

June 3, 2008

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

City Council on May 26 and 27, 2008, referred the following Motion to the Executive Committee:

MM21.1 Implementation of the Fiscal Review Panel's Recommendation Regarding the Streamlining of the City's Budget Process

Moved by Councillor Stintz, seconded by Councillor Parker

SUMMARY:

In October 2007, as part of the compromise reached for the implementation of the Land Transfer Tax and Vehicle Registration Tax, Mayor David Miller commissioned an independent Fiscal Review Panel to investigate the operations of the City and report back in February 2008.

One of the key recommendations of the panel is that the City's budget process be streamlined. More specifically, "The CFO needs to continue to streamline the City's budget process, to complete top-down rolling five-year operating budgets, and ten-year capital budgets, and to have more oversight of the 119 agencies, boards, commissions, and corporations (ABCCs) and out-of-sequence expenditure requests." Furthermore,

- "The CFO and staff should further refine and streamline the City's budget process and take action to address the current 'bottom-up' approach.
- The CFO and staff should complete five-year operating and ten-year capital budgets to help the City make better short- and long-term financial choices.
- The CFO and staff should accelerate adoption of the PSAB Capital Asset Guideline accounting standards scheduled for 2009 to better plan and to avoid implementation difficulties.
- The CFO and staff should undertake a formal review of all assets, asset conditions, and needs, and develop an asset management plan for all major infrastructure assets.

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- The CFO and staff must be involved and consulted on all financial matters having a material impact on the fiscal stability and sustainability of the City.”

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the City Manager and the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer prepare a report to City Council on how this recommendation will be implemented.

for City Clerk

M. Toft/cd