Minutes – Council – February 22, 2024

Minute No. 175
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Public Works – January 30, 2024

Item No. 4 Snow Clearing and Ice Control Policy

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works and adopted the following:

1. That the Council Motion of January 25, 2024, be received as information.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Lukes,
That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works be adopted.

Carried

Councillor Allard asked to be recorded as having voted against the item in accordance with Rule 47(7) of the Procedure Bylaw.

Councillor Wyatt was absent from the vote on the above motion.

David Grant submitted a communication in support of the matter.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

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

David Grant submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On January 30, 2024, the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works recommended to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That the Council Motion of January 25, 2024, be received as information.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On January 25, 2024, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works:

Moved by Councillor Allard,
Seconded by Councillor Gilroy,

WHEREAS the Universal Declaration of Human Rights include freedom of mobility, equal access to government services and freedom to participate equally in society;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS the recent acquisition and operation of new plows dedicated to sidewalks and active transportation pathways have not achieved a snow clearing service that is the equivalent to snow clearing on roads;

AND WHEREAS the current Snow Clearing and Ice Control Policy gives the Winnipeg Public Service the discretion to wait up to 36 hours to begin a sidewalk plowing operation even along P1 roads;

AND WHEREAS some residents need to use sidewalks to access transit;

AND WHEREAS a city that does not provide equal freedom of mobility and equal access to government services is violating resident's human rights;

AND WHEREAS residents are injured and suffer as a result of slips and falls where the level of snow clearing and sanding for sidewalks is not adequate;

AND WHEREAS some injuries, like hip breaks, lead to fatalities in a majority of cases in populations 65 years and over;

AND WHEREAS some contractors at times dump snow on sidewalks during road clearing operations, externalizing a cost to City crews that need to clear sidewalks after these occurrences;

AND WHEREAS it is the City's practice to clear snow in accordance with the Snow Clearing and Ice Control Policy;

AND WHEREAS snow and ice control activities have exceeded the adopted budget for the last 10 consecutive years;

AND WHEREAS the practice of in-year adjustments to the snow clearing budgets impact other departmental budgets and corresponding City services;

AND WHEREAS establishing a Snow Clearing Reserve would provide more transparency to the amount that is spent on snow clearing, rather than the amount that is budgeted, which often is less than required for the snow clearing operations of that fiscal year.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That all future snow and ice control contracts require contractors to remove snow that has been pushed onto sidewalks as a result of their snow clearing operations, and that contractors be subject to appropriate levels of enforcement including, but not limited to, fines for a failure to comply.

2. That the Snow Clearing and Ice Control Policy be amended for the clearance of snow and ice on all sidewalks and active transportation pathways along P1, P2 and P3 streets city wide require an equivalent level of service as P1 roads.

3. That a Snow Clearing Reserve be established to fund the snow clearing costs in excess of adopted budgets.