Minutes – Council – October 24, 2024

Minute No. 501
Executive Policy Committee – Notice of Motion

Item No. 1 Remote Work Arrangements

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council did not concur in the Notice of Motion, and as such, the item was not adopted.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

On September 26, 2024, the following Notice of Motion was filed with the Clerk, in accordance with section 17(1) of the Procedure By-law No. 50/2007.

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Schreyer,

WHEREAS during the Pandemic it was necessary to institute a work from home policy to encourage social distancing and to limit the spread of COVID-19;

AND WHEREAS the Pandemic has now been over for some time, yet thousands of City of Winnipeg employees are still working from home;

AND WHEREAS the City owns, leases and operates tens of thousands of office square feet that are presently sitting vacant, costing ratepayers and demonstrating a practice of the inefficient use of tax dollars;

AND WHEREAS much of these empty offices are in Downtown Winnipeg, which contradicts the decision by Council to make Downtown Winnipeg revitalization a priority in the recently passed Strategic Priorities Action Plan;

AND WHEREAS it has been demonstrated in studies conducted that worker productivity falls significantly when employees are not working from traditional office spaces, not to mention the synergy lost for opportunities that exist in common work spaces, such as mentoring, training, and general supervision conducted via employee peers and management;

AND WHEREAS City staff continue to work from home or their cottage;

AND WHEREAS to date, the Chief Administrative Officer has not issued a ‘Back to the Office’ directive to all City employees;

AND WHEREAS we have a new Acting Chief Administrative Officer who can issue an immediate directive to require staff to return to the office.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council immediately direct the Chief Administrative Officer to end the work from home practice and to issue a directive to all city employees to return to their respective offices.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

Councillor Wyatt called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:

Yea: Councillors Chambers, Duncan, Schreyer and Wyatt 4

Nay: His Worship Mayor Gillingham, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Dobson, Eadie, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Orlikow, Santos and Sharma. 11

and the motion was declared lost.