

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
MONDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 2015

PRESENT:       MAYOR FRANK KONRAD  
                  COUNCILLOR JULIA BUTLER  
                  COUNCILLOR CHRIS HAMMETT  
                  COUNCILLOR NEIL KROG  
                  COUNCILLOR COLLEEN ROSS  
                  COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE THOMPSON

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

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 9:00am

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**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA**

Agenda  
January 26th, 2015

MOTION: THOMPSON

**RESOLVED THAT Council adopt the January 26th, 2015, agenda as presented.**

CARRIED.

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**REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

Jim Leslie and Marvin Wyers - The Kootenay's Medicine Tree

Request of Council to publicly support local access to medical cannabis and its derivative products.

Mr Leslie spoke with regard to issues surrounding cannabis, he introduced Kyla and Courtenay Williams, Elaine and Chris Nuessler.

He provided an overview of:

- the Medicine Tree dispensary - his business, products and uses.
- compassion clubs
- types of medicine produced

He spoke with regard to:

- local access to compassion clubs

He requested "Support in principle, for local access to medical cannabis and its derivative products, because the chronically and terminally ill do not have time to wait".

Staff Sgt. Harrison introduced Sergeant Mike Wicentowich, NCO i/c Kootenay Boundary Regional Detachment General Investigation Section and provided an overview of what had taken place with regard to the Medicine Tree.

Council discussed the issue.

Councillor Thompson advised that previous Council passed a resolution to make access to medicinal marijuana more accessible.

Sergeant Wicentowich spoke to the current system and regulations for production and derivative products.

The Mayor advised that according to the Community Charter local governments cannot consider Federal issues.

Mr. Leslie clarified that the statement of support shows that Council supports access to the derivatives.

He further advised that if he did receive the support in principle, then he would likely move forward with reopening the store front.

Other issues discussed:

- Trafficking
- Safety

MOTION: THOMPSON

**RESOLVED THAT COTW recommend Council support in principle, local access to medical cannabis and its derivative products, and refer the resolution to the January 26th Regular Meeting of Council.**

CARRIED.

MOTION: KROG

**RESOLVED THAT COTW receive the report from Jim Leslie of the Medicine Tree.**  
CARRIED.

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Cindy Abblas - Christina Gateway Community Development Association

Ms. Abblas spoke with regard to the collection of the Municipal Regional District tax dollars.

MOTION: KROG

**RESOLVED THAT Council receive the presentation from Cindy Abblas of the Christina Gateway Community Development Association.**  
CARRIED.

MOTION: BUTLER

**RESOLVED THAT COTW recommend that Councillor Hammett attend the meeting regarding Municipal Regional District tax at Community Futures.**  
CARRIED.

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Laurie Grant - WildSafeBC Coordinator  
Deer Management Workshop update - January 12th, 2015, Richmond, BC

Ms. Grant provided an update to the accomplishments of the WildsafeBC Program as well as the work of the Deer Committee. She provided recommendations for moving forward.

- re-establish the Deer Committee
- continue the deer collaring program
- continue the deer count

Mr. Gary Smith asked if Council would be re-establishing the committee.

Council recommended that the Deer Committee be reinstated and that it is done at the Regular Meeting of January 26th, and that Council consider if it will be a committee of Council

MOTION: ROSS

**THAT COTW recommend to Council to receive the information regarding the Deer Management Workshop as presented by Laurie Grant.**  
CARRIED.

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The Mayor recessed the meeting at 10:30am  
The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 10:39am

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**PRESENTATIONS FROM STAFF**

Acting Chief Administrative Officer  
Procedure Bylaw Excerpts and Respectful Workplace Policy

The A/CAO reviewed the Procedure Bylaw and Respectful Workplace policy.  
She advised that the Procedure Bylaw and the Respectful Workplace Policy are available to the public on the website.

Ms. Donna Semenoff

She spoke with regard to:

- making the Procedure Bylaw available to the public.

Mr. Ian Mitchell

He spoke with regard to:

- the tone of some of the debate that takes place in Council Chambers.

MOTION: BUTLER

**RESOLVED THAT COTW receive the presentation from the Acting CAO regarding the Procedure Bylaw excerpts and the Respectful Workplace Policy.**

CARRIED.

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Manager of Operations  
Universal Water Meter Project Status

He advised that:

- 70% of installs are done
- City is planning to resume the installs in the Spring
- will revisit the budget at that time
- 1.3 million dollars was budgeted for the program
- the contract is substantially less than this amount

Manager of Operations will provide a report to Council with a breakdown of the finances.

A/CAO advised that the previous Council established a Rates Committee through a resolution and that it is sitting until directed to convene.

Councillor Butler called for a point of information regarding the Community Charter and the Mayor's authority to form or dissolve committees.

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A/CAO advised that the Rates Committee was formed at the direction of the previous Mayor and Council. If the Mayor decides not to proceed with the committee, then it needs to be a decision of Council.

The A/CAO further advised that the Mayor may have a conflict of interest in this matter. She advised that:

- the conflict would be with the Mayor having direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the water meter project
- and that by making any decision with regard to the completion of the project could put the City at risk

The Mayor advised that:

- he believes that there is no relevance as his corporation is not involved

Council further discussed the issue.

Mr. Jack Koochin

Spoke with regard to:

- water meters and the plumbing code

Mr. Les Johnson

Spoke with regard to:

- perception of a conflict of interest

The A/CAO referred to the Community Charter s.100

Ms. Donna Semenoff

Spoke with regard to:

- water meters and RF

Councillor Butler requested that staff provide an explanation to the information received from Zachary May with regard to the BC Plumbing code.

Ms. Donna Semenoff

Spoke with regard to:

- water meters

MOTION: ROSS

**RESOLVED THAT Council determine to defer the motion, "Council to table this discussion with regard to Neptune and the Water Meter Contract until staff have received legal advice", to the January 26th Regular Meeting.**

CARRIED.

*Councillor Butler OPPOSED THE MOTION. SW*

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Acting Corporate Officer

Discussion and direction to staff regarding amendments to Procedure Bylaw No. 1946, 2013

MOTION: THOMPSON

**RESOLVED THAT COTW recommends Council direct staff to give notice in accordance with sections 94 and 124 of the Community Charter, advising the public of the proposed amendments to Procedure Bylaw No. 1946, 2013.**

CARRIED.

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Monthly highlight reports from Department Managers

Staff request for Council to receive the monthly activity report from department managers

Manager of Operations spoke with regarding the snow removal policy and provided a comparison of two methods for snow removal.

Ms. Donna Semenoff

She spoke with regard to the Sign Bylaw

Mr. Gary Smith

He spoke with regard to the Sign Bylaw

MOTION: ROSS

**RESOLVED THAT COTW receives the monthly activity reports.**

CARRIED.

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## **REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

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### **PROPOSED BYLAWS FOR DISCUSSION**

Chief Financial Officer

Bylaw 2009 - Electrical Utility Regulatory Amendment Bylaw

Mr. Frank Triveri

Spoke with regard to:

- the electrical rate surplus.

Ms. Donna Semenoff

Spoke with regard to:

- the Electrical Utility Rates Bylaw.

MOTION: THOMPSON

**RESOLVED THAT COTW recommends to Council to give first three readings to Bylaw 2009 - Electrical Utility Regulatory Amendment Bylaw at the February 10th Regular Meeting to include option number 2.**

CARRIED.

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**INFORMATION ITEMS**

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**CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS**

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**LATE ITEMS**

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

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**QUESTION PERIOD FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Frank Triveri

He spoke with regard to:

- committees of Council

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The Mayor recessed the meeting at 11:52am

The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 1:00pm

The A/CAO welcomed the public to the budget discussions and advised of the order for the fee for service presentations.

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**BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Chief Financial Officer

2015 Operating Budget presentations

**Mr Hollett - Gallery 2 Co-Chair for Gallery 2.**

**Reviewed highlights and fee for service request.**

Council discussion regarding:

- gaming grant
- funding from Regional funding sources (Area D and C)
- art as therapy
- art and culture in the community
- fundraising activities of the Gallery

Ms. Donna Semenoff

Spoke with regard to:

- open houses when hosted by the City

**Mr. Bob DeMaertelaere - Boundary Museum**

**Reviewed the strategic priorities of the Museum and the fee for service request.**

Mr. Lawrence Radford

He spoke with regard to the bread making program.

Council discussion regarding:

- increased bread making
- thanking the Museum
- potential to create a Period experience

**Susan Hals - Boundary and District Arts Council**

**Reviewed the highlights and upcoming projects of BDAC**

Council discussion regarding:

- BDAC is the umbrella organization for many arts and culture organizations in the Boundary
- partnership with the GEM Theatre
- thanking BDAC
- Kettle River Festival of the Arts and other partnerships

**James Wilson - Boundary Country Regional Chamber of Commerce**

Requesting a fee for service again this year and provided highlights and goals and request to appoint a Council liaison to the BCRCC Board.

The Chief Financial Officer reviewed the fee for service summary and reviewed the agenda for the Budget presentations.

She advised that she will provide the rationale for the requested increases from the Chamber and Boundary Museum.

Department managers provided an overview of the 2015 Operating Budget for their departments.

The Mayor recessed the meeting at 3:52pm

The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 4:11pm

The Chief Financial Officer advised that the entire PowerPoint for the operating budget will be provided to Council.



MOTION: ROSS

**RESOLVED THAT Committee of the Whole receive the 2015-2019 Operating Financial Plan as presented.**

CARRIED.

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**IN-CAMERA RESOLUTION**

Acting CAO

Immediately following the COTW Meeting, Council will hold an In-Camera Meeting, In Compliance with the Community Charter Section 90 (1) (e) Acquisition, disposition or expropriation of Land or Improvements that could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the Municipality.

MOTION: THOMPSON

**RESOLVED THAT Council convene an In-Camera Meeting as outlined under Section 90 of the Community Charter to discuss matters in a closed meeting which are subject to section 90 (1) (e) Acquisition, disposition or expropriation of Land or Improvements that could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the Municipality; Be it further resolved that persons, other than members, officers, or other persons to whom Council may deem necessary to conduct City business, will be excluded from the In-Camera Meeting.**

CARRIED.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 5:08PM

MOTION: ROSS

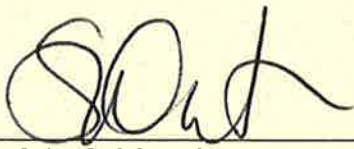
CARRIED.

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**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

  
MAYOR FRANK KONRAD

  
ACTING CORPORATE OFFICER - SARAH WINTON