

THE CITY OF TORONTO

Clerk's Department

Minutes of the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee

Meeting No. 3

Tuesday, February 24, 1998.

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee met on Tuesday, February 24, 1998, in Committee Room A, 2nd Floor, Metro Hall, Toronto, commencing at 9:30 a.m.

Members Present:

Mayor Lastman, Chair
Councillor Berardinetti
Councillor Berger
Councillor Chong
Councillor Disero
Councillor Fotinos
Councillor Jakobek
Councillor Ootes
Councillor Pantalone
Councillor Prue
Councillor Rae
Councillor Saundercook

Regrets:

Councillor O'Brien

Also Present:

Councillor Adams
Councillor Ashton
Councillor Duguid
Councillor Holyday
Councillor Johnston
Councillor Jones
Councillor Kelly
Councillor Kinahan
Councillor Korwin-Kuczynski
Councillor Layton
Councillor Lindsay Luby
Councillor Mammoliti
Councillor Moscoe

Confirmation of Minutes.

On motion by Councillor Fotinos, the Minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee held on February 3, 1998 were confirmed.

31. Process to Develop Property Tax Implementation Plan

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee had before it a joint report (February 10, 1998) from the Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, proposing a process and timeframe for the development and consideration of a property tax implementation plan by Council, and recommending that:

- (1) Council adopt the process outlined in the report to develop the taxation policies and administrative details necessary to support a tax implementation plan for its consideration;
- (2) Council establish a task force or committee on taxation policy and approve the related terms of reference identified in this report; and
- (3) the appropriate City of Toronto officials be authorized to take the necessary actions to give effect thereto.

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee also had before it:

- (i) letter from Chartered Accountants of Canada dated February 20, 1998, regarding the elimination of the Business Occupancy Tax and the application of the money previously raised by this tax onto property tax bills; and
- (ii) transmittal letter (February 20, 1998) from the Assessment and Tax Policy Task Force recommending:
 - (a) the adoption of the joint report (February 10, 1998) from the Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer; and
 - (b) that future staff reports on the property tax implementation plan be addressed and forwarded to the Assessment and Tax Policy Task Force for consideration.

On motion by Councillor Fotinos, the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee recommended to Council that:

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- (1) the joint report (February 10, 1998) from the Chief Administrative Officer and the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer be adopted; and
- (2) future reports prepared by City staff on the property tax implementation plan be addressed and forwarded to the Assessment and Tax Policy Task Force for consideration.

(Report No. 3, Clause 2)

32. Reassessment and Tax Policy Information and Communications Plan

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee had before it a joint report (February 10, 1998) from Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, outlining a proposed information and communication strategy that supports both:

- (i) a public education campaign that informs the public of the tax reform issues related to reassessment; and
- (ii) a plan detailing the distribution of the preliminary estimated tax impacts on a property by property basis; and
- (iii) recommending that:
 - (1) Council approve the information and communication activities outlined in this report which are budgeted in the amount of \$250,000.00;
 - (2) Council direct that printed copies of the preliminary estimated tax impact data be placed in all City of Toronto public libraries;
 - (3) Council approve the privacy and protection measures outlined in this report respecting the use of the CD version of the preliminary estimated tax impact data; and
 - (4) the appropriate City of Toronto officials be authorized to take the necessary actions to give effect thereto.

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee also had before it a transmittal letter (February 20, 1998) from the Assessment and Tax Policy Task Force, recommending:

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- (i) the adoption of the joint report (February 10, 1998) from Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer;
- (ii) that the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer circulate the preliminary estimated tax impact data to other City Departments and Agencies for input in determining the tax implementation plan, for example, the commercial and industrial data to the Economic Development Department, residential data to the Housing Department and commercial and industrial data to the Culture Officer and the Toronto Arts Council;
- (iii) that the Property Assessment Division of the Ministry of Finance be requested to:
 - (a) make public the valuation models used, neighbourhood by neighbourhood, to value residential properties in the City of Toronto, including any statistical regression equations that were used;
 - (b) make public the quality control studies that were used to evaluate the accuracy of these valuation models, including assessment-to-sale ratios, coefficients of variation and dispersion, and full listing of property characteristics for properties in the ratio studies (including addresses and roll number); and
 - (c) provide to the City of Toronto, in as much detail as possible, information on the valuation models used to assess properties in the other property classes (multi-residential, commercial and industrial) along with the results of accuracy tests used for these classes.

On motion by Councillor Fotinos, the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the aforementioned joint report (February 10, 1998) from the Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Financial Officer and recommendations (ii) and (iii) embodied in the transmittal letter from the Assessment and Tax Policy Task Force dated February 20, 1998.

(Report No. 3, Clause 3)

33. Seniors Property Tax Credit

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee had before it a report (February 10, 1998) from the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, reviewing the appropriateness of continuing

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the Seniors Tax Credit Program and the Tax Deferral Programs provided by the new City of Toronto's former local municipalities, given that assessment reform mandates that a new tax policy be developed and adopted by Council, and recommending that:

- (1) the Seniors Tax Credit Program and the Seniors Tax Deferral Program be cancelled and a new tax policy respecting property tax relief for low income seniors and low income persons with disabilities be considered and adopted by Council pursuant to the Fair Municipal Finance Act, 1997. The new policy must be implemented with the final tax billing;
- (2) residents be advised of the cancellation of the program as part of a forthcoming communication by the new City of Toronto respecting changes to the property assessment and taxation system, and that they be advised of the new procedure in applying for the new tax relief program; and
- (3) the appropriate City of Toronto officials be given the necessary authority to give effect thereto.

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee also had before it a transmittal letter (February 20, 1998) from the Assessment and Tax Policy Task Force, recommending the adoption of the aforementioned report from the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, and advising that it had requested her to provide the Assessment and Tax Policy Task Force with the following:

- (a) an estimate of the extent of the assessment-related tax increases on property owners who are low income senior or low income persons with disabilities;
- (b) a report on the effect of various seniors' tax relief or tax deferral measures on other taxpayers;
- (c) a report on the impact of cancelling existing tax relief measures for seniors; and
- (d) a report on fraud-prevention measures that may be necessary for seniors' tax relief programs.

Councillor Pantalone, Ward 20 - Trinity-Niagara, declared his interest in the foregoing matter in that his father has been a recipient of the \$100.00 Seniors Property Tax Credit.

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee recommended to Council that the report (February 10, 1998) from the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer be adopted.

(Report No. 3, Clause 4)

34. Remuneration and Expenses of Members of Council and of Council Appointees to Local Boards and other Special Purpose Bodies for the period January 1 to December 31, 1998

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee had before it a report (February 6, 1998) from the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, advising, for information, that it is anticipated that the statement of the remuneration and expenses paid in 1997 to each Member of Council in respect of his/her services as a Member of Council or as an officer of the municipal corporation and also to each Member of Council or other person appointed by the Council to a local board or other special purpose body, will be forwarded to the Corporate Services Committee meeting on March 30, 1998, and subsequently to Council on April 15, 1998.

On motion by Councillor Fotinos, the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee received the aforementioned report from the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer.

(Report No. 3, Clause 17(a))

35. Fire Vehicle Standardization - 1998 Interim Capital Budget

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee had report if a transmittal letter (February 18, 1998) from the Budget Committee, recommending the adoption of the report (February 3, 1998) from the Fire Chief, wherein it was recommended that:

- “(1) the amount of \$170,130.00 be deleted inclusive of GST from the \$189,000.00 requested in the 1998 Capital Budget, for the conversion of the aerial ladder vehicles; and
- (2) the balance of \$18,870.00 be requested for the alteration of two pumper vehicles under construction by General Safety Equipment of White Bear, Minnesota. The alterations to the design will allow for the continuation of the multi-purpose rescue/pumper concept of the Department in 1998.”

subject to the funds in the amount of \$18,870.00 for the alteration of the two pumper vehicles being allocated from the Fire Department's 1998 Operating Budget.

On motion by Councillor Fotinos, the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the recommendation of the Budget Committee embodied

in the transmittal letter (February 18, 1998) from the Budget Committee.

(Report No. 3, Clause 7)

36. Acquisition of Replacement Ambulances

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee had before it a transmittal letter (February 18, 1998) from the Budget Committee recommending the following:

- (1) the adoption of the recommendations of the Emergency and Protective Services Committee recommending the adoption of the report (January 27, 1998) from the Commissioner, Toronto Ambulance requesting approval of the acquisition of 24 new ambulance vehicles in 1998 through a bulk order with the Ministry of Health;
- (2) that the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer report on the feasibility of funding these vehicles from the existing reserves for vehicle replacement;
- (3) that the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer report on the savings that can be achieved on ambulance vehicle maintenance; and further that the report also include details of the extra costs required as a result of the hospital restructuring; and
- (4) that the Province be requested to confirm that the cost of transferring patients between hospitals will be paid by OHIP and until such time as confirmation is received, the City be re-imbursed for the cost of 12 ambulances.

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee noted that the Corporate Services Committee had requested the Commissioner of Corporate Services to report directly to Council for its meeting scheduled to be held on March 4, 1998, on the relative merits of purchasing versus leasing the workstations.

On motion by Councillor Fotinos, the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the recommendations of the Budget Committee embodied in the transmittal letter (February 18, 1998) from the Budget Committee.

(Report No. 3, Clause 8)

37. Tax Manager 2000 - Purchase/Upgrade of Desktops

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The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee had before it a transmittal letter (February 18, 1998) from the Budget Committee recommending the adoption of the following recommendations of the Corporate Services Committee:

- (1) that the report (February 2, 1998) from the Commissioner of Corporate Services with respect to the purchasing of Desktop workstations and upgrades to support the implementation of the new Tax Administration System, Tax Manager 2000, at a cost not to exceed \$150,000.00; and
- (2) that the Commissioner of Corporate Services be requested to submit a report directly to Council for its meeting scheduled to be held on March 4, 1998, on the relative merits of purchasing versus leasing the workstations.

On motion by Councillor Fotinos, the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the recommendations of the Budget Committee embodied in the transmittal letter (February 18, 1998) from the Budget Committee.

(Report No. 3, Clause 10)

38. Renewal of Leases of Child Care Centres at O'Connor, Emery and Shoreham Public Schools in North York

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee had before it a transmittal letter (February 18, 1998) from the Budget Committee recommending the adoption of the recommendations of the Corporate Services Committee wherein it was recommended that the report (January 30, 1998) from the Commissioner of Corporate Services be adopted, as follows:

- (1) that financing in the amount of \$21,992.08 be approved;
- (2) authority be granted to renew the leases with the Toronto District School Board for the captioned Child Care Centres, for a one-year term commencing August 1, 1997, and expiring on July 31, 1998, based on the terms and conditions set out in the report dated January 30, 1998, from the Commissioner of Corporate Services, in a form acceptable to the City Solicitor; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Fotinos, the
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recommended to Council the adoption of the recommendation of the Budget Committee embodied in the transmittal letter (February 18, 1998) from the Budget Committee.

(Report No. 3, Clause 11)

39. The Metropolitan Toronto Police Benefit Fund - Amendment to Metropolitan By-Law 181-81

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee had before it a communication (February 16, 1998) from the Chair, Toronto Police Services Board seeking authority to amend Metropolitan By-law No. 181-81 (as amended) governing the Police Benefit Fund for the purpose of granting authority to the Chair of the Toronto Police Services Board to appoint a Member of that Board as that Chair's voting representative at any meeting of the Fund's Board of Trustees.

On motion by Councillor Fotinos, the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the report (February 16, 1998) from the Chairman of the Toronto Police Services Board.

(Report No. 3, Clause 12)

40. Workers' Compensation - Transfer of the former City of York from Schedule 1 to Schedule 2

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee had before it a transmittal letter (February 18, 1998) from the Budget Committee recommending the adoption of the recommendation of the Corporate Services Committee, wherein it was recommended that the joint report February 16, 1998 from the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, and the Commissioner of Human Resources be adopted as follows:

"that Council authorize the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer to remit immediately to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board the amount of \$1,019,411.00 in satisfaction of the transfer of the former City of York from Schedule 1 to Schedule 2 pursuant to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act."

On motion by Councillor Fotinos, the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the recommendation of the

Budget Committee embodied in the transmittal letter
(February 18, 1998) from the Budget Committee.

(Report No. 3, Clause 13)

41. Resolution - Loss of Revenue as a result of Downloading from the Province - Town of Pickering

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee had before it a transmittal letter (February 18, 1998) from the Budget Committee recommending receipt of the communications (December 23, 1997) and (January 22, 1998) from the Town Clerk, Town of Pickering, forwarding the resolutions passed by the Council of the Town of Pickering on December 22, 1997 and on January 19, 1998 expressing its strenuous objection to the proposal received from the Minister of Finance which provides a substantial loss of revenue for the Town of Pickering resulting from the downloading from the Province and setting out various actions to be taken in this connection.

On motion by Councillor Fotinos, the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee received the aforementioned communications.

(Report No. 3, Clause 17(b))

42. St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts - Capital Improvement Fund

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee had before it a transmittal letter (February 18, 1998) from the Budget Committee advising that it had received the communication (October 10, 1998) from the Assistant Clerk of the former City of Toronto advising that on October 6 and 7, 1997, that Council had taken the following action:

- (1) authorized the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts to make use of its Capital Improvements Funds in the amount of \$8,000.00 for the purpose of engaging a theatrical consultant to carry out the preliminary design work with respect to renovations to the Jane Mallett Theatre;
- (2) authorized the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts to engage in a consultative process with appropriate City staff, including staff from the Property Services Division and the Budget Planning and Policy Office;
- (3) directed that the above consultation be extended to include any appropriate working group(s) that may be implemented under that new amalgamated City and that the proposal be reviewed in context of the New City of Toronto's overall strategic plans; and

- (4) directed that the proposal be submitted to the Budget Review Group, or other appropriate funding committee for approval by the new City of Toronto Council.

On motion by Councillor Fotinos, the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee received the aforementioned communications.

(Report No. 3, Clause 17(c))

43. Toronto 2008 - The Olympic Bid

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee had before it a report (February 9, 1998) from the Chief Administrative Officer, seeking Council's endorsement in principle, of the application to be submitted by the 2008 Toronto Olympic Bid Corporation (BIDCO) to the Canadian Olympic Association (COA), to have the City of Toronto chosen as the Canadian Candidate; and recommending that:

- (1) the City of Toronto endorse, in principle, the application to be submitted by BIDCO and City of Toronto representatives to the Canadian Olympic Association (COA), to have the City of Toronto chosen as the Canadian Candidate in the competition to host the 2008 Olympic Games, according to the principles and directions outlined in the report from the Chief Administrative Officer;
- (2) authority be granted to City staff to negotiate an agreement between the City of Toronto, the COA and BIDCO to define the relationship, roles and responsibilities of each in bidding for the 2008 Olympic Games in Toronto. The form and content of this agreement will be subject to the approval of Toronto City Council;
- (3) staff be authorized to participate in negotiations, community consultations and planning refinements to develop the Bid; that quarterly progress reports be submitted; and a full report on all the aspects of the Bid, including the financial and social implications, be submitted to Council for approval no later than June 1999; and,
- (4) the appropriate City staff be authorized to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee also had before it communications from the following:

- (February 18, 1998) from John Sewell, requesting that whether or not the city should make a bid for the Olympics be the subject of public debate;

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- (February 19, 1998) from Michael Shapcott, obo Bread Not Circuses Coalition;
- (February 19, 1998) from Kathleen Wynne;
- (February 24, 1998) from Councillor Jack Layton, forwarding the motions set out below, for the consideration of the Committee; and
- (February 23, 1998) from The Board of Trade in support, in principle, of the City of Toronto's Bid.

The Strategic Policies and Priorities viewed an overhead presentation respecting Toronto 2008 - The Olympic Bid given by Mr. Joe Halstead, Interim Lead, Parks and Recreation.

The following persons appeared before the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee in connection with the foregoing matter:

- Mr. Michael Shapcott, on behalf of Bread Not Circuses Coalition, who also submitted a written presentation
- Ms. Kathleen Wynne
- Ms. Maureen Orton, who also submitted a written presentation
- Mr. Stefan Kipfer, on behalf of the Steering committee, Metro Network for Social Justice
- Mr. John Sewell

The following Members of Council also appeared before the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee in connection with the foregoing matter:

- Councillor Moscoe, Ward 8, North York-Spadina
- Councillor Korwin-Kuczynski, Ward 19, High Park
- Councillor Layton, Ward 25, Don River
- Councillor Holyday, Ward 4, Markland-Centennial
- Councillor Ashton, Ward 13, Scarborough Bluffs
- Councillor Duguid, Ward 15, Scarborough City Centre
- Councillor Johnston, Ward 22, North Toronto

(A) Councillor Jakobek moved:

That the report (February 9, 1998) from the Chief Administrative Officer be adopted; and

That any motions brought forward today be referred to the Chief Administrative Officer for a report on any questions/conditions that must be included in the Bid prior to the City's final commitment to the Bid.

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(B) Councillor Pantalone moved:

That the Chief Administrative Officer be requested to report to Council on March 4, 1998, on how the submissions of deputants and members of Council at the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee meeting held on February 24, 1998 will be considered as the Bid process continues.

(C) Councillor Fotinos moved:

That the following be added to Recommendation 1 of the report (February 9, 1998) from the Chief Administrative Officer:

“and also that Council adopt in principle that the 2008 Olympic bid be socially and fiscally responsible.”

(D) Councillor Layton moved:

- (a) That the Bid Committee develop a strategy to ensure that people without homes, socially isolated people or people in rental accommodation in the city are not negatively affected by the staging of the Olympic Games in Toronto, such strategy to be developed with the help of the Advisory Committee on Homeless and Socially Isolated Persons;
- (b) That the Bid Committee develop a financial strategy for the games which will not impact negatively on the tax rate;
- (c) That City Council and the Olympic Bid Committee consult widely with the community and develop a document similar to the Olympic Commitment which was adopted during the bid for the 1996 Games and that the new Commitment be the subject of full deputations and debate within one year. The Olympic Commitment shall address, among others, the following areas: environmental issues, equity and accessibility, fair wage policies, financial accountability;
- (d) That the Bid Committee be encouraged to develop a bid which will establish any Olympic Buildings as the most environmentally advanced group of buildings ever built. That Toronto's design community be engaged in the process of achieving this objective;
- (e) That the Olympics include a strategy to maximize rapid transit use and minimize automobile use during the games;

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- (f) That the Olympic Bid shall include a strategy for ensuring that the housing produced for the Olympic Village is available to address the housing crisis in Toronto;
- (g) That City Council develop a series of standards against which the evolution of the bid to its final stage can be measured and that Council review the bid periodically to ensure that the standards are being met. Many of these standards will be embodied in the Olympic Commitment;
- (h) That an independent financial audit be conducted, as in the previous bid process for the 1996 games. A process for funding and selecting the auditing firm should be developed by the Chief Administrative Officer and submitted for approval by Council. This audit should examine the bid at various stages of development so that challenges can be identified early enough to be addressed fully;
- (i) That the Olympic Bid Committee be required to submit a complete financial plan for the Olympic Games in Toronto no later than six months from now and that Council be provided with a complete update every six months, documenting and justifying changes which may have been made;
- (j) That no city funds which would have been used to retain municipal employees to ensure a continued level of service to the citizens of Toronto be used in the preparation or staging of the Olympic Games;
- (k) That the Gardiner Lakeshore Task Force and appropriate city officials immediately embark on a process to re-make the Gardiner Lakeshore corridor into an advanced transportation corridor emphasizing and facilitating public transit, providing adequate road capacity and creating redevelopment possibilities;
- (l) That the Chief Administrative Officer consult with the Bid Committee, Councillors and the public to ensure the development and execution of a suitable process that ensures effective public participation (including appropriate intervenor funding). This public participation plan to be brought forward within three months; and
- (m) That the Bid Committee and City staff, working with appropriate social planning agencies in Toronto, develop a full and open independent social impact assessment process for the Games and that this be submitted for Council review and approval within six months.

(E) Councillor Holyday moved:

That the Chief Administrative Officer obtain information quantifying the benefits experienced by Los Angeles, Seoul, Barcelona, Atlanta, and any other cities that have recently hosted the Olympics.

(F) Councillor Ashton moved:

(a) That the Mayor report to Council in the context of the agreement between the City of Toronto, the Canadian Olympic Association and the 2008 Toronto Olympic Bid Corporation (BIDCO) on the establishment and compensation of a Special Committee to guide staff in the preparation of the Final Bid Book and the formal presentation to the International Olympic Committee; and

(b) That City staff meet with the Board of Governors of Exhibition Place to discuss a process to integrate the Olympic venue into a legacy vision for Exhibition Place grounds.

The motion of Councillor Jakobek, as amended by the motion of Councillor Fotinos was voted on and carried unanimously.

In summary, therefore, the decision of the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee is as follows:

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the report (February 9, 1998) from the Chief Administrative Officer, subject to adding to Recommendation No. (1) the following:

“and also that Council adopt, in principle, that the 2008 Olympic Bid be socially and fiscally responsible”.

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee reported to Council having:

(1) **referred the submissions of the deputants and the motions submitted by Members of Council at the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee meeting on February 24, 1998, to the Chief Administrative Officer for a report to Council on March 4, 1998, on how these submissions will be considered as the Bid process continues; and**

- (2) **also referred the aforementioned motions submitted by Members of Council to the Chief Administrative Officer for a report on any questions/conditions that must be included in the Bid prior to the City's final commitment to the Bid.**

(Report No. 3, Clause 1)

44. Acquisition for a Multi-Service Community Facility - 495 Sherbourne Street - (Ward 25 - Don River)

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee had before it a transmittal letter (February 18, 1998) from the Budget Committee recommending to the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee, and Council, that:

- (1) the report (January 29, 1998) from the Commissioner of Corporate Services, respecting the acquisition of 495 Sherbourne Street from Ontario Realty Corporation in the amount of \$2.5 million, be deferred and considered during the Capital Budget process;
- (2) the Mayor be requested to write to the President of the Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC) advising that Council continues to be interested in the acquisition of the subject property, considers it a high priority, requests that it not be sold to anyone else until such time as it has made its final decision, (which is expected to take place shortly), and requests that the ORC respond immediately to the City's request;
- (3) the Chief Administrator Officer and the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer submit a comprehensive report on both the capital and operating costs of this proposal and how it can be dealt with within the context of the five-year budget plan; and
- (4) the Commissioner of Corporate Services report on the:
 - (a) negotiations of the lane closings, east of Bay Street; and
 - (b) details of the appraised values of the property and the lanes.

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the recommendations of the Budget Committee embodied in the following transmittal letter (February 18, 1998) from the Budget Committee.

(Report No. 3, Clause 6)

45. High Speed Network for the City of Toronto

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee had before it a letter of transmittal (February 18, 1998) from the Budget Committee recommending to the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee, and Council:

- (1) the adoption of the recommendations of the Corporate Services Committee, recommending that the report (February 2, 1998) from the Commissioner of Corporate Services wherein it is recommended that:
 - “(1) capital funding, in the amount of \$498.2 thousand, for data cabling, hardware and configuration services be allocated to connect to the global network for the City of Toronto;
 - (2) funding, in the amount of \$569.1 thousand over the next three years be allocated for hardware maintenance and the lease of termination equipment and high-speed network services;
 - (3) the necessary officials be authorized to enter into contracts for the acquisition, implementation and maintenance of the global telecommunications network for the City of Toronto over the next three years;
 - (4) Bell Canada be awarded a contract for the provision of high-speed network connectivity and data cabling for one year with two optional years; and
 - (5) the appropriate officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action in order to give effect thereto.”

be adopted; and

- (2) that the Chief Administrative Officer and the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer report to the next Budget Committee meeting with respect to the financial information system, any plans for future computerization and the matter of software changes to correct the year 2000.

On motion by Councillor Fotinos, the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the recommendations of the Budget Committee embodied in the transmittal letter (February 18, 1998) from the Budget Committee.

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee reported, for the information of Council, that the Corporate Services Committee requested the Chief Financial Officer to submit a report directly to Council for its meeting scheduled to be held on March 4, 1998, clarifying the benefits to be achieved by implementing this high-speed fibre network.

(Report No. 3, Clause 9)

46. Business Education Tax Rate - Communications Plan

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee had before it a report (February 23, 1998) from the Chief Administrative Officer, reporting, as requested by Council on February 11, 1998, on a communications strategy to enlist the support of the public and business against the unfair business education tax scheme which will leave Toronto in a disadvantage position, and recommending:

- (1) That the Committee direct the Economic Development and communications staff to work with representatives of the business community to finalize a communications strategy to address City Council's concerns regarding the business education tax rate issue; and
- (2) That the communications plan resulting from this discussion be brought directly to City Council next week.

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee reported to Council having concurred with the recommendations embodied in the report (February 23, 1998) from the Chief Administrative Officer and having directed that such report be submitted to Council for information.

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee reported, for the information of Council, having directed that the communications plan resulting from discussions between the Economic Development and Communications staff with representatives of the business community be submitted directly to Council at its meeting scheduled to be held on March 4 and 5, 1998.

(Report No. 3, Clause 16)

47. 1998 Operating and Capital Budgets - Revised Meeting Schedule

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee had before it reports (February 19 and 23, 1998) from the Chair of the Budget Committee advising that, due to the unusual circumstances of this year's financial situation and the significance of the budgetary pressures facing the new City, it is necessary to amend the previously approved meeting schedule and recommending that:

- (1) the meeting schedule attached to his report (February 19, 1998) be circulated immediately to Members of Council;
- (2) the meetings of the Committee of the Whole of Council scheduled the week of March 2, 1998, be cancelled and that Council concur with this action at its next meeting;
- (3) the aforementioned meeting schedule be adopted and that the necessary arrangements be made where meetings conflict with previously scheduled Committee meetings;
- (4) in order to accommodate the Special Meetings of Council in Committee of the Whole on April 14 and 15, 1998 to hear depositions from the public, the regular Council meeting scheduled on Wednesday, April 15, 1998 be rescheduled to begin on Thursday, April 16, 1998; and
- (5) in order to accommodate the Special Meetings of City Council on April 28 through May 1, 1998 to consider the 1998 Operating and Capital Budgets:
 - (a) the regular business meeting of the Budget Committee on Tuesday, April 28, 1998 be cancelled; and
 - (b) the regular meetings of the Community Councils on Wednesday, April 29 and Thursday, April 30, 1998 be rescheduled to Wednesday, May 6 and Thursday, May 7, 1998.

On motion by Councillor Chong, the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the reports (February 19 and 23, 1998) from the Chair of the Budget Committee.

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(Report No. 3, Clause 5)

48. Municipal Grants Review Committee

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee had before it a report (February 19, 1998) from the Chair of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee recommending that:

- (1) a Municipal Grants Review Committee composed of eight Councillors be established;
- (2) Councillors Bussin, Chong, Duguid, Flint, Johnston, Jones, Lindsay Luby, and Saundercook be appointed members of the Municipal Grants Review Committee, to be chaired by Councillor Lindsay Luby;
- (3) the Review Committee steer the development of an integrated Municipal Grants Policy for implementation in 1999 and, after consultation with the relevant Standing Committees, recommend approval of the policy to the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee;
- (4) staff consult the Review Committee with respect to grants administration decisions arising from the 1998 budget process;
- (5) for the 1998 interim grants process only, allocations reports normally received by Standing Committees be submitted to the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee for recommendation to Council with the future grants reporting process to be determined through the development of the Municipal Grants Policy for 1999;
- (6) for the 1998 interim grants process only, the Municipal Grants Review Committee be used as the appeal mechanism, to hear and respond to deputations by applicants; and
- (7) the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the report (February 19, 1998) from the Chair of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee.

(Report No. 3, Clause 15)

On motion by Mayor Lastmas, the Committee agreed to extend the time of the morning session past 12:30 p.m. to finish the agenda.

49. Canada Day and Celebrate Toronto Street Festival

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee had before it a report (February 23, 1998) from the Interim Lead for Special Events, recommending that:

- (1) approval be given for an expenditure of \$395,000.00 to market and produce the Celebrate Toronto Festival;
- (2) Council give direction to all city departments and staff to provide full cooperation and in-kind support for the production of this celebration including secondment of staff;
- (3) approval be given to approach the Economic Development grant program to support a Yonge Street road closure on Canada Day; and
- (4) based on the results of the first year, including a comprehensive event audit, Council consider making this an annual celebration.

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee viewed an overhead presentation "Celebrate Toronto! Special Events in the New City" given by Ms. Jaye Robinson, Interim Lead, Special Events.

Councillor Saundercook moved that Council adopt in principle a Councillors' celebration of Caravan if it can be incorporated as a promotional event for the Canada Day Celebrations.

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee recommended to Council that:

- (1) the report (February 23, 1998) from the Interim Lead, Special Events, be adopted, and that funds in the amount of \$395,000.00 be included in the 1998 Operating Budget for Special Events; and
- (2) Council adopt, in principle, a Councillors' celebration of Caravan if it can be

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incorporated as a promotional event for the
Canada Day celebrations.

(Report No. 3, Clause 14)

The Committee adjourned its meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Chair.