

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Tuesday, February 11th, 2014, 9:00 am

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

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	D. Allin
CORPORATE OFFICER	D. Heinrich
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	R. Shepherd
DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER	S. Winton
MANAGER OF DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING	S. Bird
MANAGER OF OPERATIONS	R. Huston
MANAGER OF ENVIRONMENT AND BUILDING INSPECTION	W. Kopan

---

---

CALL TO ORDER

Call meeting to order

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 9:03 am

---

---

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA

Agenda for February 11th, 2014

MOTION: O'DOHERTY

**RESOLVED THAT THE AGENDA OF THE FEBRUARY 11TH, 2014 COTW BE ADOPTED  
AS PRESENTED.**

CARRIED.

---

---

REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

RCMP - Staff Sergeant Jim Harrison presentation

Staff Sergeant Harrison introduced the new Officer in Charge of Kootenay Boundary Regional Detachment, Inspector Tom Roy, and Staff Sergeant Leanne Tuckshire Operations and CO, who are both stationed in Nelson and will spend time in the Boundary.

He further presented the 2013 RCMP annual report on behalf of the Boundary detachment.

The Mayor thanked Staff Sgt Harrison for his connection to the Boundary.

Staff Sgt Harrison advised that:

- "Other crimes" refers to items that are not property or persons related
- His report does not include statistics that does not fall under criminal code offences, such as drug related charges; he can make the statistics available to Council but that they are insignificant.
- The RCMP does respond to each 911 call.
- There are many calls related to deer issues.
- There are no statistics that identify that there are any issues with E Bikes
- There are many cases of internet and other types of fraud, particularly with seniors, in the community.
- The RCMP is not able to address these issues and that INTERPOL is the body that is sanctioned to address this type of fraud. He advised that the RCMP publishes "fraud of the week" to alert the community of different types of scams that are occurring in the area.
- Phone busters is a website that identifies scams and frauds
- E bike operators are not required to have insurance

Councillor Krog advised that he is bringing forward a motion regarding E Bikes to UBCM.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY

**RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECEIVES THE PRESENTATION FROM STAFF SERGEANT JIM HARRISON ON THE 2013 ANNUAL REPORT ON POLICING BOUNDARY REGIONAL DETACHMENT.**

CARRIED.

The Mayor thanked staff and Council for a successful Family Day event.

---

Habitat for Humanity - Rick Friesen presentation

Mr. Friesen presented the current status of the Multi Agency Accommodation Project (MAAP) facility.

He spoke with regard to:

- The change in the proposed structure, to use new construction instead of relocating an existing building
- The request that Council reconfirms their commitment and give early budget approval for the storm drain relocation and identify where the dollars will come from.

Councillor Wyers thanked Mr. Friesen and advised that Habitat for Humanity is the talk of the province as a model for other communities and that this project has made a considerable difference to the community.

---

Manager of Development and Engineering advised that the relocation of the storm drain would need to be moved in order for the new building to go up.

- The use of the Boundary Emergency and Transition Housing (BETHS) has increased
- The majority of individuals using the shelter are locals as opposed to transient individuals

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that this request is included in the 2014 budget process and as per policy requires a resting period, but will be brought back to Council for consideration at the Regular Meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

MOTION: WYERS

**RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECEIVES THE PRESENTATION BY RICK FRIESEN OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AND THAT THE MATTER HAS BEEN REFERRED TO THE 2014 BUDGET PROCESS.**

CARRIED.

---

Rotary - Lynne Burch presentation

Rotary – Ms. Burch made a presentation on behalf of Rotary regarding a proposed spray park project.

Ms. Burch spoke with regard to:

- 3 concepts for the park and included costs and features.
- Reasons why the water park would be good for the community
- Advised that fundraising activities, sponsorship and grants will be used for financing the project.
- Rotary is requesting Council's input on the preferred concept and Council's support and authorization in order to move forward.
- Rotary is requesting the City take a sponsorship role.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the new policy around supporting community requests is in keeping with this request.

Ms. Burch advised that Rotary's preference is for option #3.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that all City facilities will have water meters. The Mayor advised that in Kelowna they tried to be unique in their design and use of local material and trades for a water spray park and it ended up costing considerably more than it would have otherwise.

The gray water system is a retain and reuse system that is unique to this initiative.

The Chief Administrative Officer discussed how a gray water system would work. He further advised that the City does not currently support corporate sponsorship for parks and outside facilities; however, there may be a sign or plaque thanking sponsors and funders.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY

**RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS THAT COUNCIL SUPPORT THE REQUEST FROM ROTARY REGARDING THE WATER SPRAY PARK AND CHOOSES OPTION NUMBER 3, AS PRESENTED BY THE GRAND FORKS ROTARY CLUB AND REFERS TO THE FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL.**

CARRIED.

The Mayor recessed the meeting at 10:14am

The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 10:22am

---

Boundary Country Regional Chamber of Commerce (BCRCC) - James Wilson – Executive Director

James presented a proposal from the Chamber to Council to provide a Fee for Service to the City.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that in 2013 the Chamber received \$10,000 in funding from the City. Currently the City is challenged with maintaining some aspects of the community and sees the Chamber as able to provide a role as a conduit between the City and businesses.

James advised that funds from the City would be used specifically for Grand Forks initiatives and projects and would be managed accordingly.  
Councillor Wirischagin requested a budget be presented or shared with Council from the Chamber.

James invited Council to attend the next Biz after Biz on February 19th, at Jay Wayz Floral Art (Market Ave.) at 6pm.

MOTION: KROG

**RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECEIVES THE PRESENTATION BY JAMES WILSON OF THE BOUNDARY COUNTRY REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND REFERS THE REQUEST FOR FUNDING TO THE 2014 BUDGET PROCESS.**

CARRIED.

---

---

### **PRESENTATIONS FROM STAFF**

Monthly highlight reports from Department Managers

MOTION: O'DOHERTY

**RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECEIVES THE MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORTS**

CARRIED.



The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the new Manager of Operations, Mr. Roger Huston.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the increase in City advertising has been paid for through the utilization of insurance dollars from the fire and the increase is to keep the public informed.

---

#### Manager of Development and Engineering Services – Update on Water Metering

The Manager of Development and Engineering Services provided an update to Council regarding water meters.

She spoke with regard to:

- The Water Meter Open House that was hosted on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and advised that this is the second open house for water meters. The first occurred in May 2011.
- Industrial, commercial and multi-family units have had water meters for 10 years
- Provided an overview of plans that recommend water meters
- The installation and billing timeline
- Process to date
- Next steps and timeline for determining rate structure

The Chief Administration Officer spoke with regard to the business case for water meters and the relationship with the asset management plan.

Graham Watt, Project Coordinator for the Kettle River Water Shed Management Plan, spoke with regard to the Kettle River Water Shed Management Plan and advised that the Kettle River water shed is over used and high summer time use threatens the habitat creating other key concerns for the valley. He advised that he supports water conservation measures in the community.

The Chief Administration Officer advised that the Agricultural Institute provides a water calculator and levels of required water use and further advised that facts and figures and scientific data was provided and prepared by engineering specialists.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that water meters are installed:

1. At the house
2. At the property line
3. Or no water meters in the home, but a flat rate would be applied that is assessed based on the rate structure

He further advised that customers are paying for the purveyance of the water and not the water and whichever option that will be used in Grand Forks will be identified in a policy.

Councillor Wyers advised that the State of the Basin report, by the Columbia Basin Trust, provides a comparison of local communities and their water usage and further that the report was done by a very reputable organization. She further advised that the report identified Grand Forks as the highest water consumer in the Kootenay Boundary.

---

The Chief Administrative Officer advised:

- The City was not granted Gas Tax funding twice (for the implementation of a water meter project) and that he had spoken with the funders directly who advised that the application was not regional in scope.
- He did argue the case with the Province as he and Council believe that water meters have a regional impact particularly with regard to water conservation.
- Grants for infrastructure replacement are essential in order to avoid a 12% increase in taxes over the next 20 years.
- Council would not begin the infrastructure repairs, as per the Asset Management Plan, without a grant, as this would not make sense from a financial perspective.
- The work does need to be done on three identified areas in the City.
- The Government advised Council and himself that it was not likely that the City would receive any infrastructure grants unless water meter installation was undertaken.
- The connection between the infrastructure grants and water meters is that the government has stipulated that water conservation strategies and a requirement for asset management planning to be in place are essential in order to be considered for future infrastructure grants.
- He advised there are no guarantees that the City will receive the infrastructure grant but that the water meter project puts the City in a more positive position.
- In terms of the Asset Management project, no money has been borrowed.

Councillor Wyers advised that grants and funds applied for to the federal and provincial governments are over solicited, so the guidelines that are laid out by the government are strict. She further advised that communities need to show responsibility with water conservation and asset management as this works in our favour. This is the community taking the opportunity to do the right thing.

Councillor Wirischagin agrees with voluntary installs. The Chief Administrative Officer advised that it is up to Council to determine whether meters are installed at the property line as is the case with apartment buildings and trailer parks. He further advised that if requested by the property owner, of a trailer park or the like, for meters to be installed at each trailer and on private property this would be a decision of Council, as the City does not generally work on private property to do maintenance or work.

The Mayor advised that the decision that was made in 1999 to install water meters was during his tenure as Mayor and that this was the beginning of the conversation regarding water meter installation.

Mr. Triveri advised that he was shocked that the City had been turned down by the government for a grant request of 1.3 million dollars for the installation of water meters. There is a perception on the community that the grant was received and was targeted for water meter installation. Mr. Triveri further commented that the debate that is being had right now would have been preferable to have before the decision to install water meters was made by Council, and as it is, the public has had no time to review the information.

---

The Chief Administrative Officer clarified the gas tax funding and advised that:

- The City receives gas tax funding annually.
- The grant for gas tax funding grant opportunity is separate from the annual amount received by the City.
- The amount received annually can be provided to Council.
- The City has 1.3 million dollars for water meter installation that is in place from the annual Gas Tax funding
- Discussions of Council and reports received are presented in open Council meetings and posted in the agendas as required by legislation. All reports have been made available to the public and have been discussed at open Council meetings.

Mayor advised that throughout the mock billing period, the City needs public input and this will assist in identifying extra costs and addressing special circumstances such as gardening. He further advised that Council as a whole made a decision to move forward with water meter installation and it is unlikely that they will change their minds at this point.

There was a request from a member of the public regarding providing to Council additional names to the already submitted petition. The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the additional petition would need to be submitted to the Corporate Officer as per the Community Charter, section 82, and in order to meet the Charter requirements. He recommended that the group meet with the Corporate Officer and review the petition.

Mr. Triveri, requested that the Mayor give permission for the Corporate Officer to receive the petition and be entered into the official record. He asked Council to accept 500 names that are on the petition. The Chief Administrative Officer advised that if the group wanted to submit the petition officially it needed to be submitted to the Corporate Officer as per CC section 82, and that they may submit it as an opinion piece right now, but it will not be considered an official petition. Mr. Triveri asked to submit the petition to Council at this time and handed the petition to the Mayor.

The Mayor asked Council whether they would agree to open up the delegation at the February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Regular meeting to public discussion. After some discussion, Council agreed to open the Regular meeting for full public participation and the Mayor advised the gallery.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY

**RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE RESIDENTIAL WATER METER - UPDATE #3 FROM THE MANAGER OF DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING SERVICES.**

CARRIED.

---

Manager of Development and Engineering Services - Happy Days liquor licence application

The City has received a request from Happy Days for approval to apply for a liquor licence.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY

**RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS THAT COUNCIL SUPPORT THE APPLICATION FOR A LIQUOR LICENCE FOR HAPPY DAYS 50'S DINER AND REFERS TO THE FEBRUARY 11TH REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL FOR DECISION.**

CARRIED.

---

Manager of Development and Engineering Services - 81st Avenue closure

The City received a request from a resident to close a portion of 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue to consolidate it with their property. Notices were sent out to the residences of the neighborhood giving notice and providing an opportunity to identify any issues with the request.

MOTION: WYERS

**RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE REQUEST TO CLOSE THAT PORTION OF 81ST AVENUE AND DIRECT STAFF TO PROCEED WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY TO START AND COMPLETE THE ROAD CLOSURE AND CONSOLIDATION OF THAT PORTION OF 81ST AVENUE WITH LOT 18, PLAN 25445, AND REFERS THE ISSUE TO THE FEBRUARY 24TH REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL.**

CARRIED.

---

Manager of Development and Engineering Services

Fall Fair Society response to questions as to how the society plans to address concerns outlined in the letter from the Manager of Development and Engineering Services.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY

**RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECEIVES THE STAFF MEMO AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM THE GRAND FORKS FALL FAIR SOCIETY AND REFERS TO THE REQUEST TO THE FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup> SUMMARY OF INFORMATION FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AND DECISION.**

CARRIED.



---

The Mayor recessed for lunch at 11:50am  
The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 12:36pm

---

Chief Financial Officer - Capital Budget presentation

The Chief Administrative Officer advised as to how the scoring criteria works for each capital project and that management worked through each item, giving each a score, according to the criteria. The Capital Budget presentation was reviewed with Council. He further advised that over the next few weeks Council will have the opportunity to decide which recommendations presented are priorities.

Councillor Kendel advised that he would like to see some of the like projects lumped together and put into a master plan and prioritized.

Mayor Taylor advised that he was aware that the library basement was not identified as an item in the budget. The Chief Administrative Officer advised that this could be included under the carry forward component until grants became available that could be applied to that space.

MOTION: KENDEL

**RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECEIVES THE PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL PLAN 2014-2018 CAPITAL REQUESTS.**

CARRIED.

---

---

**REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

---

---

**PROPOSED BYLAWS FOR DISCUSSION**

---

---

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

---

---

**CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS**

---

---

**LATE ITEMS**

---

---

---

---

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

---

---

**QUESTION PERIOD FROM THE PUBLIC**

---

---

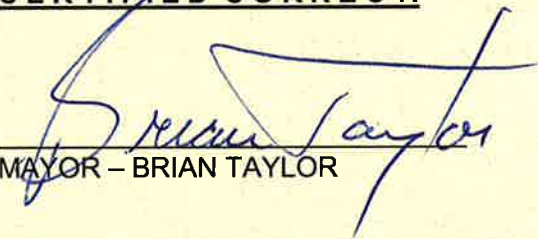
**ADJOURNMENT**

The regular meeting was adjourned at 1:51pm

---

---

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

  
MAYOR – BRIAN TAYLOR

  
DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER –  
SARAH WINTON