Agenda – Council – May 30, 2024

Standing Policy Committee on Public Works – Notice of Motion

Item No. 1 Purchase of New and Modern Asphalt Plant Technology to Fight Potholes

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Schreyer,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg is presently at the mercy of the private sector for access to asphalt plants and asphalt material, impacting the City as it attempts to address the numerous complaints we have been receiving for pothole repairs;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg originally had its own asphalt plant that was decommissioned at the time of the construction of the Virology Lab, with promises then made that a new plant would be constructed by and for the use of the Public Works Department, City of Winnipeg, but that promise has gone unfulfilled;

AND WHEREAS since that time, the technology has dramatically improved, in terms of asphalt plant costs, the ability to now build and operate smaller asphalt plants, as well as mobile and portable asphalt plants (see Appendix A), all of which would increase the City of Winnipeg's ability to efficiently address both pothole and road repair complaints;

AND WHEREAS the ability as a City to fix and conduct timely road repairs has been dramatically affected by the City's 100% reliance on the private sector for asphalt, including, but not limited to, exorbitant inflation costs that have risen far above existing rates of inflation (Consumer Price Index, CPI), as well as by the fact the private sector builds in significant profit margins, while at the same time prioritizing their own access to asphalt over the city's need to access asphalt;

AND WHEREAS the private construction industry in Winnipeg has been subject to consolidation that has reduced the number of actual companies available to compete, placing the City of Winnipeg in a poor strategic position in terms of being able to contain future road repair costs, while concurrently negatively affecting the City's ability to address the service needs of the citizens of Winnipeg;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Winnipeg re-establish its own asphalt making capacity by the purchase of an asphalt plant and/or by investing in portable and/or mobile asphalt equipment (see Appendix A), allowing the Public Works Department to end its 100% reliance on the private sector for asphalt.