Minutes – Council – February 22, 2024

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment – February 5, 2024

Minute No. 165
Item No. 2 Water Bill Protection

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment and adopted the following:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the September 9, 2024 meeting of the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment on Goal 4, Initiative 4.4 – Access to Services for Basic Needs, Action 5, from the proposed Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation Plan 2024-2027, namely:

    A. Explore ways to expand supports to low-income residents who experience challenges in paying for water service (i.e. H2O Help to Others program, payment plans, subsidies, collaboration with social services etc.).

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 Water, Waste and Environment – February 5, 2024

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Mayes,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment be adopted.

Carried

The following persons submitted a communication in opposition to the matter:

- David Grant
- Vicki Poirier

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 13, 2024, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment and submitted the matter to Council.

David Grant submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 5, 2024, the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment considered the Council Motion of January 25, 2024, and recommended to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the September 9, 2024 meeting of the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment on Goal 4, Initiative 4.4 – Access to Services for Basic Needs, Action 5, from the proposed Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation Plan 2024-2027, namely:

    A. Explore ways to expand supports to low-income residents who experience challenges in paying for water service (i.e. H2O Help to Others program, payment plans, subsidies, collaboration with social services etc.).

David Grant submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment – February 5, 2024

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION:

On January 25, 2024, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment:

Moved by Councillor Allard,
Seconded by Councillor Eadie,

WHEREAS at times, residents are faced with extremely high water bills for reasons that they are not aware of and may result in the resident losing their home;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Public Service be directed to report back on options to protect residents against high water bills on compassionate grounds and or using the low income cut off as a requirement.