

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10TH, 2015

PRESENT:

MAYOR FRANK KONRAD
COUNCILLOR JULIA BUTLER
COUNCILLOR CHRIS HAMMETT
COUNCILLOR NEIL KROG
COUNCILLOR COLLEEN ROSS
COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE THOMPSON
COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WIRISCHAGIN

ACTING CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
ACTING CORPORATE OFFICER
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
MANAGER OF OPERATIONS
MANAGER OF BUILDING INSPECTION AND
BYLAW SERVICES
FIRE CHIEF
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

D. Heinrich
S. Winton
R. Shepherd
R. Huston

W. Kopan
D. Heriot
K. McKinnon

GALLERY

CALL TO ORDER

- a) The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7pm

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- a) Adopt agenda
February 10th, 2015, Regular Meeting agenda

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN / BUTLER

RESOLVED THAT Council adopts the February 10th, 2015, Regular Meeting agenda as presented.

CARRIED.

MINUTES

- a) Adopt minutes
January 26th, 2015, COTW Meeting minutes
Amend minutes to reflect that Councillor Butler opposed the water meter resolution.

MOTION: THOMPSON / WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT Council adopt the January 26th, 2015, COTW Meeting minutes as amended.

CARRIED.

- b) Adopt minutes
January 26th, 2015, Regular Meeting minutes

Amend minutes to reflect that Councillor Butler opposed the water meter resolution and the medical marijuana resolution.

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN / ROSS

RESOLVED THAT Council adopt the January 26th, 2015, Regular Meeting minutes as amended.

CARRIED.

REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

- a) Corporate Officer's Report
Verbal Reports from Council
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- b) Councillor Butler's report is attached

Councillor Thompson's report is attached

Councillor Wirischagin brought forward a motion to move forward with the water meter program:

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN / THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT Council reaffirms the City's position to move forward with water meters.

CARRIED.

COUNCILLOR BUTLER AND MAYOR KONRAD OPPOSED THE MOTION

- c) Councillor Krog
He reported that:
- he attended the Scotch Tasting and it was great

- Councillor Hammett
She reported that:
- she attended the Restorative Justice Commentary
 - she participated in the Family Day festivities on Saturday, February 7th

- Councillor Ross
She reported that:
- there is ongoing review for CAO position and shortlisting for position
 - she met with Graham Watt regarding the KRWS plan
 - she attended the RDKB Meeting

MOTION: THOMPSON / WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT Council for 2015 invite the select committee for the water rates committee to include:

Lynne Hansen

Bill Hingley

Nigel James

Mike Kanigan

~~John Mackey~~ DAN ZABINSKY


William Palm

Frank Triveri

Graham Watt

And two members of Council;

AND FURTHER that they convene at their earliest convenience.

*As amended at the March 9th, 2015,
Regular Meeting.*


CARRIED.

- d) The Mayor appointed Councillor Butler and Councillor Thompson to the Water Rates Committee and Councillor Ross to the Environment Committee.

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN / HAMMETT

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 from Council's representative to the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary.
Councillor Krog advised that:
- On January 28th he attended the West Kootenay Regional Hospital District Meeting
 - On January 29th he attended the RDKB Board meeting
 - On February 3rd he attended a committee meeting
 - On February 5th he attended the Boundary Stakeholders Budget meeting
 - Marguerite Rotvold was appointed Chair and Walter Popoff as Vice Chair of the Hospital Board
 - underwent the strategic planning session and discussed transportation, obstetrics, budget

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN / THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT Councillor Krog'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) Corporate Services
Multi Agency Accommodation Project

Council discussed the request.

MOTION: HAMMETT / ROSS

RESOLVED THAT Council defer this to the February 23rd Regular Meeting.

CARRIED.

COUNCILLOR BUTLER AND COUNCILLOR WIRISCHAGIN OPPOSED THE MOTION.

MOTION: BUTLER / WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT Council directs staff to extend the current five year lease for City property, civically known as 7212 Riverside Drive, to a period of 10 years so that the Multi Agency Accommodation Project (MAAPS), is eligible to receive \$100,000 grant funding from BC Housing for the continued development of planned improvements to said property leased by Habitat for Humanity on behalf of the Boundary Emergency Transitional Housing Society (BETHS); Whispers of Hope and Habitat for Humanity, and further directs staff to advertise the public notice in accordance with section 26 and 94 of the Community Charter.

THE MOTION WAS DEFERRED TO THE FEBRUARY 23RD, REGULAR MEETING.

REQUESTS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a) Fee for Service Information
Boundary Museum and Interpretive Centre
Boundary Country Regional Chamber of Commerce
Boundary District Arts Council

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN / BUTLER

Receive for information.

CARRIED.

- b) Alex Atamanenko
Letter of follow-up to meeting with Mayor Konrad

MOTION: ROSS / HAMMETT

Receive for information.

CARRIED.

- c) BC Seniors Games
Zone 6, 55+ BC Games request for sponsorship

Council discussed providing financial support to the BC Seniors Games and decided against providing any financial support to the event.

MOTION: THOMPSON / WIRISCHAGIN

Receive for information and discussion.

CARRIED.

- d) Canadian Union of Postal Workers
Letter requesting support to save Canada Post

MOTION: THOMPSON / WIRISCHAGIN

Receive for information.

CARRIED.

MOTION: ROSS / BUTLER

RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to write a letter of support expressing the Council's support to maintain existing services to the Canadian Postal Union and federal government.

CARRIED.

- e) Various Citizens
Letters regarding Kootenay's Medicine Tree medical cannabis products

MOTION: BUTLER / THOMPSON

Receive for information.

CARRIED.

- f) AKBLG
Letter from the President regarding final call for resolutions and changes to the AKBLG Resolution Bylaw

MOTION: THOMPSON / WIRISCHAGIN

Receive for information.

CARRIED.

- g) City of Grand Forks Citizens
Pro Water Meters

MOTION: THOMPSON / BUTLER

Receive for information.

CARRIED.

- h) City of Grand Forks Citizens
Anti Water Meter Letters

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN / ROSS

Receive for information.

CARRIED.

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- i) ATV Club
Letter of support in hiring a WildsafeBC Coordinator

MOTION: ROSS / BUTLER

Receive for Information.

CARRIED.

- j) Peter Matheson
Letter outlining proposed plans for City Hall Council Chambers

MOTION: BUTLER / ROSS

Receive for information.

CARRIED.

- k) Ian Mitchell
Email responses and inquiries regarding 'Open Letter', water meters, and strategic planning

MOTION: HAMMETT / WIRISCHAGIN

Receive for information.

CARRIED.

- l) Professional Association of Residents of BC
Letter of congratulations and information

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN / BUTLER

Receive for information.

CARRIED.

- m) Graham Watt - Kettle River Watershed Management Plan Steering Committee
Request for Council's endorsement of the Kettle River Water Shed Management Plan

MOTION: THOMPSON / ROSS

RESOLVED THAT Council endorse the Kettle River Watershed Management Plan.

CARRIED.

COUNCILLOR BUTLER OPPOSED THE MOTION.

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN / KROG

RESOLVED THAT Council determines to allow Roly Russell to speak
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Roly Russell, Area D Director, for the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary clarified information regarding the Kettle River Water Shed Plan.

- n) Sunshine Valley Women's Institute
Letter of congratulations and request for sidewalk in front of Silver Kettle Village

MOTION: BUTLER / THOMPSON

Receive for information. Staff has this item included in the financial plan for Council's consideration.

CARRIED.

BYLAWS

- a) Chief Financial Officer
Bylaw 2009 - Electrical Utility Regulatory Amendment Bylaw

Councillor Butler advised that she requested several amendments be made to the bylaw, one was to include the opt out program and another was to include the equal payment plan.

MOTION: BUTLER / THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT Council give first three readings to Bylaw 2009- Electrical utility Regulatory Amendment Bylaw.

CARRIED.

LATE ITEMS

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC AND THE MEDIA

- a) Mr. James Hamilton
He spoke with regard to:
- insurance coverage with regard to water meters
 - electrical fees and charges
 - Councillor Butler's earlier remarks

Mr. Gene Koch
He spoke with regard to:

- the Water Regulations Bylaw
- the BC Plumbing Code and that it be addressed
- The hiring of a new CAO
- Councillor Butler's earlier remarks

Councillor Krog spoke with regard to section 90 of the Community Charter

Ms. Gloria Koch
She spoke with regard to:

- different options to water meters

Councillor Thompson advised that options will be considered when the Water Rates Committee meets.

Council Butler read a statement from the Mayor of Metchosin.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT Council adjourn the meeting at 8:11pm

CARRIED.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



MAYOR FRANK KONRAD



ACTING CORPORATE OFFICER -
SARAH WINTON

Julia Butler

Council Report

Feb 10, 2015

On Jan 29th I attended the Restorative Justice presentation at the Gem Theatre. The event was well attended and focussed on the importance of open, respectful communication between diametrically opposed parties in order to heal and restore victims as well as criminals. The process takes a community approach and has been modelled amongst First Nations communities and within the justice system. Staff Sargent Jim Harrison was also in attendance to support the initiative and spoke about some of the challenges in our own community that this method could address.

That being said, sometimes hard things need to be spoken and issues need to be addressed head on. I was going to speak on the effects of the Provincial Governments Water Sustainability Act on Grand Forks but tonight we have a much bigger issue developing.

It's no secret that this council is diametrically opposed on more than one issue. For the past two months I have tried to build bridges, create compromises and be a positive team player. But, at this point I feel I must speak and let the people know how disappointed I am with the transparency at city hall. The hours spent in closed door meetings that the public knows nothing about, the lack of access to information that I require to make informed decisions is appalling. I knew politics would be challenging, but if the people of Grand Forks knew what was being done in secret they would be outraged. I am not able to divulge any further, but I'd like to know why all the secrecy? What does council have to hide from the people of this town?

I have asked council in an email if we could engage in some kind of restorative justice amongst ourselves but received no response. A healthy team requires all members to feel valued and included but at this point politics remains politics and no peaceful solution is being sought. That's it.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Councillor Christine Thompson

DATE: February 9, 2015

SUBJECT: Report to Council

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate our Acting Corporate Officer/Event Coordinator Sarah Winton, and the Boundary Country Regional Chamber of Commerce General Manager James Wilson on their successful organization of the Family Day events on Saturday. I would also acknowledge those organizations who, despite the rain, participated in the event from 11:00 until 1:00, including our Fire Department (the hot dogs were delicious), Success by 6/BFISS for having a fish pond for the children, The Boundary Museum Society for the hot chocolate and pictures taken on the cutter sled, The Rotary Club for providing samples of their scrumptious Kettle Corn, Nathan Vogel for his amazing magic show, The Boundary Metis Community Association and BANAC for sharing samples of bannock (I ate it for the first time, and was it ever tasty), Perley School PAC for having a bake sale and the Grand Forks ATV club for giving free rides around City Park. Recognition must also be given to the GEM Theatre for 2 showings of PADDINGTON, Sunshine Lanes for 3 hours of bowling, and The Grand Forks Curling Rink for offering free activities.

Free skating at the arena, including free skate rentals if needed happened on Sunday and free swimming was offered Monday. I saw many cars parked in front of the arena and swimming pool both days. Unfortunately, the Phoenix Ski Hill had to cancel their events due to the closure of the hill. From what I have read on Facebook, I am certain that 3 days of ice fishing and snow carving at Wilgress Lake was a big success.

The City of Grand Forks owes a huge thank you to the many corporate sponsors who supported 3 days of fun and enjoyment. Without them, this would not have been the success it was.

Respectfully,

Christine Thompson,
Councillor