Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – May 19, 2026

REPORTS

Item No. 7 Amendment to the Purchasing Policy

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the City Centre Community Committee, as amended, and recommended to Council:

1. That the Public Service be directed to report back to Council in 180 days with the following:

    A. A review of existing City tendering processes, including relevant sections of the Sustainable Procurement Action Plan.

    B. An analysis of all applicable free trade policies and agreements to establish clearly to what extent ‘buy local’ initiatives are permitted.

    C. A jurisdictional scan to establish how other major Canadian municipalities approach ‘buy local’ initiatives and best practices related to contract value thresholds.

    D. Recommendations on possible bid criteria that could be used to ensure local companies are given equal and fair opportunity to bid on City contracts.

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

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

The Chairperson called Councillor Lukes to the Chair in order to move the following motion:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Gillingham,

BE IT RESOLVED that the recommendation of the City Centre Community Committee be concurred in, with the following amendment:

- Delete Recommendations 1 and 2 in their entirety and replace with the following:

    "1. That the Public Service be directed to report back to Council in 180 days with the following:

        A. A review of existing City tendering processes, including relevant sections of the Sustainable Procurement Action Plan.

        B. An analysis of all applicable free trade policies and agreements to establish clearly to what extent 'buy local' initiatives are permitted.

        C. A jurisdictional scan to establish how other major Canadian municipalities approach 'buy local' initiatives and best practices related to contract value thresholds.

        D. Recommendations on possible bid criteria that could be used to ensure local companies are given equal and fair opportunity to bid on City contracts.

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

Carried

His Worship Mayor Gillingham resumed the Chair.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 24, 2026, the City Centre Community Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS during Covid, Winnipeg encouraged residents to support the incredible array of local businesses that provide exceptional services and products;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

AND WHEREAS The City of Winnipeg continues to promote buy local to keep and grow property taxes by keeping and increasing jobs and investment in the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS several Canadian cities and municipalities such as Toronto, Ontario, Halifax, Nova Scotia and Beaumont, Alberta to name a few, incorporate local procurement to support local economic development;

AND WHEREAS the Federal Government has set a precedent for prioritizing Canadian companies in procurement;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has set a precedent for prioritizing unions in provincial procurement;

AND WHEREAS considerations for local businesses during the evaluation process would only be part of Winnipeg's criteria to ensure value for the taxpayers of Winnipeg;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following recommendation be forwarded to the Executive Policy Committee:

1. That the administration report back to Council within 90 days with options to promote local businesses by adding to the tendering process criteria a point system that promotes local businesses when selecting a business for City contracts.

2. The administration provides to Council with a revised criteria that includes local businesses for Council consideration.