COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Wednesday December 15, 2004

The Council met at 9:35 a.m.

The Clerk advised the Speaker that a quorum was present.

The Speaker called the meeting to order.

The opening prayer was read by Councillor Lubosch.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Mr. Speaker Councillor O'Shaughnessy, His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Eadie, Benham, Clement, De Smedt, Gerbasi, Lubosch, Magnifico, Pagtakhan, Smith, Steeves, Thomas, Wyatt, Lazarenko.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Speaker: We have two pages back with us this morning and who graced with their presence on Monday. We have Susan Schipper from Gray Academy who resides in the River Heights Ward and Chris Robak from Sisler High School who resides in the Old Kildonan Ward and welcome back.

MINUTES

Councillor Steeves moves the Minutes of the meeting held on November 24, 2004 be taken as read and confirmed.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

DELEGATIONS

Mr. Speaker: We have one delegation this morning; we're honoured with the presence of Mr. John Petryshyn, President of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation of Canada in support of Item 3, Report of EPC dated December 1, 2004, welcome.

Mr. Petryshyn: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Good morning Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentleman. As indicated my name is John Petryshyn and I am the President of the Ukrainian Professional and Business Federation of Canada. We have branches in Winnipeg but also from Halifax to Vancouver. We have over 1200 members. I am also a member of your sister committee with Lviv which is chaired by Councillor Lazarenko and part of the process, we have been very much involved in what's happening in the Ukraine today. I appear particularly in delegation regarding the motion being presented for your consideration seeking your support for a democratic electoral process in Ukraine especially scheduled for the 22nd of December which is a repeat of the second round of the presidential election and I also have to thank Councillor Wyatt for bringing this to my attention that it would be put forward to the policy committee and in particular I wish to thank the Mayor for bringing this to the floor of City Council and I think we'll all in the Ukrainian community quite thankful for his support in this matter.

For your information I was in the Ukraine for the 2nd round from November 17th to the 24th and once again I'm going Sunday to Ottawa and then onto Ukraine for the repeat round.

Why, this motion. Support from outside of Ukraine is important. It's important for all democratic governments, be it the municipal, provincial or federal to support the democratic process in Ukraine. When I was in Maydan Independence Square and saw three to four hundred thousand young people who were the spark who started the whole process. They supported the opposition candidate however even more so, they wanted the electoral process to be free and democratic.

It was evident to all of us who observed the process and the results that the election was flawed at best and outright corrupt at worst. I was located in the city of Kherson which is some hundred kilometres south, just north of the Black Sea, the southern eastern part of the Ukraine on the Dnipro River. I went on behalf of the organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe and I was partnered with another person from Slovakia and in our group there was members from the United States, from Holland, from Ireland and Spain.

On Saturday we visited polling stations and immediately one could observe add ons in the polling station where there was some two thousand voters, there were four hundred people added on that day. What their criteria for being added on, no one could determine but they met the test for the electoral officials.

On Sunday, mobile voting, people who are ill, you could go to their home and have them vote. One of the observer teams came up to us after and said they visited 43 homes and all 43 voted for just one candidate. They were being intimidated by family members who to vote for.

The electoral process itself was flawed and I was involved in the territorial electoral commission number 185 in Kherson which had 100 polling stations reporting to it. On the first round Mr. Yuschenko the opposition candidate got 60 percent of the vote. This time with the popularity rising of him, he only got 43 percent and anybody you talked to it didn't make sense. A direct result of what happened to deal with the fact that the election was flawed, members of the actual electoral commission who were appointed by the government, there were 42 of them, 11 signed a letter of dissent, they gave me their names, the chairman of that group was Dr. Hennady Chayko, a professor of physics who was in charge of the whole process sending the results to Ukraine.

He could not accept for example that when they went to analyze the vote in the prisons by 8:30 in the morning over one thousand prisoners had voted. When they questioned why they had voted so early and before the observers had gotten there some of the prisoners were forth right to say they had voted more than once, they were told they voted wrong the first time, they were to vote again.

As a matter of fact when we got to Ukraine the first time, the chairs of the whole process the ambassadors to Ukraine from the United States and from Germany told us don't bother checking on prisons, don't bother going to hospitals, we know how they're going to vote. The first round was flawed.

People literally are not being given medical support, their doctors are withholding services if they don't vote a certain way and a mobile vote as I indicated was running 90 percent in favour of one candidate. During the evening those polling stations that reported we could see there was a difference of maybe 2 to 3 percent on each poll, the medical was ahead but when you counted prisons, hospitals and the mobile vote they were 90 percent in favour, 10 to 1 of one candidate.

The election was flawed. I refer to a professor of physics and the reason I mention that is because he was working the computer from the territorial electoral commission to Kiev and when he saw that 96 percent in the Donetsk region had voted, it didn't make anywhere near sense compared to statistically where everybody else about 75, 78, 80 percent voted. It was no where near that amount.

So ladies and gentleman, one of the things that is most important during the electoral run up to the election, three television stations are owned by the president's son-in-law. Two newspapers if you were outside of Kiev and were viewing Canal channel five the independent station, you could see something about the opposition, while you were elsewhere, you say nothing but the government's side. You saw the president, you would see the Prime Minister who was running for President, you saw nothing about the opposition.

And in today's Free Press there's an article talking about the electoral process being reformed but also the media, the ability to communicate freely is coming under scrutiny and those people that reported verbatim what they were told to do and ostensibly a free and democratic country now were speaking out and its important that people like yourselves are able to speak out and pass a resolution telling the whole world what we think in fact should be dealt with in a free and a democratic way.

When I was in Ukraine members of parliament from Poland and from Russia were there. The Russian opposition got

up and said we support you, the students take action. The Polish President visited Ukraine, Javier Salana the chairman of the EU visited. There is no need to hold back the thought process, the international support of what transpired.

Ladies and gentleman, the students that appeared in the square were the spark of something that has been festering for a long time because up to now even since 1991 there is not been a fair and democratic election even though it may appear to be. In fact we were told for the first time when people went into the polling station last time, they actually thought that somebody was going to win, they didn't know who because you go in and vote no matter what happened and you knew who was going to win before. That is the reason that people went to the streets, that was the straw that broke the camels back.

The desire for free democratic process was once again being wiped out and as the OAC monitored about an hour of the polls closing, a spike appeared on the computers, 1 million ballots were added on, the add ons, the absentee ballot which are flawed, the mobile vote which is flawed and ladies and gentleman we asked you to support something not that's unique to Winnipeg even though we have a large Ukrainian population and clearly we are supporting democratic process but in Ukraine, Verhonova Rada, parliament voted not to accept the results of the electoral commission even though that was not legally binding and as you all know within a week or so that the Supreme Court unanimously threw out, invalidated the electoral results.

So ladies and gentleman, we ask you to support not just us in the Diaspora but those people who are standing in the square and I take great pride in those youth that were there on days just like outside this door in the cold and the snow day after day protesting, not violently, going out to parliament telling the President that he should act to change the commission. Those youth were something that we can all be proud of. Internationally they have coverage and in my concluding remarks I if all possible I would nominate the youth of Ukraine for the Nobel Peace Prize. They acted tremendously for peace, they acted for democracy and ladies and gentleman I ask you for your support in this motion. I'm open to any questions there after. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lazarenko.

Councillor Lazarenko: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Thank you Mr. Petryshyn very much for appearing before Council today in speaking towards the motion that's before us. My question to you sir is you're leaving on Sunday to for the third round of the upcoming elections in Ukraine, you're leaving on Sunday how many other people are leaving with you from Winnipeg.

Mr. Speaker: First of all I'm going once again through the OSCE which is tied into SEDA and so last time there was about four or five of us that went from Winnipeg, this time we have four or five more and they're people from all walks of life, different ethnic groups, a lady phoned me yesterday, Brenda Sinclair that she's on the list again. I understand that Mr. Yereniuk going, Rick Mantey is going, my wife is going, she put her name in, that's Christmas for us in the Ukraine or whatever. So many of us will be going from different walks of life, I think maybe about 20 people altogether from Winnipeg will be going because in addition to the OSC group that's going, the Ukrainian Congress has about another 300 or 400 people that are going.

So all these people have volunteered their time to go and as I indicated not only is this something that the Ukrainian community is concerned about, but we see in Europe that the Europeans from Poland from Belgium when I was there like I said I was partnered with a person from Slovakia, they are very concerned of what's going to happen in Eastern Europe if the democratic process does not take root in Ukraine.

So to answer your question, twenty people approximately from Winnipeg will be going, possibly more, but

approximately 500 from all of Canada will be going to monitor the results.

Mr. Speaker: Supplemental.

Councillor Lazarenko: Mr. Speaker just with my final question. Mr. Petryshyn how many delegations are going from the United States if you know?

Mr. Petryshyn: I don't know, I think last time they had about sixty and I think they've increased it to over a hundred. When I was in Kherson by the way, some people were there from the U.S. but the U.S. State Department thought enough of the whole process that they sent two people from their embassy in Kiev to Kherson.

So, we had a delegation, there were people there from the OSCE, from the democratic process, the IFES people were there, so its, the U.S. is very well funded. They have many private funds, so when we in Canada can say there's volunteers from the Ukrainian Congress going and OSCE with SEDA, that's about the size of it. The U.S. has tremendous different funding. They have the Republican Foundation, they have as I said IFIS, so there's many many other people that'll be going. How many exactly from one group I don't know, but they increase their representation from the groups that I know of to at least a hundred to do that.

And normally, when I went and I've been to Croatia, I've been to Korea to monitor and Canada would send two or three people at most. To send 45 like we did last time was unbelievable and 500 has never been heard of before, but that's the focus on what's happening in the Ukraine today that's so important for the rest of the world.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you John.

Mr. Petryshyn: Thank you, nice meeting you.

Mr. Speaker: Move onto the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated November 25, 2004, Mr. Mayor.

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED NOVEMBER 25, 2004**

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce the Report of EPC for November 25, 2004 and move adoption of consent Agenda Items 1 to 3.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Smith. Clause 1 to be stood down.

As consent Agenda Items 2 and 3, November 25, 2004.

All in Favour? Contrary? Carried.

**Item 1 - Plan Winnipeg Amendment: Kenaston / McGillivray Boulevards Area of Regional and Mixed Use Concentration
File EP-1.1 (PW 2/2004)**

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor did you wish to introduce the clause.

Mayor Katz: Yes, as a matter of fact I'm actually surprised. This is as was said a mix use facility development I should say. It's an out of town company by the name of Hope Well Development who is actually responsible for the majority of traffic and infrastructure improvements and direct capital and maintenance costs resulting from development and I'm absolutely ecstatic to see outside investment coming into our city. I'd be happy to hear what the Councillor has to say on it.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Smith.

Councillor Smith: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I'm opposed to this clause because I do not want 63 acres from industrial policy area to be a neighbourhood policy area. We already have suburban, urban sprawl all over and this area here, there's no information on how it affects the other neighbourhoods, the other businesses in the city of Winnipeg and it does.

Let me read you this, in the clause that says by planning for this demand now existing in future residents and

surrounding communities will have convenient access to the goods and services required on a daily basis, thereby reducing the need for additional automobile use that would otherwise need to travel to similar commercial facilities in other quadrants of the city.

I believe you get, if you live anywhere near Kenaston and McGillivray you can get your daily needs. I don't think we need this. The fact is it affects the existing businesses in the city of Winnipeg and there's no rational, there's nothing it just goes on to say this is a logical development. The fact is I went out to Statistics Canada website and checked the following cities for density.

Montreal has 847 people per square kilometer. Toronto has 793 people per square kilometer. Vancouver has 690 people per square kilometer. Winnipeg has only 162 people per square kilometer. In other words, what we're doing is we're scattering businesses and people out further and further and it hurts our existing neighbourhoods and I'm speaking on their behalf and that's why I oppose this very very strongly. I think it opens the door for strengthening that section and I want people to go to the existing facilities in the city of Winnipeg.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Clement.

Councillor Clement: Thank you Mr. Speaker. First of all, what we have before us is not a final plan, this is a Plan Winnipeg amendment which if it goes forward allows a process to unfold which would involve rezoning and those types of things which would be adjudicated by the local community committee out there which happens to be the Assiniboia Community Committee and the other thing is that it would provide us with a awful lot more detail than what we currently have.

Neighbourhood policy area is a zoning distinction and can mean a lot of things and so I'd like to assure Councillor Smith that this particular piece of property is not coming forward to create further housing developments. It's got nothing to do with housing whatsoever.

The fact of the matter is that this particular piece of property is a kind of a triangular piece. It has a railroad line to the west of it and everything west of that is basically the Fort Whyte Nature Centre and the existing old cement plant site.

Everything, it goes to McGillivary Boulevard on the south end, it goes to Kenaston on the northeast end of it and everything east of it is currently developed into commercial property and this would be a continuation of that and that's all this is and what we have in front of us today is should people have the right to bring forward their idea. I always have supported these on that basis that I believe that we live in a democracy and until you get to the rezoning stage and the actual application you really haven't got anything to adjudicate. Right now all we are talking about is the idea that when this land was dealt with in the 2002 Plan Winnipeg document for whatever reason it was left agricultural and since that time it would appear that probably should have been looked at a little deeper and further at that time Mr. Speaker.

So, that's why this is here and that's all we are dealing with today. All of the detail and the rezoning and those other types of things will come in the not too distant future and that's when we should take hard and fast positions based on a detailed analysis and detailed reports which we really don't have yet. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Mr. Mayor do you wish to sum up.

Mayor Katz: I was about to sum up Mr. Speaker but in all frankness I don't think I could possibly do a better job than Councillor Clement. So I think I'll just leave it at that.

Mr. Speaker: Question on the clause. All those in favour? Contrary? Carried.

I'm sorry Councillor Smith. He asked to be recorded in opposition. That's fair. The report of December 1, 2004 Mr. Mayor.

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED DECEMBER 1, 2004**

Mayor Katz: I'd like to introduce the Report of EPC for December 1, 2004 and move adoption of consent Agenda Item 1 to 4.

Mr. Speaker: 2 someone called for, clause 2, clause 3.

Consent Items 1 and 4.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clause 2 madam clerk.

**Item 2 - Rapid Transit Task Force – Approval of Funding Support
File TT-5.1**

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor did you wish to introduce the clause.

Mayor Katz: No, I think I'll let Councillor Benham just put forth any concerns he may have.

Mr. Speaker: Speakers, Councillor Benham. We don't have a Councillor Benham. Oh, look who appeared.

Councillor Benham: I'm not introducing the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Excuse me. Did you wish to speak. The floor is yours.

Councillor Benham: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker thank you very much and again I know that I have an opportunity to speak on Monday, but this is a very important issue and I don't want this opportunity to go by and this chance to talk about this very important issue and to reflect on in fact what has happened and what has gone on in this city in the past six months.

First of all I want to say Mr. Speaker that nothing I have to say, nothing I've every said on this floor about Winnipeg Transit and the way it works should be interpreted as being anyway negative about the civil servants, the bus drivers, the top engineers, everyone at Winnipeg Transit who is working very very hard to provide the best possible service they can for their customers and for Winnipeg citizens. So, I don't fault them and their attempt to provide service for a moment and in fact the position they've been put in consistently is simply because of political decisions made by City Councillors and of course by other levels of government as well. But princeably the responsibility lays here Mr. Speaker.

Let us cast our minds back to the Winnipeg that existed just six months ago Mr. Speaker. On June 21st let's think about that date, less than six months ago. I wasn't a member of this Council, Mayor Katz wasn't a member of this Council, his Worship Mayor Katz was not a member of this Council nor was Councillor Magnifico.

And what was that Winnipeg, what existed there. A bus rapid transit system as day breaks on June 22, a bus rapid transit system is about to be built in this city after three decades of wasted time, of wasted debate, this city is finally going to get what it deserves, what every other city that truly deserves to be called a city in this world has, which is a public transit system that can deliver people quickly to their destinations and compete in a genuine way with the private automobile.

We had federal and provincial money, 34 million dollars of it. Not a lot compared to what Ottawa gets for its system or what Toronto gets for its system. But more money than we ever had before to build a bus rapid transit system and we have it in our hands Mr. Speaker. We had set aside money not we because I wasn't part of it yet, but City Council in its wisdom had set aside money in its capital budget to build a bus rapid transit system.

The transit engineers, God bless them from Rick Borland, a dedicated civil servant who we have now lost. From Rick Borland on down, the senior managers at Transit design the plans, put the plans into place and operated in good faith on the instructions from this city council on the repeated endorsement by this City Council of rapid transit of course symbolized principally by Councillor De

Smedt's report Direction to the Future which as we know recommended immediate construction of bus rapid transit.

Winnipeg less than six months later Mr. Speaker, the Mayor supported by 10 Councillors around this table, 10 Councillors who will have to answer to their voters, to their citizens and to their consciousness Mr. Speaker. Supported by those 10 Councillors the Mayor introduced and passed a motion stopping it dead. The one thing you can say about bus rapid transit is it will not proceed in the spring of 2005. It can't because you stopped it. You stole that from the people of Winnipeg, they had it and it's gone.

I beg your pardon. Stole, I'm sorry, I meant it only figuratively Mr. Speaker. I accept that, I retract that statement completely Mr. Speaker. As a result the opportunity to have a bus rapid transit system in Winnipeg is lost for at least a year.

Winnipeg qualified for money under the Canada Manitoba Strategic Infrastructure Program, it's been given back. Maybe someday Winnipeg will get that money back to help build community centres, but if there is ever federal money to build community centres, I would ask why not get the federal money to build community centres and federal money to build bus rapid transit and I would challenge any Councillor to tell me why they wouldn't do that as well.

The Mayor's position in debate on September 29th was that the bus rapid transit system as proposed was simply too expensive. The city couldn't afford it, a position supported by 10 Councillors. The Mayor's position just, did Councillors buy that, does Councillor De Smedt who recommended a bus way does he think that was an irresponsible recommendation to Councillor Steeves who supported that in the environmental strategy think that was an irresponsible use of taxpayers money. Of course its not, it's the cheapest possible option we had, a road for buses and a very cheap road at that Mr. Speaker. Of course its not a bad deal for taxpayers, it's the best deal for taxpayers we could possibly get and we know that because we spent three decades debating it and we had a task force of Councillors tell us that.

Mr. Speaker, the second position of the Mayor was that he does not support bus rapid transit but he supports light rail transit. His second position completely contradicts his first position Mr. Speaker because we know that the light rail transit system costs four to six times as much as a bus rapid transit system.

We know, then that's just to build it, then you have to buy the trains, you have to spend millions and millions more dollars on rolling stock. With bus rapid transit we know we can use the buses we already own and keep adding to the fleet. So the Mayor cannot say and Councillors surely cannot follow him over this cliff by saying bus rapid transit is too expensive but light rail transit four to six times as much to build, millions more for trains to run on it, that's what we need instead.

And finally Mr. Speaker, both the Mayor and Councillor Wyatt in debate have suggested that conventional rail lines throughout the city may be the answer. While I'll just Mr. Speaker, the conventional rail lines are part of the answer because they provide the right of way that we need, but conventional rail lines are the technology of the 1880's Mr. Speaker and even the experiment in Ottawa which I know the Mayor had a chance to see does not work very well. It achieves, it does use conventional rail lines, yes Mr. Speaker but they had to go out and buy some special cars to run on that track and it runs at a top speed or an average speed of 30 kilometers an hour.

That's less than our conventional buses. So let's not have the Mayor or anyone else pretend that conventional rail lines are the answer to the problem. Ottawa's going to rip up the conventional rail line that the Mayor saw and install light rail transit at a cost of 700 million dollars just for that branch of their system and it will integrate with their current bus rapid transit system.

So let's not pretend that that can be done. So, Mr. Speaker I say that in my opinion this is a waste of money. I do not think we need to spend $220,000 on a task force of Councillors to duplicate the work that has already been done by a task force of Councillors and therefore Mr. Speaker I will vote against this motion. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor Benham. Councillor De Smedt.

Councillor De Smedt: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I don't know why I'm standing up here just before Christmas and speaking on this item on this particular subject but I would like Councillor Benham to realize that there is nothing in that report, no where, I repeat no where did that report say that this BRT had to be instituted immediately. No where did it say that it had to be instituted immediately. Do I have to say it three times, just like we do by-laws.

Fact of the matter is we realize that we came out with a reasonable report trying to anticipate Winnipeg's needs and that BRT would have to compete with other priorities. The fact that it was urgently pushed by the previous Mayor in the period of 2002 to 2004 of course it was at his own personal agenda and he convinced some of his colleagues on EPC to do the same thing but I mean it was all a little game and a trade off. I'm not going to do the Kenaston Underpass if you don't do the BRT and on and on we go and that's always an interesting game.

And it's started to become public knowledge and we shouldn't be doing business that way and some of us did not vote in support of the Mayor's proposal in totality. But I've often said that the real urgent need is probably to get us through confusion corner from downtown where the real hang up occurs in the rush hour time. I'd be prepared to support any reasonable initiative to move towards that and then we can anticipate in competition with other priorities with the limited resources that we have the evolution of a bus rapid transit system or as it may occur now perhaps an LRT.

Now some of the facts that Councillor Benham has may be accurate. Maybe LRT is four or five or seven or eight times more expensive, we don't know that. So, I think it was appropriate when there was a new leadership brought in on June 22 to reconsider this project and to have a further analysis. So I'm supportive of that, doesn't mean that we're throwing out what I thought was a very logical report. They may be some holes in it. I would allow the transit task force to elaborate on that and make their recommendations accordingly.

So, this drama that keeps coming up every time we have a subject with transit around this council room is becoming obviously a bit worrisome for many of us. Everybody has a right to speak but lets be clear, I think there's too much drama being exercised here over what had been a flawed process before by virtue of a previous flawed leadership activity to try BRT on more quickly then really it was needed.

So, I will obviously be supporting what we have in front of us and I really wish we would get our facts correct before we elaborate and attribute to others things that were not said. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Councillor Steeves.

Councillor Steeves: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the motion and I would actually ask Council to unanimously support this motion even though one of our colleagues has indicated already that he's not inclined to do so.

I'll make that request Mr. Speaker because I think this is important. I remain a supporter of the idea of rapid transit in the city of Winnipeg and I think most people perhaps not all people on Council do remain supportive of that idea. It's been tough over the course of the last couple of few months and we all acknowledge that and we obviously know that people who had intentions, people had ideas that things might be happening were disappointed that things didn't happen. I think to some degree all of us

share in that disappointment but that's the way it sometimes goes in this business but what you have to do and I think what I would encourage people to do is to learn from what we just went through.

Because as Councillor De Smedt indicated Mr. Speaker the process that we went through on our bus rapid transit issue was not a good process and it was a process that I don't think any of us can be particularity proud of and I'm not saying that to point the finger at any person in particular, it was no doubt difficult but if there is a lesson to be learned here its that we can do a little bit better in terms of trying to develop this idea and bring it to fusion.

The fact is that over the course of the last year, there were discussions through the Strategic Infrastructure Fund and other revenue sources between the leaders of the various levels of government that really didn't have a lot to do with Council and the end result is already, has already pointed out was that to our surprise with hours notice literally we were summoned to the Forks Market for a press conference announcing these three projects. Now in fairness some of us had an idea this might be happening and that this might be going through and that their might be some announcement as to some ideas but we wound up with was three projects that were kind of foisted upon Council that to my recollection never really enjoyed the benefit of full Council focus and a full Council decision and it probably all deserved that in their individuality.

And I guess we could look back and say there were different occasions in Council where these projects were discussed and to a certain extent there was consensuses and to a certain extent there was agreement. For example we could point to the five million dollars that was set aside in one of the capital budgets for the Kenaston Underpass and for rapid transit exploration and say well maybe because we passed that as part of the capital budget maybe that was tantamount to an agreement that we should be doing certain projects. And I guess in some peoples minds it was and maybe in some peoples minds it wasn't, maybe some people were more interested in the Kenaston Underpass, maybe they didn't care about bus rapid transit, but since they cared so much about Kenaston Underpass, they're willing to go along with it, blah, blah, blah, blah.

What I'm pointing out is that I think we realize now for projects of this magnitude that is no way to do business. That's no way to do business. What we should have done is what we're doing right now. We should have set up something independent, something transparent that has Council participation that doesn't involve the behind close doors negotiation of the different levels of governments that Council really wasn't involved in and this task force, this committee should review everything in front of it and should come back with some recommendations and if, if and because it is by no means a for gone conclusion. If this Council decides in its wisdom that it wants to spend the money on rapid transit in the city of Winnipeg, that issue should be squarely put on all floors right in the middle of this chamber and it should be discussed and debated on its own merits, absent Kenaston Underpass, absent Water Sewage Treatment Plant upgrades, absent CSO's, it should be discussed on its own merits because its that important.

It is that important for this city and if we're going to do this we should make a choice to do that because we didn't have that last time. We didn't have the benefit of that debate. It just didn't happen and it cost us. What we basically had was a photo opportunity, no signed agreement, a civic leader who very right minded and with great intentions I believe had every intention of carrying out this project but then immediately vacated the chamber virtually upon its being announced by the different levels of government.

You can't run a project on that basis, nor should we be expected to run a project of this magnitude on that basis. So, I recognize the disappointment and I understand the disappointment but we didn't do it right last time and I was part of that and I acknowledged that. I should have known better frankly. I should have known better and we should have known

better. This is a slower process, but the reason I'm going to support this process because it is precisely because I am getting the sense that the current administration and the current civic leaders here have a genuine belief that this can work, that this can actually work. I've never been part of a process like this; I've never seen a process quite like this, the city of Winnipeg visa be rapid transit.

So I'm going to support and I hope everybody in this chamber does because it's important because we do need this in the city of Winnipeg. We shouldn't get too hooked however on the idea of what rapid transit is quote un quote. The city of Ottawa which comes up repeatedly on our discussions on rapid transit Mr. Speaker, when they did there voluminous and very successful rapid transit program it should be noted for the purpose of the record that often times what they did was nothing more complicated than painting lines on the road and designating them as diamond routes using existing road infrastructure to create diamond lanes in a rapid transit system. That's pervasive in the city of Ottawa and it works really really well. We've tried that in the city of Winnipeg in certain locations but it doesn't really seem to work as well and there has to be a reason for that.

We shouldn't get too wrapped up in the idea of 40 million dollars a kilometer or 80 million dollars a kilometer, sometimes these things can be accomplished with just a little bit of political courage in terms of designating some lanes as diamond lanes and giving buses priorities at certain times. That is a tough decision for a Council to make but maybe we can save ourselves a lot of money by doing that.

I should also note for the record that the city of Ottawa in my visits there and I know that the Mayor has done so, I know that Councillor Wyatt has done so as well as part of his FCM membership, the city of Ottawa has stated that their use of the existing rail stock was actually quite successful and it appears that Councillor Benham has some different information. When I sat across the seat from Mayor Chiarelli, that was not the information that I received, so clearly there is some informational disconnect here. I don't know whether he's right or your right, I'm not exactly sure of that, but clearly this is the type of thing that has to be figured out from the committee because there is different information that's being brought forward.

I'll conclude Mr. Speaker by simply saying, we never really did this properly in the first instance and that's maybe no one persons fault but I'm hoping now by Friday and with all the correct intent, we can stand together and start this process properly and carry it through. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wasn't planning on speaking on this today but I've been provoked by Councillor Steeves comments that there's a few things I just have to put on the record, I'm sorry, I just couldn't keep quiet and listen to that.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, it's true we never did things properly but I have to say I think our motion on September 29 was the thing that was done improperly.

You know it's really amazing to me the double standard that different projects have, the Kenaston project was announced the same day, but there's no problem with that process because obviously there's a huge amount of political will and everybody wants to build the Kenaston Underpass. So the real issue is that this Council doesn't want to build it enough. I mean the process was the same for both projects except for I don't even, while the cost benefit analysis we know was better for the transit project and the cost benefit analysis was even more intense and required a higher level of scrutiny because transit projects always require a higher level of scrutiny than building new road ways which we don't seem to hesitate to find money for when you can.

But we do seem to hesitate very much to find money for transit infrastructure even though our own Public Works Department

has suggested to us, excuse me, our own Public Works Department has said that what we should be doing is spending about 80 percent of investment in new road infrastructure and a 15-20 percent on transit, or 20 percent on transit and cycling options and other alternative options.

So our own administration advises and this isn't transit, this is public works who's saying that we should be building 80 percent new roads and 20 percent transit and what have we built in the last 20 or 30 years of transit new infrastructure, zero percent and we voted its not like, you know people like to thing bus rapid transit was Glen Murray's idea but actually it started first in the 70's when Juba wanted to build a monorail and the recommendation came back that we should build a bus rapid transit system for Winnipeg and in 1986 when we first did Plan Winnipeg, this Council put it in there, the province approved it, then we approved it again and we approved it again and we approved it again and it is in our city plans. So its not some idea of the last Mayor, he believed in it and he promoted it because he listened to the studies that had been done for the last 30 years and his experience.

And many of us supported him in that; in fact most of you supported him in that. So you know, things change, but to say it wasn't done properly, to make it sound like it was just a whim that wasn't planned out, I've got documents this thick on my desk of all the work that's been done on it. It's been studied to death.

Ottawa in 1983 studied it at the same time we did another big study when we had another Mayor, Mayor Norrie wanted to build LRT and we studied it the same time, both cities were told they should build BRT. Ottawa did, we didn't. Hence Ottawa has it, a very good rapid transit, so they have BRT and LRT and Councillor Benham is correct, I've looked into this and I'm sure that this will be made clear that Ottawa is building I think it is 750, or 800 million new LRT line over, removing the O-Train because it had its benefits but is not really rapid and its not really light unfortunately. Its has its benefits, they happen to have a track in the right place which we don't. So its just each city has to find its own solution and I'm in a uncomfortable position because I'm on this committee, I'm thankful for the opportunity to, I thank the Mayor for considering letting me be part of this committee and I'm working very hard on it. Councillor Wyatt is a task master and we're meeting its almost Christmas and we're still meeting for hours and hours going over reports and I have great respect for the other members of the committee.

So it puts me in a rather awkward position when I'm working on them but yet I'm also accountable for making these decisions and frankly you know I've said it before its been studied to death, I'll study it again if I'm asked to do that by the Mayor, I'm happy to do that and I am studying it again and I'm listening with an open mind to what I'm hearing and I'm not going to go into what I've heard at those committee meetings because that's a confidential process at this time until we have our public meetings and I respect the process.

But so far I really haven't changed my mind as you can see. But we still have a lot of work to do, I'm looking forward to the public process but I had to stand up and say, wait a meeting, its not fair to say it wasn't done properly, its not fair to dismiss the work of our former Director, Rick Borland, to dismiss the work of previous task forces of Councillors on which I've already been on one and I think that was a good report and it does recommend you know as soon as possible building bus rapid transit.

So, I was going to sit quietly by but I'm afraid when things are put forth in such an inaccurate way, and I know people are in a difficult position, I know people had to make, they wanted to support the new Mayor, the new Mayor has to be given some time but I think we're revisiting an old decision but I'm not going to sit here quietly and listen to things that I don't believe are accurate so I wanted to put those comments on the record. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Before the next speaker I would like to perhaps apologize to Council for letting this debate get so far off topic, just to remind you we are dealing with whether or not to provide funding and how much funding for a rapid transit task force not whether to create one, was created not on any past clause or a capital budget item, only on whether or not to provide funding and how much funding and that's what the debate should have been restricted to, I apologize to Council for letting it get so far out of hand, that said, lets restrict the topic Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Thanks Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to rise and say that not to talk about the past or what's happened before but to talk about the future and indeed Council has voted to create this task force and I thank the Mayor for showing leadership to see this through and to see this happen. It's a chance to engage the public as has been pointed out in this chamber, engage the public and to hear what the concerns are of the public and to analyze what our options are.

I think Councillor Gerbasi's energy and her passion for the subject is a very positive part of the work going on with the task force and I can say that all the task force members and advisory council are just as positive and passionate about it and are approaching this with an open mind, a positive approach with an objective mind which is fair looking at all the options, different options being raised, Councillor Steeves mentioned some great ideas, all of these options are being explored, and we're looking at sitting down with all the members of Council individually.

We've invited to sit down and to engage members of Council with their ideas and what they'd like to see for the future as well as the general public.

Of course to do that Mr. Speaker and to do this process we need a little bit of resources to do it. I think this is a very manageable budget, it's not a huge budget, it's very reasonable to get the job done and it's basically allows us to deliver a report which is in my mind Mr. Speaker being done in a very quick report. June is a very aggressive for such a subject which is so extensive. In the past transport and transit issues have been studied in this city. Transplant 2010 for example looking at all the transportation needs of the city, they took three years and we're doing this by June. And so, with I think a very reasonable time frame and a reasonable budget.

So, I encourage the members of the Council to support this. You know we create the task force, now we need the tools to do the job and this is the tools to do the job. So, thanks very much Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I am going to beg your indulgence after what you just said, I have sat in this chamber on so many occasions where the topic had nothing to do whatsoever with rapid transit but every time there was media present some Councillors would take the opportunity to bring up the BRT.

I guess what I'd like to say today is this is not an issue of BRT. This is an issue of doing what's best for our city. It doesn't make a difference whether its BRT, whether its LRT, whether we add more buses, okay whether we fix up and add more heated shelters, whether we improve our existing system. That is why we have a task force and that is why every individual on that task force should have an open mind and I must confess when I hear Councillor Gerbasi say so far I haven't changed my mind, you're not supposed to change your mind. You're supposed to go in there with a completely open mind. That's the whole purpose of this.

But, what has taken place to date is that I don't know how things were done in days gone by under the Murray/Benham administration. I wasn't there, I really don't know. What I do know is this, when I came here I made a commitment that everything would be open and forth right. That all Councillors would have the opportunity to explore what we're talking

about, to see information and to try and always make decisions that are best for the taxpayers of Winnipeg. Councillor Benham during your campaign you were out there campaigning.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor would you please direct your advice to the chair.

Mayor Katz: Absolutely, but he is a very handsome Councillor okay. Mr. Chair through you to Councillor Benham, during the campaign when Councillor Benham was campaigning and knocking on doors and was asked about the BRT, we got emails saying that the response was and I'd be happy to share them when asked about the BRT this is something we have to look into. There are still questions to be answered. So what I would like to say is quite simple.

Number one, if you were to have read the Winnipeg Sun where Mayor Chiarelli specifically said, although this is not part of the issue but to correct a statement, that LRT is cheaper than BRT just to correct something and number two, it also increased our ridership by more than double what we projected. But what we should be doing today is one, we should be thanking ten city Councillors who showed intellect, who showed intestinal fortitude, who made a moral commitment to do what's best for the public by voting to support the motion that was moved and wanted to make sure that they will always protect the rights of the citizens which they always will get that opportunity and I would ask everybody to support this motion. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor. Vote on the clause. All in favour of clause 2? Contrary?

Councillor Benham: No.

Councillor Gerbasi: Abstain.

Mr. Speaker: Can't abstain.

Councillor Gerbasi: Can't abstain?

Mr. Speaker: Cannot abstain at this Council. It's not a recorded vote however. You wish to be recorded in opposition that is fair. Okay, sorry was there something else. No.

Clause 3, just to be the fly in the ointment again, this clause is very clearly beyond the jurisdiction of this Council and its like a few past things such as nuclear free zones and other irrelevant to this Council clauses. It is here before us, in order to deal with it, we require I believe a motion that to suspend the rules to deal with this motion. Councillor Lazarenko do you wish to move that motion.

Councillor Lazarenko: Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Do you wish to move the motion, yes or no.

Councillor Lazarenko: Just a minute.

Mr. Speaker: You can't speak.

Councillor Lazarenko: I am just telling you, I am moving a motion suspending the rules.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. All in favour of suspending the rules to deal with clause 3? Opposed? Carried unanimously.

Councillor Lazarenko you have the floor once it's introduced by the clerk.

Item 3 - Electoral Process in Ukraine
File G(U)

Mr. Speaker: There you go.

Councillor Lazarenko: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I think differently, I think this is a matter before Council because we're talking about a free democratic election.

The reason this motion is here before Council, first I'd like to thank Mayor Katz for accepting the motion that was dealt with by the sister city committee when some of our delegation had come back from Ukraine and they saw what happened and also what had transpired throughout the whole world in the, through the media and also with a good satisfaction of the majority of the world that said that this was wrong, that they were flawed, fraudulent and corrupt.

The committee wanted to have this motion come before Council because we are a sister city to the city of Lviv, Ukraine. And let me be specifically clear, this is not only talking about Ukrainians, its talking about Ukraine, a country that has been ignored by the world, you talk to anybody they don't even know where the Ukraine was, that the Ukraine never existed. Comments were made, people will say oh he's going to the Ukraine, when I was going I had said replied, no I'm going to the Italy to the Poland and then I'm going to go through the France and then I will go to Ukraine.

These things have been going on and on and Ukrainians have accepted it. Ukraine consists of all ethnic groups. When you have a country that has been suppressed for hundreds of years, not only before the Czar's, but before the Czar's. Ukraine was dominated, suppressed to a point that suppression won. When elections were held in Ukraine during the communist regime, you had three, four, five candidates but one political party so regardless of who you voted for you voted for the party. In 1991, we always thought that change that had come about in the Ukraine to say Ukraine now will now be a free democratic country. That did not happen because the old guard of the former communist would not let it happen.

Now you see what has happened and I thank the demonstrators that they had a peaceful protest that no one was injured seriously or to the effect to say that the police or army, the army was there but the army refused to act on orders. You've seen in the papers now through the media, what has happened with the candidate who challenged that system or that regime, being poisoned and others who were poisoned by these so called dictators that decided to silence those who were speaking for democracy.

Those who wanted a free press, journalists were murdered and it's come to the point that the whole world of journalism is beginning to realize and they are speaking out and I thank them for that. I have to thank especially to some of the journalists here in Winnipeg, especially with Charles Adler from CJOB. CJOB took that on day after day, talking about the process where it's at, where it happened.

Also the Free Press, a reporter had every day, every day was in either the front page and this is traveled throughout the whole world. Now Ukraine is recognized and we have to recognize. Suppression Mr. Speaker destroys a country. Ukraine the young generation that were out camping day after day, night after night in the cold, in the rain refused to quit. They were crying out to the world please help us, free us from suppression. Free us and let us live like other countries.

We in North America Mr. Speaker don't know what suppression is. Look today we dealt with a motion that is before Council the clause, everyone had a democratic right to speak in opposition or which ever way. We have that right. Take that right away and we I don't think would ever survive. As fortunate that we have a neighbour such as the United States of America that took a lead role condemning what happened in Ukraine with the last election.

Canada followed suit. We have to depend on the United States of America as our neighbour. I believe that I am a citizen of the North American Continent. United States would come to our defense at the spur of the moment but we have the indifferences that is our democratic right. Don't approve what the United States is doing, they don't approve what we're doing but still we are on the same page Mr. Speaker to say that if need is there, they will be there.

To protect the process, I was brought up to believe in democracy. The years that I have been as a politician Mr. Speaker I have always believed in the rights of individual people and the rights of every person. Even a person who is condemning, still has that right, take that right away, you're looking for big trouble.

This motion that is before us Mr. Speaker I know there's an awful lot of people are going to the Ukraine now, of all denominations. From various countries and I hope to the good Lord, that the 26th of December is going to produce a

democratic election regardless which candidate will win but it has to be in the process of democracy at work.

When you have intimidation what some of these people that came back, the observers had said what they saw old people were being attacked or pushed down the stairs because they had said they were voting for one particular candidate. The rest walked away.

Villages where no media, I was there Mr. Speaker just last year, some villages don't have no television, no radio, no communication, no newspaper, you live on the outskirts of a village that consists of about 6000 residents, outskirts of the city of these huge homes that are being built of red brick, one and half to two story homes with a driver, a Mercedes Benz on the driveway and inside the village you have people that are living there that have a clay floor that they take a straw broom and they wet it and brush it ever so often to smooth it then they put some kind of used linoleum on there. No electricity, no water.

My step uncle is one of them that lives some part of the Ukraine and outskirts are very wealthy people. No industries, no factories within a village.

So Mr. Speaker, when you have this kind of a system, a lot of them with a criminal element, and I'm going on record on this because I've seen this. Criminal elements that are controlling the country something is wrong. And the rest of the world ignore this, nobody wanted to say well the Ukraine is being dominated because they're scared to speak out Mr. Speaker because they say look we don't want to because we have families out there and this process that is taking place, I was there even when people said they would be voting, they did not know which way because they didn't even know who the candidate was.

Person comes along, they said well go out vote because they told us to vote this way. And I hope that with the involvement of all countries of the world now, we'll see that the elections will be done in such a fashion that no intimidation but it's going to be hard, right now the former Soviet Union candidates in there are saying if you vote for that one particular candidate who supports the Western World, you'll find that once that person gets elected Mr. Speaker that person is going to make sure certain ethnic groups, they said get out of Ukraine. What idiotic comments, what propaganda to cause further confusion.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker I was not going to take this much time but I'm sure all of us here being as politicians now how important it is to have a free and a democratic process in elections and I hope that Council now will see fit and pass this on. We are one city of many cities that have presented a motion to this matter, also the federal government, the provincial governments have, other municipalities have followed suit, Winnipeg I think in Canada was about the first one to present a motion, thank you Mr. Mayor and Executive Policy Committee and to members of Council I hope that this unanimous vote on this to say that others are following because a free democratic election is important to all levels as a delegation Mr. Petryshyn had stated that it affects federal, provincial and municipal elections. All form of elections. You must have that process, we have worked very hard, people have died for free democracy and we can't let that fade away. We have to follow in the direction to make this a better place to live in the whole world.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you Mr. Speaker. To ask the question why we're debating this today would be to ignore the past of our own city's history and our own communities history and also to ignore the role of not only Winnipeg but of Manitoba and Canada with regards to standing up for democracy and for freedom and for many peoples not just people of Eastern Europe, but peoples of all over the world at times like this.

It's ironic that today we're stand to discuss this and I come from a descent, my grandfather actually escaped Eastern

Europe just over 90 years ago now before World War 1, not wanting to fight for the Austrian/Hungarian empire of Ukraine. He was Ukrainian not wanting to stand up for or fight for a foreign government that was at that time ruling the place that he lived in.

He escaped and came to this country for the freedoms that we enjoy here and that in some ways we sometimes take for granted. And today we stand in solidarity Mr. Speaker I think with a lot of the work being done and taking place in the Ukraine by all the citizens. And I guess we cannot help but when we look and we see what's taking place with the young people who are sitting in the squares and occupying the squares, Independent Square in the middle of Kiev and the fact that they're prepared to put their lives on the line.

It brings back memories of not too long ago of the recent past when young people stood in Tiananmen Square in China and the world watched and we watched and what we saw happen was absolutely disgusting and dismaying. But nobody wanted to rock the boat because there was too much business to be had with China and we all know that that was the ultimate goal and that is what happened and we watched as the young people got mowed down by tanks, killed and arrested. And arrested by the thousands there after crushing any sort of democratic process that could have sprung out of that.

Well the world has matured I hope since 1989 and we as citizens of the world, we are indeed we're so busy quite often debating things like rapid transit or building a building here or a rezoning here that we sometimes forget about the fact that we're spinning around on one same planet. That we should, that we are part of this great concept called the global village.

And at times we have to take a moment out to think locally, think globally but act locally. And that's what we are doing here today. Let us not let the people down over there Mr. Speaker, let us as a Council do what we can by sending this message. We don't want to see a repeat of what happened in China and sometimes what we could do here is a very small token but from what I've heard it's been appreciated with those groups and organizations and individuals who have gone over the Ukraine, who's talked to the folks there and who see what the rest of the world is doing to speak out whether it be the Government of Canada or whether it by Winnipeg City Council or the Province of Manitoba which passed a unanimous resolution or other provinces or other councils.

The freedom that we take for granted sometimes Mr. Speaker we should not forget our own history in this country. It was only a number of generations ago when in this province itself, Riel who came up and fought because of the fact that he knew his rights were being and the people that he represented were being rolled over by a growing majority coming to the west. He stood up and fought and the Riel Rebellion, if it wasn't for that we wouldn't have had the kind of province we have today and the kind of tolerance that I believe is inherent to all Manitoban's and the fight that he took then in the Northwest Rebellion Saskatchewan and if we want to go even further back we know that out of the country we would have not had the kind of freedoms we have today if it wasn't for those citizens in the early 19th century who lowered Upper Canada, fought for freedom and who rioted when they protested decisions coming out of Great Britain and London and pushed and ultimately led to the Durham report and Lord Durham coming here and doing a report for the democratic reforms that have given us a Constitutional Democracy, the first of a kind in the world where we actually have a Monarch, head of state but we have the people running the country.

Canada has led the way in many ways and we can lead the way to support the people in Eastern Europe.
This is something Mr. Speaker which we have to stand in unison on today and show support for. The work being done by individual citizens who are prepared to sacrifice their time and their energies and indeed their own security, its not secure

going into a foreign country, not knowing what the outcome could be, knowing that there's still sable rightering going on by countries near by who are quite prepared and have shown in the past that they are prepared to send troops into other countries when they do not like the results of the polled decisions.

We have Canadians who are now literally going and putting their own security on the lines to show bodily support but to send a message that we care about what's happening there and that these values are important and I think Councillor Lazarenko was quite right when he said that freedom is not just inherit to the peoples of Ukraine, its inherit to all peoples of the world.

Democracy is not an idea that just came, it might have originated from Greece but the idea of democracy speaks to all peoples around the world and there's nothing wrong with this Council taking a moment out to debate this and there's nothing wrong with us recognizing the importance of our connection, actually to this part of the world. And there's nothing wrong with us saying that this is worthy for this Council to make a unanimous decision.

And I thank Councillor Lazarenko for all the work he's done and the work he's done going to the Ukraine over the years and the sister city and work that's being done by other sister cities that we as a Council deal and work with.

So, Mr. Speaker I support this motion and I wish all the Winnipegger's and Manitoban's and Canadian's the best of luck as they go to the Ukraine or five hundred through SEDA and hundreds more through private fund raising and we all pray and hope that the results are for the best and that we see a birth of a new democracy in the Eastern Republic. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Councillor Thomas.

Councillor Thomas: Yes, I guess I have a few personal things that I want to say. My Gigi left the Ukraine after the riots in 1905 with his life and not much else and came here. My Baba left the Ukraine after the revolution that started in Russia but quickly invaded Ukraine as various hording armies left the people of Ukraine starving as they stole foods off the farmer's fields to feed the invading hoards of various armies.

My Uncle Eugene and Auntie Olga many times visited Ukraine and to see my cousins and my various relatives and watched as Ukraine took baby steps towards democracy and I have many cousins there that I do not know personally but I know that they're going through rough times now.

I wish you honor those of who have escaped oppression not just in Ukraine but throughout the world. We have been the home land for the many disenfranchised throughout the world who have come here whether its my relatives, Scottish crofters or where ever they've come from and I have relatives on both sides of my family who've escaped oppression and come to Canada land of a democracy that's respected throughout the world.

I wish Ukraine the type of democracy that we have here to quote the words of Tommy Douglas, what we want for ourselves we wish for all and there's little more than I can say than I support this clause and thank you to all of you who have brought this forward, Mayor Katz and everybody who's been instrumental in bringing forward this clause. It's great to be doing this, thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Mr. Mayor did you wish to sum up.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, very briefly I just want to tell you that when it comes to supporting peace and democracy I think it's very important, that's all I have to say.

Mr. Speaker: I will request a recorded vote on this issue. All in favour of the clause please rise.

Councillor Smith you were out of the chamber, Councillor Gerbasi you can't enter during a vote.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Eadie, Benham, Clement, Lubosch, Pagtakhan, Steeves, Thomas, Wyatt, Lazarenko, Mr. Speaker Councillor O'Shaughnessy.

Nays

None.

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 11, Nays 0.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Let the record show the motion was unanimously supported by this council.

Moving on to the report of December 8, 2004 Mr. Mayor.

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED DECEMBER 8, 2004**

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce the Report of EPC for December 8, 2004 and move adoption of consent Agenda Items 1 to 6 and 8. I'd like to stand down Item No. 7.

Councillor Benham: Stand down number 1 Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Which I will be very strict on whether to file or not to file. Clauses 1 and 7 have been stood down. Clauses 2 through 6 and 8 as consent. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clause 1, madam clerk.

**Item 1 - Rapid Transit Task Force
File TT-5.1**

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor did you wish to introduce the clause or wait.

Mayor Katz: I think this clause is very obvious and I think we've been, it's a broken record so I'll just wait to here what Councillor Benham has to say and I'll sum up.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Benham.

Councillor Benham: Thank you Mr. Speaker and I appreciate your advice and in fact I was very strict only going 8 minutes on the previous motion, I was going to try and throw in my comments on this motion but decided that that would be procedurally out of order. So, I will restrict my comments strictly to the proposal that was made by Councillor Gerbasi, seconded by me, considered by Executive Policy Committee.

We presented at Executive Policy Committee both Councillor Gerbasi and myself and it was at that time, at that meeting Mr. Speaker and that's why I'm rising actually or one or the two reasons I'm rising is to acknowledge that the Mayor at that meeting of Executive Policy Committee first discussed publicly the idea of appointing Councillor Gerbasi. He didn't appoint her as of that day but he gave a clear signal that that was under consideration and I thought Mr. Speaker and I want to say this clearly on the record to the Mayor and my colleagues, I thought that was a very collegial move. I thought it was a very good move. I've heard what the Mayor has said publicly to Councillor Gerbasi today and his expectations and so on. I've heard what Councillor Wyatt has said about my colleague and I just think that this is, it's a very good thing and speaks well of the Mayor and of the process that my colleague has been included on the task force.

I would like to talk as well about the citizen members because, we're always having a party Bill and I'd to comment as well about the citizen members because it was as well at that meeting that the Mayor first talked about having an advisory council and that was in response directly to the motion before us that we are deciding whether or not to file Mr. Speaker in which Councillor Gerbasi seconded by me suggested representation of labour and business of student groups and of transit users and so on.

The citizen members who were appointed, the advisory council, I think are all sincere people. I had an opportunity to speak to them and I think that they are dedicated to their work. I do not question their motivations and there are in fact representations of labour and business within there.

But I did ask them two simple questions Mr. Speaker, how do you get to work and when were you last on a bus, only 1 out of the 6 regularly commutes to work on a bus, congratulations to him, Dr. Gino Distasio of the University of Winnipeg and two of the task force members, Mr. Speaker in contrast to our suggestion that transit users be placed on this task force, two of these task force members Mr. Speaker have never been on a Winnipeg Transit bus. Never in their lives have they got on the Winnipeg Transit bus the way many Winnipeggers use the transit service do every day.

And I do believe that that is a gap in the knowledge and does not recognize the very good suggestion that was made in this motion that we are filing to in fact include transit users. Thank you very much Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker and thank you Councillor Benham for those comments.

I think that everybody should know is that we have three Councillors on this task force, Councillor Wyatt is obviously the chair, Councillor Pagtakhan and Councillor Gerbasi and in addition to the private citizens, I believe there are approximately twelve public meetings where they are taking advice and input from the public, so every group who has any concerns about transit in the city will have the opportunity to express themselves and in light of the fact that only one private citizen on that task force takes a bus on a regular basis, I would like to remind Councillor Benham that the individual who led the three people protesting on BRT, the leader never rode the bus either. That's all I have to say.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor, question on the clause. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clause 7, madam clerk.

Item 7 - Agreement for Fire Protection Services for H2ICE Bus Stored at 2535 Inkster Boulevard in the R.M. of Rosser
File GF-1

Motion No. 1
Moved by Mayor Katz
Seconded by Councillor Eadie

WHEREAS the name of the organization that the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service recommends the City enter into an agreement with for fire protection services for the H2ICE bus stored at 2535 Inkster Boulevard in the R.M. of Rosser was incorrectly referenced in the administrative report dated December 7, 2004;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all references to the "Canadian Transportation Fuel Cell Alliance" referred to in Item 7 of Report "A" of the Executive Policy Committee dated December 8, 2004, and the attached administrative report dated December 7, 2004, be deleted and replaced with the correct legal name of the organization, "Economic Innovation and Technology Council".

Mr. Speaker: The reason this was stood down was that there was an error in a name referred to within the clause. We have moved by Mayor Katz, seconded by Councillor Eadie to correct that error within the text. All in favour of the amendment? Contrary? Carried.

On the clause as amended, Mr. Mayor did you wish to introduce the clause.

Mayor Katz: No, I don't, Mr. Speaker you basically said exactly what the situation is that there was a mistake and I believe very much that we have to provide this service, considering the fact that they are at risk, I think its up to us to be there for them.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor. On the clause as amended Councillor Steeves.

Councillor Steeves: Just for the benefit of the members of the Protection and Community Services Committee, Councillors Gerbasi, Benham and Councillor Smith who isn't with us, this didn't come through committee just because of the timing that was needed, and it's going through Executive Policy Committee in that way. It's a little unusual, all it is intentionally is simply the City of Winnipeg because we are the Winnipeg Transit has entered into an agreement to run a hydrogen bus over the course of the next little while, which in it of itself is very very exciting news I should say.

We are going for this specific purpose because the bus is going to be housed in the R.M. of Rosser, we're entering into a contract to provide emergency fire medical services if needed. That's all we're doing, so it's a, no I just want to make sure they know, I know from the benefit of Council who love to hear me speak, I wouldn't want to disappoint them, its just to let you know that's were its going and to underline Mr. Speaker what an exciting initiative this is and we can all get behind this great transit initiative and I've still got seven minutes to fill Mr. Speaker so I don't quite know where I'm going to go with this.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Motions none, by-laws, second reading Mr. Mayor.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mr. Mayor: I move that the following by-laws be read a second time, By-law No. 112/2004, 135/2004 and 145/2004 as amended.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Mr. Speaker: By-laws Mr. Mayor.

Mr. Mayor: I move that By-law No. 191/2004, 192/2004 and 193/2004 be read a first time

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 191/2004, 192/2004 and 193/2004.

Mayor Katz: I'll move that By-law No. 191/2004, 192/2004 and 193/2004 be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 191/2004, 192/2004 and 193/2004.

Mayor Katz: I'll move that the rule be suspended and that By-law No. 191/2004, 192/2004 and 193/2004 be read a third time, and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Speaker: Questions. This is in respect to Christmas they'll be no transit questions today. Councillor Benham, followed by Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Benham: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Mayor about federal funding for the capital costs of community centres. The Mayor has said he has been assured by the President of the Treasury Board, Mr. Alcock that the 17 million dollars designated in federal money designated for bus rapid transit under the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Program which has been returned by the city would flow back to Winnipeg under some other program. Mr. Speaker, what program, what federal program will deliver 17 million dollars to Winnipeg for the capital costs of community centres.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor Benham. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Thank you for the question. Mr. Speaker after meetings with both the President of the Treasury, Reg Alcock and Mr. Godfrey, they have emphatically stated with many people in attendance that the 17 million dollars is there waiting

for us to decide where it's going to go. That same applies to the premier of the province and unless I'm not aware of something I don't recall returning the cheque of 17 million dollars but I do stand to be corrected. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Supplemental Councillor Benham.

Councillor Benham: Mr. Speaker is the Mayor able to site any criteria of any federal program that currently exists to provide cities with the capital costs for community centres.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I can tell you right now what both the Premier and the President of the Treasury along with Mr. Godfrey are waiting for, is for Council to determine what we intend to do with these monies as far as recreational facilities are concerned and when we decide we will let them now and life will be wonderful again. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor. Final supplemental Councillor Benham.

Councillor Benham: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Is the Mayor able to site any federal program at any time in the history of Canada which provided cities with the capital costs for community centres.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I haven't studied that history as we speak but I can tell you at this point in time, I'm not aware of anything specifically but I will tell you that one, the money is there waiting for us and I think that's what is really important on this issue.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor. Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. On September 27 we had a Council seminar to discuss how to deal with the PUFS study and the decision there was to ask the administration to provide a plan for public consultation and for consultation with Councillors to decide what to do. We were told that this would be done in about 4 to 6 weeks and to date we haven't heard yet back and what I'm asking is are we going to hear something as to when the timelines are for beginning to consult with the public on the PUFS study recommendations.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Thank you Councillor Gerbasi. That is absolutely correct, what was just stated and my understanding right now from administration is they are just completing that report and I'm sure in the beginning of the new year we will be having another Council seminar where we will have the input and we will get the recommendations from administration.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor. Supplemental Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Since we haven't got this plan and we haven't made any decisions yet, how is it possible for the Mayor to already be approaching other levels of government with requests for funding. Are those requests just completely generic or are they specific or do they have to wait until we get those projects and those decisions decided.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Thank you, you may have misunderstood the comment that I made during the prior question. What I was saying is both levels of government are waiting for Council to decide what we want to do, obviously we'll first get the report from administration, we will then have our seminar, we will discuss, hopefully will make some wise decisions, once we have those decisions made we will go and chair that with both the federal and provincial governments.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor.

Councillor Gerbasi: I have a question for the second round.

Mr. Speaker: What second round?

Councillor Gerbasi: The second round we're going to have.

Mr. Speaker: There has to be someone in between. Councillor Benham.

Councillor Benham: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Under the rules as we discussed last time, I would like to direct my next question to Councillor Wyatt in his capacity as Chair of the Rapid Transit Task Force. Mr. Speaker I understand the task force has begun its meetings with interested parties such as the Institute of Urban Studies at the University of Winnipeg and the Transport Institute at the University of Manitoba. Mr. Speaker I ask Councillor Wyatt through you are these meetings open to Councillors and the public.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: The task force right now is meeting as an organization as a group and we'll continue to do that. We've been given a job to do and the deliberations of the task force are such that it's the task force job to do those deliberations and work towards its goals. You know it's important that the task force come forward with clear recommendations of what the recommendations are for Council and that is the process that we have before us and that's what we're working towards.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor.

Councillor Benham: Mr. Speaker on a second question on the same topic directed to Councillor Wyatt, why wouldn't Councillor Wyatt open up meetings that are being held at public expense, we've just given him a budget in order to do that. Why would he not open up meetings to let the process that he's describing take place and hear from experts at the Institute of Urban Studies and the Transport Institute, why would he not want the public to get the same information that the task force is getting.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The public's going, there's going to be a very transparent process, it's probably one of the most transparent processes city halls undergone in quite a while Mr. Speaker. We have slated public workshops and consultations coming up in January and it will be a chance for across the city to engage the public in what they see as their concerns and issues with regards to transit and the future of rapid transit in the city. Not only are we going to have public consultations take place in January, we're going to hopefully as the target work plan has indicated have a discussion paper in the spring which will again involve workshops and public dialogue.

So were actually having not only one round of workshops, we're having two rounds of workshops with the public. I think it's a very transparent process. It's a very open process. We've supplied information on the website once the public meetings, the dates and locations have been determined for January. That will be supplied on the website. They'll be a questionnaire on the website for the public to actually go on and have the opportunity to have input on the questionnaire. As was pointed out by Councillor Benham, we've met with the University of Winnipeg so far, the Urban Institute, we will be meeting actually tomorrow with the University of Manitoba Transport Institute and we're actually going to be meeting with different groups and interest groups out there that names of which have been supplied by Councillors actually.

So we have a very open, very transparent process and it's been an excellent process up to now and I think the work being done by the task force is tremendous and the advisory council, the dedication of these citizens is wonderful.

So we have a very transparent public process and it's very clear and it's been outlined. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Final supplemental Councillor Benham.

Councillor Benham: Thank you. Will the format of those workshops and public consultations allow public interest groups such as the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, Social Planning Council, Labour Council and others, will the format allow them to present publicly to the task force and to the public obviously their views on bus rapid transit in the form of a brief or presentation.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: These organizations actually named by Councillor Benham will be probably, will be approached to ask to make presentation to the task force. A time set aside just for them actually because of their importance in the community. And so they will have a chance to make a presentation as well if they want a written submission with that and as well yes absolutely they will have like any other members of the public, a chance to participate. The neat thing about the, the important thing about the workshops is the fact that there will be a workshop fashion to ensure that every citizen has an opportunity to express their concerns and their ideas that quite often you and I and members of this Council we're used to public speaking, we're used to standing up in front of a microphone and speaking to an audience. A lot of the members of the public are not, it will be done in a format which will be done with workshops which will allow people to express themselves in smaller groups and that, all that information recorded in those ideas forthcoming to the task force and advisory council.

So, it's a very transparent process and the organizations named by Councillor Benham will be contacted actually and asked to make a submission to the task force. So, thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you. I'd like to direct this question to Councillor Magnifico as chair of the Red Tape Committee. And by the way, thanks to him for raising this rule last time so we're now allowed to question people who aren't on Executive Policy Committee who are chairing task forces. We're going to have lots of fun.

The Red Tape Committee appears too been given a broad mandate. The material handed out at the press conference at the Fairmont stated no program, service or department will be exempt from review. Considering that we spent 500,000 dollars in the past, with the one review of the police department alone and that the rapid transit task force has a budget of 220,000 dollars and has hired three different consulting firms, considering the size of this task force's mandate, what will the budget be for this taskforce and where will that money come from.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Magnifico.

Councillor Magnifico: Thank you for your interest Councillor Gerbasi. I felt neglected over time here. First of all our budget for this, we've made a point of trying to keep it as small as possible because we don't want to spend a fortune doing this. Our budget is around 120,000 dollars and I believe the bulk of it is coming right from the Mayor's office. Now, or through the Mayor's people. The reason for this is our project date is also roughly six months. We've tried to keep the associations that we're dealing with on a regular basis to help source some of the work out for us. The groups that we're dealing with, they need some information about red tape through some of the work force and they've all been very very cooperative in doing this.

I think it's, as was mentioned it's going to be a wide range of companies and people that were going to deal with all the way from heavy construction to a plan for Grey Cup tickets for charities and fundraisers, for animal rights activists, things like that, there's all kinds of ways that we're going to ask for input from these groups and what ever we get from them is going to help us in our decisions. You've seen the letter from the CAO, Annitta Stenning to the administration, you've all seen copies of that in the last day or two and that's another part that we're going to use immensely because the administration is

going to be very helpful in this and I think seeing the extent and as you mentioned the immense size of this project our budget is extremely extremely frugal and I expect to see great results.

Councillor Gerbasi: Yes, Mr. Speaker, will Councillor Magnifico ensure Council that the full amount to be spent by the committee and the source of that money will be made public with some documentation as to how it will be spent within 30 days please, that's my request.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Magnifico.

Councillor Magnifico: I can't guarantee you it will be within 30 days but it certainly not going to be something hidden, it'll be transparent and if I can get together with my, it is Christmas after all you see and if I can get everybody together and get our numbers together I don't see a problem, if not, the transparency of this isn't going to be something we're trying to hide. We'll show you exactly where every dollar went. We haven't got a problem with that. Within 30 days, can't guarantee it, but definitely you'll get the information.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Final supplemental Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Do you intend, Councillor Magnifico through the speaker, do you intend to be finished this project reviewing every program, service and aspect of what the city does in 6 months, that's seems a little unrealistic. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Magnifico.

Councillor Magnifico: It might seem unrealistic but you know I'll tell you, we have a great commission that's working very hard towards that end and there'll all on board with the same idea, the administration is on board with the same idea, maybe we're being a little optimistic but really we believe we can do it, we hope to have this done by May 31, sounds, I know it sounds optimistic but you know what I'm an optimistic kind of guy. I'm hoping this works that way, because that's what I'm shooting for.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Excuse me there are only two rounds of questions permitted. Permitted under the Procedure By-law 14.3 and the second round is very conditional, there is no, nothing within our by-law to allow a third round of questioning and we've never run into the necessity of this on a regular basis before, however it seems to be coming up. I've checked the by-law under 14.3 it allows only for a second round and then only under conditions which have been met.

Councillor Benham: Mr. Speaker, a point of order then your saying the precedent you've already set in previous question periods where there was more than, where there were more than two rounds given that your not recognizing your own precedent and that your correcting.

Mr. Speaker: Because of ignorance and having read it carefully, the one time that I did allow a third round of questioning was, had not come up before.

Councillor Gerbasi: Point of order Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Gerbasi: Could I, is there a process where I can ask Council to allow for a third round of questioning today in this case and ask for consent.

Mr. Speaker: There is always a procedure where we the rules can be suspended which requires, you may always stand up and ask that the rules be suspended for a specific purpose.

Councillor Gerbasi: I would so ask that the rules be suspended.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi has moved that the rules be suspended to allow a third round of questions under EPC questions. All those in favour? Recorded vote on suspension of the rules to allow for a third round of questioning under Executive Policy Committee. All in favour of suspending the rules please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillor Benham, De Smedt, Gerbasi, Magnifico, Pagtakhan, Smith, Steeves, Thomas, Wyatt.

Nays

His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Eadie, Clement, Lubosch, Lazarenko, Mr. Speaker Councillor O'Shaughnessy.

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 9, Nays 6.

Mr. Speaker: The rules are not suspended, 10 votes would be required out of 15, be it two thirds. Moving onto the report of the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues, Councillor Clement the report of December 7, 2004.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FISCAL ISSUES DATED DECEMBER 7, 2004

Councillor Clement: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move the Fiscal Issues Committee meeting dated December 7, 2004, Item 1 to 4 as consent and I'd actually like to speak to 2, 3, 4.

Mr. Speaker: Then you would have to have them all stood down.

Councillor Clement: Then I'll ask that 2, 3, and 4 be stood down so I can explain it.

Mr. Speaker: On clause 1 as consent, all in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clause 2 madam clerk.

Item 2 - Deficit Avoidance - Commitment Reserve, Waterworks System, Sewage Disposal System and the Equipment and Material Services Funds - File FE-5

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Clement.

Councillor Clement: I'd like to speak to all 3 at the same time if that's allowed.

Mr. Speaker: Sure, I still have to introduce them all one at a time.

Councillor Clement: That's okay. There's three deficit avoidance issues in front of us and while I appreciate that they're likely going to be passed I think we should explain them because if we don't the current situation is that we have a short fall in 2004 of 12.2 million dollars and if we don't pass these three, that 12.2 million dollars would have to be forwarded to next years current budget and I don't think we want to do that. So this is actually fairly significant.

I'd like to congratulate frankly our finance people and all of our directors for working diligently over the last number of months to create as small a shortfall as possible and through expenditure reductions and good and proper management and they've clearly done that to get it down from over 20 million down to 12.2.

These three clauses essentially do the following. The first one, allows a 1.6 million dollar transfer from equipment and material services fund. It also allows for approximately $800,000 to be moved to this bottom line from the commitment reserve. It allows about a $500,000 amount of money to be moved from water and waste utilities which they offered up by the way in lieu of some other expenditures that they had in sanitation over expenditures and that totals about 2.9 million dollars.

The second clause that deals with the snow fund puts approximately another 6.7 million dollars into the mix. It winds up eliminating the existing snow reserve and reinventing it if you like with a little bit stronger policy direction and it will and the $700,000 residual Mr. Speaker will be transferred from the existing fund into the new one.

When you do that, the two and three you're left with a short fall of about 2.6 million dollars. What number four does is it allows the interest from the mill rate stabilization account and the fiscal stabilization account from 2004 which is approximately 1.7 million dollars which has not gone into the reserves yet to be

dropped to the bottom line to reduce the deficit from 2.6 to about 900,000.

I can tell you that over and above that that we are aware of about 400,000 dollars more that we think will drop to the bottom line but we can't prove the numbers yet and the trouble is this is the last meeting of the year. We believe that that, and we all know that the numbers get better in January and February in terms of the previous year document and so we believe that we are going to get this number down to about a half a million dollars and but what number four also does is it allows us to take what ever the residual is whether its 200,000, 500,000, 700,000 out of the fiscal stabilization account for unforeseen which is what we believe the photo radar number is because we clearly believe that the numbers based on all of the data provided us with an unforeseen situation in that account and that's what 2, 3, and 4 do and the bottom line in the end will be that we go into next year's current budget with no carry over from 2004 and we're going to have a difficult time with that document I'm sure, we're not going to all enjoy all of that, so I really don't want to bring anything forward from this budget into that one.

These three clauses clearly allow us administratively to deal with all of our issues. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Question on clause 2, all in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clause 3, all in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clause 4, all in favour? Contrary? Carried. Motions none, by-laws Councillor Clement.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FISCAL ISSUES
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS**

Councillor Clement: I'll move that By-law No. 190/2004 and 194/2004 be read a first time.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 190/2004 and 194/2004.

Councillor Clement: I'll move that By-law No. 190/2004 and 194/2004 be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 190/2004 and 194/2004.

Councillor Clement: I'll move that the rule be suspended and that By-law No. 190/2004 and 194/2004 be read a third time, and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Questions of the chair of Fiscal Issues, none.

Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, report of December 2, 2004 Councillor De Smedt.

**REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
DATED DECEMBER 2, 2004**

Councillor De Smedt: I'm like to introduce the Report of December 2, 2004 and move adoption of consent Agenda Item 1.

Mr. Speaker: Do you wish to have it stood down Councillor Wyatt. There is only one item.

Councillor Wyatt: No.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Motions none, By-laws none. Questions of the chair of Downtown Development, Councillor Gerbasi.

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
QUESTION PERIOD**

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Fortunately we have move than one question periods. I can still try to

obtain the information that this transparent Council would like. My question is regarding the Esplanade Riel, there's been recent protests by several St. Boniface residents, many of them young people regarding EPC's decision to not make bilingual service a requirement for potential business's leasing on the Esplanade Riel and given that the Councillor for St. Boniface stated yesterday that bilingual service on the bridge should be mandatory, will the chair of the Downtown Development Committee and the Property Committee speak to EPC and urge them to reconsider this decision and make bilingual service a requirement out of respect for the crucial symbolic role the bridge plays for our French quarter.

Mr. Speaker: Is that bridge within our Downtown?

Councillor Gerbasi: Well it's in the downtown.

Mr. Speaker: Is it within our downtown; is it within your jurisdiction?

Councillor De Smedt: East side of the bridge is.

Mr. Speaker: Then answer the question.

Councillor De Smedt: Well I'd like to thank Councillor Gerbasi for the question. I can certainly take the comment under advisement but we've already have issued the RFP and we are just standing by and letting the process work. So, I understand

Mr. Speaker: Would that RFP report to your committee?

Councillor De Smedt: It would come through the Downtown Development, I think so.

Mr. Speaker: It would go through Downtown? Okay.

Councillor De Smedt: So the process is under way, I know there are some contrary views out there but there's also a majority view that I think this made sense in the business context of what we're trying to do and I think the Mayor had spoken very eloquently on this before, is that it would probably be most unusual for any business to want to operate on that particular structure and not be providing some service in the French language as well as in the English language or any other that they deem important to the business structure that they're in. So, I thank the Councillor for the observation.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Supplemental Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Given what was just stated that it makes good business sense and they probably provide the service anyway, I'm just wondering why would the committee and the committee that you chair not, which they could easily reconsider this decision and easily make that change, why would they not do so.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Councillor De Smedt.

Councillor De Smedt: Just to keep it simple, this is not a government service which we have obligations for bilingual service, this is a bilingual city, we dedicated that. But as you may or may not know in discussion with the representation from Enterprise Riel and others in the community when the question was asked, do they require private sector businesses who are along Provencher Boulevard or Tache or Marion to provide services, mandatory in French, and the answer is no. So, this is a private sector operation that we used to have on the site. I'm sure they'll respect the wishes of the community, but this is not a mandatory government service.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor.

Moving onto the Standing Policy Committee of Property and Development, Report of November 30, 2004 Councillor De Smedt.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPEMENT DATED NOVEMBER 30, 2004

Councillor De Smedt: Thank you, I'd like to introduce the Report of November 30,

2004 and move adoption of consent Agenda Item 1 to 10.

Mr. Speaker: Number 1 to be stood down. Number 10.

Item 2 to 9 as consent. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clause 1, madam clerk.

**Item 1 - Subdivision - south side of rue Messager between avenue Taché and rue St. Joseph
File DAS 19/2004**

Councillor De Smedt: Mr. Speaker I would just here the question from the Councillor who stood it down.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Magnificio.

Councillor Magnifico: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say that I've lived and worked in north St. Boniface for many 30 years and have watched it deteriorate slowly over time. Today is a huge step in the right direction for that area.

One of the reasons I was elected by my constituents was to breath a little life into our St. Boniface, to create some new neighbourhoods, to allow our friends and families that have moved away an opportunity to move back to where they grew up and their sons and daughters to come back because they has been no new development in north St. Boniface for a long long time.

Mr. Speaker I've watched helplessly over the years as nothing has happened. Now I see a bright future with many new projects ready to begin in north St. Boniface, my priorities for St. Boniface include economic development through density of population. This small little sub division is the first step towards that reality and I thank you for your time.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Councillor De Smedt summing up.

Councillor De Smedt: Mr. Speaker I would just like to thank Councillor Magnifico for his support of this project I mean we all understand that its an area of the city and particular St. Boniface that has to evolve. It's not an easy task but what's being presented here today I think is a good first step and we look forward to other iterations as we move ahead. Thank you. I move the clause.

Mr. Speaker: Question on clause 1, all in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clause 10 madam clerk.

**Item 10 - Joint Venture Agreement with Genstar Development Company - Jointly Owned lands within the Transcona-West Area
File FI-2.4(33)**

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Chairman.

Councillor De Smedt: Mr. Speaker I'll just allow Councillor Wyatt, he really wants to speak on this matter. I'll listen to the questions.

Mr. Speaker: So kind of you to allow him. Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Mr. Speaker thank you. I rise this is well a great day for Winnipeg and for the community that I represent. It's taking a lot of time and energy to arrive at this point in time to bring this joint venture forward. The joint venture with Genstar will allow for a planned and staged development, it will require a secondary plan which is now being worked on by our administration to plan the area so we know where the roads will go, where the parks will go, where the schools of the future will go, where the bike paths will go, the walking paths, it will allow for a planned area as well as give guidance to the joint venture on the phasing of the actual development.

It will ensure that there's an opportunity for in fill housing in the city which is desperately needed as we know with the shortages of lots. This land is already under Plan Winnipeg Neighbourhood Policy Area, its not rural policy its neighbourhood policy area, this is good development, good planning, there's a huge opportunity here not just for single family homes but also multi family for seniors housing and it will allow for the

growth of our city in a reasonable plan way.

I want to thank the administration for their dedication and their help on this, all members of the Property and Development Committee as well for their dedication who've helped the chair who's shown strong leadership on this to bring this forward. I want to thank him for his assistance and Councillor De Smedt and also the Mayor for his support on this as well which made this possible bringing this forward today.

This is a positive development for the community, the community is very excited about it as its going to ensure that they will be an opportunity for not only growth in Transcona but for the entire city of Winnipeg. So thank you very much Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor Wyatt. Councillor De Smedt.

Councillor De Smedt: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I very briefly want to thank Councillor Wyatt as well for his comments; really the remarks should go to the administration who have worked very diligently and quickly in the last several weeks and months to bring this to fusion.

This development is very similar to the successful one that we had in LindenWoods. For those of you who have read through the report with any diligence you will note that the city as a partner rather than just sell the land as available open land which you don't make that much money on with I should say in this particular context being part of a development agreement with Genstar were able to probably net some 6 million dollars if you read the report over the space of this particular development.

So I think it goes towards our bottom line in an appropriate way and allows that part of the city to evolve as well.

So with that Mr. Speaker I would move clause 10 of the report November 30, 2004.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Report A of November 30, 2004 Councillor De Smedt.

Councillor De Smedt: I would move report A, clause 1 of the dated November 30, 2004.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Consideration of by-laws Councillor De Smedt.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Councillor De Smedt: I'll move that by-laws numbered 182/2004, 184/2004, 185/2004, 186/2004, 187/2004 and 195/2004 be read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws numbered 182/2004, 184/2004, 185/2004, 186/2004, 187/2004 and 195/2004.

Councillor De Smedt: I'll move that by-laws numbered 182/2004, 184/2004, 185/2004, 186/2004, 187/2004 and 195/2004 be read a first time be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws numbered 182/2004, 184/2004, 185/2004, 186/2004, 187/2004 and 195/2004.

Councillor De Smedt: I'll move that the rule be suspended, and that by-laws numbered 182/2004, 184/2004, 185/2004, 186/2004, 187/2004 and 195/2004 be read a third time, and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Questions? Councillor Benham.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Benham: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker a question to the chair of Property and Development who has stated publicly, I think has shown great political courage in calling for annexation of surrounding municipalities by Winnipeg. Why does he believe that would be a good policy for the citizens of Winnipeg.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor De Smedt.

Councillor De Smedt: Mr. Speaker, this is a very emotive subject and I'm not sure it's one that's appropriate for me to comment on at this particular point in time. I mean I think we have generalized questions that should be reflective of our duties around City Council. Certainly the point that I did make is that when we have evolutions adjacent to our city and our city boundaries, we need to kind of examine the impact it may have. I can't control with precision how the media will report some of these comments, but the fact of the matter is that whether we consider it annexation which is so emotive to our colleagues in the capital region because they look at that as forced annexation. Annexation is not really a terrible word you know, it's really one that includes the joining together of pieces and that interestingly enough was the title of the Paul Thomas report on RPAC, is joining the pieces together.

Fact is that we owe it to ourselves as a city and to the Reeves and Mayors of the Capital Region to be open to discuss the potential limitations in the longer term and of how our city will look in some 25 - 50 years hence. Some of you may still be around in 50 years, some of us may not. It's guaranteed that some of us will not. Fact of the matter is, is that I think what we have to consider right now before we enter any discussions on service sharing that item of revenue sharing is a mandatory consideration and that we need to look objectively at our boundaries of the city at some point in the future. I'm moving very cautiously in my discussion here simply because there's nothing to be gained by creating a fight with our immediate neighbours around the city. What we simply said is that we have to look ahead to the future with the province who has to be a major player. We can't make obviously premature comments about how we're going to deliver services or seek additional revenues from our capital region neighbours but we do have to consider in the longer term what additional lands might be required, hopefully it's voluntarily for arterial routings as we grow the city. I mean our transportation plan whether it be for BRT, LRT, road networks to move people and goods; we're going to have some, some adjustments made at some point in time. And as well we have to look at how we grow and I say this as inclusively, we in the capital region are growing our city to meet the demands of the people as they have so stated that they may wish to live in an ex urban lifestyle, not suburban but ex urban lifestyle that they have the obligation to pay their way, whatever that may be.

So I thank Councillor Benham for the question, this is a subject that will evolve in time carefully. One hopefully without ranker amongst ourselves and our neighbours of what it may mean as we look ahead some 25 years and what the city might look like. In my view, I believe the boundaries of the city will look somewhat differently, unless there is some significant understandings of how we develop those infrastructures costing and who pays along the way and how we share applicable revenues to make sure that we're all contributing to the collective of the city of Winnipeg or the greater city of Winnipeg. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Supplemental Councillor Benham.

Councillor Benham: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I thank Councillor De Smedt for his thoughtful answer. What steps will Councillor De Smedt take next to further this policy proposal. Will he make a motion before Council advocating annexation?

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Councillor De Smedt.

Councillor De Smedt: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The quick answer to number two, no, this is not the time however I should mention and I think if you're not familiar with the Council and it's an informal Council of the Mayors and Reeves of the Capital Region, Mayor Katz sits on that, I'm his appointed representative to back him up on that committee. I've been sitting on the Mayors and Reeves Capital Region now since 1999 in an informal way and a formal way depending on who is at the head of our city and by, and also by Council's wishes. Fact is that, we need to work cooperatively; the province is still deliberating how they're going to respond to the RPAC report, the Regional Planning Advisory Committee Report chaired by Professor Paul Thomas. It is the third major report in the last 15 years, CAAR report was one, the Scarth report was number two and now we have the Thomas report, number three trying to deal with this mystery of the capital region and how it can logically grow.

It's to our benefit to allow the process to work collaboratively I think in an innovative way and I say that, there is nothing to be gained by having a fight with our colleagues in rural municipality. And since we are on the public record and people may be watching or trying to table this comment, I wasn't quite prepared for your query this morning, but simply to say that we have to find the balanced line of what it means to grow the city, we are talking and as you may know on January the 4th about whether we have a change to a neighbourhood policy in the Waverley West area, that's something that this Council will have to deal with later on next year, but the fact is that in dealing with our rural municipalities who have always had demands and wishes for services such as water and waste water and transit and police and fire but I have to you know keep pointing out that we're not there to necessarily see their municipality depreciate but I'm also in representing the city as you are not here to watch our city not grow in a sensible way and an uncompetitive manor.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor De Smedt.

Councillor De Smedt: I'm sorry I'm boring you Mr. Speaker, but just.

Mr. Speaker: You weren't sir, but the replies to questions under 14.11 say they shall be brief, to the point and shall not provoke debate. So, I liked your start where you said no, but that was enough.

Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services, there's no report today, nor motions, nor by-laws. Are there any questions of the chair? Seeing none, we'll move forward to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works, the report of December 2, 2004 Councillor Eadie.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS DATED DECEMBER 2, 2004

Councillor Eadie: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move the Public Works Committee meeting dated December 2, 2004, Items 1 and 2 be adopted as consent.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Motions none. By-laws.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Councillor Eadie: I'll move that By-law No. 188/2004 and 196/2004 be read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 188/2004 and 196/2004.

Councillor Eadie: I'll move that By-law No. 188/2004 and 196/2004 be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 188/2004 and 196/2004.

Councillor Eadie: I'll move that the rule be suspended and that By-law No. 188/2004 and 196/2004 be read a third time, and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Consideration of by-laws first reading only.

Councillor Eadie: I'll move that By-law No. 189/2004 be read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Questions? None. Councillor Lazarenko.

Councillor Lazarenko: Mr. Speaker, once again at this time of the year, Council will be adjourning to be prepared for the upcoming year I would just like to say like I do each and every year, Khrystoc Razdayetsia, Happy Hanukkah and those who are celebrating the Julian calendar also a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and to Members of Council very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, may your New Year be prosperous and number one healthy above all.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor Lazarenko.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Eadie, Benham, Clement, De Smedt, Gerbasi, Lubosch, Magnifico, Pagtakhan, Smith, Steeves, Thomas, Wyatt, Lazarenko and Mr. Speaker Councillor O'Shaughnessy.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Lazarenko's motion of adjournment has been passed and we are now adjourned.

COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 11:39 a.m.