Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – May 16, 2023

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment – May 1, 2023

Item No. 5 Plan for Capturing Methane at City Landfills

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment and submitted the following to Council:

1. That the Council Motion of April 27, 2023, be received as information.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment – May 1, 2023

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Mayes,
That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

David Grant submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 1, 2023, the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment recommended to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That the Council Motion of April 27, 2023, be received as information.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On April 27, 2023, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment:

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Schreyer,

WHEREAS scientists believe the amount of methane in the atmosphere is underestimated, so cutting methane emissions is seen as one of the quickest, cheapest ways to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions;

AND WHEREAS about 96% of Canada's methane emissions come from three key sectors, according the federal government's 2022 Methane Strategy report: oil and gas operations (38 per cent), agriculture (30 per cent) and landfills (28 per cent);

AND WHEREAS in November of 2022, Ottawa released a proposed methane framework, to meet Canada's commitment made under the Global Methane Pledge, which was launched at COP26, and participating countries pledged to reduced methane emissions by 30 per cent from 2020 levels, by 2030;

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment – May 1, 2023

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS most of the operation/ownership of landfills in Canada are with the municipal level of government;

AND WHEREAS Ottawa is presently drafting regulations that may have an impact on municipalities, and that said methane emission regulations are expected to be released in 2023;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the City of Winnipeg move quickly to target each and every landfill inside the City of Winnipeg that continues to emit methane, by working the Province and with the Federal Government, to come up with a 'plan' to capture said methane, ending its release into the atmosphere.

2. That the Public Service be directed to report back to City Council by April 2024 with recommendations for the plan, including a detailed critical path, which will outline all the steps required to end landfill methane emissions by the year 2030.