Agenda – Council – November 21, 2024

Report – Executive Policy Committee – November 13, 2024

Item No. 6 Discount(s) to be allowed for the Prepayment of 2025 Realty, Personal Property and Business Taxes

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 13, 2024, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the following to Council:

1. That prepayment discounts be given on payments received by the Assessment and Taxation Department during the months of January and February 2025 at the following discount rates:

Realty & Personal Property Tax - payable at par up to June 30	Face Value Discount Rate	Equivalent Annual Discount Rate
January	1.398%	3.45%
February	1.140%	3.45%
Business Tax – payable at par up to May 31		
January	1.121%	3.45%
February	0.862%	3.45%

2. That, pursuant to Subsection 334(3) of The City of Winnipeg Charter, Council enact the Taxes – Discounts for Prepayments By-law (draft by-law attached as Schedule A) to provide prepayment discounts of the City's 2025 Realty, Personal Property and Business Taxes in accordance with Recommendation 1 of this Report.

3. That the 2025 advertising of the prepayment discounts be limited to the City of Winnipeg website and social media accounts.

4. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Agenda – Council – November 21, 2024

Report – Executive Policy Committee – November 13, 2024

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 13, 2024, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Discount(s) to be allowed for the Prepayment of 2025 Realty, Personal Property and Business Taxes

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee - Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
T. Yanchishyn	T. Austin	T. Graham	S. Armbruster, Interim CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Administration Report requests approval for the 2025 equivalent annual discount rate the City of Winnipeg is offering to property and business owners who elect to pay their taxes in advance of the annual due dates in accordance with Section 334(3) of the City of Winnipeg Charter.

The City's estimated rate of return for the short-term investment is 4.0% and the six-month rate available to the taxpayer at RBC is 3.45%. Based on these rates, the Assessment and Taxation Department is recommending an annual equivalent discount rate of 3.45%, to incent taxpayers to pre-pay their taxes for a discount, while also enabling the City to earn investment income.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That prepayment discounts be given on payments received by the Assessment and Taxation Department during the months of January and February 2025 at the following discount rates:

Realty & Personal Property Tax - payable at par up to June 30	Face Value Discount Rate	Equivalent Annual Discount Rate
January	1.398%	3.45%
February	1.140%	3.45%
Business Tax – payable at par up to May 31		
January	1.121%	3.45%
February	0.862%	3.45%

2. That, pursuant to Subsection 334(3) of The City of Winnipeg Charter, Council enact the Taxes – Discounts for Prepayments By-law (draft by-law attached as Schedule A) to provide prepayment discounts of the City's 2025 Realty, Personal Property and Business Taxes in accordance with Recommendation 1 of this Report.

3. That the 2025 advertising of the prepayment discounts be limited to the City of Winnipeg website and social media accounts.

4. That the proper officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

Subsection 334(3) of *The City of Winnipeg Charter* permits the City to provide for the allowance of discounts when taxes are prepaid, as stated below:

> *334(3) Council may pass by-laws in respect of real and personal property taxes and business taxes*
>
> *(c) providing that, when taxes are paid other than by installments, discounts at rates prescribed in the by-law may be allowed on amounts that are prepaid on account of those taxes by dates specified in the by-law.*

Council annually adopts a by-law establishing a discount rate that will financially benefit the City and, at the same time, provide an investment opportunity for taxpayers.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

If approved, the City will offer an annual equivalent discount rate of 3.45% on tax payments made in advance. This recommendation results in additional net revenue to the City of approximately $8,253 assuming the same volume of prepayments as were received in 2024.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

The proposed discount rates are based on information received from the Financial Services Branch of Corporate Finance, which considers 4.0% as the City's short-term investment interest rate for 2025, which is lower than 2024. A discount rate of approximately 3.45% is considered to be fair to both the City and to the taxpayer.

The accelerated cash flow generated by the prepayment of realty, personal property and business taxes increases the City's short-term investment opportunities for the period January to June.

The 2024 accelerated cash flow generated by the prepayments of realty, personal property and business taxes was:

2024 Prepayments	$3,224,695
Less: 2024 Actual Discounts	50,606
	$3,174,089

Using the 2024 actual prepayment information, with the City's 2025 expected short-term investment interest rate of 4.0%, the following represents the interest income that could be expected in 2024 from depositing the tax prepayments:

2025 Projected Investment Income from Prepayments

	Estimated Prepayments (Based on 2024)	# of months invested	2025 Projected Investment Income
January			
Realty and Personal Property Tax	$2,657,335	5	$44,289
Business Tax	82,130	4	1,095
February			
Realty and Personal Property Tax	485,230	4	6,470
Business Tax			
2025 Projected Gross Income	$3,224,695		$51,854
less: Discounts and administration costs			43,601
2025 Projected Net Income			**$8,253**

This program will be offered as a customer service initiative with full information on the Assessment and Taxation webpage, and posted on the City's social media accounts. In addition, the 311 Customer Contact Centre will be prepared to handle phone calls on this program beginning in January 2025.

It is recommended that Council adopt a by-law to provide for prepayment discounts received by the Assessment and Taxation Department during the months of January and February 2025 at the following discount rates:

Realty & Personal Property Tax - payable at par up to June 30th	Face Value Discount Rate	Equivalent Annual Discount Rate
January	1.398%	3.45%
February	1.140%	3.45%
Business Tax – payable at par up to May 31st		
January	1.121%	3.45%
February	0.862%	3.45%

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: October 3, 2024

Project Name: Discount(s) to be allowed for the Prepayment of 2025 Realty, Personal Property and Business Taxes

First Year of Program **2025**

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Debt - External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (Enter Description Here)	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Enter Description Here	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ 43,601	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	51,854	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ (8,253)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	(8,253)	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments: Using the 2024 actual prepayment information, with the City's 2025 expected short-term investment interest rate of 4.0%, the interest income that could be expected in 2025 from depositing the tax prepayments is approximately $51,854. Discounts are estimated at $43,601, for a net income from the program of $8,253. Based on past experience, it is expected that 3,500 - 5,500 property owners will take advantage of the 2025 Prepayment Discount program. This program is included in the annual 2025 budget submission for the Assessment and Taxation Department.

Tanis Yanchishyn

Tanis Yanchishyn, CPA, CA
Manager of Taxation and Finance
Assessment and Taxation Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Financial Services Branch of Corporate Finance Department
- Legal Services (as to legal issues and by-law preparation)

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

The discount(s) to be allowed for the Prepayment of Realty, Personal Property and Business Taxes is generally aligned with strategies in the OurWinnipeg 2045 goal: Leadership and Good Governance policy 1.8 Accountable Revenue Generation.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan (CAP), and it was determined that the CAP is not applicable to this specific report.

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS), and it was determined that the PRS is not applicable to this specific report.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Assessment and Taxation
Division: Taxation and Finance
Prepared by: Tanis Yanchishyn, Manager of Taxation and Finance Services
Date: October 6, 2024

Attachments:

1. Schedule A – Draft By-law

Schedule A

THE CITY OF WINNIPEG

BY-LAW NO. /2024

A By-law of THE CITY OF WINNIPEG to provide for discounts where real or personal property taxes or business taxes are prepaid in 2025.

THE CITY OF WINNIPEG, in Council assembled, enacts as follows:

1 The Tax Collector of The City of Winnipeg shall, during the months of January and February 2025, accept monies in prepayment of real or personal property taxes or business taxes from any taxpayer whose account is not in arrears and who has not applied for and been accepted to the Tax Instalment Payment Plan, at the following discount rates:

(a) during the month of January 2025:

(i) for Real or Personal Property Taxes, a discount rate of 1.398%; and

(ii) for Business Taxes, a discount rate of 1.121%, and

(b) during the month of February 2025

(i) for Real or Personal Property Taxes, a discount rate of 1.140%; and

(ii) for Business Taxes, a discount rate of 0.862%.

2 At the time of payment, the taxpayer shall designate the tax account to which the prepayment is to be applied and the Tax Collector shall apply the payment only towards taxes levied in 2025 on the designated account.

3 The Tax Collector may accept tax prepayments for any account to a maximum value equivalent to the amount of the 2024 taxes.

DONE AND PASSED, this day of , 2024.

_____
Mayor

_____
City Clerk

DRAFT

Approved as to content:

_____
City Assessor

Legally reviewed and certified as to form:

_____
For Director of Legal Services and
City Solicitor

DRAFT