Minutes – Council – January 25, 2024

Minute No. 127
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Finance and Economic Development – January 12, 2024

Item No. 1 Soldiers' Taxation Relief for 2023

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Finance and Economic Development and adopted the following:

1. That the applications pursuant to The Soldiers' Taxation Relief Act be approved, with the understanding that the requested amount will be recovered from the Province of Manitoba.

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

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Finance and Economic Development – January 12, 2024

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Browaty,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Finance and Economic Development be adopted by consent.

Carried

Councillors Eadie, Schreyer and Wyatt were absent from the vote on the above motion.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On January 16, 2024, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Finance and Economic Development and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On January 12, 2024, the Standing Policy Committee on Finance and Economic Development concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Soldiers' Taxation Relief for 2023

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Finance and Economic Development - Executive Policy Committee - Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
T. Yanchishyn	T. Austin	C. Kloepfer	M. Jack

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Administrative Report provides information regarding the successful applications for the Soldiers Tax Relief Program which is administered and funded by the Province of Manitoba. The credit received is applied directly to the property tax account of the successful applicants.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That City Council approves the applications pursuant to The Soldiers' Taxation Relief Act with the understanding that the requested amount will be recovered from the Province of Manitoba.

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

REASON FOR THE REPORT

The Soldiers' Taxation Relief Act requires City Council to annually approve applications for tax assistance and the Public Service to forward the applications and a statement indicating the tax assistance amount to the Province of Manitoba for reimbursement.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The provision of the Soldiers' Taxation Relief is cost-neutral for the City of Winnipeg. This credit program is administered and funded by the Province of Manitoba. Any approved amount claimed is paid to the City of Winnipeg by the Province and, in turn, refunded back to the approved property owner.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

The Soldiers' Taxation Relief Act provides for a partial exemption from property taxes of an amount not exceeding $50 in each year, for the property of:

- The pensioned surviving spouse of any soldier.

- The pensioned parent of any deceased soldier or of a totally disabled soldier confined in any military hospital for the treatment of mental diseases, or any sanatorium for the treatment of tuberculosis.

- Any soldier in receipt of a military pension by reason of being disabled to the extent of at least 75 percent of total disability.

- A totally disabled soldier confined in any hospital or in any sanatorium for the treatment of tuberculosis, or in any hospital for the treatment of mental diseases, while so confined therein for not less than a minimum period of three months in any one year.

The exemption is "income tested" and does not apply to the property of any such person who has income from sources other than the pension. The $50 exemption amount has remained unchanged for several years.

DISCUSSION:

The Director of Assessment and Taxation has received one application for relief from taxation for the year 2023 under the provisions of *The Soldier' Taxation Relief Act*, and is satisfied as to the good faith and merit of the applications. The total amount of the relief granted is $50.00.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** November 7, 2023

Project Name:

Soldiers' Taxation Relief for 2023

COMMENTS:

The provision of the Soldiers' Taxation Relief is cost-neutral for the City of Winnipeg. This credit program is administered and funded by the Province of Manitoba. Any approved amount claimed is paid to the City of Winnipeg by the Province and refunded back to the approved property owner.

Randy Bernard

Randy Bernard, CPA, CMA
Manager of Finance & Administration (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Individual veterans / widows for completion of application forms
- Veterans Affairs Canada, Manitoba District, Winnipeg Office

OUR WINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Financial processes as outlined in this report are generally aligned with the goal of Leadership and Good Governance.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan (CAP), and it was determined that the CAP is not applicable to this specific report.

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

This recommendation of this report generally aligns with Goal 4 – Community Well-Being Supports for those in Greatest Need are Increased.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Assessment and Taxation
Division: Taxation and Finance
Prepared by: Tanis Yanchishyn, Manager of Taxation and Finance Services
Date: November 23, 2023