

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, February 11th, 2014

PRESENT:

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

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
CORPORATE OFFICER
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
MANAGER OF DEVELOPMENT & ENGINEERING
DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER

D. Allin
D. Heinrich
R. Shepherd
S. Bird
S. Winton

GALLERY

CALL TO ORDER

- a) The meeting was called to order at 3:04 pm

Changes to the Agenda:

- 1) Late Item, Spray Water Park – Grand Forks Rotary
- 2) Deletion of motion to go In-Camera

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- a) Adoption of the February 11th, 2014, Regular meeting agenda

MOTION: O'DOHERTY / KENDEL

RESOLVED THAT THE FEBRUARY 11TH, 2014, REGULAR MEETING AGENDA BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

CARRIED.

MINUTES

- a) January 27th, 2014 – SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: KENDEL / O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT THE JANUARY 27TH, 2014, SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

- b) January 27th, 2014 – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: KENDEL / WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT THE JANUARY 27TH, 2014, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

- c) January 27th, 2014 – REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: KENDEL / O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT THE JANUARY 27TH, 2014, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN / O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL PROVIDE AN INVITATION TO THE DELEGATION OF FRANK TRIVERI – REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE COMMITTEE FOR A MORE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, TO INCLUDE THE INDIVIDUALS OF THE COMMITTEE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC INPUT INTO THE PRESENTATION, AND FURTHER THAT THE DELEGATION BE GIVEN 20 MINUTES TO PRESENT AND THE LARGER GROUP BE GIVEN 20 MINUTES FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.

CARRIED.

REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

a) Frank Triveri - Delegation and Petition

Mr. Triveri spoke on behalf of The Committee For a More Democratic Process.

He advised that:

- Over 500 people signed the petition.
- Thanked Council for accepting the groups petition and including the names that were submitted at the COTW meeting that morning
- He presented the requests outlined in the petition that: Council rescind their motion to install water meters, adhere to the time line that was mailed out with utility bills, do not install water meters until 2015, hold town hall meetings in 2014 and allow open discussion as to the pros and cons of water meters, and make water meter installation an election issue and hold a referendum during the election allowing citizens of Grand Forks to decide the issue.

He further advised that the Delegation is requesting these actions because:

- The committee felt that Council based their decision to install meters based on advice from professional staff, consultants, and a request from senior government and to protect the aquifer;
- He suggested that Council had failed to engage the community regarding water meter installation and there has been opportunity for discussion, and further commented that they felt that consultant reports have not been shared with the community and the feeling that the decision was a "closed door" one.

On behalf of the Delegation, he, again, requested that Council adopt a resolution to rescind the motion to install water meters, and to provide an opportunity for the group to become better informed on the issue, and further, to show the Delegation that democracy is alive, well and living in Grand Forks by allowing the taxpayers the opportunity to make the decision through a referendum vote.

Mayor advised that he could speak to the emergency water supply and advised that instead of building another reservoir, an electrical generation unit, and scada system, the City could meet the demand for water during peak times and would be able to do it more cost effectively this way

Mayor spoke with regard:

- To the emergency water supply for the west end and how the installation of new reservoir could be avoided if the community could curb usage.
- The Sustainable Community Plan deals extensively with water meters
- Borrowing for infrastructure would cost tax payers 12% annually for borrowing
- The community has an infrastructure deficit and is unable to afford repairs without financial aid
- He advised it is for these reasons that the City needs to move forward with the water meters

The Mayor further advised that the community has been in a water conservation training mode for at least 2 years attempting to put in water and environmental controls, but have not seen a lot of change in usage.

A member of the Delegation advised:

- That she has come across information showing that Grand Forks water use is not out of line with other communities
- That she would be willing to work with the City on an education program

Councillor Wirischagin advised that he does not support universal water meters, but does support voluntary use of meters

He spoke with regard to what the referendum question would look like.

Mr. Triveri advised:

- He was concerned with the process taken with regard to the meter installation
- He did not agree that water consumption was increasing

Mayor asked that there be community input into the establishment of rates once the mock billing period was concluded. With public participation, the public may feel more comfortable knowing that the City is not intending to take more money from them.

Mr. Triveri advised that if there was a referendum, he would be the first to sit on the committee.

The Delegation advised:

- They were concerned with regard to volunteer installation, and that the unmetered customers in other communities were charged more
- The sustainability plan didn't identify that water meters were a recommendation in the plan
- There was concern that families would be unfairly billed

Mayor advised that:

- It is not so much the internal water consumption as the exterior usage
- The City has an action plan for identifying weak points in the system and targeting them for repair.
- The charge is not for the water, but on treating it and transporting it.

The Delegation spoke with regard to Urban System's role in the water metering process

The Chief Administrative Officer advised:

- That Urban Systems is involved in the tendering process and will assist with tendering of meter installation, but once awarded to a contractor, the City will manage the process.
- The Chief Administrative Officer advised that Council adheres to the purchasing policy and Urban Systems only provides a review of recommendations, the tender openings occur at City Hall, and are open to the public.

The Delegation asked what the cost is to install water meters to individual homes and how much money the City receives for gas tax money:

The Chief Administrative Officer advised:

- That each water meter installation will cost between \$1800-\$2000
- Clarified that the \$1.3 million is gas tax dollars not a grant
- The amount of gas tax money received annually is approximately \$225,000 per year

The Mayor recessed the meeting at 4:13 pm.

The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 4:21 pm

Councillor Kendel spoke with regard to:

- The City charging a metered amount or flat rate and the difference between the two methods

Delegation voiced concerns on:

- That using water as a commodity is a concern
- Felt communities will lose control of their utilities because they will rely on full cost recovery and will need to make a profit.

Councillor Krog spoke with regard to his concern to the reaction to the user pay system and that the City is considering looking at the cost savings associated with not installing another reservoir.

Delegation commented that:

- User pays for amenities that he may not use and stated "If you take my library away I'll choke you". (Triveri)

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL PUT A MORATORIUM OR HALT ON THE DECISION TO INSTALL UNIVERSAL WATER METERS PENDING FURTHER DIALOGUE WITH THE COMMUNITY.

There was no seconder to the motion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

a) Corporate Officer's Report – Verbal Reports from Council

Councillor Wirischagin
He advised he had no report

Councillor O'Doherty
He reported that:

- He attended the Family Day weekend events and thanked the staff for their efforts

Councillor Wyers
She reported that:

- FCM Head Start for Young Women met for the 3rd session on Jan 31st and that the Coordinator for the program is visiting on February 13th, to attend the Girl Rising film night, and meet with the girls on Friday
- She participated in a Boundary Museum meeting for the historic flour mill, and advised that in the first year there were 1400 visitors, and the first production of flour by the Doukhobor Milling Society and Venture Grand Forks
- She attended the February 6th, Grand Forks Flying Association meeting. The

Fly In will take place on August 24th at Grand Forks Airport. She advised this is not an air show but a fly in and the Elks will be hosting their pancake breakfast. The Committee is developing a website and Face Book page, and data base of flying clubs

- On February 8th she attended the opening ceremonies for Family Day weekend and also participated in the skate at the arena
- She reminded Council of the Boundary Women's Coalition – Girl Rising Film is a fundraiser

Councillor Kendel

He reported that he had no report

Councillor Krog

He reported that:

- He attended Family Day
- He attended the Scotch tasting and there was a great turn out

He spoke with regard to the resolution that he would like to take to AKBLG regarding E Bikes:

MOTION: KROG / WIRISCHAGIN

WHEREAS THE USE OF MOTOR ASSISTED CYCLES (E-BIKES) IS BECOMING MORE COMMONPLACE ACROSS BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CONCERNS HAVE BEEN RAISED REGARDING THE OPERATION OF E-BIKES CONCERNING THE AREAS OF: SAFETY, LICENSING, INSURANCE, AND TRAINING. AS OF TODAY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA YOU CAN PURCHASE AND OPERATE AN E BIKE AND ARE NOT REQUIRED TO HAVE A LICENSE, INSURANCE, OR TRAINING OF ANY KIND.

WHEREAS THESE VEHICLES OPERATE ON PUBLIC ROADS AND THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN ACCIDENTS AND FATALITIES ASSOCIATED WITH E BIKES AS THEY CAN GO SPEEDS OF 32KM, CAN WEIGH OVER 200KG AND THE STOPPING DISTANCE ONCE THE BRAKE IS APPLIED IS 9 METERS. COUPLED WITH THE FACT THAT THEY ARE ALMOST SILENT RAISES THE CONCERN THAT IF THERE IS A COLLISION BETWEEN AN E BIKE AND AN AUTOMOBILE, CYCLIST, OR PEDESTRIAN IT CAN PRESENT REAL INJURY AND LIABILITY ISSUES.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS REQUEST THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW WITH RESPECT TO E-BIKES, AND THE FOLLOWING FOUR POINTS:

THAT THE VEHICLES BE REGISTERED WITH ICBC (SIMILAR TO A SNOWMOBILE)

THAT THE OWNER BE REQUIRED TO TAKE AN APPROVED TRAINING COURSE. (SIMILAR TO THE BC SAFEBOATER COURSE)

THAT THE OWNER HAS LIABILITY INSURANCE THROUGH THEIR HOMEOWNER POLICY OR A SEPARATE POLICY.

WE ALSO CALL FOR DEFINING POWER-ASSISTED BICYCLES AS MOTOR VEHICLES, SO THAT SUSPENDED DRIVERS ARE NOT ABLE TO USE A POWER-ASSISTED BICYCLE TO CIRCUMVENT THEIR LICENSE SUSPENSION.

Councillor Wyers spoke with regard to the proposed resolution and advised that it is not a strong resolution and that it is past the deadline for submission to AKBLG.

Councillor Krog advised he would like to proceed with a request for the Provincial to Government to consider the resolution.

MOTION: KROG / WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION REGARDING E BIKES, AS PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR KROG, BE TAKEN TO AKBLG AND/OR UBCM.

CARRIED.

Councillor Wyers voted against the motion.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY / WYERS

RESOLVED THAT ALL REPORTS OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, GIVEN VERBALLY AT THIS MEETING, BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KOOTENAY BOUNDARY

a) Corporate Officer's Report – Verbal report regarding the RDKB activities

Mayor Taylor reported that:

- Family Day was great
- Policy and Personnel Committee meeting in Grand Forks at the Regional District Kootenay Boundary meeting room at 2pm
- February 13th is Electoral Services Area meeting at the Regional District Kootenay Boundary meeting room
- Environment Committee will meet on February 13th at the Regional District Kootenay Boundary and it is an open meeting
- That there is an Animal Bylaw meeting at 6:30 pm at the Regional District Kootenay Boundary meeting room

MOTION: KROG / O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT THE MAYOR'S REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KOOTENAY BOUNDARY, GIVEN VERBALLY AT THIS MEETING BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAFF FOR DECISIONS

- a) Manager of Development and Engineering Services - Happy Days Liquor Licence Application

MOTION: KENDEL / WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL SUPPORT, BY RESOLUTION, THE LIQUOR LICENCE APPLICATION, AS SUBMITTED BY HAPPY DAYS 50'S DINER AND DIRECT STAFF TO FORWARD THE REQUIRED RESOLUTION TO THE LIQUOR CONTROL & LICENSING BRANCH

CARRIED.

- b) Grand Forks and District Fall Fair

MOTION: O'DOHERTY / KROG

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE LETTER FROM JASON MCIVER OF THE GRAND FORKS AND DISTRICT FALL FAIR SOCIETY FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION PURPOSES AND FURTHER THAT STAFF WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE ORGANIZATION

CARRIED.

REQUESTS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

INFORMATION ITEMS

BYLAWS

LATE ITEMS

- a) Grand Forks Rotary

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN / O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL DETERMINES TO SUPPORT OPTION #3 AS PER COTW FEBRUARY 11TH MEETING, WITH REGARD TO THE GRAND FORKS ROTARY

PRESENTATION OF A SPRAY WATER PARK, WITH THE PROVISION OF SUPPLYING GRANT SUPPORT LETTERS AND BY FUNDING FROM SLAG FUND RESERVES AND THAT THE SPRAY PARK BE LOCATED AT CITY PARK.

CARRIED.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC AND THE MEDIA

Les Johnson:

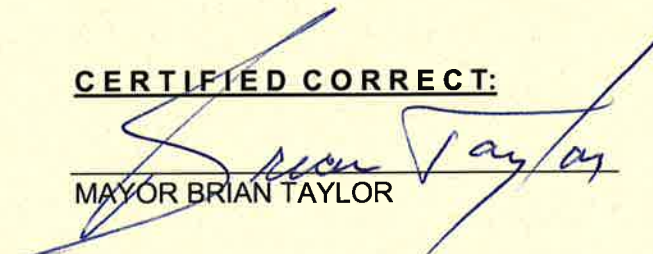
He advised that


- He advised that he is in favour of the resolution regarding E Bikes
- He commented that it is too bad that people don't participate in Council meetings until there is an issue.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 pm

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR


DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER- SARAH WINTON