Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – October 17, 2023

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development – October 6, 2023

Item No. 10 Veterans Burial Plots

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and submitted the following to Council:

1. That an annual amount of $23,000, required to waive the fees for veteran interments within the Field of Honour at both Brookside and Transcona Cemeteries, be referred to the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget Review Process, for inclusion in said budget.

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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

On October 6, 2023, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development concurred in the Council Motion of September 29, 2023 and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On September 29, 2023, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development:

Moved by Councillor Eadie,
Seconded by Councillor Wyatt,

WHEREAS Canadian Military veterans earned the honour of a free plot in the Brookside or Transcona Fields of Honour due to their service to Canada;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg should do our part by providing a free plot to military veterans who have passed away and their family resides in Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the cost of a funeral involves much more money than the purchase of a plot;

AND WHEREAS Veteran Affairs' Last Post Fund uses a difficult process, for grieving families, that disqualifies military veterans and their families from obtaining free plots in fields of honour;

AND WHEREAS in 2022, the City of Winnipeg Cemetery Division free plot program gave up $22,000 in revenue to provide free plots to Winnipeg veterans whose families were spared from a demeaning process by simply providing the veteran's military service card/papers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that an annual amount of $23,000, required to waive the fees for veteran interments within the Field of Honour at both Brookside and Transcona Cemeteries, be referred to the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget Review Process for inclusion in said budget.