COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Friday, May 2, 2025

The Council met at 9:49 a.m.

The Clerk advised the Speaker that a quorum was present.

The Speaker called the meeting to order.

In accordance with Rule 11.1 of the City of Winnipeg Procedure By-law No. 50/2007, the Speaker acknowledged that we are in Treaty One Territory, the home and traditional lands of the Anishinaabe (Ojibwe), Ininew (Cree), and Dakota peoples, and in the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. Our drinking water comes from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation, in Treaty Three Territory.

The opening prayer was read by Councillor Duncan.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma, His Worship Mayor Gillingham, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Dobson, Duncan, Eadie, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Rollins, Santos, and Wyatt.

INTRODUCTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. I would like to take a moment to acknowledge some guests in the gallery today. We appreciate your presence. Former City Councillor Kevin Klein. Deputy Chief of Winnipeg Police Mr. Art Stannard. And, he has just stepped out momentarily, Mr. Gord Delbridge, president of Local 500. Thank you for being here. It is with deep sadness that I now ask the Clerk to read into the record the condolence motion for our colleague and dear friend Councillor Jason Schreyer who passed away earlier this week.

MOTIONS

Moved by His Worship Mayor Gillingham,
Seconded by Councillor Sharma,

WHEREAS this Council is deeply saddened by the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Jason Schreyer, Councillor for the Elmwood-East Kildonan Ward;

AND WHEREAS Councillor Schreyer has proudly served the citizens of the Elmwood-East Kildonan Ward with passion and conviction since his election to City Council in 2014;

AND WHEREAS Councillor Schreyer came from a proud tradition of public service and was a thoughtful and kind community-oriented leader who consistently demonstrated a deep sensitivity to the struggles of others throughout his career;

AND WHEREAS Councillor Schreyer was focused on issues of food security, construction inflation and keeping life affordable for Winnipeggers;

AND WHEREAS Councillor Schreyer's contribution to the deliberations and work of this Council will be sorely missed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council formally convey its deepest condolences to Councillor Schreyer's wife Sarah, two sons, and the entire Schreyer family.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Mr. Mayor, your remarks and tribute on behalf of Council, thank you.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank Councillor Duncan for a beautiful and very appropriate opening prayer today. I know every one of us will get a chance, I believe, Madam Speaker, to put some words on the record about our colleague Jason Schreyer. Frankly, it is hard to believe we are here today. This life we all signed up for and got elected to serve in, it is an honor to be elected officials and serve the people of our constituencies, our wards,

and our city. And frankly, sometimes it can bring out the worst in us, I think, and sometimes it brings out best in us. One thing about Jason Schreyer that I always, always and know and think of is that he was a kind man, no matter what, a kind man. In our biggest debates he would debate passionately...I am really glad we worked construction inflation into the motion today. He would debate principally on what he believed in, but no matter what, through it all, he was never not kind. Never unkind. He could work with any one of us. It was rewarding to see him in action in his ward. The last ward event I got to be with him in Elmwood-East Kildonan ward was this February for winter carnival. And he was absolutely in his element with the people he served. Getting hugs, giving hugs, talking to people, entertaining them. He was truly someone who cared about what he did in serving the community. And yes, he of course came from a long line in his family of public service and a commitment to doing all he could through elected office to make his community and our city better. I am grateful for the years that…We got elected together in 2014 at the same time and I am grateful for the years that he and I were able to serve on Council together and I got to sit with him on various committees, whether it was the Finance Committee or the Water, Waste and Environment Committee. Now obviously through all of those years around this chamber. To understand from him his priorities and his passions by what he signed up for and prioritized. It is in the motion today. He really cared about food security for people. The project he was working on right now as some of you are helping him work on it is really related to making sure individuals who are struggling to afford food would have food. He talked often, we know, about the impact of the growing costs on residents. That is why he raised the matter of construction inflation. He really wanted people to understand there is a reason that the costs of all things are going up here in the different city services. And it is sometimes parts of it are outside our control as Council. Those are things that mattered to him. My wife and I were talking about Jason's life just the other day. Of course, all of us today are deeply saddened for Sarah and his boys and his parents. And we offer our deepest condolences to them at this time. But my wife and I were talking about this and she said whenever we saw Jason and Sarah together, they always seemed so in love, laughing and smiling with one another. And to really get a glimpse into Jason Schreyer you had to spend time with him outside of this chamber. And all of us had a chance to see him and hear him. Some of you more than others. Some of you were singing buddies with him. With all due respect to all of you, I heard his voice, I have heard yours. He was a good singer. He carried a lot of you, a lot of us, regularly. But to see him dancing at Folklorama or singing in languages I didn't even know he knew, to hear him singing his prayers in here for us in an opening prayer, that is what we will miss. Frankly, it is not the policy. It is not the debates. It is Jason, the kind man, the fun man, the man who had so many talents, was interesting, was curious, was passionate. So, there is so much...I will leave space for others to say your own personal experience with him. But I am thankful to God for Jason Schreyer, that we had time to serve together on this Council, that he became a friend and that he served the people of our city with all of the passion and zeal and commitment that was who Jason was.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Thank you. Councillor Jason Schreyer's passing is a tremendous loss not only to those of us who had the privilege of knowing him personally, but also to the residents of Elmwood-East Kildonan who he served so passionately. We are deeply saddened. You are right, Mr. Mayor, kindness was Jason's focus. Always. I first met Jason in 1999. We were both at the Pan-Am Games that summer was...Winnipeg was hosting, summer of 1999. And we were specifically at the modern pentathlon site that was at the Maples Community Centre. That is the first day I met Jason, and what really captivated me was his joie de vivre, I think we all know that about him. He was in his element there. He was enjoying the outdoors, being amongst people and connecting sincerely in the present moment. Since that summer in 1999, Jason and I remained friends over the years. I recall the time he dressed up as Santa Claus and came to visit my family home at my parents' place. He brought so much joy that day to my young niece. He brought so much joy that day, to my young niece and adults alike, through so many moments like that where he brought joy to others. I want to share these happy memories, it is important. As the Mayor said, it is not our job title that defines us. A few years later…I will tell you a story. Jason loved to dance. We all know that. And being at my wedding reception was no different for him. He was so pumped to take his turn with the Jago lantern on his head. He took over the dance floor. He was the center of attention. No one was looking at the bride (laughter). All eyes on Jason. It was the time of my life. And he sure had fun that night. I see it now. Bhangra music at full blast, dancer extraordinaire right there in the middle of the dancefloor. Again, having fun in the present moment. So many great moments of friendship. And I know there are many other special moments around this Council Chamber. I have heard them. I have seen them with all of you. And we are proud to call Jason a friend. Years later we served here together on City Council where we have all witnessed Jason's passion and authenticity with colleagues and the public. He had many files he was leading on to make Winnipeg a better place, always advocating with his whole heart. He cared deeply about people. About doing what was right. About giving a voice to those who often go unheard. And about making a difference in the lives of the residents he represented. in Elmwood-East Kildonan. We saw the best of Councillor Schreyer as a very caring and compassionate person, one that has left a very special mark. We are so lucky to have crossed paths with him. Condolences to all who knew and loved Jason and our hearts are with the entire Schreyer family. Councillor Eadie, I would like to now call upon you for your remarks.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker. Mayor. Colleagues. I lost a...There is no longer the Councillor brothers. We lost a wonderful man who cared passionately about people as we have heard, and I just...my heart actually is so sad for Sarah and Jared and his other son, for Ed and Lilly and all his family. Because Jason was like a very, very important person for

that family. And that family is huge. The cousins all over, and I am just so sad for them. I am sad for myself. I am going to talk some recent...about who the man is, Madam Speaker, or who the man was. At least from how I knew him in most recent times. Madam Speaker, when I was diagnosed with cancer, my colleagues were around me, but Jason was there every day. Every day, making sure I was okay. And that is kind of how our relations…I always checked in on him, too. Elections can be tough. He was a reluctant politician, actually, because he was doing a lot of stuff passionately for people all of the time. That is just who Jason Schreyer was. And in that difficult election when, actually, people were campaigning against us saying we are not doing nothing about vacant derelict housing, it is our fault, we have not done nothing. Jason was being blamed for not doing anything about crime. But what the people just do not know is the time that we spent on my stoop at my front stairs. The season was just starting. We only had a chance for one this year yet. And we would give each other hugs and tell each other things are going to work out. Anyway, but the people just do not understand. To run for office means, yes, people have expectations and we try to do what we can so that people do not have to live a tough life, so that people do not have to get into crime to fund whatever their needs are, and those kind of issues. And every day in that campaign, every day at nighttime, there was Jason Schreyer, my yodeler. That is what he called himself, Ross Eadie's yodeler. And I actually had to ask him in Council Chambers even my colleagues know, he would often quote Ross Eadie. I said, well Jason, what about you? You have a good understanding of the issues. He was very principled, like I am. And I just said, you have to be yourself. Do not keep referring to me. But I love that he did do it. Anyway, every night I was leaving my campaign office because I had to run my own campaign, try to knock on doors and try to take the heat for everybody...everything that is going wrong in the North End, it is Ross Eadie's fault. And I was feeling really down. And he would be there every night, Madam Speaker. Every night. Because that is the kind of guy he was. If he seen somebody struggling, he would be there. If he seen somebody struggling on the street, he would be there, trying to help. I can not tell you...We were karaokeing at Boogie's after Council on a Thursday, and there is a woman that is having a real hard time. And just the kindness and the caring and the respect to try to make sure that we could help her out. We gave her a ride home, and just, you know, around be the table, I can not tell you how many times construction inflation...we discussed that on the stoop many, many times. And that was...he grabbed that issue. He had some solutions that, you know, politically some of those solutions are not workable, with 16 of us here voting. But, just on Council, well, you have all expressed that he is such a great man. It was stress relief. He and I, over the last couple years, we karaoked all over the city, everywhere. Everywhere. Because you know what that was for him? Music was his passion. Not only is he a singer, as Madam Speaker has mentioned, to watch Councillor Jason Schreyer, well Jason Schreyer, sing is to watch him do song and dance. Song and dance. Always moving. Always, he always had to move, move, move. And, you know, that is how we sing together with the Councillor brothers. We move together. I can not tell you how many times we were at different events where just he and I were dancing. Actually, in Calgary, here I said: Come on, you have to dance. We were singing to Abba's The Dancing Queen. And he is a little reluctant to get up there. Come on, Jason. And so, we were dancing. We were having a great time. He enjoyed life. He enjoyed life immensely. He enjoyed his family. Sarah and Jared, I have gotten to know you so much. Anyway, I do not know what more to say, but I am going to end with something here, and I want my colleagues when I say the words: say something. I want to say out Jason Schreyer. I want you to do that, okay? It is part of Jason Schreyer's go-to song that he enjoyed so much because the people enjoyed when he sang it. Because he would be in the crowd singing and moving. So, I am just going to end with...I am not going to sing it…do not worry about the voice because I can not…anyway. (Singing)

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. It is your best friend. Thank you. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: (Singing).

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Rollins. So heartfelt, thank you. Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: There are no words that can express the depth of loss that we feel here as a Council. So appropriate that you sang that song because that is what Jason represented. Song. You know, I have heard a few other people speak. Councillor Eadie was bang on when he talked about how Jason wants to help people. And during my time here and seeing Jason work, that is truly what it was. Folklorama when he would dance bhangra. It is his attempt to connect with people. When he was doing the limbo dance at the hall, it was his attempt to connect with people. His passion for learning and understanding different languages is his attempt at connecting with people. Jason will certainly be missed. I think about his wife and his children. I think about his mother and father, and yes, the greatest fear of a parent is to bury their child. So, my heart grieves for Ed and Lilly. There is all a message that we can take away from the passing of Councillor Schreyer. Though we are in elected positions, we still have lives. We still have families. We still have friends. We still have issues in our lives that we go through. So, I am asking each and every one of you, Mayor Gillingham had asked it as well. Check in with one another. Let's make sure that we are all doing okay. Especially in these times. It is important. It is what we need to do. Jason, thank you for your service. You will be missed.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Chambers. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: I posted this on my Facebook page after the absolutely beautiful bonfire time we had at Councillor Wyatt's. Thanks for the joy you have given me, Jason. Today was a really hard day. Devastating news that our colleague Jason Schreyer passed away yesterday. Unexpectedly gone, the earthly journey is over. Losing a work colleague is different kind of experience. You are not family. You do not know them too personally. Yet you have a deep connection through work. I would say Jason and I were on different end of the political spectrum, bit of an understatement. I think Gord understands that. But we came together on so many issues. And that is the odd but incredible part of being a City Councillor. In working to build the city and improving the quality of life for everyone, you must come together on many issues. Jason was so, so kind. Always happy, and positive, respectful, multilingual, worldly and well-travelled, and he had such an inquisitive mind. The role of a City Councillor is one where you work hard, you make decisions that impact people's lives. You aim to move mountains and slay dragons along the way. You create the most unusual alliances one day and different alliances the next day, depending on the issue. The most incredible times I shared with Jason were the play hard part of the job. At Christmas parties, at conferences, at singalongs, at Folklorama. He had a deep, deep passion for life. He lived every day to the fullest. My heart breaks for his wife Sarah and his children. When there is such a deep passion and love, the loss is profound. I know what it is like to lose a dad and a brother. Everything changes. And absolutely nothing is ever the same again. Jason, your soul is free. You can drift away; you can rest in peace. It is an incredible honor and joy to have known you. And I posted a beautiful song that he was singing when we were at the retreat out at Elkhorn. Anyways, it is a beautiful little video. Rest in peace, Jason.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Lukes. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you. You get these jobs and it is…You are on your own, really, at City Hall. There is no team. There is no party there to back you up. You get to know people and you...I wish I had known that modern pentathlon story. I was there. I was in the crowd that day. It would have been great to know that you and Jason had been there too.

Madam Speaker: Were you running around the track?

Councillor Mayes: Nor was I thrown off the horse, like that one competitor. But no. But you do get to know people here and there and you get to know a bit about their background. We all got to know Jason. And we discovered that we were in Ottawa at same time or that he had his Australian phase of his life. So, he certainly...he had done many things. He worked on oil rigs and stuff. He suddenly he would be telling some story and you think: You did that? Tell me about that. So, a varied career, a lot of different things, you know, just a fascinating character in many ways. And the music...we were in here one time at a committee, and he was saying something like "Maybe Brian Mayes" then he stopped himself, and then he broke into Maybe I'm Amazed, the Paul MacCartney song. And we both enjoyed the moment, immensely, I have to say. Because it was so clever. So just a great mind, flexible to think of these different sorts of things. And the guy loved Reach For The Top like I did, and would always play, would always show up. So we will do something with Miles Mac. Because I have been with him at Miles Mac a couple of times and he has told this story of how he decided to run for council one day when he was at Miles Mac, so I think that would be appropriate. I do not have any particular question to answer. But I was struck at the last Council meeting, there was talk of how Abraham Lincoln...of how the Gettysburg address by Abraham Lincoln was famously short. But he gets up and says: Yes, but the Lincoln-Douglas debate was famously long. And I was thinking you have got to be pretty sharp to come up with that on your feet. The Lincoln-Douglas debate, that is a pretty good reach to the top type of knowledge. Unfortunately, I never...you always think you will have time to tell people these...you know, say: you got off a good line there. But the problem with life, of course, you never know when these things are going to run out. There are many things I would have liked to have said to him, and I am sure we all would have. But he was a very kind man, as the Mayor said. A very decent colleague, with a great sense of humor and a lot of knowledge about a lot of different things. Like Councillor Luke, I remember that, you know...I always think of one of my sisters when I think of when I hear that Dobie Gray song, Drift Away. But I think I shall also think now of Councillor Schreyer who has drifted away from us. But we will remember him. He was...well we all come in here as individuals, and often there is no team, I think we would all appreciate the joy that Jason brought to Council and to life. So, as you said, Madam Speaker, the joie de vivre that you really can not deny. So, we will miss you, Jason.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. Any other speakers? Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Before I talk about Jason, about my own experiences, I just would like to send a message on behalf of the Committee of Capital Cities. They wanted to extend a heartfelt condolence on the passing of Councillor Schreyer. Jason was a passionate public servant, and a dedicated representative of Winnipeg. We had the privilege of getting to know him through his work on behalf of the Committee of Capital Cities, where he always brought enthusiasm, thoughtful insight and unique perspectives; One shaped by his remarkable upbringing at the Governor General's residence and his deep roots in political life. As a son of former Manitoba Premier Ed Schreyer, Jason carried forward a proud legacy of public service. He did so with sincerity and genuine desire to make a difference. Whether at the Manitoba Legislature or with Winnipeg City Council, he had a special ability to connect with people. And

we were always struck by his eagerness to engage, to listen, and to share. We send our deepest sympathies to City Council, the dedicated staff he worked alongside with, his constituents, and most of all, Jason's close family and friends. He will be remembered not just for his service, but for his spirit. May he rest in peace. So, what I want to share with you about Jason. That I have gotten to know Jason just a little better, kind of this term. He asked me to kind of meet with him on a few issues, so I was able to meet with him. And I got to know some of his constituents. So, I know that he was a deeply rooted constituent person. Some of us are kind of policy-driven, some of us constituent-driven. He was very driven by his constituency, where he brought forward things like...food security was a big one. So, he brought forward the Food Club where people go and they...you know, for a little... I was able to go and see it. So, it was kind of amazing how much food people were able to get for a little bit of money. He also got a bus program so seniors would be able to get access to the grocery store. And I know he was working with his community organization to make sure that they had a space. And I know that he was working on that. On the corner of Henderson, he is doing a community connection space that is going to be awesome. And I think at one time he was hoping to perform there. So, I know that they are looking at hopefully trying to somehow honor him in his work in his community. And so, one thing I think that Jason has provided me is really an understanding is that people are not going to remember the stuff that I did on Council when I left. Me and Jason, we were not the closest. There are other people that were really close to Jason that are sitting here. But I can tell he left a memorable impression on all of us. And so how somebody makes you feel when they leave this world is something that I think he has taught me. And it made me reflect on my own life and how I am treating people and how I want to be remembered. So, I want to thank Jason for that because that is a lesson I am learning right here and now. And he has left a…You can tell anybody that you talk to, he has left an impression. And I will always remember the word construction inflation and think of him. So, thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gilroy. I would like to close today with Councillor Wyatt. But is there anyone else first? Councillor Santos.

Councillor Santos: Definitely going to miss my karaoke band mate, Council brother Jason Schreyer. I will never forget the first time I heard Jason sing I think was at the Council (inaudible) retreat. And I was blown away, just amazed at his talent. He was enigmatic, full of passion, and deeply committed to the issues like inflation and food insecurity. What I am going to miss the most is him sitting beside me. We would joke about how long the meetings would take, chat about exercising, eating healthy. And I would always tease him about the length of his speeches. You know, he would just smile and say: You guys all inspire me to speak. Because every issue mattered. And you are right, Jason, every issue matters. One of my fondest memories was at FCM last year in Calgary. Jason, Councillor Eadie and I, we spent most of our time together getting to know each other. And found ourselves at a karaoke bar. And I love karaoke personally. I sing at home. But I was encouraged by Jason and Ross to take the mic and do it in front of a bunch of strangers. So it was nerve-racking, but it was the experience of a lifetime, and from there we had our little band sister: Sister Santos and Councillor Brothers. So, Jason, may you forever sing from the heavens above. (Singing). Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Santos. Next speaker, Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Okay, I think, Jason, I am going to join the fray, with much trepidation. First off, I heard about Jason's passing when Debbie called. And I was pretty shaken. Jason has got a son who is my daughter's age, goes to my daughter's school. I know him. So I am thinking of him. I hope he is okay. I know he is not okay because he lost his dad. Anyway, Jason and I sang this song together at the retreat so I am going to give it a go and tribute to the polyglot Jason Schreyer, and I guess pop-culture with Enrique Iglesias. So if you want to follow, It is not word for word. The Spanish versions tend to be racier. The substance of it is there. Just give me a moment to load this thing. We talked about doing this in public for so long. And finally, we did it at a Councillor thing, mostly to Councillor Rollins. Here we go. (music plays) My apologies, I do not have the paper. He was a tenor with a big vocal range. He did the harmonies, I did the melodies because I do not know…alright. (Singing). He told me do not worry about it. Just have fun. (Singing). Anyway, I think he would have wanted me to do that. I would also like to make a tribute to him in French, I understand we have the interpreters here.

***French Spoken*: (10:37:33 to 10:39:00)**

Councillor Allard: Ross, you were there. It was a Bike Winnipeg event. And I think Jason was driving the bike. You were a passenger. Better done that way probably. (laughter)

***French Spoken*: (10:39:27 to 10:42:22)**

Councillor Allard: So, with that, merci Jason, gracias Jason.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Allard. I want to, once again, thank former Councillor Klein for being here. You too, I know, had a special bond with Councillor Schreyer. I saw that for many years. Thank you. Our final speaker today is Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Holy Mackerel. Councillor Rollins, why are you not singing karaoke with us? That was amazing. And you too, Councillor Santos. When I saw…I heard you at the fire...hidden talents. But nothing personal, Councillor Allard, you might want to stick to singing in the shower (laughs). Start there. We will get you going. It is nothing personal... Nothing personal but… (inaudible).

Councillor Allard: …Jason made me do it.

Councillor Wyatt: I mean, wow. My first memory of Schreyer was here in this chamber. I think one of the first memories was he is sitting here, it was at the beginning of the meeting and his turn to do the prayer, and he is humming away. He is humming away and I said what the hell are you doing Schreyer? He says, well I am getting ready to sing the prayer. And I said, in what language? So, he sang the prayer in Swahili. A Swahili prayer. I will never forget it. And we had then Councillor Morantz who was sitting about right over there with Councillor Eadie is. And I was looking, and Mortanz was starting to kind of laugh. But not laugh with him, but laugh at him. And having known Schreyer for so long it kind of irked me. So I was thinking about what I could do about this. And so, in my turn, you know how we move on the prayer, my turn was the next month. So I started singing, (singing). Of course, Schreyer is singing and then Morantz starts singing (laughter). You know, it was like, you know I am going to read, because if I do not read, I am going to cry, and I was taught, in my generation, men do not cry. Jason and I met about 35 years ago. We met through the party and became friends and remained friends ever since. I think we both had hair back then. He was a good man, a family man, a wonderful man. Jared, with a wonderful son Jared, and his wife Sarah. Jason never saw himself as special, and never, never took the attitude of entitlement which he could have easily have done so, being the son of a former Premier, Governor General, growing up in Reed Hall and attending school with the kids of the Ottawa elite. No, he was very humble guy. Always questioning. He questioned and pushed those in power to do better. But he also questioned and challenged himself. And he assumed nothing. At a young age, a working age, he could have gotten a job in government, anything he wanted in that sense. But that was not Jason. Instead, he went and worked in the oil rigs in Alberta, as has been mentioned. He also worked for Abalon Construction. So those of you old enough to remember. ABA call (inaudible) Abalon. You know, I mean that was hard work. That is digging beside basements, to repair basement foundations. And he would laugh that he was in better shape back then. Later he became a professional entertainer singing and dancing. Jason was a free spirit. The last memory I have with him was, one of the last memories of Jason, Ross, and myself at karaoke at Club 200. We would sing songs together. Ross and I were clearly amateurs. But Jason would never let us think that. He was great guy who loved his family and cared about the community that he lived in and represented the city as a whole. Thank you for raising recently the project he is working on. That would be a great project for us to…at the corner of Henderson and Johnson. He told me and Councillor Browaty, he wanted to do kind of like the Transcona Centennial Square there, a gathering spot in heart of old Elmwood. It would be a great project for us to follow up with, in his memory. He disliked power politics. He believed, and had a vision similar to that basically of Tommy Douglas, that we could build a new Jerusalem in this green and pleasant land called Canada. If we could only learn to share the wealth of the land. Jason was a committed democratic socialist. But unlike many others, he practiced what he preached. He always had time for the little guy, as Ross would say, the working folks. And he preferred their company. He did not trust the powerful in the city and constantly pushed for them to be accountable. He was, at times, a thorn in their side, as was the example last Council meeting where the Mayor and Chairman Evan Duncan tried to silence Councillor Schreyer many times during that meeting. And I had to confess to the Mayor, when he came to the bonfire the other day, that that was a long meeting, as you recall. And, you know, I might have had some a little bit…it was late. I could see him. Eadie, Schreyer and myself, we get our second wind after dinner. Everybody else…Some folks are morning people, and some people are night people. Schreyer, Eadie, and I are night people. So, I turned to Schreyer, and I said I think this has a construction inflation angle to this issue (laughter). And he said, I think you are right. Boom. He was up and at it. Of course. So I had to commit, but you know, he was passionate. He knew that issue inside out. And he is right, and it is an issue that in terms of economic democracy is something that can not go away. I am going to really miss him. He was a fantastic work colleague but more importantly my friend...a long-time friend. As Ross was saying as well. But I know we will meet again. I would just like to say a quote from a passage of the gospel from JC. Truly I tell you…Because it reminds me of Jason. Truly I tell you unless you change and become a child you shall never enter my father's kingdom of heaven. And what does that mean? It means not to be childish but to be childlike. Jason was a free spirit. He took the job very seriously. But at the same time, he also was, as the Mayor was saying, kind, humble, played good in the sandbox, so to speak when we were kids. And that was Jason, right? He never had the airs of office, you know? I was talking to somebody last night. You would not think he was a politician. He was just an average guy and that is it. I am going to miss him stealing my smokes, though he always said he never smoked (laughter).

Madam Speaker: He was giving them to Eadie (laughter).

Councillor Wyatt: I am going to miss our little chats here and everywhere. I am going to miss him seconding my motions. I am going to miss him…

Madam Speaker: The mayor will (laughter).

Councillor Wyatt: I am going to miss him...One of the things that really blew my mind was when he arrived at Council is how he would bring his family all the time to meetings and everything. I was just…He did that all of the time with Sarah and Jared. At one point I thought Sarah was actually going to start voting with us at Community Committee. It was great. It showed how important it was to him. It was his passion. He had an inner compass that he knew the directions. It was always…true north to him was always there. My condolences to Sarah and Jared, Lilly, and Ed, to the entire family. I was in total shock when I got the call from the Mayor. I was crushed by the news. I can not imagine how hard it is for them. So I ask all Winnipeggers, at this time, to pray for the family that they may be comforted in this time. And that Jason's life will be remembered with joy, not with sadness, so that his spirit may soar, as Jason always, always had a smile, a laugh, and another song to sing. Good-bye, my friend. Again, thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Wyatt. Everyone please rise for a moment of silence for our friend, Councillor Jason Schreyer. (moment of silence). There is a call for a 10-minute recess. And then we will reconvene. Thank you.

Reconvened meeting of
Winnipeg City Council of
May 2, 2025, at 11:14 a.m.

INTRODUCTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Madam Speaker: I would like to introduce our Pages for today. Michael Mashinter from Tech Voc Vocational High School, who resides in the Point Douglas ward, and Dalton Okemow, from Southeast Collegiate, who resides in the Waverley West ward. Welcome. Thank you for serving Council (applause). We will now move into morning announcements. Mr. Mayor, you have the floor.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I want to first of all, thank all of my colleagues for their beautiful tributes. I could not help but think that, so far, this has been the most Jason Schreyer-esque Council meeting ever. No speaking time limits and everybody is singing. So it is…He would love this day, I think. He really is loving this day.

Madam Speaker: He gave the extension to everyone, remember that. Words matter.

Mayor Gillingham: I do, also, and again, in a somber note and I think our colleague Councillor Santos is going to speak to this in a moment as well. I want to begin by acknowledging the heartbreak and the pain that all of us have felt related to Saturday's terrible attack in Vancouver. I reached out to Mayor Ken Sim and the Vancouver City Councillor Rebecca Bligh, who is also our FCM president, to offer our deepest condolences on behalf of City Council and the people of Winnipeg, who too are grieving for all those who have been killed, injured, and traumatized. For their families and for their friends. We know that the ties between Winnipeg's Filipino community, or Manitoba's Filipino community, and BC's Filipino community are strong ties and many ties there. So, our love and prayers continue to be with them at this horrific time. Congratulations to Prime Minister Mark Carney and the Liberal party their election win on Monday. All of us look forward to working with the Prime Minister, his cabinet and the local Members of Parliament as well, who we congratulate today. For those returning to office, for those elected for the first time, congratulations to them. To the Members of Parliament who were not re-elected in Winnipeg, thank you to each one of them for their service to our community. We will continue to prioritize, with the new government, the funding of North End Water Pollution Control Centre, building more housing under the housing accelerator fund and making our communities safer for everyone. And finally, on behalf of all of us I would like to wish our Winnipeg Jets all the best as they head to St. Louis tonight. Thank you. Go, Jets, go.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Next is Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Councillor Schreyer would have wanted me to note that the, as would Councillor Orlikow and I think Councillor Rollins, the Reach For The Top provincial championship was played in late April and Kelvin defeated Sisler. Trying to win for the first time since 1972. Unfortunately for them, fell one game short and Kelvin, who have become quite a dynasty, winning off and on (inaudible). We will have to salute Mr. Martins, the long-time coach there in some fashion. But two comments from the small, quirky, Reach For The Top community. I have

gotten a couple of e-mails about Councillor Schreyer. Sorry. One was from one of the Miles Mac folks, who said: From the times I interacted with him over the Reach table and for representing my ward he acquitted himself well with a dignity not often seen in the modern era. I think Jason would have liked to have been referred to as dignified. And just two weeks ago we played at St. Paul's, April 14. So, I got a nice e-mail from the coach there saying: The thing we appreciated so much about your visit to our school was the energy, enthusiasm, easy sense of humor, and good cheer you all brought with you. Councillor Schreyer in particular was the most fun to play with and against. So, I do not know how Councillor Rollins and I feel about that. But I think he would have loved that as well. Just wanted to note that, and we will do something with Miles Mac Reach in honor of Councillor Schreyer in due course. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. Councillor Santos, our final speaker.

Councillor Santos: Yes, thank you, Mr. Mayor for this kind comments. My heart is heavy following the tragic incident in Vancouver that claimed the lives of 11 members of our community. So on Tuesday, together with Speaker Sharma, we attended the vigil at PCCM where the Winnipeg Filipino community and friends gather to honor the victims, and offer their prayers, love, and support. To the families grieving in Vancouver, and all those here in Winnipeg who knew and loved the victims, our family specifically is deeply impacted. My cousin and nephew knew one of the family members that was killed. So, to Babette, please accept my deepest and most heartfelt condolences. The Filipino community is so deeply connected across Canada that even when one member is lost, we feel it all. This tragedy has rippled through our hearts, reminding us of the fragility of life and the power of unity. In times like this, we must hold each other close and continue to build safe and welcoming spaces, especially during our cherished festivals and celebrations here in Winnipeg. So, let us carry the memory of those we lost by coming together in love, in vigilance, and in community. And may their souls rest in peace. Thank you.

MINUTES

Councillor Browaty moves that the Minutes of the meeting held on March 27, 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? That is carried.

DELEGATIONS

Madam Speaker: We do have delegations here today. I would like to call up Dominic Lloyd, Executive Director of the Winnipeg Arts Council, joining us in person here to speak in support of Item 1 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee, dated April 22, 2025. The City of Winnipeg Proposed Public Art Program (Percent-for-Art Program). Thank you. Do you have someone else presenting with you as well?

Dominic Lloyd: I just have my colleague Tamara Rae who is our public art manager, just in case she is needed.

Madam Speaker: Okay, thank you. And Dominic thank you for your cooperation. We did reschedule Council. And we appreciate your understanding.

Dominic Lloyd: Absolutely. And it could not be any other way, Madam Speaker. And I would like to just add my voice to everybody here this morning and acknowledge Councillor Schreyer. It is evident from hearing all of you speak this morning, his affinity for music and dance brought joy to so many. And we got to know him a little bit when Councillor Schreyer was on the board of the Winnipeg Arts Council back in 2017 and 2018. And so we definitely feel the loss. And it was really uplifting to hear you all speak this morning. So, thank you from me for that. But on behalf of the Winnipeg Arts Council, my sincerest condolences both to Councillor Schreyer's loved ones and to all his Council and City of Winnipeg colleagues here.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Very kind of you.

Dominic Lloyd: I promise I won't take too much of your time. I can tell that you have a busy day in front of you. So thank you for taking the time to listen to me this morning. And thank you as well for the motion in the 2024 budget vote last year and to the efforts of the City of Winnipeg staff to move forward a plan for public art in our city. We really do appreciate the multitude of priorities that you have to balance as Councillors, and I know it is no easy task. So, we are very grateful to be part of that. And I am here essentially then for two reasons. One of which is to support the administration report and to say that when Council does get to its strategic priorities action planning that we want to be

part of that. We want to be able to be part of your strategic planning and to be able to offer you the best advice that we can to help you make an informed decisions. We are an arm's length agency of the city so please avail yourselves of our knowledge. The other reason is a little bit more of a pressing need and that is sort of what happens in the interim, between now and 2028 as noted in the report. Essentially, by that, I am talking about the Winnipeg Arts Council's ability to manage current projects that are underway, as well as to plan and be ready for 2028 and to sort of handle the ongoing maintenance and administration of the existing public art collection. It is something that we can manage in the short-term, but it is not sustainable in the long-term. A percent-for-art strategy allows the City to be strategic about public art and how it fits into the built environment. We used to be able to work with the City to create a vision. There was a four-year public art plan that was reviewed annually, it was developed by WAC staff in collaboration with City departments, department heads, PP&D, Public Works. There were many, many voices that went into that. And that plan created projects all over the city. Since 2024, that process has been left in limbo. So, right now we are surviving on ad-hoc projects. And I do not, by any means, mean to suggest that those are not good projects. There really are some great ones happening. But without a process there is no way to plan, and there is no way to do things strategically. Right now, we have projects on the go in various stages. Odeon Park, in front of the Walker Theatre, will see an installation created later this year. We are working on some management agreements for longer-term projects with the St. James Civic Centre and the South-Winnipeg Rec Complex. And just like the rest of the collection, those are going to be great projects. They are going to be great additions to their communities; they are going to really reflect the people who live in those neighborhoods and present Winnipeg in its light. But they take a long time to do, and public art really is a multiyear process. So, just to give you an example, the South Winnipeg Rec Complex is scheduled for completion in 2028. So, in order do the work...Councillor Rollins is crossing her fingers, and we definitely hope that it happens. But we need to be doing the work in the interim to do that, you know? Just to make sure that what ends up happening there is going to be workable, it is going to be manageable, it is going to be on time and under budget. And somebody has to be doing that work in the interim. And that is the same with any large project. We do not expect any other aspect of a capital project to be done without time and expertise. Certainly, public art is part of that capital project, and we would like to be able to see that move forward. And I think that is what can happen with Percent-for-Art. It also allows us to do things that are not just large projects, whether it is working with BIZ zones or working on community-based projects all over the city. We run a full slate of tours that bring people downtown. And downtown is a really interesting one. Because Nuit Blanche is such a key part of public art in the downtown, and I do not know if you know this, but part of the reason, and I am going to pat the Winnipeg Arts Council on its back here, part of the reason why Nuit Blanche has become successful and attracts 25,000 people downtown in a day, is because of a very conscious decision that we made about a decade ago, to put public art at the forefront of that. So, when you come downtown on Nuit Blanche and you see the dancing trees in the Old Market Square, you see the musical seesaws, and you see all those people interacting, that is the direct result of the Winnipeg's public art program. Making sure that those installations are there, that they are managed, they are sourced properly, that public art remains at the forefront of what Nuit Blanche is. And when those people come downtown, they come downtown because they know they are going to be able to see and engage with that. And when that public art is not there it is kind of noticeable. I am just about done here. I just want to let you know there is about 50 permanently installed pieces in the Winnipeg's Public Art collection around the city, all over the city. And, you know, when they get tagged and vandalized it is the Public Art Manager that gets called. Even when it is not bad things, sometimes lights just burn out, sometimes controllers need to be replaced. And that is the Public Art Manager who gets those calls. And she has a fantastic relationship with the City, and the City administration staff are great. It is a really wonderful working relationship, partnership, but it still comes down to WAC having the resources to deal with those calls. So, all of that is work that is not going to go away. It is not going to stop being needed between now and what I hope will be the implementation of a percent-for-art strategy. So, we would like to look for ways to make that happen in the interim. The administration report recommended that percent-for-art be ready to go by 2028. And I think that your SPAC process can do the same. And again, we want to be there to help you with that. We want to be a resource for you, and we are asking that the Winnipeg Arts Council can be resourced to do the things that it needs to do that. And I think what I would finish by saying is when you do get to that point, I hope you will remember that public art really has been a priority for the City. It has been a priority for the City for 20 years, pretty much. But it also is part of Our Winnipeg. It is a priority in Centre Plan. It is even in the 2023 Strategic Priorities Action Plan and of course it was in the budget vote that you folks made here last year, that we are very grateful for and which has brought us to this point today. So, really, with that I will just thank you and express again my support for the public art percent-for-art strategy. And I wish you well with the rest of your day.

Madam Speaker: Thank you for the presentation. We do have questions. Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you for your presentation. Public art, the Winnipeg Arts Council does a wonderful job with the budget that you have. One of the challenges though, that I see that you have, is making the Arts Council more real to the community at-large. And when I say the community at large, I think art is something that is not just something that should be the domain of the professional artists. But we should be engaging in the community to bring out artists who may either have not been identified or people who think they may have the ability or want to learn. And I guess the example I give is I had an opportunity many times to attend the Steinback Arts Council fundraisers just because I used

to sit on the board of directors of (inaudible). Got to know a lot of different people around Manitoba in the municipal world who would invite me out there and I was so impressed with the Steinback Art Council there, SAC, and how they made their programming available and very tangible to the people of Steinback in terms of learning to painting, sculpture. I look at Gimli. Gimli has an amazing program where they fire...you know, they have a public store, they have public art being sold, and they engage the community and on top of that they have programming and learning, and they actually have a kiln to fire pottery. Why don't we have anything like that? Why aren't we reaching out to the community and getting the community involved in public art? Because it is a huge…And I will give you an example. Recently I was in south Transcona for a meeting, and we got interrupted because we forgot that at 7 o'clock the South Transcona Painting Club starts. And there is about 10 residents, mostly women, who showed up. And they are painting but they get no support, or knowledge, or even marketing or just…You know, we have community clubs all over the city who are doing this stuff. And you guys are plugging in…There is no promotion of it either. Why isn't the Winnipeg Art Council doing these things?

Dominic Lloyd: Thanks for the question. In terms of how some of the rural arts council works, it is a little bit of a different model than the urban arts council. In the sense that we act primarily as a funder. But to your point about the engagement that we have with community, I think part of what we do is support arts organizations in the community who do that. The other thing that we do is we run programs that do that. And we run them specifically through our public art program. So, there is a thing we do called With Art, and that is where communities come together. Any kind of self-identified community can get matched with an artist to create a project that explores some question of community. Whether it is socioeconomic, whether it is geographical, whether it is ethnocultural. But what happens is they work with an artist and both sides come in with no sort of preconceived notions about what they are going to make. But they work with an artist to explore those questions. So, I think one of the most recent examples that we had is something that happened in Councillor Gilroy's ward with the South Valour Resident's Association that created a piece at a community centre. Those types of projects happen all over the city; they do not happen just at community centres. They happen with community groups, whether it is like (inaudible), whether it is neighbourhood groups, whether it is Wayfinders in the northwest part of the city. We are working with the resources we have to try and connect communities with the arts. And further, to create expression of community that is then public.

Councillor Wyatt: I appreciate your response. I know you have limited resources. But you do have millions of dollars every year from the City of Winnipeg taxpayers. And I guess my question is, you know, for example the Hi Neighbour Festival has applied in the past. They have artists at the Hi Neighbour Festival, but they said on no we are not funding that, they can not get a grant from you. It is almost like the community outside of the downtown does not exist for the Winnipeg Arts Council. And I guess I am challenging you and saying there is a grassroots group of people out there who want to be involved with arts, who want to participate. But the Arts Council is kind of way up here, kind of high, and we are…There is no grassroots connection that should be happening with the Winnipeg Arts Council in City of Winnipeg. And I hear what you are saying, it is a different model outside of the city. But maybe it is a model that you guys should look at as well. So, I am just challenging you.

Dominic Lloyd: For sure. And I mean, I can tell you that the Hi Neighbour Festival, I have never had a conversation with them in the dozen or so years that I have been running the grants. But I guess that is the best answer I can give you, sir.

Councillor Wyatt: You might have heard our comments. Councillor Schreyer was spearheading a project by the corner of Henderson and Johnson. I know the Winnipeg Arts Council kindly provided a public art grant when we did the Transcona Centennial Square, about $500,000 which was the backdrop to the public stage there, the Archambault Pavilion. And is there something that, looking forward in the near term, in terms of your budget of public art, is that something that you would take into consideration?

Dominic Lloyd: Should there be a budget for public art then that is definitely the kind of thing that we can.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mayor Gillingham is next. Thank you.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Correct me if I am wrong, first of all Mr. Lloyd, I do not know if you have been...presented at Council since being appointed Executive Director? I think you came to EPC, have you been to Council since...

Dominic Lloyd: This is my first time at Council since I have…

Mayor Gillingham: …Okay, then let me just take the opportunity on behalf of all of us to congratulate you on your appointment as Executive Director. We have worked, I think, well with you in the past during your time in your various roles on the Winnipeg Arts Council. Looking forward to working with you in your role. So, congratulations, first of all. I

really just putting the question together just to be able to congratulate you. Are you willing to continue to work with us? In all seriousness, though, thank you for your patience, and are you willing to continue to work with us on the future as we continue to develop and build out this plan for public art? Thank you.

Dominic Lloyd: Thank you. Absolutely. And that was really my hope in coming this morning.

Madam Speaker: Thank you for your presentation.

Dominic Lloyd: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Have a good day. Next we have Dr. Ann Loewen. Mr. Clerk, is the delegation here? Yes? Okay, yes, Dr. Ann Loewen joining us online I guess it is going to be online? In support of Item 7 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 22, 2025. It is regarding a land dedication reserve fund grant for the coalition to save Lemay forest. Welcome.

Ann Loewen: Hi. Thank you very much Mayor Gillingham, Councillors, delegates, and the Speaker. And especially under these circumstances for rescheduling and for having this meeting again. And thank you for keeping this item related to the Lemay forest on the agenda. I would like to register my strong support for the City's continued financial and all other necessary forms of support even in the light of the province's involvement for the historical investigation and documentation of the Asile Ritchot Orphanage cemetery. I have personally spoken to a number of the historians and they have been very, very diligent in their efforts. Émilie Pigeon, Shelley Sweeney, and Tracy Turney have all indicated their willingness and their desire to continue the work that they have already put in. In particular, regarding the mothers who died at the Asile and possibly elsewhere, whose remains might also be contained in the communal cemetery at that location. As I have previously indicated, when I presented in March, this is a place of historical sadness and, along with many other forms of oversight and neglect, this can elicit strong responses including denialism and a sense that one's own history and grieving even might be overlooked. But the City can demonstrate its commitment to human rights and to all of its citizens and to reconciliation if we move forward and recognize that all people have value, that all are worthy of celebration and commemoration. And in that sense this is a true humanitarian effort and that has bearing on all of us. My hope is that we can do differently than in the past and that historical wrongs that are publicly amended will improve community relations, increase the credibility of the City Council itself, and result in a more equitability society. And in that regard, I am hopeful and supportive of the land dedication reserve fund proceeding to help fund the Asile Ritchot cemetery. And I will just mention in addition that I am encouraging others, citizens individually and have done so myself, to make donations to the Société Historique de Saint-Boniface in support of this venture. I really appreciate the time and effort it takes to attend under these circumstances. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you for your presentation. Any questions today? Not at this time. Thank you. Have a good day. Our next delegation is Mr. Gord Delbridge, president of CUPE Local 500, joining us in person to speak in support of Item 5 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and the Environment, the report dated April 11 regarding in-house leaf and yard waste collection services. Welcome to you.

Gord Delbridge: Thank you Mayor Gillingham and Councillors for this opportunity to say a few words to you on this item on the agenda today. I would like to just say a brief couple words about Councillor Schreyer, if I may. I am very proud to call Jason a friend, a long-time friend. I am honored that I was able to have his presence, and he was the kind of person that made everyone happy, brought everyone together. It was really nice hearing from all of you today and some very kind words. And I remember doing the endorsement with Jason when he was first seeking to run for Council. We had many candidates that were seeking the endorsement, but I can tell you that that was the longest meeting of any of the candidates (laughter). He was...to no one's surprise, I mean, his responses to some of the questions were extensive and they were...but they were filled with compassion and sincerity and at the end of that meeting I said hands down with that compassion and sincerity for working class people, he is going to be our choice. And he was and he was successful in getting elected. I just want to mention that over the past day or so I have had many people from across Canada from the Canadian Union of Public Employees reach out to me offering their condolences. On behalf of the Canadian Union and Public Employees right across Canada, I want to thank Jason for your commitment, your dedication to working class people. And I am proud to call you a friend and you will most certainly be missed.

Madam Speaker: Thank you so much for your remarks.

Gord Delbridge: With respect to the item on the agenda, with regards to the yard waste collection, I know that this is a report that is going to...it has been a request that the public service come back within 60 days with a report. I would like to speak to it maybe more extensively then, once when we see results there. But there is a few points I would just like to share with you and encourage you to support the motion, as I do. We recently did a Probe Research poll, and the respondents to the poll with the question of: Do you prefer public services over privatized and contracted services? I can

tell you 70 percent…77 percent of Winnipeggers responded saying that they wanted to see more public service. That they feel that it would be better for our local economy. And those numbers have increased from recent polls. And I am not surprised that those numbers have increased. I think with what is happening with the US and Canada, and our trade wars, and this 51st state issues. When we are looking to what is being done south of the border where a lot of the public service has been eroded and eliminated and the impacts that that is having, I think people resonate. This really resonates with people, and I am not surprised that those polling numbers have increased. But people want to see public service. They want to see the accountability of services being provided publicly. A lot of people feel that the benefits of public service being delivered, nonprofit, in-house, carry a lot of value to our local economy. And so, I'm not surprised to see those polling numbers. And so, when this motion is put before you today, I would just ask you to keep in mind what we are hearing from Winnipeggers and take that into consideration with your vote today. And I am looking forward to hearing the report when it comes back. Thank you all for considering this motion.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. We have questions. Councillor Wyatt, then Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Wyatt: Thanks, Gord, and thank you for your comments today. One of the things that Winnipeg used to be able to do as a City is we had our own asphalt plant, we had our own construction division, compared to what we have today. And, as you know, the infrastructure of our city…state of the city, we have a position…We are now collecting 200 million, it grows by 15 million a year. The local streets renewal reserve, the regional streets renewal reserve. We can easily take that 200 million and borrow against it, probably 2 to 3 billion over the next 10-15 years, fix every broken lane, street and sidewalk. But one of the things we can do is live up to the commitment of a previous Council where when they shut down the asphalt plant on Tecumseh because they built the virology lab there, the pharmacists, made a new asphalt plant and a construction division. And speaking to the issue of construction inflation, one of the best ways we can put in check and end construction inflation is if we had our own construction division where we could go to tender. And if the tenders come in outrageous again from the private sector we can say: You know what? We are going to give you guys a miss this year. We are going to do it in-house until your numbers start coming in, you know, in a reasonable fashion. What are your thoughts on that?

Gord Delbridge: I think at any time that we, the City of Winnipeg, puts ourselves in a position of becoming beholden to one sector you have just opened yourself up to construction inflation, cost increases, because you have become beholden to this one sector. We can learn from some of the mistakes that were made. We know that selling off glacial sand and gravel, having our own asphalt crews in place, the amount of money that could have been saved and budgets on a going-forward basis that amounts to dollars that can never be recouped. And it is important to learn from some of the mistakes that were made in the past. And understand that it is important to be competitive. And in order to be competitive you do not give it to all one sector. And I am not saying that you give it all to just the public sector. And there is certainly...there is places where the public sector are going to deliver best. That the private sector cannot do. And vice versa, the private sector can do it where the public sector can not. But whether we both had the opportunity to play a role in that field. It is important to remain competitive. And hold those sectors accountable for potential inflation.

Councillor Wyatt: I guess one of the frustrating things is that we have seen in the last number of years it has become more of an acute of an issue because of the very fact of what has happened in the private sector. The private sector has contracted. Ladco had a construction division, they just simply got out of it. And then you have the existing players in the private sector buying each other out. So we are really down to like three, four or five companies that bid in the City of Winnipeg. The lowest amount ever, right? And then the need…And then on top of that you have the province going out with their tenders out in the highways, right?. And we do not coordinate tenders with the province, right? And so they often put their tender out. And highway work is much cleaner and much easier to do than city work. And then we put our tenders out and we get nailed with high construction inflation numbers coming back. Well, surprise, surprise. How much of this is should we coordinate better with the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg? Right now there is zero coordination between two bodies. We are literally competing against each other. What are your thoughts on that?

Gord Delbridge: You know, I think that there can be value in working together where you are offering a lot of the similar type services. Maybe that is something that should be considered on a going-forward basis. But I would say that when you put yourself in a position where, as you had mentioned, there is not really a lot of competition that is taking place out there anymore when you have only got a few different contractors that are doing this work. We have got to look at bringing some of this work back in-house where it is accountable to the citizens of Winnipeg and so that we can remain competitive with the private sector.

Councillor Wyatt: Just a final follow-up, and more it is an are you aware of question. Are you aware of these following things. Number one, the Province has their own gravel pits that we could be tapping into so we are not relying on the private sector. We could bring gravel up from North Dakota for about a third of the price, on trains, compared to what they are charging here. Province works with regards to immigration in terms of workers. These are all the things we hear from our senior managers, saying well we can not be able to bring the price down. Well, we can. Aggregate is available

through the province, and coordinating tenders with the province, and accessing labor through immigration and what have you if that is what we need to do. All these things could be coordinated. Are you aware that really the issue, in terms of construction inflation and the outrageous pricing that we keep getting every year coming in that eats away at everything that we have been setting aside. We are really back to square one. We are not getting ahead of the ball, because of they are constantly...that we could actually...these issues are all resolvable. All resolvable, if we had the leadership at both levels of government, but here especially, taking this issue forward. What are your thoughts?

Gord Delbridge: There is no question it can be done, it just takes the initiative. And we should be looking at different processes than we are currently following now. That we…In the many aspects they have failed. Look at the...going back to construction inflation again, these numbers are sometimes just completely out of whack. It is important to have some diversity there to ensure that we are being accountable to the citizens of Winnipeg and getting the best prices possible. And it can be done. It just takes the will and the incentive to do so.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. I will try to be quick. We have a new waste management fee that Winnipeggers were not expecting. And Councillor Mayes has moved this motion trying to find some cheaper way of doing it so that the cost of the waste management fee can come down. We did amend the motion to get the cost of what it would cost for equipment to deliver the yard waste service in one zone or just across the whole city. My very specific question is: Do you believe that the private sector should indicate what that cost of equipment is that they are passing on to the City of Winnipeg so that we can do a proper comparison?

Gord Delbridge: I am going to speak very candidly about this, because often I hear from sometimes members of Council and members of the public that the cost of purchasing the infrastructure and equipment would be too much for us to get into the business. And I often think to myself, can you really be that naive to think that the contractors, the private sector, are donating this equipment to us? It is not being donated to us. It is built into the cost of the contract. So, we are buying the equipment for those contractors. And the taxpayers are buying this equipment. We can buy this equipment cheaper. The public service can get loans at a better rate than the private sector often can. We get a better rate on our fuel costs. We have bulk purchasing for our fleet. We can do it cheaper. There is no question about it. We can get that equipment cheaper. I have been with...I have sat through administration when we have looked at some of our garbage collection contracts and went through it detail by detail. And there is no question about it, it can be done. But to think that we cannot do this and we cannot bring this in-house and we cannot be competitive. I think sometimes some of the scare is that we are going to be too competitive. We have seen it happen in other municipalities across the country, where they brought in the public sector where that municipality was once beholden to just the private sector. What they did is they dropped the cost of those contracts amongst the private sector. As a result, we have seen those contracts started reduced those costs in order to be competitive so that they would not expand on the public sector. A lot of the times what companies do, and international companies will get in and they will hope that the municipality sells off all of their infrastructure equipment and what it is to ever get back into the business. And what they will do is they will amortize those costs right across the nation, and they will amortize those losses, as a result of just getting their foot in the door, to get that work done. And then they will start selling the message that, well, we do not have infrastructure, we cannot do it, and they will start lobbying Council. It is absurd to really think that we are not purchasing this equipment, because we are. It is built into the price of the contracts.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next is Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Gord, for the comments about Councillor Schreyer and for the social media tribute from CUPE. I think that was absolutely deserved. Rock solid voting record. Just to follow up on…But I think Wyatt may have been channeling a bit of Councillor Schreyer's rhetoric there. So, one question. This motion comes out of report that came to us in July that said it is more expensive to do garbage pick-up if you do it in-house in this zone. The same report said, and a lot of people in an 8-8 vote quoted that, same report says cheaper to do...that same report in July if we were relying on the numbers to vote a particular way. The same report says cheaper to do leaf and yard waste in-house for that particular zone. So, we are going to get a study talking about various aspects of this. That is great. But I want to ask you to, just to the extent you can. So, seven years ago, almost, we do the most recent round of tendering out to Miller and GFL. Grievance from CUPE saying you have not followed your own RFP. Multi-year legal…Oh, we are going to bring bulky in-house, no we are going to bring some of multi-family in-house, no we are not going to do any of it, we are just going to give CUPE a payout here and we are just going to buy our way out of this grievance and settle it. So, the hope here is to maybe deal with all of that before we do the contracting for garbage and recycling and try to get some sort of situation here. But can you just talk about the aftermath and the years that it took to sort out the last time we did one of these seven year-long contracts, and we did not listen to the people from labor frankly and went ahead. And we did a few weeks later. Eadie made a motion to bring bulky in house, I remember that. To the extent you can,

because I know you had to sign NDA, when all of this thing got settled out. But can you talk about why it might be an advantage to see if we can work something out at front end this time?

Gord Delbridge: That is correct. At that time, it was said that it was too late. And we had to look at contract extensions. I should mention that ever since any garbage collection has been privatized at every single RFP there has been contract extensions. I should mention to you that a number of years ago I was talking to the owner Emterra and they mentioned to me that they rely upon these contract extensions, because they are very lucrative. So, no surprise that every single RFP that has been issued on garbage collections since then has had a contract extension. If you look at the inflationary rates of the last contract extension, that was unreal. I could not believe those types of numbers. And so, I mean, here we are now. We did…I have to sign an NDA. We did end up settling on the multi-family bin and the bulky waste and we went through that. So, I cannot get into detail about that, but I would suggest that if any of you are able to look into it, you might be concerned about costs. Consult and...because I cannot talk about it but maybe you should consult with some administration and see how much those costs are.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. There is a commitment with the City over the noon hour, if anyone needs to depart feel free to do so. Councillor Mayes any further questions? Or I have got Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Are you aware that I have talked to other Councillors that have some in-house service and it has really helped in areas that are similar to mine that have excess garbage that needs larger bulk pickups. And I guess, are you aware that having the equipment in-house would allow us to be able to deal with these matters more fast and efficient. Right now we have to, basically we have to call other companies to come and deal with some of the garbage issues we have within the inner city and within our encampments. So are you aware that it would be very helpful for the City to have in-house equipment for other needs as well?

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gilroy. Mr. Delbridge, we can continue for a few more moments or do you wish to come back at 1:30 p.m.?

Gord Delbridge: I will be brief here, unless somebody has got further questions…we can make that determination.

Madam Speaker: …Thank you. So, answering Councillor Gilroy.

Gord Delbridge: I am aware, And one of the great advantages of having your own in-house workforce is that they can adapt to your needs. And you can make changes; and you can do this on the fly as to what you need at any given time. Especially on the inner city. One of the problems that you have with the private sector where you have a contract in place where it is very strict as to what the extent of the service is. That is unlike the collective agreement that we have got, which states that, basically, your classification. But at any given time, you can make changes to the scope of the work that they are doing, within reason. And we would always be willing to sit down and negotiate that with you. Because this is something that we would want to see successful as well. And we understand that the needs of the citizens of Winnipeg, especially in various wards, this could be necessary. We currently do it now, we do it with many different areas right across the board with the City of Winnipeg, is that we are willing to adapt to the needs at any given time. Often something you do not see when somebody has a contract in place.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: It would was about, I would say, 30 years ago or less under then-Mayor Susan Thompson, her administration did a lot of damage to the public sector. Eliminating the Parks and Rec Department among other things. Including reducing the amount of areas in the city which were subject to contract for garbage collection that literally wiped out local businesses here who were providing garbage collection in the city of Winnipeg. And so we went for multinational corporations to provide the service instead. What are your thoughts about that, and bringing back smaller contract areas? It would be an opportunity possibly for the city to come back into the sector but also for local businesses. I guess the other thing I want to add is really the private sector, as you know, relies on not providing a livable wage to their employees who are doing this. Now, having said that, we here in the City have security officers here, contractors, the Clerk's Office who do not have a living wage. And yet these people are having to go to food banks and do other things, who are relying on food backs on the back of the churches and everything else providing food banks to provide our garbage collection in the City or provide our security services here at City Hall. What are your thoughts on that?

Gord Delbridge: I mean, there is no question, and I would suspect everyone should know this. Canadians right across the country, there is a big push to buy local. There is a big push for the unity of our nation to consider buying local and providing contracts locally. And the value that has for local business, for our local economy. When we start outsourcing work internationally or out of province, a lot of that money is leaving our province and it is not helping local business, it is

not helping our local economy. And maybe sometimes people may think we can save a few dollars on this by doing so. We are not saving money. It is costing us through other spin-off impacts and effects. Right now, I am telling you, I should not have to tell you this. Canadians have had a big push for everyone to buy local, to encourage more local purchasing, to award contracts locally because of the value that has. People understand this. People know this. I mean if we are going to do something that contradicts that, you are not standing with the majority of the public. I told you about a Probe Research poll that we did. We hear what Canadians are thinking now. This is what they want. As elected officials, you should stand up for the people, and the majority of the people and what they want.

Councillor Wyatt: It was…The pandemic only hit us five years ago. And the folks out there in the service industry, they kept things going. And so many of those folks in the service industry are not receiving a living wage. And here is an example of how hypocritical the City is and how unethical it is to be issuing contracts, whether it be for security officers in the front or here our garbage collection where they cannot get living wage. These are folks that took it on the chin during the pandemic. We relied on them de facto, right, to provide services, to keep things moving. And yet here we live in a City where we continually undermine their ability to make a simple living. What are your thoughts on that? I mean garbage…Can you imagine That is the one thing that we all get calls on. When a garbage is not picked up, we get phone call, right, from our constituents. Where is the garbage collection? Well, folks rely on it and they know it is important. Why aren't we treating the employees, the people who are actually picking up that garbage with respect. The same respect that they did for us when the pandemic was on. And here we are literally treating them like the very garbage they are picking up. What are your thoughts?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. One minute to wrap up.

Gord Delbridge: If you want to improve the city that we live in to make it the Winnipeg that we all want: Treat people with dignity. Treat workers with dignity. And encourage companies and business that are going to treat people with dignity. And he City of Winnipeg as an employer should be treating people with dignity. And that will get us the Winnipeg that we all want. Thank you, everyone.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Delbridge for your presentation. With that we are going to recess, and reconvene at 1:30 p.m. Thank you.

Reconvened meeting of
Winnipeg City Council of
May 2, 2025, at 1:45 p.m.

Madam Speaker: Good afternoon. I would like to reconvene our Council meeting of May 2nd, 2025. We are on the reports of the Executive Policy Committee. Mr. Mayor, you have the floor.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED APRIL 22, 2025

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to introduce the report and move adoption of consent agenda Items one to 15.

Madam Speaker: All in favor? Contrary? That is carried. Next is the...just a moment here. No motions. There's bylaws, Mr. Mayor. Pardon me? Okay, there was a motion circulated and let me just have a look. Yes, Motion 1, moved by Councillor Lukes, seconded by Councillor Rollins, regarding an updated Age-Friendly Winnipeg Action Plan. That will be an automatic referral, thank you. Mr. Mayor, the by-laws.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – 2ND AND 3RD READINGS

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that By-law No. 2/2025, to be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favor? Contrary. Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 2/2025.

Mayor Gillingham: Madam Speaker, I move that By-law No. 2/2025, to be read a third time and that the same be passed in order to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favor? Contrary? Carried.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – THREE READINGS

Mayor Gillingham: Madam Speaker, I move that By-law No. 40/2025 be read a first time.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. All in favor? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 40/2025.

Mayor Gillingham: Madam Speaker, I move that By-law No. 40/2025, be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favor? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 40/2025.

Mayor Gillingham: And Madam Speaker, I move that the rule be suspended and By-law No. 40/2025 be read a third time and that the same be passed in order to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favor? Contrary? Carried.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
QUESTION PERIOD

Madam Speaker: We'll now have Question Period for the Mayor. Councillor Wyatt, followed by Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, we live in a world where Canadians…people all over the world are consuming the equivalent of a credit card of plastic a week. Microplastics and nano plastics are raining down all over the world. We live in a world where we know that our greenhouse gases and emissions are driving up the world's temperature by 1.5 points, and that if we go any higher, we will be facing massive consequences. We live in a world where forests are being ripped down. We live in a world where we are living through the greatest extinction event in world history with over a hundred species a day being wiped out. And all of this due to the fact that we have a market system, capitalist economy that seems to be intent on destroying the planet, and all things that are livable on it. And that the economy on the present course, including ours, is heading us in a direction that, you know, we won't want to dream of for our children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, all of us have entered public life, held office, on the idea, I think, that we want to leave behind a better planet or a better community than what we have found. While we are here…

Madam Speaker: …The question, please…

Councillor Wyatt: My question is: These are the things that I think about a lot, and these are thoughts that I have. I often ponder these thoughts and, in terms of where we are heading as a…as a civilization, planet…Does the Mayor give any thought to these things and, if you have any thoughts along these lines, would you care to share them at this point?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Gillingham: Through you, Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Councillor for the question. Yes, I do give thought to some of these matters, and I think that that is one of the reasons specifically why, in just a few moments, I'll be supporting an amending motion, I think that you and others are bringing forward, related to what the City of Winnipeg could do to preserve the area around and the Lemay Forest and partner with the Province of Manitoba. I won't steal your preamble thunder of that motion, but, you know, that is one of the ways that we can preserve lands. I grew up on a farm, as all of you know. My family is still on the farm. And one of the things that I have been pleased to see in the ag industry

as well is, you know, farmers and landowners continue to re-prioritize wetlands, and the preservation of wetlands, and the restoration of wetlands so that we are, you know, doing our part to… they're doing their part to find ways to address some of these natural challenges, challenges of our planet as well. So, I think our policies that we have adopted as the City of Winnipeg, and I have said yes to many of them and supported in favor of them when it comes to our Climate Action Plan. Yes, we have got a long way to go. But I am supportive of us beginning to prioritize some of those. One of the final things I will say is, again, and it is the good work of this Council, and specifically Councillor Rollins, who, you know, brought forward the idea that we co-create, as a city, a Biodiversity Plan and co-create it with Indigenous peoples. it is the first time we have ever done that as a city. I do not know if any city…maybe there is a city in Canada that has done it. But, nonetheless, we are working to bring forward a Greenspace Biodiversity Plan that is co-created with the First Nations people, and Métis, and Indigenous, Inuit people, who have been stewards of these lands for long before we got here. And so, some of these initiatives are specifically in response to, and anticipation of, the work that we have to do to try to turn the tide to make our world a healthier world. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Second question please...

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you…Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I believe that what we're doing to Mother Earth, there is a symbiotic relationship between what we are doing there and, in terms of our society today, in terms of its state of health…mental health, or lack thereof. We see all these symptoms of it. Homelessness, what is happening in the streets, for example, of every major city in Canada and across the world in many western cities. And, with regards to mental health, addiction. Some of the addictions are very much stark, and not socially acceptable. But yet we have socially acceptable addictions, such as, the guy who has a million dollars in the bank but he has got to get his other million. But that is a socially acceptable addiction. So, any thoughts in terms on the broken society that we have, which I think is related to the destruction we are doing to the earth itself? Any thoughts in terms what we can do as a community to start to fix the brokenness that exists across our city?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mayor Gillingham.

Mayor Gillingham: I want to thank the Councillor for his question. Years ago, I think, in decades past we would say: Look, our role is just potholes, and pipes, and police officers, and parks, and that primarily at the core of our responsibility as a city, as a municipality. Those are our core areas…services we have to deliver. We have got to prioritize those. However, the reality is, and we have just seen it, I think, in the first half of our meeting today, we are people first. And we are to be there for one another, care for one another. A strong society, a strong city, is built on, you know, people of the city who care for their neighbor, who watch out for one another. We celebrate often, in our city, the highlights of the times in our 150-year history when the people of Winnipeg came together to support one another. Just today, the City of Winnipeg Instagram account, if you have seen it, it is a highlight of 75 years ago this month when we banded together to combat the 1950 flood. The neighbours coming together to watch out for one another. The Councillor is right. In these days, the challenges of mental health and the associated, sometimes, things that go along with that, are seemingly ubiquitous. They seem to be everywhere. And they know no boundary, social economic boundary. They know no race or culture boundary, and it is part of the whole person. And so, I think to the degree to which at a core level, to the degree to which we are human and here for one another, we have to be doing all we can to look out for one another. it is one of the reasons why you heard it said today, again, in light of everything we have gone through this week with the loss of Councillor Schreyer, I will put it on the record, let's check in on one another, let's call one another, let's text one another, let's just try to be there for one another, and even beyond this. And so, we have, we…in the last couple budgets, I know we have increased funding, for example, to our Fire and Paramedic Department for mental health and emotional supports that they need because of the sheer magnitude and volume and depth of the things that they are seeing every day. One of the firefighters, the other day I stopped by one of the fire halls, and he said that just to see this once in a while, what we see and what we…the calls we attend to. It is part of the job. To see it every day, multiple times a day. It is not normal. You can not…And you can not continue to expose yourself to that, day in, day out, multiple times a day, and not be affected. So, these are the realities that we are working with, and I want to commend this Council who tries to, yes, focus on delivering the core services, but understand that the people, the 10 thousand people who work for the City of Winnipeg, are people first, with emotional, mental, physical, spiritual, you know, needs, that we also try to find ways to acknowledge and to support. Thank you.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you for that and…

Madam Speaker: Next question, please.

Councillor Wyatt: With experience with the Lemay Forest, it's all of these young Indigenous leaders who are… They call themselves young Indigenous warriors. And they are not going to be sitting idle warriors much longer, based on what is…we are doing or not doing. So, I would ask another great…I guess a deep question, and that is this: In the Mayor's opinion, does the…is…Does the Winnipeg Jets have a chance of winning the Stanley Cup?

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Wyatt. Mayor Gillingham.

Mayor Gillingham: Yeah, thank you, I will take that under advisement and look into the matter and get back to the Councillor in the coming weeks, thank you.

Madam Speaker: We always have a chance. Next question is from Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. For three years of my life I worked as a…as a public servant in the Ontario Public service, a professional public service, and one of the key messages was that once the public service makes a decision it speaks with one voice. So, I want to ask the Mayor if he would be willing to sit down with Mr. Armbruster and myself and just get clarification before our week-long odyssey starting June 2nd into the fourplex hearing. Last month we had a vote on a 900-million-dollar road project, Chief Peguis Extension. Public service spoke. This road project will pay for itself. In fact, we will unlock benefits from three new distant suburbs: Precincts A, B and D. I just want to make sure that that is the message. Because it would be profoundly disrespectful to the people of St. James, and River Heights, and St. Vital if we come here in June and are told we have to do these fourplexes, we have to fundamentally alter the character, of some of your older neighbourhoods, or else we are going to have to build new road projects, in distant suburbs, and we all know they lose money and are inefficient. So, the Public service is giving us a report. We voted on it. I voted with that report. I voted with the Mayor, 13 to 3, I think it was. People can have their own individual opinions. People can have their own views on matters but you cannot tell, as a public service, one meeting that these projects more than pay for themselves and will unlock benefits from distant suburbs, and then turn around and tell other parts of the city we are sorry, we have to fundamentally alter the character of your neighborhoods or otherwise we are going to have to build all this horizontal infrastructure with… Well, more suburbs, and more roads. So, if Councillor Allard wants to say that he is welcome to. He has been dead consistent on this over the years and voted against both Kenaston and Peguis. So did Councillor Gilroy. But, for the public service, who will be the applicant, who will be making a presentation to us, we are going to have to vote on something because the Federal Government makes it a condition. I get that. We will sort it out. But can the Mayor sit down with Mr. Armbruster and I, just to confirm the public service is not going to somehow dramatically change its view and its opinion and present to us in June the conception that we have to do these projects because, well, otherwise we would have to build road projects like Chief Peguis and service precincts A, B and D. Because public service has spoken with one voice and said those projects make sense, so it would be more than disrespectful to people of St. Vital, St. James, River Heights, and other parts of the city, to hear the complete contrary.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Gillingham: I want to thank the Councillor for his question. Yes, I mean, I think it is fair to say that different projects may have different level of benefit. I think that is understood. But to the question, yes, I would be glad to sit down with the Councillor and, I will volunteer as requested, our interim CAO as well to join us in that meeting. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Any further questions? Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just want to just ask a question to the Mayor if he can maybe get back to me on maybe what the City is looking at doing. I am concerned about the loss of staff that we are having. We are seeing a lot of…a lot of staff leave. And some of them are very senior roles. I am concerned about the ability to retain staff. And I know that there has been…Me and him disagree on the Work-From-Home Policy stance that he has taken. I do feel that, in a modern…a modern day like this, we need to be able to have the ability to maintain staff. Some of that is looking at what other people are doing to encourage that.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gilroy, one question…The question…

Councillor Gilroy: So yes. So just if he can maybe talk to me a little bit on what he is working on it to kind of encourage people to want to work for the City of Winnipeg and to look at retaining the staff that we do have...

Madam Speaker: …Thank you for the question. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Gillingham: Yes, I want to thank the Councillor for the question. No doubt, every time that there is a staff member that has served the City of Winnipeg for a long time and we work…sometimes we have worked with them directly, and they leave, we sometimes wonder why. Is it just a matter of they have done their years or have some other opportunity that they are moving to or just what may be the case? So, certainly glad to speak to the Councillor about this. I think of the question that was asked of Councillor Lukes and myself just yesterday at the Transit announcement, about the fact that months ago, years ago, we had a challenge hiring and retaining Transit drivers. Well, this Council

made a decision to make an investment in Transit, and now, you know, we have been recruited. We recruited successfully. So, there is a lot of new Transit drivers. We had the same thing with wading pool attendants where we had a challenge. We focused on that, the Department came up with a strategy. And now the shortages are gone and have been eliminated because we have people moving into roles, and being hired, and joining the launch of a career in the public service. But, yes, ultimately, we…be glad to sit down with the Councillor and have a further discussion on this. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Second question.

Councillor Gilroy: Would the Mayor also be able to maybe provide us with an update on the CAO, the hiring of a CAO, and just where we're at with that process?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Gillingham: I'm glad that the Councillor asked that question because part of answer…my previous answer should have included the CAO as well. What…and I'll provide that in just a moment. If you take a look at my experience in my work life, sometimes when the leader or the leadership of an organization moves on or retires, it is also, sometimes other employees take a look and say, well, is it my time too? Do I want to make a change? We take a look at what happened during Covid, for example, and my wife and I have some really close friends. There is, you know, six of us all together that have been friends for 30 years. Five of us changed, basically made a change in our career life, out of six in that time frame. So sometimes, you know, when things change it is a cascading domino effect on other people who are employed say, well, maybe I'm going to take this opportunity to make a change in my professional life as well. So, we do not know all of the details there. But, certainly we are working hard as a Committee to hire the next CAO. You know, resumes have been received. The crew that is doing the search has actively engaged individuals who may be interested. And basically, we're getting a list kind of whittled down to some key candidates…So that is coming at this time soon.

Madam Speaker: …Councillors…Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Final question, Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you. And could we find out if there is any exit interviews? It is quite a lot of staff, so this is not just a small number of staff. A lot of them in senior positions. I am just worried about, you know, you know, how are we making sure that we are retaining the staff that we have and encouraging people to apply. So, just… maybe are we doing… I would like to know if we are doing exit interviews and finding out, maybe, why they are leaving.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you. That is a good question. I think that it is a question maybe for our Interim CAO. to see if there is exit interviews done in some departments, or if that is part of the practice and just … what may be the case. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Seeing no further questions, next is the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
DATED APRIL 14, 2025

Councillor Lukes: Yes, two items, I would like to move Items 1 and 2, so I guess that is consent agenda.

Madam Speaker: All in favor? Contrary? Carried. Any questions for our Chair, for Councillor Lukes? Okay. Next committee, Standing Policy Committee on Finance and Economic Development. There is no reports today. And no motions, I believe. We will have question period for our Chair. Any questions for Councillor Browaty? No questions today. Next is the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development. We do have two reports today. Our Chair Councillor Duncan.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
DATED MARCH 6, 2025

Councillor Duncan: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. And I would like to introduce the Report of March 6th, 2025, and move adoption of the consent agenda which includes Item 2.

Madam Speaker: Okay, Item 2. There's no motion with that one, Mr. Clerk, correct? Pardon me? Yeah. Okay. All in favor of Item 2? Contrary? That is carried. I want to remind Councillors to be at their seat for vote. When votes come in. All right. Next, Councillor Duncan?

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
DATED APRIL 16, 2025

Councillor Duncan: Okay, I'll introduce the Reports of April 16th and move adoption of consent agenda Items 1 through 6, 8 through 10. I believe that there is an appetite to pull Item No. 7 from my colleague.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Okay. I will call the question on Items 1 through 6, 8 through 10. All in favor? Contrary? That is carried. Mr. Clerk…

Councillor Eadie: …Madam Speaker, I would like to be recorded in opposition to report Item 2, please.

Madam Speaker: That is noted. Thank you, Councillor Eadie in opposition to Item 2. Mr. Clerk, item 7.

Item 7 - Rezoning - 815 Pandora Avenue West
File DAZ 216/2024

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Duncan.

Councillor Duncan: I had a request to have this sent back to Property and Development for a very brief amendment. I have agreed to support that at this point in time. I will hear from my Councillor colleague if he wishes to.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. That is your introduction. Is there an amending motion?

Councillor Wyatt: (inaudible)..I could…I am just writing it out now.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Are you doing a referral?

Councillor Duncan: Well, we could deal with that at the committee, or we can move the amendment here if it is the will of Council.

Madam Speaker: I do not see anything circulated.

Councillor Wyatt: No, there is nothing circulated, so.

Madam Speaker: It is coming?

Councillor Wyatt: I have it here, but I would need a moment to do that.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Is there any other speakers at the moment? Mr. Mayor?

Councillor Wyatt: I can explain the intent of it if that is the desire from Council.

Madam Speaker: Or you can move referral without instructions.

Councillor Wyatt: Or I…We should have that, yes.

Mayor Gillingham: I apologize, to be clear, what Item is this? The Lemay Item? I apologize. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Just for clarification, 815 Pandora Avenue. Just to clarify, Councillor Duncan, you are moving referral of the Item.

Councillor Duncan: Yes, if there is nothing here to consider for amendment at this point in time, we can refer.

Madam Speaker: So, Councillor Duncan moves referral back to the Standing Policy Committee. All in favor? Contrary? That is carried. Okay. No motions today.

Councillor Rollins: (inaudible) To the last Item.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
NOTICE OF MOTION

Madam Speaker: Yes. Noted. We have a notice of motion under this committee from the March 27th Council meeting. It is regarding expropriation and rezoning of Lemay Forest. There is also an amending motion for this Item that has been circulated and moved by Councillor Chambers and seconded by Councillor Wyatt. So, first we will hear from you, Councillor Wyatt on the main motion, and then Councillor Chambers, your opportunity to introduce the amending motion.

Councillor Wyatt: Well, my understanding is that the main motion we are going to receive it as information? The notice of motion? Oh, okay.

Madam Speaker: I think it still stands but there is an amendment that you have. You are the seconder…

Councillor Wyatt: …That is fine. Yes, I support the amendment.

Madam Speaker: Okay, thank you. Councillor Chambers, the main Item and the amending motion?

Motion No. 2
Moved by Councillor Chambers,
Seconded by Councillor Wyatt,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg, as a signatory to the Montreal Accord, is committed to preserving and expanding natural areas, reducing threats to biodiversity, enhancing ecosystem benefits, and providing accessible greenspaces for current and future generations;

AND WHEREAS work is already underway on the City's forthcoming Greenspace and Natural Corridors Plan Bylaw and Biodiversity Policy that will guide efforts to add 1,000 acres of greenspace city-wide;

AND WHEREAS the City has already preserved 34 acres of the Lemay Forest and adjacent riverbank – an ecologically and historically significant corridor along the Red River that is enjoyed by residents from across Winnipeg as a valued natural space;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has announced plans to create a new provincial park anchored by the Lemay Forest and has expressed interest in acquiring adjacent city-owned lands to support this initiative;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg and Province of Manitoba share a commitment to protecting natural spaces and enhancing parkland for the benefit of all Manitobans;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Notice of Motion No. 1 under the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, titled 'Expropriation and Rezoning of Lemay Forest', be amended by deleting recommendations 1 and 2 and replacing with the following:

"1. That the Public service be directed to work collaboratively with the Province of Manitoba to support the creation of a new provincial park in and around Lemay Forest, including exploring opportunities for City-owned land to form part of the park, and any required rezoning.

2. That the Public service be directed to report back within 180 days on options and next steps to ensure the City of Winnipeg remains an active partner in the establishment of the park.".

Councillor Chambers: Yes, so the amending motion is basically asking our public service to work closely with the Province. Also considering some of the land that the City of Winnipeg owns near Lemay Forest to potentially consider that as part of park land as well.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Councillor Wyatt, you are closing. That was your opportunity to speak. Any other comments? Mayor Gillingham.

Mayor Gillingham: (Inaudible) Motion 2, just speaking on that. I want to just thank Councillors Chambers and Wyatt for this. The City of Winnipeg, as you may know, does have property in, you know, adjacent to the property in question that the Province of Manitoba has indicated they are going to be expropriating. This would be...could be the City of Winnipeg's contribution to kind of put it all together, consolidate all of the lands into a larger space, a larger park, that could be preserved. And so, this is another opportunity, I think, for us as a city to fulfill some of our goals related to adding green space and protecting green space while also a goal of finding ways to work with the Province, ultimately for the benefit of the people that we serve. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councillor Wyatt, or first Councillor Chambers, do you wish to close? On the amending motion.

Councillor Chambers: No, I'm good, thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to rise to say a few words to, first of all, thank all of the community volunteers who I have gotten to know on this issue. I was brought to this issue quite by accident. I do not know if you remember, Councillors may not be aware of this, I got a phone call one day. I was sitting on my porch at home on a Sunday having a cigarette and reading the newspaper and I got a call from a friend who's last name I won't say, his first name is David, who I have known him for many, many years, he is with the Winnipeg Fire Service. And he says have you heard about the Lemay Forest thing? And this was in January and I said: No, I have not heard a thing. I said: What are you talking about? And he started explaining to me that his girlfriend lives down in St. Norbert. So, I said: Well let's go look at it. And he said: Well, what do you mean? I said: Well, let's go look at it. And he said: What, right now? And I said yes. And so, he drove over in his truck, we jumped in my truck and we both drove down. And we were there, it was pretty cold, and we walked actually into the property and found out later that we were trespassing. And we walked around. I was able to meet at that time Weeping Willow and some other of the Indigenous leaders around the sweat lodge that was located there. And it really brought back memories to me of my own childhood growing up on Almey Avenue and the forest there. One of the first things I did when I got elected in 2002 was to bring the City naturalist out to the forest that I grew up on on Almey Avenue to see if it could be saved. I wanted to preserve it. And ironically or sadly, the drainage in patterns area had been altered with some housing that went up on Almey and caused the forest that I grew up in which was very healthy at the time…The kids, we would build forts and ride our bikes and enjoy the love of mother nature. That it basically caused most the forest to rot out. And so, it was not even a class D in terms of worth saving. So, when I walked through Lemay Forest it really brought back that feeling and the sweat lodge to me meant a lot through Aurora when I attended there. And I just saw the passion of the residents, and I just want to thank all of the residents. Louise May, and everybody who got involved from the community, Kat Gauthier. And it was just remarkable. I had a chance to attend the university; they put on a session on a Saturday night at the University of Winnipeg in a theatre there. And brought up many speakers on the very subjects, including the fact of the 3,000-plus children who are buried inside and in the grounds of Lemay Forest. Many of them unmarked graves. At an orphanage that we heard was there a hundred years or less ago. And so, I just wanted to thank them, and I wanted to thank all of the leaders. I wanted to thank also, Madam Speaker…So I was in Calgary when I got a call, a panic call on a Friday morning. The last Friday I was there. It was from Louise May because they had a challenge the court case…or challenge in court, the developer and his representative. It all got dropped that morning in the court and the chainsaws were out. So, I started reaching out to Mike Kelly at the Premier's office via text. And Mike got back to me right away and said well, we actually have got all of the lawyers here right now at the Premier's office talking about this. And I…maybe I was a bit too direct with Mike, but I said, well he has a lot of…you have a lot of power, you can nationalize, you can expropriate. I gave examples, (inaudible) Industries where they nationalized (inaudible) to keep the plant alive. Gary Filmon. One day we opened up the newspaper in this province, and the Conservative Premier had nationalized the gas company. And so, I said there is lots of things you can do and you have lots of power as the provincial government. I said, but, you know, at that point Louise is saying you have got to get on a plane, you got to get back. We are going to chain ourselves to the trees. I said well I have been arrested before, so I can be arrested again. So, you know, and that was kind of where it was at. And then on the Monday, the Premier stepped up and said that he was expropriating the land for the purpose of a provincial park and saving the forest. So, what I…our last…a week ago Monday they had a ceremony out at the site. I was able to attend, they invited me, and it was a very moving ceremony in the evening. They had everybody bring potluck food and everything. And, you know…you know, a good number of the provincial

government's caucus were there. Local MLAs and MLAs from elsewhere, and the Minister attended, was in attendance, and I thanked them there. And I just wanted to say that again, I want to thank Premier Wab Kinew for his leadership on this matter and for stepping up. I thought we probably would have lost it, but the forest is remarkable, right? It is 22 acres, but you have trees in there that apparently are over 250 years old which is fairly old for Manitoba. You have species that have been identified that are not endangered but on the risk of endangered list. And, you have a sweat lodge that has been operating there apparently for three decades or more, right in the center of the forest. When you walk through the forest it gives you a real sense of peace. They produced photographs, actually, at the University of Winnipeg seminar. And I…the offered up for people to take photographs, and some of the photographs are here too by the way, and I left as many as possible, and I took a number of them. And the beauty of the forest is that it is just amazing, it is just as beautiful in the winter as it is in the summer. And it has a real connection to the neighborhood. And I guess I would like to quote Izzy Asper who used to said that Manitoba, or Winnipeg, does not have mountains, we do not have valleys, but we have rivers and we have forests along those rivers, and he said we should be celebrating and preserving…conserving that. And here is an opportunity where we are able to do that. I know that the City has challenged itself to secure or to expand the park system by a thousand acres, a lot of it natural park, to what the mayor spoke before about biodiversity. Right now in South Transcona, for a year now, we have been meeting every second Wednesday to write a secondary plan, working with the developer of the Planning Department from the City of Winnipeg and a Resident Advisory Group appointed by this process. And we meet out of the South Transcona Community Center. And we are...we have challenged ourselves to build a 21st-century community. And we have also identified lots of forested lands that are being now surveyed. The City lands have been surveyed in terms of the quality of the forest and animal life, and now we are reaching out to private property owners to do the same. And we are hoping to be able to establish some tools, at least a toolkit of the secondary plan, to allow some funding mechanisms to secure this land for the purpose of a new regional park. The only regional park in northwest Winnipeg, other than Bueller, which is considered not a regional park in a sense or tradition of let's say, Assiniboine park. It is more of a recreational type of park. The only regional park in our area is Kilcona Park. And you could put as...as far as I'm concerned, you could put as much lipstick on a pig, it is still a pig, and Kilcona Park is a garbage dump, right? And it is big basically, and it is great. It has been turned into an off-leash dog park. It is a massive, massive off leash dog park. That is wonderful. But you are not going to get any trees growing up there, off the garbage dump we got. And so, here is a chance in northeast Winnipeg, which has been growing exponentially, and we have not kept up with the new regional parks in the community or in the city. To establish one, it would not be more of a linear regional park, they call it. It would more of a nonlinear one. It would kind of snake through and circumvent the area, it would require land assembly. But we are also challenging ourselves on issues like a new community center. How are we going to pay for that? We are talking about creating the first HOA by-law in the city of Winnipeg, homeowners' association by-law. Get that to come forward in the plan. And as well as sorting out other issues of timing and services so that when the developers in the area come forward and file an application, a lot of these things will be sorted out through the secondary plan, which is not commonly done. We usually…I just wanted to say, Madam Speaker, just can I just...two minutes?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Wyatt, wrap up.

Councillor Wyat: I'll wrap up.

Madam Speaker: There is no extension at this time.

Councillor Wyatt: Okay. I wanted to just say, I want to thank the Premier for his leadership on this matter. That of Mike Kelly, the Premier's office, and all of the volunteers and everybody who got involved in this issue. I think it is great news and I look forward to it becoming an official provincial park. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Wyatt. I will call the question on the amending motion to the notice of motion. Motion 2. All in favor? Contrary? Carried. And the vote on the main motion as amended. All in favor? Contrary? That is carried. We will now move into by-laws under P and D. Councillor Duncan.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT – CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – 1ST READING ONLY

Councillor Duncan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will move that the following by-laws to be read a first time: By-law 43/2025, By-law 44/2025.

Madam Speaker: All in favor? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law 43/2025 and By-law 44/2025.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Duncan?

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT – CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – 2ND AND 3RD READINGS**

Councillor Duncan: Thank you. I will move that By-law 134/2024 to be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favor? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law 134/2024.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Duncan.

Councillor Duncan: I will move that By-law 134/2024 be read a third time. And that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favor? Contrary? Carried. We will now move into question period for this committee. Seeing no questions, next is the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste and the Environment. Councillor Eadie.

**REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
WATER, WASTE AND ENVIRONMENT
DATED APRIL 11, 2025**

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to introduce the Report of April 11th, 2025, and move consent agenda Items 1 through 5.

Madam Speaker: Item 2 has been pulled, which is South End Sewage Treatment Plant. 5, In-House Leaf and Yard Waste Collection Services. Okay. Thank you. I will call the question on 1, 3, 4. All in favor? Contrary? That is carried. Mr. Clerk.

Item 2 – Request for Budget Revision for the South End Sewage Treatment Plant (SEWPCC) Nutrient Removal/Expansion Capital Project

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Chair?

Councillor Duncan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will just briefly express that the recommendations in this report are very important, and that our South End Sewage Plant needs to be completed in a manner that it will be able to be operated appropriately for the next, who knows, 30 years or whatever. And there is a number of items that may or may not be done, and I hope that my colleagues see fit to vote for the recommendation in here. I should also mention, though, that there is a surety provided in terms of bond in this particular construction project, Madam Speaker. However, making claims, if need to be, to complete the work, it needs to be taken care of ASAP. And, therefore, the bond that is been set aside, claims against it can not be made. It is not going to happen fast enough, and the City of Winnipeg, Water and Waste, needs the money in order to proceed in the case that the many items that were still left not completed get done, so that the plant can...It is operating, according to license at the moment, but the number of things that need to happen there is about the continued operation of the nutrient removal and the ability of this water control center to keep sewage out of the Red River.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you. I pulled this not so much to vote against it. Councillor Rollins and I did vote against at committee. Just to highlight the concern that we have, or at least that I had. Councillor Rollins can speak for herself of course. The concern is around the funding source, which is a temporary loan from the combined sewer budget. I am not convinced that will be temporary. There are a number of problems with that. I mean, the work needs to be done. As always, we are presented with these reports from the civil service saying well it has to be done right now, right now, and we are at no time, no time for debate, you have got to just, you have got to approve it. So, fine, 10 million dollars for more work at the South End Plant. Fine. Hopefully concluding that unfortunate voyage. But the funding source, the CSO projects. Just to highlight this: So, we are projecting to finish the work in the late 2090s at this stage, 50 years after the

provincial deadline. We are faced with the fact situation where we have allocated, to the Mayor's credit when he was the Chair of Finance, we allocated 45 million dollars instead of 30 for a four-year span in the capital budget, that is going to run out in a few years, and we will go back to 30 million. We know that our own report in 2019 said that this should be 30 million from us, 30 from the Province, 30 from the Feds, to get this thing done by 2045. We have never asked the Province, we have never asked the Federal Government for help, but we somehow fault them for not funding. Not only are we supposed to be at 30 million, but we are also supposed to be at 30 million adjusted for inflation each year, so we are actually falling further behind. So, we finally have some money in the bank here, so instead of firing it into work, we are going to loan it out to another project in the sewage treatment realm. And the staff are saying well, we do not…there is no industry capacity to do more than 30 million a year. So, they are also saying there is not 70 years of work left to do, I was accused of misstating things, and I said it is your open damned report, it is your own timeline. It is right there in the 2019 report that we will be done in the 2090s. So, we need to get the following clarified: We need to find out is there 70 years of work left to do? That is what our own report says. Number two, if we can not do more than 30 million dollars a year worth of work, shouldn't we be saying that? Shouldn't we tell the Province that? Because we are facing a deadline of 2045, and our own report says we need to do 90 million dollars worth of work. So, if we can not do more than 30, the fact situation is completely garbled here so we need that clarified by Mr. Shanks. We need to know how much work can be done and, realistically, how we can get that funding arranged. Or we can simply carry on the way we are. On the good news side, in the last month, we had a vote that said we want a report back from the staff on getting done Armstrong combined sewer district, I believe River Bend and certainly Mission. The big three that are yet to come. Let's get those done in the 2030s, which is about when they are supposed to be done under the provincial guideline. Terrific. So that will cost us some money. That will have an impact on the rate structure. Wouldn't you want to keep the 10 million and reduce the impact on the rate structure? Apparently not. So it goes, we will go forward and hopefully get that costing exercise done. So, all of us will sit here in a few months' time with a cost estimate that will say, look, if we…we do not have to do it all by 2045, but if we just do the big ones, none of which are near my ward, if we just do the big ones that will get us most of the way towards the target. Well, we should feel pretty good about that at the end of this term if we can at least get that done, get a funding model in place. We can feel we can say to our children and our grandchildren, should we have them, well, we did not do nothing. We did not leave this to 2095. We got most of it done. We got the major part of it done. It is a great environmental initiative if we can get it done. And it is in different parts of the city. And it will help with development because it will open up space in the pipes. Lots of good news to come from this if we can get there. So, I will vote for it today. It does not really...you know, it is going to pass anyway, but the key message here is: Let's at least salvage something on the combined sewer. Let’s at least do the three big projects. Let’s get some clarity from staff on what that will cost. And if we can not do more than 30 million dollars a year worth of work, why in the hell did we budget 45 million dollars for four straight years? Why didn't the staff tell us that before we did that? We need some...we need some better number crunching, frankly, from the Water and Waste folks so that we can know if we are throwing money away or not. Or if there is any chance of getting to this target. So, I will end with...the Mayor sometimes talks about, I think, well, the Council of 2045 or so, the 2040s. Will the Council into the 2040s look back on some of our decisions and say we shirked our responsibilities or not? It is a good device. It is a good thought device. So, I would hope that we do not think, yes, they will be delighted if we left this on a trajectory to finish by the 2090s, so Councillor Allard's then 90-year-old son can represent all of us because we will all be dead when we finally get this thing done. No, I think the Council of the 2040s would say, well, that is good, they did the right thing, they got the funding together, they did most of the work by the 2030s. That helped the whole city and it was a great environmental project. So hopefully we can get that report in the very near future and do the right thing on the combined sewer. The Mayor, to his credit, as Finance Chair did get the funding accelerated to 45 million a year. Maybe it will take that, maybe less, to get these three big ones done. But it is worth highlighting, again, we can not leave this to the 2090s. I do not think the Council of the 2040s would favor that. So, let's try and get this thing done when the funding report comes back in a few months. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. Next speaker? Okay. Back to you, Councillor Eadie, for close.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. And I just want to clarify some things here, Madam Speaker. The CSO is very important work that needs to be done, and I do not think anybody around this table, Madam Speaker, is really wanting to not get as much CSO work done as we can. The major trunk sewers that are going into these CSO areas, that is usually done by construction companies that are bidding from outside of the province. Because they have that tunneling technology that is required for huge land drainage pipes. But we have a construction industry here in Winnipeg, and, yes, there is inflation for sure, Madam Speaker, on that. But to be clear, the companies, the local companies that bid on the projects to complete this CSO are fully subscribed now, Madam Speaker. This is what I hear from Water and Waste. And I believe them. Because right now, they are still just finishing off the East Jefferson CSO area. There is still some work happening. There is about...I think about, well, probably many blocks yet to finish. I think it is going to be finished this year, or next year. Certain time that the work can get done. And there is other sewer work that has to happen around the city, which is why we hear from Councillor Rollins who I will be talking to about her issue in Wildwood. Because there is a serious sewer land drainage problem there. But ultimately right now the local construction companies are fully subscribed. And so, you know, this money that is here, it will be put back, It is being

borrowed. Because we have got a great bid that was 23-point-something million under the estimate. And you know what? I think that my colleague probably makes a good point. Can we get some better numbers to project what we are needing to spend into the future? And we know that that is going to make that estimate better, because 2045 is just a guesstimate, pretty well, when you look out to the very long-term future. But the ratepayers have already paid the money. It sits in the environmental fund, dedicated to CSO. This money will be replaced back into the CSO Program before it will probably be needed to continue, say, Mission and Armstrong. Armstrong is just getting underway. And Mission is still...like, there is a lot of work to do in these big ones, but there is a lot of smaller areas that also need it in the future. And we will have better estimates as the program goes along. So, this is about the actual treatment of the sewer water that we need to remove the nutrients because we do not want to cause problems for Lake Winnipeg. And we are meeting our obligations under licensing. So, again, it is worthwhile to do it. And I will just say it again…Actually, Madam Speaker, you know, we talked about death today. I heard today in the Netherlands there is a ceremony. There is veterans who are 101, 102, 105. There is quite...there is about 20 Canadians who are in their hundreds. Some 196. So, to say that I am going to be dead in 2045: No thank you.

Councillor Mayes: (inaudible) apologize to Councillor Eadie, if he took offence of that. I think this is an unfortunate use by me, obviously, under the circumstances.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Thank you both. No further speakers, I will call the question on Item 2. All in favor? Contrary? That is carried. Next is Item 5.

Item 5 – In-House Leaf and Yard Waste Collection Services

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Sorry, pardon me. I will introduce number 5. Actually, I await to hear from my colleague. This is a motion. I really want to...I am hoping that we can get this and look at this, that it is going to save Winnipeggers money on their waste management fee. Because we introduced that fee this year. A lot of people did not expect it. We did budget for it, and it was there. And it is moving forward. It will be reduced from the 2024 that we had to pay back, however, over some time. But there are...this initiative could save money and lower that fee, that fee. And, as well as the 100 percent producer pay for recycling could save us that money. And that could be the Province picks it up, because producers are paying. That could reduce the need for our waste management fees. So, anyway, I look forward to hear from my colleague on the yard...bringing yard waste collection in house.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Councillor Mayes?

Councillor Mayes: Thanks, Councillor Eadie, for supporting this, which is consistent with his work over the years, certainly, on trying to bring some of this work back in-house. He was certainly the author of the motion back in, I think, 2016…October 2016, I think, or October 2015, around bringing the bulky waste in-house which we voted to do. And then we switched to: No, let's bring one of the contracts for multifamily pick-up in-house, as it is a private project and we buy the vehicles. And then we have a disagreement with CUPE who then grieve the interpretation of the grievance settlement, and it all just disintegrates. And, finally, as Mr. Delbridge said, we…there was a settlement involving some funds being paid out which obviously required an NDA to be signed by the union. So, where does that leave us today? Let's get…We had a report in July. Hopefully we can bring Councillor Wyatt over to our side in the next vote, because it was an 8-8 vote, so it was very close. 8-8 vote in July on bringing in-house garbage collection in the downtown zone. Very unfortunate misunderstanding about how we had defined the zone. The staff presenting a map that was completely different than what was called for. Vastly different than what was called for in the motion. But in any event, the numbers that were presented were heavily relied upon by a number of people who spoke in this chamber, saying: Well look, it is going to be more expensive to bring garbage in, just look at the numbers in the report. The numbers in the report also said leaf and yard waste would be cheaper to deliver in-house rather than contracted out. It is a bit challenging to now say, well we have to do re-do the report, we did not include a bunch of stuff. Well, do we have to re-do it then for all the garbage and the recycling numbers? Because a lot of people relied on that report in making an 8-8 vote to say let's not bring it in-house. It was a lot of talk about ideology. You are going to make it more expensive; you are just being an ideologue. Well, this would make it cheaper, according to the report. Let's bring it in-house, leaf and yard waste, it is cheaper. Why are you being such ideologues, I would say. So, let's get this report. The idea that we have to add in capital costs, well obviously, yes, but as Mr. Delbridge said, do you think that the private operators are donating these trucks? No, we will give you the truck for free and we will find a garage somewhere and we won't charge you anything for that. It is naive to assume that. There is a cost for these things. So, let's get the report back. It will be interesting to see if it is vastly different than what was presented before, which would be rather unfortunate. Because it certainly should be, if we relied on that first report in our vote in July. So, let's get it back. There are a number of advantages, actually, to the leaf and yard waste aspect of this. If there is ever a strike it is probably not as onerous to replace as it would be for garbage or recycle because it is part-year program, frankly. So, that is one way of looking at it. It is also

just...and we may be able to have some savings in regard to benefit costs or other costs, because these are...these are not permanent employees. These are seasonal employees, like golf courses. And let's remember...I always smile now when I drive by the Canoe Club Golf Course with the big sign saying “Now operated by the City of Winnipeg”, because in 2013 we were told, boy, it is the unions that is ruining the golf courses and we are losing a million dollars a year. What a difference a dozen years make. We are now bringing the courses in-house because we think that we can make money off of them. So, this idea of bringing stuff in-house, not crazy. So, let's get the report back. Councillor Eadie has been very supportive of this concept over the years; I thank him for that. We will see. Maybe we can work something out with the union. Otherwise, I fear, Madam Speaker, a return voyage, we will tender out all of garbage and recycling and yard waste. The union will grieve because RFP says you have to offer it to the in-house workers first to see if they can do it at a comparable cost. We will have another long seven-year odyssey of, maybe we should give them bulky, maybe we should give them multi-family, whatever. So, let’s, maybe, try and resolve it at the front-end here, so we do not engage in another very costly exercise. Because I tell you, one cost that is not going to be included in this would be, hey, well let's buy out the union again out of their grievance. Because that is what happened after the last odyssey in 2016. So, we got smarter this time and we are trying to deal with this stuff before we go out to tender. Let's see if we can get these numbers in and make a decision that is based on accurate numbers. And if it is cheaper to bring it in-house, well, maybe we can take a look at doing that and get the union to sign off, and we can go and do a much cleaner exercise with the garbage and recycling. As Councillor Eadie points out, the recycling is already a bit tricky with the Provincial intervention, but we will see how that plays out. So, again, pleased to see it moving forward. Let's get the report. And let's have...let’s try and have this debate before we go out to tender this time, rather than after.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I have said, I think, quite consistently on the floor of this Council here: Winnipeggers want quality services. And I do not think, for the most part, that they are that concerned whether or not the person delivering it works for the City of Winnipeg directly or through a contractor. They just want their yard waste picked up, they want their garbage picked up, they want their toilets to flush when they flush the toilet. This is an area where I would be surprised if a highly unionized environment can deal with the variability, in particular when it comes to the volume of yard waste. Current contractors, GFL, Johnson, whoever is involved right now, I do not even know the intimate details of each contract; they have other waste collectors. They can bring on all sorts of crews that they have after they have done their regular shift, to go and do yard waste at those peak times. Where are we going to find additional City employees during those the extreme peaks, at the end of the season in particular? I am concerned. I am concerned that there is going to be yard waste sitting for days or weeks on end, getting stuck under snow and ice because we do not have the resources to scale up for those huge volumes at the end of the season. If CUPE and others want to find a way to make this work, if they can find a way to make overtime shifts very affordable for the taxpayers of Winnipeg, let's talk. But I am skeptical. So, regardless, no harm letting the public service come back and tell us what they think they can do. But, again, it is all about providing quality services to Winnipeggers at the end of the day for me.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Seeing none, Councillor Eadie to close.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, Madam Speaker, thanks to both colleagues for speaking to this issue. Madam Speaker, I am going...well, I found this difficult, this one with the new waste management fee. And I spent a couple hours with Councillor Schreyer on the stoop talking about the new waste management fee, which he was not aware was coming down the pipe, and it was coming up. And so, I explained to him, Madam Speaker, why we really had to go to a waste management fee. A solid waste management fee. And in describing that and I told him, well, so it is fairly high. It is a new 254 dollars for, like, regular residential collection. What is it, about 124 dollars a year for multifamily? And, anyway, there is some costs that will be not in here a little bit...three years into the fourth year into the future of the new waste management fee. And so, Councillor Mayes having this portfolio did notice the report that indicated that the City of Winnipeg could do it cheaper. They were looking at numbers, Madam Speaker. One...a couple of things that I should mention though, the public service already has indicated that there is an administration cost, Madam Speaker, to oversee contracts and a number of that, and that is allocated to the cost of the private sector contracts. Now, I am going to point something out, and it can be allocated a portion for the yard waste portion because those costs were for all of the different kinds of collection the private sector is doing right now. And, yeah, we would have to allocate that. But I will bring up this point, Madam Speaker, just to be clear. Administration is overseen. it is talking about, you know, there has to be a supervisor, whatever...look over and make sure that the work is a quality service. And for the most part, City services are delivered by our public service right now are quite good quality. In the inner city though, will just let people know, it is not so much about well, they want their garbage cleaned up. It is not so much about cleaning...getting a quality service. It is how much is it going to cost me? Because I do not have the money. I get calls from seniors still. I am getting emails still. A former person who used to take care of the cameras here in the Council Chamber sent me an email and his income is quite low. And he is having to pay this new fee. And he is struggling to, you know, make a living, or to pay his bills. So, just to be clear, we also have...I forgot, I went away from this. Part of the administration are, there

are a number of workers with solid waste that go out to inspect...inspect garbage situations. Now those people have been working for the City for a long time. Some of them...well, maybe the last one retired at the luncheon today, I do not know. But there has been a lot of people who are very familiar and know how to deal with garbage situations. They work for us and they monitor and watch how things are going. Do we actually have to hire new supervisors? Or are these people capable? I think they are quite capable, Madam Speaker, and they are already on the payroll. It is these kinds of things that I want to see in the report that comes back. And so, I do not think I want to go on too much longer, but there is even the debate about, well can you use the Public Works trucks that are used? And they are collecting park waste. These trucks are capable. But they say they fully need them. But, you know, I know that parks and open spaces when there is a major garbage dumped or whatever, we are hiring a private truck, private small company to come in and it is 600 dollars an hour. 600 dollars an hour, Madam Speaker. Because he has got the driver, and a couple of workers to collect it and put it in the truck. So, what I am saying is, well why can not solid waste bring even that program into it? We heard that, well, no, we can not...we can not consolidate solid waste, there is still another report coming, Madam Speaker. But I will just end by saying we have to find a way to lower the waste management fee, because, like Jason Schreyer stood for and like the Mayor stands for today and everybody...we know that there's an affordability problem and we want to make it all work, quality service for the lowest cost. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. With that I will call the question. Item 5, all in favor? Contrary? That is carried. We will now have the next committee Standing Policy Committee on Community Services. There is no report today? No motions? But I think there are by-laws on the previous committee, Mr. Clerk? Let's go back to that for a moment. Yes. The by-law, Councillor Eadie, on that committee.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON WATER, WASTE AND ENVIRONMENT CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – THREE READINGS

Councillor Eadie: Yes. Does the Clerk have to say it first or am I…okay. Madam Speaker, I would like to move first reading of By-law No. 39/2025, a first time.

Madam Speaker: All in favor? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 39/2025.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, I would like to move that By-law No. 39/2025, be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favor? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 39/2025.

Councillor Eadie: Excuse me. Madam Speaker, I would like to suspend the rule and move third reading of By-law 39/2025 and be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favor? Contrary? Carried. Any questions under this committee today?

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SERVICES QUESTION PERIOD

Madam Speaker: Okay, next is the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services. Our Chair, Councillor Santos, had to depart early. There is no reports today and no motions. Question period will go to the Mayor today. Any questions? Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: I was just wondering if the Mayor has any stories to share about Councillor Schreyer helping out Community Services?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. We will be here for a long time with that. Mr. Mayor...

Mayor Gillingham: …Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you I want to thank the Councillor for her question. This did come to me through social media, so I do not know if this is appropriate or not, but I am going to share it anyways. And we started our day appropriately honoring Councillor Jason Schreyer. I think that, as we conclude, we should do the same. So, this is from a social media platform. It was a thread. The heading was: Winnipeg City Councillor Jason Schreyer has died. I used to be neighbors with him and I can test…can attest that he was a pleasant, likeable guy. I actually have a pretty funny story about how I came to realize he was also my City Councillor a couple of years after we met. LOL. I used to take my kids to the neighbourhood park, and on a couple of occasions I would see him there throwing a frisbee around with his boys. One time I was there…One time I was there pushing my kids on the swings and I see him having this conversation with an older lady, who has this rather intense expression on her face as she is speaking with him. They are quite close by and I am able to overhear that she is fired up because the strip of grass behind the swings never gets mowed because the people that mow the grass drive those big ride-on mowers that can not fit in there. Jason assures the lady that he will personally ensure that the matter is taken care of. We can picture the next part. A few minutes later he comes back with his personal lawn mower (laughter) and mows the strip of grass behind it himself. LOL. And, yes, that strip of grass stayed tidy the rest of the summer. I talked to…I talked to him about it after, how things like this sometimes get missed when running a huge bureaucracy like the City, which was when he mentioned he was happy to help a fellow constituent and a neighbour. At which point it clicked for me that he was not just my neighbour, ha-ha. I feel that I am not the only person who will have a nice memory of him to look back on right now, and I really hope his family is eventually able to find comfort in the memories of him as time goes on. May he rest in peace.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Very, very nice. We are going to go to the next committee just to close off shortly. It is the Governance Committee of Council.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – THREE READINGS

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard, you will move the by laws on my behalf, please.

Councillor Allard: On behalf of Councillor Sharma, I move that the following by-laws be read a first time, By-law No. 41/2025, and By-law No. 42/2025.

Madam Speaker: All in favor? Contrary? Carried. And Councillor Mayes, noted in opposition. One by-law or two, Councillor Mayes?

Councillor Mayes: The first one.

Madam Speaker: It was 41? Okay. 41, noted in opposition. Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: The Clerk needs to read the by-laws.

Clerk: By-law 41/2025 and By-law 42/2025.

Councillor Allard: I move that By-laws 41/2025, and 42/2025 be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favor? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law Nos. 41/2025 and By-law 42/2025.

Councillor Allard: And then I move that the rule be suspended and By-laws 41/2025 and 42/2025 be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. All in favor? Contrary? That is carried. I just wanted to take a moment and thank the Mayor's Chief of Staff, Destiny Watt, our CAO, Sherwood Armbruster, Mr. Carlos Gameiro, our City Clerk and his team, because there were some arrangements that we were making in the last few days and everybody really stepped up, whether it was 6 o'clock in the morning or 10 o'clock at night. We really appreciate your efforts and that was led by the Mayor. We were here together late at night as you all know. I want to thank you all for your efforts. With that, Councillor Eadie?

Councillor Eadie: I would like to move adjournment and is that picture at his chair still there?

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Eadie: Well, bye, Jason.

Madam Speaker: Rest in peace, our friend. Thank you. Meeting is adjourned. Roll call first, please.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma, His Worship Mayor Gillingham, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Dobson, Duncan, Eadie, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Rollins, and Wyatt.

Council adjourned at 2:55 p.m.