

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Monday August 18th, 2014, 9:00 AM

PRESENT: MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR
COUNCILLOR BOB KENDEL
COUNCILLOR NEIL KROG
COUNCILLOR PATRICK O'DOHERTY
COUNCILLOR GARY SMITH
COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WIRISCHAGIN
COUNCILLOR CHER WYERS

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	D. Allin
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	R. Shephard
CORPORATE OFFICER	D. Heinrich
DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER	S. Winton
MANAGER OF DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING	S. Bird
MANAGER OF OPERATIONS	R. Huston
MANAGER OF BUILDING AND BYLAW SERVICES	W. Kopan
FIRE CHIEF	D. Heriot
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF	K. McKinnon

SPECIAL PRESENTATION TO BRAZILIAN SUMMER STUDENTS

Felipe Rodrigo Pinheiro Rafael and Maitê Machado Bayer
The Mayor presented letters of thanks to the Brazilian summer students, from the Engineers without Borders Program, for their work with the City this summer. He further wished them well in their future studies in Brazil.

CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 9:12am.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA

Adopt Agenda

MOTION: O'DOHERTY / SMITH

RESOLVED THAT the Committee of the Whole adopt the August 18th, 2014, Agenda as presented.

CARRIED.

REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

Graham Watt
Learning Garden at the Grand Forks Recreation Centre

Graham spoke with regard to the Learning Garden and reviewed the proposed plan for the garden.

He requested that Council consider:

- Directing staff to work with the garden planning group to provide options for Council's consideration for using land for the garden;
- Entering into an agreement with the Grand Forks and Boundary Agricultural Society to utilize the City's charitable status for grant proposals for the garden.

It was determined that any pre existing conditions such as buried oil tanks, etc. would be determined ahead of time.

MOTION: SMITH

RESOLVED THAT the Committee of the Whole receives the presentation from Graham Watt regarding the Learning Garden at the Grand Forks Recreation Centre; AND FURTHER recommends that Council direct staff to prepare a License of Occupation for the use of City land adjacent to the skate park and bring the License of Occupation forward to the September 2nd, 2014, Regular Meeting of Council.

CARRIED.

Cavan Gates - BC Rural Network
2014 BC Rural Summit Summary Report

Mr. Gates provided a summary of report of the 2014 BC Rural Summit.

MOTION: SMITH

RESOLVED THAT the Committee of the Whole receives the 2014 BC Rural Summit Summary Report for information.

CARRIED.

Karin Bagn - People's Review Commission

Ms. Bagn advised that she is representing 108 people in Grand Forks who do not support the water meter project. She spoke with regard to:

- the August 21st, 2014 Environment Committee where she requested that the committee support the recommendation for a sub committee and allocation of funds for the sub committee and advised that her motion was not supported
- the Environment Committee did allocate of \$1000 to support the launch of the Kettle River Water Shed Project

-
- her repeated request that Council meet to discuss water meters
 - received advice from a Canadian lawyer to look at the provincial legislation in order to determine whether Council has followed the proper process in the passing of the water meter bylaw
 - a claim has been opened with the Ombudsperson's office and she encouraged the public to call and file their own claim
 - her request to the City for a copy of the contract with Neptune
 - her belief that there is a conflict of interest with City Council in terms of the contract - as 2 people are plumbers or contractors

An unidentified member of the public asked if their water bill will go up.

The Mayor advised that the installation of water meters does not automatically mean that water rates will rise. The rates are in place to cover the operation of the water system.

Ms. Bagn interjected on the conversation; whereas the Mayor recessed the meeting.

The Mayor recessed the meeting at 9:50am

The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 10:03am

The Mayor opened the floor to the public.

Christine Thompson, a member of the public, asked if the community was conserving water this summer due to the controversy with water meters and the awareness to conserve water.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that in the City of Grand Forks water consumption has increased in the 2014 peak times in June and July. He reviewed a graph that showed the water consumption for 2014, illustrating the increase in consumption and that this is the City's worst year on record.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the homeowner is not responsible for any issues with the installation of the meters. The City is insured in to cover any issues that may arise.

The Mayor advised that Water use stats from 2004-2012 total consumption show a drop in consumption in 2007, which the Mayor advised is likely due to shut down of Canpar.

There was discussion from the public regarding:

- the consideration given to reviewing other communities between here and Canbrook
- public education program on water conservation
- environment vs cost savings
- to the user pay system
- water meter and RMF radiation
- water leaks
- the impact of a proposed dam being built at Big White on the Kettle River
- damage to infrastructure annually
- manual reading of electric meters

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that new construction has water meters and electrical meters that are read from the roadside. However, in Area D electrical meters are read manually

- water meter installation in Area D is not within the jurisdiction of the City
- water rights and precedents set by the City's decision to install water meters
- Gas tax dollars and water meters

The Mayor advised that the gas tax covers the meter and the installation.

David Janzen, a member of the public, asked about voting opportunities for people who leave the community in the fall.

The Corporate Officer advised that:

- early voting is on November 5th and 12th
- Council made the decision not to have mail in ballots.

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT the Committee of the Whole receives the presentation from Karin Bagn representative of the People's Review Commission.

CARRIED.

PRESENTATIONS FROM STAFF

Manager of Operations

Summary of Water Meter Installation Information Open House

He spoke with regard to the process for water meter installation.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the City is flexible with regard to timelines and availability for installation and will work with the community.

Mayor advised that residents are currently charged a flat rate for water and there are many variable options of how the utility will be charged.

MOTION: SMITH

RESOLVED THAT the Committee of the Whole receives the summary report from the Manager of Operations regarding the water meter installation information open house.

CARRIED.

The Mayor recessed the meeting at 11:06am

The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 11:23am

Chief Financial Officer
Grand Forks Ministerial request for Permissive Tax Exemption

The Chief Financial Officer reviewed the request from the Grand Forks Ministerial Group with Council and requested that Council consider whether parking lots, vacant land and manses are a necessity for worship. Most municipalities consider parking lots as a necessity but not vacant land.

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT COTW recommends to Council to direct staff to revisit the bylaw for review in the new year.

CARRIED.

MOTION: SMITH

**RESOLVED THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends Council advise staff that the bylaw should remain as is;
And further refer to the September 2nd, 2014, Regular Meeting.**

CARRIED.

Monthly Highlight Reports from Department Managers
Staff request for Council to receive the monthly activity reports from department managers.

MOTION: SMITH

RESOLVED THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends to Council to receive the monthly activity reports.

CARRIED.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

PROPOSED BYLAWS FOR DISCUSSION

Chief Financial Officer
Temporary Borrowing Bylaw No. 1950, 2014 - Emergency Water Supply for Fire Protection Loan Authorization.

The Chief Financial Officer advised that this bylaw refers to Emergency Water Supply For Fire Protection Loan Authorization. This Bylaw is to authorize the borrowing of up to 1.3 million dollars for the planning, study, design and construction of fire flow requirements including additions, well, standby, pump and pipes.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that Council give first three readings to Temporary Borrowing Bylaw No. 1950, 2014 , - Emergency Water Supply for Fire Protection Loan Authorization at the September 2nd, 2014 Regular Meeting of Council.

CARRIED.

Chief Financial Officer

Temporary Borrowing Bylaw no. 1998, 2014 - Capital Renewal Loan Authorization Bylaw

This Bylaw is to authorize the borrowing of up to 4.2 million for multi-utility projects that combine road, water and sewer renewal.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that Council give first three readings to Temporary Borrowing Bylaw No. 1998, 2014 - Capital Renewal Loan Authorization Bylaw at the September 2nd, 2014, Regular Meeting of Council.

CARRIED.

INFORMATION ITEMS

CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

LATE ITEMS

REPORTS, QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL (VERBAL)


QUESTION PERIOD FROM THE PUBLIC

ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 11:49pm.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR


DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER -
SARAH WINTON

AUGUST 18, 2014

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

