Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2024 12:10:36 PM

Personal information
Full name: David Grant
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Job title:
Organization:
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City: Winnipeg
Province or territory: Manitoba
Postal code:

Delegation information
Committee: Executive Policy Committee
Committee - council: N/A
Committee - other: N/A
Agenda item (number and title): 9

Service inquiry: Register as a Delegation, Submit Comments in writing
Participation preference: Via Zoom
Comments in writing: Most of us want to see city workers paid fairly. What is fair?
1. When an organization uses its money with care, it pays enough to recruit and retain the folks it needs. It does not try to make everyone rich. The fact that we cannot get enough bus drivers and pool staff says clearly that the pay is not enough, for the conditions that apply. A strong case can be made that those pay rates should go up and we should provide better conditions.
2. Many folks volunteer their time for the good of the community. Should those folks get this "living wage" too?
3. The flaws are obvious in the methodology used to calculate the hourly rate you see here. We are told that anyone making $19 an hour (about $40k a year) cannot afford to live in Winnipeg. This university-based formula usually gets its numbers very wrong. Using the same methodology, you find that a single person making $290,000 a year in San Francisco would be struggling. Just about no one there makes that much, but they all make ends meet.
4. Please consider real world situations, where people need jobs. Many folks would rather work for a low wage than not work. They can find their own ways to cut costs. I certainly did when I lived on my own, working in a gas station. When I got my first city paycheck, as a Parks laborer, I was paid more than 4 times as much as the Shell station paid. I built my skills and moved to a higher-paid job with Public Works. This is the oldest and still the best path for workers to get more money.
File:
Public engagement preference: Yes