Submitted: Mon, 01/20/2025 - 22:09

Delegation information

Committee you want to address
Executive Policy Committee

Agenda item you want to address (number and title)
Budget items on January 22.

Support or oppose recommendations
I am opposed to the recommendations

Register as a delegation_checkbox
Register as a delegation

Register as a delegation
Via zoom

Submit comments in writing checkbox
Submit comments in writing

Comments
Budget 1 To assist the CAO in his job, the effectiveness of all spending at city hall should be the subject of regular examination by the Audit Team. This essential team must grow. It must also have an increased budget. If this is not done, no one will know when city programs go off the rails.

Budget considerations, We must do better and spend less on services. Fire service: 3 firefighters have fallen through floors so far in 2025. Workers comp costs are high and going up. We must do all we can to reduce these costs. How? As I explained to SPC Services, we must require that every building have a current inspection certificate on file, before we allow anyone, even a firefighter, to enter under smoky or emergency conditions.

Audit team: Money spent here can pay back several-fold. Not on following the money, but on discovering programs that are not serving the intended purpose. Please begin by doubling the amount budgeted for your audit team. They are good at assessing the function of city operations.

Parks and vacant land: As cities grow, vacant land can disappear. Golf courses are as close as urban land gets to park-like land. I have never golfed, and have no golfer in my family, but I see the courses as gems. Each was a winter wonderland when I was a kid growing up in Toronto. Unlike our big parks, they cost little to maintain, as user fees pay for so much. A course that is far from any city parkland is a priceless gift to the city's future. Letting its golf use wither, and covering the land with apartment towers, ruins the land. Once this happens, it will never again be public open space.

Winnipeg Transit is heavily subsidized. Fuel, driver salary and benefits and buying and repairing vehicles are all essential. We expect to pay for them. Many of the bells and whistles that Transit management has added, have increased cost in a huge way. Hundreds of millions have been spent on bus-only roads

that make service worse. When will Council realize that Transit has misled us? We have suffered through the results of the service reductions that WPA got away in the name of "progress". Are we about to fund another waste of money that will drive away customers? Those who commute by bus know their route. If they plan a new route, they can use NAVIGO, like I do, before leaving home. A search on the smart phone at a bus stop is a very bad idea. It is a big mistake to believe that customers are going to use an expensive app and not Navigo. Since Transit failed to explain to Council the downside of BRT phase 1 and 2, and since they compelled you to ignore dissenters in delegation, you should demand more compelling evidence. Waving around something new and asking for funding is no longer enough. Has anyone on staff or on Council analyzed the failure of the e-bus programs in other cities, to produce a report on why they will not fail here as badly? If this prudent step has been missed, are we doomed to waste as much tax money as those cities did? Once you increase funding for the audit team, this would be a good study for them!

Public engagement (optional)

I consent to being contacted to participate in potential public engagement related to this matter.
Yes

Personal information

First name
David

Last name
Grant

City (optional)
Winnipeg

Province or territory (optional)
Manitoba