manitoba. Gasoline for dual electric cars instead of using gasoline because in this province it actually makes a difference, not everywhere in the world. Very few places in the world, actually, does it matter as much as Manitoba. And I'm very pleased that Councillor Mayes, you know, looked up the…just the logic of this. And when it comes to the point here, looking at Vancouver and New York, banning new buildings from using natural gas after 2030, glad to say that Councillor Mayes was, you know, already on this regarding the mode…the motion that was passed last year by…moved by Councillor Mayes, on the fact that the biggest change to our climate footprint…our…Winnipeg's climate footprint for…greenhouse gas footprint, is by buildings and cars. And switching buildings to electricity, to hydro, instead of natural gas, will have a big effect. And we can say all we want about all these little things, but some things matter more. And converting buildings…or no new buildings by 2030, that's something for us to look at. And I'd like…and I have the…we're already on the way. Now, the thing is, it's not over, because this isn't new. It's the right thing to do. And by the way, Councillor Mayes did raise sort of that ambiguous contradiction of wanting to reduce the use of fossil fuels, but here we are encouraging the use of fossil fuels. Well, the thing is, though, bare in mind, not that Councillor Mayes is ignorant of this fact, but there is some sort of irony in this, but that needs to be explained. And the reality is, we do have methane that does come from the landfill, from the garbage dump, and…so, it's going to happen anyway. So, we're not actually increasing it so much as harnessing it. Now, at a previous meeting of Council, Councillor Allard did make the point that we flare it. All right, well that's our use of it, our use of the natural gas that comes from the methane that comes from the land…landfill is used in bring it all for nothing. Well, that's our use of it, we burned it off. This way we can actually…can make some constructive use out of it and in that way, we're actually doing something…it's not just for the environment, it's literally for something that's kind of important and we can't ignore…it can seem that it goes against logic, but it's not. And this is what I mean. Oil and natural gas; these fossil fuels are still incredibly powerful and valuable. And right now, when we're trying to reduce our use of it because of its effect on our atmosphere and our environment, our greenhouse gases, yeah, we want to reduce it, but that doesn't mean that they're not powerful and important. And it's not like we're stopping the use of them, we want to prolong the use of fossil fuels and the methane from the landfill site is not a fossil fuel, it's natural gas, but it's not a fossil fuel and there's the distinction. Because these are so valuable, I think we take them for granted in our…in our era, of how valuable they are. We want to extend them for as many generations as we can. So, when…excuse me. When we use natural gas, methane, from the landfill, instead of using natural gas from the ground, we're providing energy value to future generations, and that's a fact. So, it's not just about the environment right now, it's also about the ability to use, because it doesn't matter at the rate in which you use fossil fuels. We're using fossil fuels at too great…too great a rate. One, there's a sustainability of our economy longer term, but also, in terms of its effect on our environment right now. That it's the rate of consumption of pollution that matters. If we can reduce that, we can prolong the use of fossil fuels. I know some people don't want to hear that, but it's really important. To deprive people and a generation from now of fossil fuels because we didn't really want to use hydro or we really didn't want to harness the methane, the natural gas, methane from landfills, that's kind of sad. In this case, we're making a very responsible decision. The response…how responsible this decision is isn't just about trying to reduce, this is part and parcel of trying to really reduce fossil or greenhouse gases. And that has to be done primarily by conversion to hydro where we can, such as Winnipeg. Our responsibility is special. But when we can reduce our use, our rate of use of fossil fuels, we're really doing something for our future economies. Let's face it, the last hundred years and the increases in our economy and our well…our standard of living have been based primarily on the use of fossil fuels. There's very little in our society that is garnered us this marked change in the standard of living in the last hundred years, in particular, since World War II. It's the use of fossil fuels because they are so powerful and so efficient. Thank you, I'll leave it at that. It's a good motion, I'm supporting.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. Mr. Clerk, is there any other speakers?

Clerk: No further speakers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No? Okay, to close, Chairperson Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you. A few words of praise for Councillor Schreyer who's been very active on this whole idea that building heating does matter toward the whole climate change puzzle. We talked…we've talked about ag here a little bit. We're not the big players in this province on ag, but we have a Food Council. We've talked about transit, we're putting hundreds of millions into transit trying to get Federal and Provincial support. Waste, we…hopefully, the next Council will vote on the compost organics part of the puzzle. And this is also a big part of the puzzle, and Councillor Schreyer, I think, has talked about it a number of times and has taken a leadership role on that. So, my thanks for his support on these

matters. This is part of that. It's been said the flaring was a good environmental measure, this is even better though. Harnessing is the right term to use, I think, by Councillor Schreyer. Just for clarity, then, the matter, this has been…this has taken a couple of years. Different reports coming forward, being laid over, coming back again, different options. So, it's been pretty well worked out by Moira Geer when she was Director. Our current Acting Director who is Cynthia Wiebe who is doing a great job there. Michael Gordichuk who's been very good on this…I think has had enough of this file and would like to move forward. So, we are going to move forward. Just for clarity then, at EPC, the…a little unusual history in that the report, as presented by staff, did pass at committee. I didn't vote for it, I wanted it to layover. That lost. Came up to EPC, we didn't layover, we didn't delay, we just said let's go forward with the staff report. But there were two amendments, really, more additions rather than amendments; the one I put in that's been talked about, about getting a report on what Vancouver and New York are doing banning new builds from having natural gas heating after 2030. Okay, we'll get that. And the…the other one put forward by Councillor Allard, the net proceeds of sale, let's use that not for other purposes, but for climate change initiatives. So, those were the two amendments that were made at EPC, just for clarity. So, I'll support this and thanks to Councillor Schreyer for his words and hopefully, we can all support this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much, Chairperson Mayes. Okay, all those in favour? Are there any…is there anybody opposed? No? That sounds like it was carried, I guess I can't say unanimously, but it sounds like it. Are there any motions, Mr. Clerk, for Water Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment? No? Okay. We'll move on to by-laws, Chairperson Mayes. These are the two by-laws that got referred to this Council meeting from last time as they were under the wrong…wrong department. So, it's your opportunity to move them.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
WATER AND WASTE, RIVERBANK MANAGEMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Councillor Mayes: Yes, this is…these were laid over. They were erroneously under Infrastructure and Public Works at the last meeting and we had an explanation why did this take five years. Fantastically, when the staff went in, there was a wooden sewer in the ground that they didn't know existed from who knows what century, probably the 19th. So, that delayed this sewer work. So, I'll move that By-laws 18 and 19/2022 be given first reading.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. All those in favour? Is there anybody opposed? That is carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 18/2020 and 19/2020…sorry, 18/2022 and 19/2022.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Mayes: I'll move that By-laws No. 18/2022 and 19/2022 be read a second time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour? Is there anybody opposed? No? That's carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 18/2022 and 19/2022.

Councillor Mayes: I'll move that the rule be suspended and By-laws No. 18/2022 and 19/2022 be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. All those in favour? Is there anybody opposed? That is carried. Question period for Chairperson Mayes. That's Councillor Klein?

Clerk: Councillor Klein.

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
WATER AND WASTE, RIVERBANK MANAGEMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT
QUESTION PERIOD**

Councillor Klein: Thank you very much. This is something that Councillor Mayes and I have spoke of but we want to…I'd like to get it on the record. I recently have been discussing with some residents in the area and a few stakeholder groups to learn more about the asbestos concrete pipes that we have running through the city of Winnipeg. I did ask the…EP…CAO of 1-800 line for information on the pipes and such on February 25th. Received the answer back. And I wanted the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Speaker, to look into it more. Because the answers to the questions were quite vague. One of them was what were the most recent test results for cement asbestos pipes in Charleswood. The reply that I got back was Canadian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines issued by Canada Health say there's no consistent evidence that integrated asbestos is hazardous. I haven't been able to find that quote. It wasn't linked so I could read that. But it also said that they believe there is, there…there is therefore no need to establish a maximum acceptable concentration for asbestos in drinking water. As a result, we don't have any measurable level that we consider to be safe for our residents. In fact, we don't monitor what the levels are as these ageing pipes are remained to be in the ground and could impact residents. I'll note to say that there is no health evidence. It doesn't say it's from a PhD. It just says it's from the CAO's office. So I'm hoping that the Chair of the Committee will dig deeper into this and find out why.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: What is your question?

Councillor Klein: Yeah, it's there. He knows what it is. To get more detail on what the most recent test results are, when are they planning to do them? Because if we're not doing them, that is a major concern.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Chairperson Mayes, it sounds like the question is are you willing to work towards getting the information Mr. Klein is talking about.

Councillor Mayes: Yes, Councillor Klein. Thanks Councillor Klein for advance notice on the question. And he transposed one word there but it is an important word which he would probably want me to clarify, which is the code he got back from the staff was there's no consistent convincing evidence that ingested asbestos the hazardous. That seems counterintuitive perhaps, ingested asbestos, vague memories of a Mulroney, Cabinet Minister stirring asbestos into his coffee and drinking it on national (inaudible) saying, (Inaudible) One of my friends saying yeah, that is not the danger. The danger is breathing the stuff, not drinking the stuff. So I don't know…that does seem troubling though to hear that (inaudible) getting a statement saying that ingested…there is no evidence that ingested asbestos is hazardous. But there is a difference between breathing in and…breathing in a substance and drinking it. I will talk to our staff and get... It's a…(inaudible) Councillor Klein, I think is very…before about the asbestos pipes. It's a good question so certainly deserves a response and some clarification about what is meant by that answer. Province is the regulator. Province regulates drinking water. So that is part of the answer. But year, we…I think should get a little better information and I will bring that back. And my thanks to…for the advance notice of the question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Did you have a follow up, Councillor Klein?

Councillor Klein: No, it's good. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Any other question, Mr. Clerk?

Clerk: Councillor Nason.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor who? Nason?

Councillor Nason: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there was a recent media article about 52 million foul-smelling liters of effluent, trying to find proper words for this…for this place, that have flown into the Assiniboine River and the challenge seems to come from a city pipe that's malfunctioning or being repaired. I am curious if the Chair is aware of this. May make it a two-parts so we can try to expedite this. If he is aware of this challenge. And it's so, what has the Public Service provided in terms repair time and mitigation?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, there's two questions for you, Chairperson Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thanks for the question. Not unexpected. It is a front-page story. The staff have I don't think given me estimated completion dates, but I can follow up on that. I was warned as that there would be issues related to this. It's not a conventional combined sewer overflow. It's a little different. Won't get into the details, but there's some controlled aspects

to this and then obviously, not everything worked out to say the least. It's obviously a problem, obviously a very unpleasant. I think two things bear mentioning. Huge numbers used, you know, mega litres. You know this is…it's diluted…it's diluted sewage, still nasty, yes, but it's not…it's water and runoff water mixed in with sewage. And it bears repeating. Councillor Gillingham will want me to point out we did put $60 million more toward our combined sewer program in the recent budget, $15 million more in each of four years. Fifty percent increase in those four years. Invitation for the province and feds to do the same. If they do, we can get this thing done by 20 years not 70. This thing being our whole combined sewer program. So we have recognized the problem and we put money toward it in our budget $60 million. So fair question from Councillor Nason. I can try and ask Ms…Director Wiebe where…when we might expect things to be back to normal.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thanks, very important question. Councillor Nason, did you have a…

Councillor Nason: Yeah, just a quick second question as that…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Third question.

Councillor Nason: Okay, fine. As the third question is City representative for the River Basin Commission, I find it apparently important to have this in a written format that I can share with my colleagues downstream of the Winnipeg and ultimately, Lake Winnipeg. So I'm wondering if the Chair would be willing to get me a written response in regard to this terrible matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Whatever email, I can ask the staff to provide the…some dates in writing in terms of when the work might be completed or what cause to this unfortunate incident and the budget is of course in writing. That's containing $60 million, 50% increase in CSO that we put in back a few months ago. Something…it's…it's not going to the Wolseley neighborhood. It will be going to the Armstrong neighborhood because that's next on the priority list. We're not picking and choosing here. We're trying to get this accelerated. So certainly whatever I get from the staff, I will share with Councillor Nason.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. Are there anybody else would like to ask questions?

Clerk: No further speakers

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No, there's no further speakers? All right, thank you, Mr. Clerk. Moving on to the SPC on Innovation and Economic Development. We have no reports from their meeting this month. Are there any motions? No motions. Then we will move on to question period for Chairperson Browaty. No questions? No questions, okay. I'm going to move on to…pardon me, be there in a sec. The standing…SPC on…policy committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development, the date was…can't remember the date, Mr. Clerk. Okay, thank you. And Chairperson Gilroy, would you like to introduce the report?

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DATED MARCH 7, 2022

Councillor Gilroy: Yes, I'd like to advise that Item 11 has been laid over by the Executive Policy Committee for 30 days. And I'd like to introduce the report and move adoption of the consent of agenda Items 1 through 10.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: 1 through 10, okay.

Councillor Klein: I would like to pull Item 3, Mr. Chair, if that's allowed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Item 3, okay.

Councillor Gillingham: Item 8, please.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Item 8. Any others? Anybody on Zoom that wants stood down? No? All right, so I'm going to first call then the question on report Items 1 and 2 and 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10. All those in favour? Is there anybody opposed? That is carried. Thank you. Report Item 3, Mr. Clerk.

Item 3 – Proposed Rental Restructuring – Inner City Retail Tenants in City-Owned Facilities

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. To introduce the report, Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Chair. This was a report that came forward through the administration to look at ways how we can help our…some of our inner-city rental facilities. Basically, within…basically, it's within the walkway system and in our downtown. They're seeing major issues as we've talked about today in this chamber. We don't have enough people downtown. It really is affecting some of those businesses. It's not all the businesses, it's just basically businesses that really rely on retail and that the City actually has rental space in there. So, we're just helping to support those businesses. It really…it does support us as well because if we were to have to find new tenants, that's a cost to the City. And also, it is net neutral because we…we have other rentals that we are now…rental spaces that we are renting, so this will be really cost neutral for the City and that's how we'll be paying for…for the cost of these…these rental units for the six-months that we're going to allow them. So, this is just supporting that...that work. The administration has come forward with this request and I'm hoping that we'll support it here today as we do know that there's a struggle within our downtown and a lot of those local businesses and this is one way the City of Winnipeg can support them. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gilroy. Not sure who stood it down.

Clerk: Councillor Klein.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Klein, okay.

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I stand to…I'll be voting opposed to this one and I want to talk about why. And the reasoning for this is that we did have a very good debate at Property, Planning and Development, and as I recall, but I'm aging, so I believe it was a tie vote that went on to EPC. And I thought the debate was very good. Something that we have to identify here is that it is, you know, some of those businesses do rent space underground in our tunnel system and some are in the skywalk or at least one is in the skywalk. My issue that I have is not helping people when they need it most, my issue is what benefit is it to the citizens of Winnipeg to do this. We're responsible. We have to answer for every dollar we spend. Now, I remember the department saying it doesn't cost us any money. If you think you're getting the money and you don't get the money, it costs you that money. So, my thought and why I wouldn't support this is because I don't see any future, I would say, plan to ensure that these residents don't leave in the next year when their lease is up. We'll give them six months free, in some cases, maybe less. Two of them are, you know, national organizations, they couldn't end their lease, many of those leases are coming up and leave their properties. So, we're out that money and now we have to still fill those locations. So, there will be costs incurred. So, what I thought would be best was to put conditions on this money. I would have liked to have seen that, and we talked about that. I think it's important that we protect our downtown businesses and work with them, but let's be realistic, this is not our money…just our money. We have to look at this and say, okay, we'll do this for you. The city…the residents of Winnipeg will do this for you, but we need you to commit to a six-month extension of your lease. That simple. So, we would have got six more months out of those clients or out of those tenants, but we didn't do that. I think what we did here is we grabbed a headline, we said, hey, listen, we'll just give you your rent for free and left it at that. But these are the opportunities where we should be showing leadership and saying, yes, we hear you. Yes, we agree you have a problem. Here's what we'll do for you with taxpayer money and in return, you'll agree to a six-month extension or it's three months, three months, but I didn't see that. So, for those reasons only, I'm not going to support this motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Klein. Mr. Clerk.

Clerk: Councillor Rollins.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Rollins, please. You have the floor.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you. There's been a lot of talk about downtown today. And I'm a downtown councillor, I sit on the Downtown BIZ, Mr. Speaker. And reflexively, what is the benefit? Well, not having to find new business for these spaces, Mr. Speaker. The Downtown BIZ has checked in with businesses throughout the pandemic and they've done amazing work, including these businesses. The plan is to give them a break. The plan is to support them when they are struggling and when revenue is down. The plan, and we checked in with all of them as a Downtown BIZ, that they supported this motion wholly, not in part. And so, that is why I support the amendments done at EPC. They were amendments to, actually, just support the Public Service's recommendation. Why? Because the Public Service has also done their level best to support businesses in this city, Mr. Speaker, during the pandemic. And they came to Council with a good option to support downtown businesses, Mr. Speaker, and I would like, as a downtown councillor, to see this supported in whole, not in part, in whole. And that was the Public Service's recommendation, I support the Public Service's recommendation and I hope all councillors support the downtown businesses, too. And what they wanted and what they

told their BIZ zone is they wanted the Public Service recommendation and that's what I support as the local councillor, the councillor on the Downtown BIZ, Mr. Speaker, and that's what I hope all councillors support today. And I'll call for a recorded vote, Mr. Speaker, if only to see some real ironies in debate today, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, is there anybody else who wishes to speak?

Clerk: No further speakers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No. Councillor…or Chairperson Gilroy to close, please.

Councillor Gilroy: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. This is critical. I think…but also, we do got to remember when we're looking at the economic challenges of the downtown is that if one tenant goes, it's a domino effect and it really does impact all the businesses. So, we have many major anchor tenants, we don't want to see them leave. It is a cost to the City if they leave. And so, our public administration…this is a good thing for the City. It really is a net zero cost because we are seeing new rental space come available, so it really isn't costing us anything, but it's making sure that we're supporting the businesses during a really tough time. And as we're making our decisions here today and things are, you know…things are opening up, this may change within a few months. So, we're just giving them that breathing room to allow that change to happen. So, I do hope that you support this here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. All right, all those in favour, please rise or indicate if you are on Zoom.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Lukes and Santos, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Gillingham, Gilroy, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins and Mr. Deputy Speaker Councillor Eadie and Councillor Schreyer

Nays

Councillors Klein and Nason

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Deputy Speaker, Yeas 12, Nays 2.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The report passes. Moving on to report item, was it 8? Okay, Mr. Clerk.

Item 8 – CentrePort Development

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Chairperson Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll wait to hear from my councillor colleague on this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. I believe that would be Councillor Gillingham who asked that to be stood down.

Councillor Gillingham: Yes, thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I'm…thank you for the opportunity to pull this report and speak about it. The report is really related to a call to have the Public Service report back on aligning development processes, costs and timelines in CentrePort South with those in CentrePort North, which is of course CentrePort Rosser, it's in the north. Really, for the sake of Winnipeg's future, if we want to grow more jobs and grow them more quickly, we have to ensure that there's an adequate supply of serviced industrial land available, employment land available for those who wish to invest in our city, in our community. Many of you know, since being elected, I've been promoting getting pipes in the ground at CentrePort South, and I thank councillor colleagues who have voted for budgets that will ensure that we put our money forward. We have put $20 million as a city into this year's budget, the 2022 budget, to get pipes in the ground at CentrePort South so we can open those lands up for industrial development and then also for residential development. We've called upon the Provincial Government and the Federal Governments to match, and I know that I've had the opportunity to speak recently with several provincial ministers and I've called upon them to match the City's funding. I know formally the Mayor, as inter-governmental lead, has also made that request to the Province of Manitoba and I know that a call or a request has also gone out to the Federal Government to make sure that they, too, will match the City's funding. The costs of the first phase to service CentrePort South of $60 million, so if we have $20 million from the Province, $20 million from the Federal Government, it will match our $20 million and together, we can get those lands serviced which will open the area up for the development that will create jobs in the future. Last month, we…at Council,

we had a report come forward that was done by our staff and was double checked by a third-party that shows that at full build out, CentrePort South will create over $700 million in salaries…or in wages. And it will create 16,000 jobs at full build out. People move to cities and stay in cities where jobs are available. And they move away from communities and cities where jobs are not available. So, it's critical for the sake of Winnipeg's future that we see those lands developed. And to have them developed, we need to have them serviced. Once we get them serviced, though, for the City of Winnipeg to be competitive, we need to make sure that our development processes and timelines are such that they attract investment. And right now, through the provincial regulations, there's an inland special planning authority that regulates or put rules in place for development process in CentrePort North. It's a very…a very quick process comparatively. If we want to be competitive, we need to make sure that Winnipeg's portion of CentrePort has development processes and timelines that align with those in CentrePort North. And that ultimately is what this motion is about that I brought forward and I look forward to hearing back from the staff. Also, in this motion was the call that the City of Winnipeg immediately nominate a representative to the Inland Special Planning Authority. The City of Winnipeg has a seat on that board. We voted on that just a few moments ago, earlier in this meeting, and I'm glad to see that Mr. James Platt, one of the City of Winnipeg's senior planners, has been nominated and will be the City's representative on that board. The reason I say I'm really glad to see Mr. Platt be involved and be our representative is because of his experience. If you read through the report earlier in the meeting today, you'll see that Mr. Platt, prior to his employment at the City of Winnipeg, was the regional manager of provincial community and regional planning, which is now Manitoba Municipal Relations, Portage La Prairie Office, where he was the delegated approving authority for development in 21 municipalities, including five in the capital region. And he has a strong understanding of capital region land use planning matters. And so, he, I think, is the right choice for us because he understands, he has worked in municipalities outside of Winnipeg, he understands the capital region, he understands processes and timelines for development in other municipalities. So, I think he'll be a great benefit on our behalf to sit in that seat as our representative on the Inland Planning Board. So, I hope that all of my council colleagues will support this motion. And we look forward to hearing back from our Public Service to talk about how Winnipeg can make sure that we remain competitive for investment in the future.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. Mr. Clerk, is there anybody else indicated they wanted to speak?

Clerk: No further speakers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No further speakers, okay. To close, Chairperson Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: You may call the question. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Excellent. All those in favour? Is there anybody opposed? No? That is carried. Thank you very much, colleagues. I believe we're now moving on to…are there any new motions? No new motions, okay. We'll move on to first reading of by-laws, Chairperson Gilroy.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – 1ST READING ONLY

Councillor Gilroy: I'd like to move that the following by-laws be read a first time: By-law No. 34/2022.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. All those in favour? Is there anybody opposed? That is carried. Thank you. That was first reading.

Clerk: By-law No. 34/2022.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Oh, sorry. Pardon me, Mr. Clerk. All right, moving on to second and third reading by-laws, Chairperson Gilroy.

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – 2ND AND 3RD READINGS**

Councillor Gilroy: I'd like to move that By-law No. 21/2020 be read a second time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour? Nobody's…is anybody opposed? No, that is carried. Thank you.

Clerk: By-law No. 21/2020.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Gilroy: And I'd like to move that By-law No. 21/2020 be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. All those in favour? Is there anybody opposed? That is carried. Thank you, Councillor Gilroy. Question period for the Chairperson. Oh, there's more by-laws? Sorry.

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS**

Councillor Gilroy: Yeah, I'd like to move that the following by-laws be read a first time: By-law No. 14/2022, By-law No. 24/2022, By-law No. 28/2022, By-law No. 29/2022 and By-law No. 35/2022.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, I'll call the question. All those in favour? Is there anybody opposed? Those are carried.

Clerk: By-law Nos. 14/2022, 24/2022, 28/2022, 29/2022 and 35/2022.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Now, we're on to question period. Those were first reading, correct? Oh, right. Councillor Gilroy, second reading. Sorry.

Councillor Gilroy: I'd like to move that the By-law No. 14/2022, By-law 24/2022, By-law 28/2022 and By-law 29/2022 and 35/2022 be read a second time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour? Is there anybody opposed? That is carried.

Clerk: By-law Nos. 14/2022, 24/2022, 28/2022, 29/2022 and 35/2022.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Gilroy: I would like to move that the rules be suspended and By-law No. 14/2022, 24/2022, 28/2022, 29/2022 and 35/2022 be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour? Is there anybody opposed? No? That is carried. Nothing for you to say, Mr. Clerk, so yeah, moving on to question period for Chairperson Gilroy. No questions?

Clerk: Councillor Rollins.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Rollins, please.

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
QUESTION PERIOD**

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Mr. Speaker, through you to Councillor Gilroy reflecting on the affordable housing program that was just passed moments ago, what is her favourite aspect, Mister Speaker? I'm wondering, the draft by-law, the program details? What are favourite aspects of this new program?

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you very much, Councillor Rollins for your question. I know everyone is just dying to hear me respond to this. Well, first of all, I do want to respond. Councillor Eadie wanted me to make sure I say something on the record, and I did want to say on the record I think one of the great things through you, Mister Speaker, to Councillor Rollins is that some of this money will be for housing that is for rent geared to income. And I think that that is critical. We are supporting a lot of different community groups that will be coming forward that will supply housing, that will be based on people's rent. So I think that that is really critical in a time where we are really needing that kind of development to happen. This has been a long time coming. And I'm just so very happy. My Chester smile's happening and I want to thank everybody for all their role and support in getting this to where we are today for the first time in history. The City of Winnipeg has housing policy, Councillor Rollins. So I'm hoping that answers your question and I think that that's the most critical piece is that for the first time we actually have a housing policy and thank you for your advocacy, Councillor Orlikow, because they're on the housing steering committee and of course, Mister Mayor, thank you for your work and helping to get this through (inaudible). It hasn't happened under previous years. So very, very happy to see this for today. And so thanks, Councillor Rollins for your question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right. Were there any more questions then?

Clerk: Councillor Schreyer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Oh, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Deputy Speaker Eadie. I tend not to ask many questions at this time. Since we do have a new housing policy, I would like to know if our Chair Councillor Gilroy believes it would be useful to provide information or for the tools of this new policy to provide information on the new challenges to affordable housing and why it's…we're just in a different era. How difficult it is to…to for governments to afford affordable housing these days. Do you think she…does she think that would be useful for the purposes of a housing policy?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Gilroy, you understand the question?

Councillor Gilroy: Absolutely, Councillor Schreyer. I know one of the things you bring up in this room all the time is construction inflation. And so I know that that is his…something that is a challenge to us here on Council as we move forward with making sure we build affordable housing, making sure that our proponents can build affordable housing. So having us the…a conduit in having the ability to help support those that are trying to build affordable housing is key. And that is what this program will do. Thank you. Thanks for the question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Did you have a follow up, Councillor Schreyer?

Councillor Schreyer: No, thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Councillor Nason.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Nason. Please proceed.

Councillor Nason: Yeah, through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Just a quick question. Great that we've passed these new programs, affordable housing programs. Could the Chair provide us what her definition of an affordable rent is?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. I think she answered it in the other answer, but go ahead.

Councillor Gilroy: I think that for, you know, I usually go with the CMHC which is 30% of you know person's household income. But I think it depends on also where you live, what you know city you live in. I mean lots of things can be out of reach for many different people. If you're living in Vancouver, right? So, we've got to make sure that we have housing from all different housing stocks. So whether you're wanting to live in an apartment, living in a home, whether you are in social

housing, supportive housing. We have to make sure that we are providing all types of housing, but I think it's making sure that your rent…your rent is fit for your income is critical. But also to…on the other side of it, 30% of your…30% of your net should be for housing. And that's what CMHC guidelines say.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I think you don't have a follow-up, Councillor Nason?

Councillor Nason: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. Mr. Clerk, did anybody else indicate?

Clerk: No further speakers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No? Okay, then we'll move on to the SPC on Protection, Community Services and Parks, March the 9th report.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PARKS
DATED MARCH 9, 2022

Councillor Rollins: I'd like to move consent agenda Items 1 and 2.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Chairperson. Nobody…everybody…nothing to stand down? Good. Then I'll call the question. All those in favour? Anybody opposed? That is carried. Thank you. Do we have any new motions?

Councillor Rollins: We have by-laws.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: But there are no new motions, right? Okay. Then we'll move on to by-laws, Madam Chairperson. That's the animal…

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PARKS
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, you just read my mind. Yeah, I'd like to move By-law No. 5/2022 to be read the first time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour? Is there anybody opposed? That is carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 5/2022.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Madam Chairperson.

Councillor Rollins: I'd like to move that By-law No 5/2022 be read a second time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour? Is there anybody opposed? That is carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 5/2022.

Councillor Rollins: I'd like to move the rule be suspended and By-law 5/2022 be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Signed, sealed, delivered. Okay. All those in favour? Is there anybody opposed? That is carried. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Question period for the Chairperson of Protection, Community Services and Parks. Mr. Clerk, anybody?

Clerk: Seeing none.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: None? Great, thank you. Then we'll move on to…pardon me, I just have to get down here. Reporting…SPC on Infrastructure Renewal, Public Works, March the…March the 8th, 2022. And I believe Councillor Browaty will be serving in the position as Chairperson today to introduce the reports.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
DATED MARCH 8, 2022

Councillor Browaty: Yes, thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce the report and move consent agenda Items 1 and 2 and then 4 through 6, noting 6 is a referral back to SPC.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right. Okay. Did anybody else want to stand anything down? No? Okay. Then I'll call the question…consent question. All those in favour? Is there anybody opposed? That is carried. Thank you. I'm sorry, Item 3, yes.

Item 3 – Vehicles for Hire Annual Report

Councillor Klein: Can I move that that be sent to the committee? Is that in order? Referral?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There's no amending motion, so you're…hold on a sec, I just have to get clarification from Mr. Lemoine. Great, so you will have your opportunity, Councillor Klein, but at the moment, we're going to have Councillor Browaty serving as Chairperson to introduce the report.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Again, it's fairly new that the City of Winnipeg has taken over ride-for-hire from the Province a number of years ago. This is…there's a number of improvements and strengthening of the ride-for-hire legislation…by-laws that are part of this. I know Councillor Chambers has an amending motion to review another piece of it. We heard a delegation this morning with a couple concerns. So, but again, I'd like to thank our staff for them taking over this responsibility and for some of the improvements that are in the motion here today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hold on, hold on. We have an amending motion from Councillor Chambers, he's going to introduce the amendment. And if I could have the Clerk read the 'be it resolved' before Councillor Chambers speaks to it.

Motion No. 5
Moved by Councillor Chambers,
Seconded by Councillor Browaty,

BE IT RESOLVED

1. *That Item 3 of the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works dated March 8, 2022, be amended by deleting Recommendation 3 in its entirety and replacing with the following:*

   "3. That the draft amending by-law attached as Appendix B, which includes amendments to the Vehicle for Hire By-law as well as the Municipal By-law Enforcement Act Enabling By-law, be approved, with the following amendment:

      A. That Sections 9(2) and 18(4) be deleted and the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works on the proposed amendments to the by-law during its next annual vehicles for hire report to the Standing Committee."

2. *That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Councillor Chambers, to explain the amendment.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Mayor. Or sorry, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Get you and councillor…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Orlikow mixed up.

Councillor Chambers: Orlikow confused. This motion…this amending motion, Mr. Deputy Speaker, allows the good work of the Public Service and the stakeholders such as Rachel Sansregret, to go forward. And they've met and they've discussed on issues that the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and +2S community to implement that good work that has been done. The licensing of limousines for the vehicle for hire, for that to go forward. But it does send back the code of conduct piece for further refinement and clarity to address the equitable processes that need to occur that are consistent with the presumption of innocence until a full and thorough investigation which calls upon all parties to participate until a conclusion is established. So, that's the piece that we want to take back after hearing from the delegations this morning, after hearing from the taxi industry itself and the taxi drivers that feel that, in its current iteration, it's more focused on presumption of guilt than innocence. So again, this is why we've created this amending motion to bring it back to IRPW for that work to continue into refinement. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right. So, I'm hearing that Councillor Klein would like to rise.

Councillor Klein: Yeah, you heard it a few times, sorry about that. I would like to move referral of this motion back to the standing policy committee that the movers both sit on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: So, that's without instruction, okay. He can, right? Okay, you have three-minutes, Councillor Browaty, to debate not referring.

Councillor Browaty: I'm supportive.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You actually support it, okay. All right, I'll call…yeah, I'm.

Councillor Klein: Point of order. Point of order, Mr. Chair.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Excuse me. Stop. Stop. Okay, Councillor Rollins, you have a point of order? Hold it. You have a point of order? Please speak it out quickly.

Councillor Rollins: Names of women who would not have wanted to be used have been used to support laying this over again and moving referral. And there are extreme objections to that in my corridor.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, all right. You're debating it.

Councillor Rollins: Extreme objections. Women want to see this move forward.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I've allowed you to make your point.

Councillor Rollins: They want to see it moved forward.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Nason.

Councillor Rollins: And it's not moving forward, Mr. Speaker, for political reasons that do not support women.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Rollins. Councillor Rollins, you're debating it.

Councillor Rollins: That do not support women. It is absolutely absurd. It is absolutely absurd, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Please, I don't need anybody else to speak to Councillor Rollins, I'm speaking to her.

Councillor Rollins: This is absolutely absurd.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Rollins. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Women should be outraged today. This is an outrage.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Please, Councillor Rollins. Please, Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: This is an absolute outrage, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Please, Councillor Rollins. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Women have come and stood. Women who've been assaulted have stood. They have stood in this chamber.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, could you please turn off her mic, please.

Councillor Rollins: They have laid out their pain and IRPW.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Please turn off her microphone. Thank you, I'm going to call the…I'm going to…I'm going to call the question. I acknowledge the…I acknowledge the frustration. All right, I'm going to call for a recorded vote. All those in favour of referral, please rise. Councillor Rollins, please. I understand you're being incensed. I just called the question, please rise if you're in support of referral.

Clerk: Councillors Lukes and Schreyer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Start again? Okay. Okay, there's a motion on the floor to automatically…Councillor Rollins. Councillor Rollins. Nobody…how do you know they're voting? You don't know how people are voting. Councillor Rollins, please. Please. Please. You don't know how people are voting. I'm going to call the vote. All those in favour of referral, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Lukes and Schreyer, Browaty, Chambers, Gillingham, Klein, Mayes, Nason

Nays

Councillor Santos, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Gilroy, Orlikow, Rollins and Deputy Speaker Councillor Eadie

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Deputy Speaker, Yeas 8, Nays 6.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I guess that passes then? It does, okay. I'm sorry, Councillor Rollins. It's all the matter…just a question for the Clerks, the amending motion, actually, gets referred back as well? All right. All right. It's unfortunate we had to do it that way, but…

Councillor Nason: Mr. Deputy Speaker?\.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yeah, I'm moving on now.

Councillor Nason: Point of order. There was intent to impugn by a member of Council with regards…with respect to the voting that was being called. And I was…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: We had…we had a…I'm hoping that my colleagues would have a little understanding about the emotions around this particular issue. I can definitely tell you, Councillor Nason, having been on the previous Taxicab Board of the Province of Manitoba, this is a very, very touchy issue for all sides. And I just ask you to…I did censure her by having the microphone turned off, so I've dealt with it. Thank you very much. And she is the chairperson…or no. Anyway, IRPW, that was the only report stood down, Mr. Clerk? We do have a notice of motion, okay, thank you. Mr. Clerk.

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
NOTICE OF MOTION**

Item 1 - Coordination of Snow Clearing and Garbage Collection Services

Clerk: Moved by Councillor Chambers, seconded by Councillor Allard: therefore be it resolved that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to review its policies regarding snow clearing in coordination with garbage collection days to refine these operations so they do not impact on one another when residential snow plows are announced. Be it further resolved that the Winnipeg Public Service report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works and or the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment within 180 days on recommendations to better address coordination of snow clearing and garbage collection. Be it further resolved that the Proper Officers of the City by authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Moved by Councillor Chambers,
Seconded by Councillor Allard,

WHEREAS Winnipeg is a winter city and continues to monitor and review snow and ice control policies with a view of continuous improvements to manage costs while maintaining a high level of traffic safety throughout the winter months;

AND WHEREAS during high snow events in our city, residential parking bans are announced to reduce the accumulation of snow on residential streets;

AND WHEREAS there are instances where residential snow clearing plows coincide with residential garbage pick-up days resulting in areas being plowed at the same time when residents have put out bins for collection;

AND WHEREAS it is recognized there is a 5 day collection cycle for garbage pick-up and typically a 3 day cycle for residential snow clearing cycles;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to review its policies regarding snow clearing in coordination with garbage collection days to refine these operations so they do not impact on one another when residential snow plows are announced.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works and or the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment within 180 days, on recommendations to better address coordination of snow clearing and garbage collection.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. And that was moved by Councillor Chambers, please, to introduce the notice.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This year, of course, we've had a record amount of snow fall here in our city, which has had an impact on snow piling, especially for residents with front driveways. This has an impact especially when residential snow plows are called that there needs to be better coordination of garbage pick-up that allows for the snow clearing machinery to pass through without being incumbered by all of the garbage bins that are out, you know, on front…front driveways. This was a concern that was raised this year by residents in my ward. And I did hear from residents in other wards, why the City does do snow clearing on garbage days. Recognizing that garbage days are five days a week and you…typically, when a residential snow clearing ban is announced, it's usually within a three-day timeframe. So, certainly, there can be some coordination in terms of when residential snow plows are called so that they can be coordinated that they're occurring in one area that is not currently experiencing garbage pick-up, and then rotate over to that other area once the garbage is picked up on…potentially on the next day. So, this was something that had been potentially discussed in other administrations or other councils, but it is time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we do have better coordination of these activities that take place during the winter time in our city. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Do I have anybody who wishes to speak to this, Mr. Clerk?

Clerk: Seeing none.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: None. The seconder doesn't want to speak to it? Oh, that's right, sorry. All right, no speakers, then I will call the vote on the question. All those in favour? Is there anybody opposed? That is carried. Thank you. Moving on, do we have by-laws? Or any new motions, sorry? We have motions. Okay, Mr. Clerk, could you...the 'be it resolved'.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
MOTIONS

Motion No. 3
Moved by Councillor Gilroy,
Seconded by Councillor Rollins,

WHEREAS wards like Daniel McIntyre and Fort Rouge East Fort Garry have large, high density urban neighborhoods where many residents walk to access services;

AND WHEREAS these areas also represent some of the highest rates of transit and active transportation users in the city;

AND WHEREAS increasing access to transit services and active transportation routes supports the City's climate action plan goals by helping to reduce transportation greenhouse gas emissions and supporting mode shift;

AND WHEREAS snow clearing on streets and sidewalks used to access transit and active transportation routes requires prompt and efficient service to meet the needs of area residents;

AND WHEREAS sidewalks along P1 and P2 streets are cleared to a compacted snow surface upon inspection and in the downtown, are cleared to the paved surface, when possible, within 36 hours following an accumulation of 5 cm of snow;

AND WHEREAS the P3 sidewalks and streets are just as important to accessing high frequency transit routes located on P1 and P2 corridors;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That, as part of the 2022 review of the Snow and Ice Clearing Policy, the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to:

A. Reprioritize sidewalks in areas of the city that are close to high frequency transit routes, specifically in the Daniel McIntyre and Fort Rouge East Fort Garry wards;

B. Provide recommendations for increasing the amount of quality, in-house snow clearing services that the City provides.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, and that's an automatic referral to IRPW. Okay. Any other new motions? No, sir. Okay, thank you. Then we will move on to…I don't think we have by-laws on this one. We have…Mr. Clerk Lemoine, do I have…do we have a question period if the actual Chairperson's not…we do? Okay. All right, so we'll move into question period for Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works.

Clerk: Councillor Nason.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Nason, please proceed.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Nason: Thank you. And you know, it's with regret that the Chair is not present today. Hopefully, the person responsible can take it under advisement and get back, but I've been hearing loud and clear as the alternate service delivery model for 311 with regards to back lanes. And what many residents are calling a waste of money with how they are being managed specifically right now we're trying to clear…to clear the way. Many residents are claiming to be flooded. And I'm wondering if there's any better way to manage our back lanes. If the person acting on behalf could advise of clearing back lanes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much. Mister Deputy Speaker through you to the member from Transcona. Without a doubt, we've had unprecedented amount of snow this past winter. As a result, many back lanes are still snow lagged but again, we're now in the period of time where roads are melting. The operation that was started I believe last week was primarily to open up catch basins. The problem and the drawback of this operation was again because back lanes they are unable to clear windrows. It left a lot of residents with heavy ice which in some cases is very difficult to almost impossible to move for people with mobility and physical challenges so…and any able body (audible), it's a lot of work and very heavy. So again, the idea was again to open up catch basins primarily As well as, I mean there were people who are (inaudible) out. I mean, I look at some of the pictures. I saw some back lanes in the North Kildonan ward. (inaudible) So I mean, it was again to improve conditions because of the unprecedented winter that we have.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Councillor Browaty. Did you have a follow up?

Councillor Nason: I certainly have a second question. And there's been members of Council to reform for the some members as extremist cyclist. I recently and regularly travel through the Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry and Daniel McIntyre ward and I happen to notice the last several days and took a picture of a…active transportation corridor...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There's no preamble, though. Right?

Councillor Nason: Yes, I understand. I'm curious with the millions that are spent on active transportation, why are many of these active transportation routes left unplowed all winter?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Again, if there's specific trails that were not plowed for whatever reason, I would suggest that, you know, you ask which specific ones and we could get a response from the department.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Councillor Browaty. Final question?

Councillor Nason: None.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Any other questions from Mr. Clerk?

Clerk: Councillor Orlikow.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Orlikow, please.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you very much. The question I have is generated from process. We see a lot of motions coming through regarding snow clearing and so I'm not sure that's the way we're supposed to be doing it because I know (inaudible) review on snow clearing. I've been sending them in and tabulating them before the great meat we're going to have. The administration is aware of it ahead of time according in our issues about windrows around and bus stops and what-not or…or the process on…we're supposed to make a motion and then go that way. I just don't…I see a lot of motions today about this. So, I'm not sure where the process is to get some of the (inaudible) concerns that we had. We're calculating them if it's going to need to do a big motion for it? So, it's on the record or continue on to…doing the administration passing it to them and then bring that up at the meeting. If there's a specific process yet, probably I'm not aware yet. That's is my question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Orlikow. Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Again, like right now the city has a snow and ice control policy. So, if you see something that does not compliant with that policy I mean certainly raise it directly with Public Works through the 311 system. They let you triage everything through there. That is the first place to go. Again, there is the review coming up. When that document comes out, if there's things that we don't like as a Council and we don't feel it meets the needs of the Winnipeggers, we welcome the opportunity at that time to make potential changes to it. Again, we have to realize that any changes, enhancement will have budget implications but that will be the discussion to have with…this year, and then going through to the new likely multi-year budget process after the next election.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Councillor Browaty. Councillor Orlikow, another?

Councillor Orlikow: Yeah. Just a follow up. (Inaudible) So I have two choices right now. I'm just…I know we are having this meeting or are going to be looking at snow clearing in general, should I make motions on the stuff I have and bring it forward the notice of motion? And so, I want this to be referred to that or is the process to just do what we're doing…what I am doing now and send it to administration and then we'll have a moment sometime when that report comes…like, I'm just not sure of the process is. I think motions are a little bit much. May be show people you're doing something. But again, my lesson is fairly large. So, I just…I'm just not clear on the process to get that information both questions to the review. Does it need to be via motions or by the CAO hotline?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I just… before we get an answer I would just like to acknowledge the second longest serving councillors asking the longest serving Councillor a question, Councillor Browaty, please.

Councillor Browaty: Again, thank you for the question. I don't know exactly what point this report is. I mean I'm thinking it's probably far advance in terms of being prepared. If there are you know… I think either way would work…you know, if you wanted to be more public you know you can do it through a motion. It's your…I think it's your…I think it's being capably handled by sending directly through to the department. I think that's an equally valid path, but I mean it's…I think it will be your call (inaudible).

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Browaty. Did you have a final?

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you. No more questions. No, that's perfect. Thanks.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, thank you, Councillors. Much appreciated. Mr. Clerk, there's nobody else?

Clerk: Councillor Rollins.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Oh, Councillor Rollins, please.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question for IRPW, Chair, Acting Chair Councillor Browaty, Mr. Speaker. Loretta Caribou from Mathias Colomb Cree Nation had concerns about a taxi. She…on her way from Mathias Colomb Cree Nation to her Winnipeg hotel, taxi stopped and demanded payment. Rachel Sansregret who came to EPC to discuss her experience in taxis, which I narrowly would be able to quote in this chamber but I could in the end. Did so after being sexually harassed and assaulted in a vehicle for hire. The change is today if they are passed and…or sent back, and the motion pertaining to Chambers and Browaty's motion Mr. Speaker, would delete…would delete the sections applying to sexual harassment, to a passenger…making rude remarks to a passenger and insulting, abusing, intimidating or threatening passengers, asking for passengers for a tip/gratuity indicating one is expected or required, failing to release a passenger from a vehicle like in traffic paying a passenger which is what Ms. Rachel Sansregret came to tell us about. Question, what is wrong with this section?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Rollins. Acting Chairperson Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Through you to my colleague, first and foremost, nobody around this council chamber supports any type of abuse or assault of any passenger whether it's in a taxicab, in a personal…private vehicle for hire. It's simply not on. The concerns from the industry were such that the policy…the process for issuing a ticket is perhaps a little too easy and it's not codified well enough what the process is for counting some of those charges. For example, there are legitimate reasons where a taxicab driver would be using their phone and is legally allowed to do so, but the ticketing process, it's not clear how that would work out and as we heard from representatives this morning for the industry, there was some concerns there. Again, nobody supports abuse. We do need to (inaudible) fast drive and again referral was fine. I don't think we need to lay over that section for a year. That's not acceptable. That's why I support it, Councillor Klein's motion to refer back so that we can deal with it quickly, and in the near term so. That's where I'm at.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Rollins: Second question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Follow up question, Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: I'll point out that the motion was to delete the sections pertaining to sexual harassment, passenger and rude remarks to a passenger. And I'll point out that with respect to vehicles for hire, the ability for vehicle hires to hold a hearing should there be a needed outcome for issue complaint or show cause hearing process isn't going to change.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hold on.

Councillor Rollins: So isn't that that can be IRPWs understanding, Mr. Speaker. The understanding that show cause hearing and the hearing process in the by-law doesn't change. They voted for it, Mr. Speaker. Isn't that their understanding that it doesn't change?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The amending motion, Councillor Rollins, did…got your third, it was a referral. Did you have a specific question?

Councillor Rollins: IRPW…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Without a preamble…without a preamble.

Councillor Rollins: Yes, I do, Mr. Speaker. That was my question. IRPW has passed it. They passed it with the understanding that that didn't change, that EPC passed it, Mr. Speaker. The Chair, Mr. Speaker, is characterizing as if there's not a show cause hearing process. There is, Mr. Speaker, in the By-law so the question pertains to his understanding of what is and isn't in the documentation and the hearing process that he's…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: So your question is…

Councillor Rollins: Speaking of didn't change.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Your question to the chairperson…your question of the Acting Chairperson, without a preamble, is simply is there or is there not a show cause hearing element in the existing by-law moving ahead.

Councillor Rollins: Yes, Mr. Speaker. That's my question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That's…and the Chairperson, would you please answer that question?

Councillor Browaty: Based on concerns of the taxi industry, it appears that there's…there's not. And just for the record, I…despite having seconded the motion, I'm not looking for a year delay in implementing those clauses that were proposed to be deleted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Rollins: Third question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Without a preamble.

Councillor Rollins: Without a preamble, again the question, procedurally an investigation is inherent in handing out the fines, yes or no, Mr. Speaker. Procedurally an investigation is inherent in handing out fines just looking for a yes or no of what IRPW Committee Chair, Acting Committee Chair sees.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Acting Chairperson, do you have an answer?

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. A little bit of opportunity to read as a (inaudible).

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. All right. Are there any other questions of the Acting Chairperson IRPW?

Clerk: Councillor Schreyer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Schreyer. Hello?

Councillor Schreyer: I withdraw my question. This is a really important issue but will continue with…on this throw of the month, thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Invite people to go to speak to it at IRPW.

Clerk: Councillor…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It's my recommendation as a speaker. Okay.

Clerk: Councillor Nason on a new question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Sorry, I just…I have one quick question, Mr. Deputy Speaker. On March 7, the CAO advised us that the online mapping and percentage complete process was broken or flawed. As a result, residents and council members are not able to submit questions pertaining to snow clearing until percentages reach 100 percent. Will the Public Works Department suspend that practice and advise 311 until such time, is it working operationally?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thanks for that question. Acting Chairperson.

Councillor Browaty: I too was frustrated with some of the percentage completions were being shown on the website. I look forward to over the summer with review of the snow clearing policy or revisit of the percentages on that site as well as even just you know when you can't even submit a service deficiency, I mean it's frustrating when residents see a street has been plowed. It's deficient, but they won't take a deficiency report until they are finished with the operation. That can be frustrating as well. So I appreciate the question and look forward to review. Hopefully, we don't have another big snow…snow fall…the season, first of all, I don't think Councillor Gillingham has the money to pay for it. And secondly, Winnipeggers have had quite the winter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Did you have a last question?

Councillor Nason: No, that's good. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No? All right. Mr. Clerk, there is nobody else?

Clerk: Councillor Mayes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Okay, just wanted to give…Councillor Browaty has been thrown into this somewhat difficult situation and you're obviously not the regular chair. Just for clarity then, something he said, I think he deserves a chance to clarify that. So the…had the motion proceeded, Motion 5 and not been referred and passed then, there could have been a year long delay in implementing some of these versions that have been deleted. We don't know if it would have passed. But by referring it, this will be backed up presumably, hopefully, back up here within a month. And people can vote up or down on how they want to include or not include the procedure (inaudible) that were in here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Chairperson Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Yes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Did you have a follow up, Councillor Mayes?

Councillor Mayes: So for clarity, the matter…should Public Works move forward on it, should be back here, could be back here at the next Council meeting, not delayed a year. And we can hear the concerns that…obviously Councillor Rollins has some concerns, deserve a discussion but we would hopefully have this back in front of us within a month again, trying to deal with the matter at that point.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Acting Chairperson.

Councillor Browaty: Sure. Without, you know, predetermining the you know votes of the Chair as well as my colleagues on the committee and then going to EPC, that would be my hope and please.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. And the question period is over. I will move on now. We're moving to…oh, is it an SPC on Finance? No reports. Do we have any motions? No motions. Then we're moving into question…no by-laws, we're moving into questions for Chairperson Gillingham. Anybody have any questions, Mr. Clerk?

Clerk: Councillor Nason.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Nason, you may proceed.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Nason: Yeah, just following up. I asked the question of the Chair last month with regards to alternative payment methods on using some of the cryptocurrencies and such, and I have not heard back from him on that matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, do you have an answer, Chairperson Gillingham?

Councillor Gillingham: Through you, Mr. Acting Speaker, my apologies to the councillor. My intention, I will follow-up on that immediately and get it to everybody as soon as possible. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: As soon as possible. Thank you. Councillor Nason, a follow-up?

Councillor Nason: No, that's all.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. Mr. Clerk, is there nobody else?

Clerk: Seeing none.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. No. One moment. Oh, look at that, we're on the last committee. The Governance Committee of Council, we have councillor…I just had what Councillor Mayes also had earlier today on the 60s. Councillor Chambers will be moving the Governance Committee's consent agenda.

**REPORT OF THE
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
DATED FEBRUARY 17, 2022**

Councillor Chambers: Yes, I move consent agenda to Item 1 in the Governance Committee of Council.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right. Nobody wants to stand it down, that's fine, it's pretty clear. All those in favour? Is there anybody opposed? No, that is carried. Very good procedures passed. Now, I…just before I call on somebody to move a motion of adjournment, I wanted to note for my colleagues…wow, am I ever productive, eh? It's 3:25 p.m. and I'd like to thank…I'd like to…I'd like to thank…I'd like to thank our Clerks for making it all work for me today and my colleagues. And I hope that we go away today without any animosity towards each other, the 16 of us. And again, who wants to move adjournment? Councillor Nason, the Acting Deputy Speaker. Thank you. All those in favour? Nobody's opposed? That's carried. All right, roll call, yeah.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Councillors Lukes, Santos, Schreyer, Mr. Deputy Speaker Councillor Eadie, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Mayes, Nason, Orlikow and Rollins.

Council adjourned at 3:26 p.m.