

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY, MARCH 23rd, 2015

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

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

D. Allin
S. Winton
R. Shepherd

GALLERY

CALL TO ORDER

- a) The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- a) Adopt agenda
March 23rd, 2015, Regular Meeting agenda

MOTION: BUTLER / KROG

RESOLVED THAT Council adopt the March 23rd, 2015, Regular Meeting agenda as presented.

CARRIED.

MINUTES

- a) Adopt minutes
March 4th, 2015, Special Meeting minutes

MOTION: ROSS / KROG

RESOLVED THAT Council adopt the March 4th, 2015, Special Meeting minutes as presented.

CARRIED.

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- b) Adopt minutes
March 9th, 2015, COTW Meeting minutes

Amendment to the minutes re discussion of Rotary Club, name should read Leda Leander and not Leanne Leander.

MOTION: THOMPSON / BUTLER

RESOLVED THAT Council adopt the March 9th, 2015, COTW Meeting minutes as amended.

CARRIED.

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- c) Adopt minutes
March 9th, 2015, Regular Meeting minutes

MOTION: BUTLER / HAMMETT

RESOLVED THAT Council adopt the March 9th, 2015, Regular Meeting minutes as presented.

CARRIED.

REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) The Grand Forks and Boundary Regional Agricultural Society and Learning Garden Project Team
Request for Council support for the Learning Garden Project

MOTION: BUTLER / THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT Council consider adopting a resolution stating "the City of Grand Forks commits to supporting the Learning Garden at the Aquatic Centre through collaboration and in-kind support, including:

- assistance in purchasing externally (grant) funded supplies and materials
- support for use of City equipment by volunteering staff
- assistance with installation of infrastructure, paths and landscape features, and delivery of fill and other materials
- sponsoring of grant applications requiring charitable status and involving the City staff and equipment (i.e. Phoenix Foundation)
- public outreach about the project in City newsletters and promotions"

CARRIED.

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

- a) Corporate Officer's Report
Verbal report from Council
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- b) Councillor Butler's report is attached
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- c) Councillor Thompson's report is attached
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- d) Councillor Ross
- March 10th met with MAAPS group for a tour of proposed sight
 - March 12th attended the City Hall working session
 - March 16th attended the Gilpin Grasslands meeting at Selkirk College
 - March 19th attended the Land Management and Development Workshop
 - March 21st attended the seed exchange and Ag Society AGM, acknowledged Sheila Dobie for her hard work to achieve food sovereignty
 - Learning Garden, new board for Ag Society Board was elected
 - March 22nd was World Water Day
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- e) Councillor Hammett
- March 10th met with MAAPS group for a tour of proposed sight
 - March 12th attended the City Hall working session
 - March 16th attended the Gilpin Grasslands meeting - concerns with Natures Trust Property and protection from cattle
 - March 17th attended the BCRCC Board meeting with regard to having way finding signage, the Economic Dev. attended the Outdoor Rec. Trade Show in Vancouver with 500 info. pkgs. being handed out, Oct. 3rd Golf Tournament at CL Golf Course fundraiser, April 15th Biz after Biz - Work n Play, May 5th Biz after Biz - Kettle Valley Golf, Rock Creek
 - March 18th attended the BEDC planning session at RDKB
 - March 19th attended the Land Management and Development Workshop
 - March 23rd City Hall Open House
 - Question regarding the structure of the utility bill with a tenant/landlord scenario was posed to the CAO and referred to the CFO for the bylaw revision clarity
- CFO advised that the electrical bylaw does now address a disconnection of the utilities. If the City chose to disconnect due to an overdue bill, a notice would be issued for a certain amount of days to pay, also the opportunity with a notice to appear before Council. If the land owner requests the disconnection, then it is allowed. The City roles any outstanding utility amounts at year end into the property tax arrears as dictated by the Community Charter.

Council discussed the motion to install way finding signage;

- to refer to staff for installing signage on Central for direction to the downtown core
- type of signage

MOTION: HAMMETT / BUTLER

RESOLVED THAT Council request staff provide information on signage and cost of installing different signage available to promote the downtown.

CARRIED.

f) Councillor Krog
Had no report tonight

g) Mayor Konrad
Had no report tonight

MOTION: ROSS / 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

Councillor Krog reported that:

- March 10th attended the Finance Committee meeting
- March 11th attended the Environmental Services meeting
- March 18th attended the BEDC meeting
- He reviewed the RDKB annual requisition to the City for each of the services provided on the City's behalf.

He further advised that PSAP requirements are legislative required. The compost material that has been turned to dirt could be sold to the public, but there are concerns that it is waste and it is also valuable for the landfill to use for cover. Boundary landfills will not accept waste from other landfills, but there is a big push from the federal government to accept other waste. This is similar to the Ogo grow in the Okanagan.

MOTION: BUTLER / ROSS

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
Update on MAAPS legislative requirements for advertising

The CAO advised that there has been substantial feedback from the public both positive and negative.

He advised that there is funding available to determine what transition housing needs are through CMHC grant program available that will do a report on the long term land use.

Council has the option to re-evaluate a motion that has been passed.

MOTION: THOMPSON / BUTLER

RESOLVED THAT Council receive for information a copy of the required legislative advertising, which was placed in the Gazette, for two consecutive weeks, on March 11th and 18th, 2015.

CARRIED.

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- b) Council discussed the MAAP Project:
- Councillor Butler advised that she supports the MAAPS Project and is concerned that this motion will stop the project and grant money will be lost and the project may fail.
 - Councillor Krog spoke with regard to the benefits of having a long term independent study look at City land for transitional housing. He further advised that he has never seen a budget for the project and or seen any information on which the grant dollars can be used for. A two year lease for this project may not be sufficient.
 - The irresponsibility of the Province to give the funding to the project and put a timeline on it with only a ten year lease.
 - Councillor Thompson spoke of the resolution passed by Council, which is contingent upon the MAAPS Project receiving grant funding, but has not been received by Council in writing. There has been no tangible evidence.
 - Mayor Konrad stated that a ten year lease is not long enough and we have to look at longevity and magnitude.

MOTION: HAMMETT / ROSS

RESOLVED THAT Council determines to refer this request to staff to submit an application to CMHC or other funding agencies for a grant to produce a feasibility study to look at the need for transitional housing in the community.

CARRIED.

COUNCILLOR BUTLER OPPOSED THE MOTION.

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- c) Manager of Development & Engineering Services
Approval to proceed with applying for grant funding

The Chief Administrative Officer advised:

- the grant is for gas tax funding, grants made available that are specific for asset managements, strategic priorities funds following the gas tax funding
- Well No. 2 and borrowing bylaw
- consider going after 100% of the funding through the grant funding that's available rather than utilizing borrowing
- long term strategic framework

He further discussed the asset management framework.

MOTION: KROG / HAMMETT

RESOLVED THAT Council support staff proceeding with preparing applications for the Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) grants based on the projects selected herein.

CARRIED.

- d) Monthly Highlight Reports from Department Managers
Staff request for Council to receive the monthly activity report from department managers

MOTION: KROG / HAMMETT

RESOLVED THAT Council receives the monthly activity reports.

CARRIED.

REQUESTS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a) UBCM
Urban Deer Management Workshop recommendations

MOTION: BUTLER / HAMMETT

RESOLVED THAT Council receive for information and request staff to forward a copy of the information to the Deer Committee

CARRIED.

- b) Sunshine Valley Community Services
Invitation to Self Advocate Conference in October 2015

MOTION: ROSS / BUTLER

RESOLVED THAT Council receive for information and discussion.

CARRIED.

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- c) Grand Forks and District Fall Fair
Requesting permission to hold a liquor license for their Oyster Fest Gala event on June 20th, 2015, at Dick Bartlett Park

Councillor Krog, removed himself at 8:18pm as he is declaring a direct pecuniary interest.

MOTION: THOMPSON / HAMMETT

RESOLVED THAT Council approve the issuing of a special occasion liquor license to the Grand Forks and District Fall Fair for their Oyster Fest Gala on June 20th, 2015, from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the Dick Bartlett Park subject to the Grand Forks and District Fall Fair obtaining third party (party alcohol) liability insurance, naming the City of Grand Forks as an additional insured on that policy; all Grand Forks and District Fall Fair liquor providers to hold a Serving It Right license certificate; and ICBC "drinking and driving" warning posters to be displayed.

CARRIED.

Councillor Krog returned to the meeting at 8:21pm

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- e) Cannafest Kootenays
Requesting permission to hold a liquor license for the Cannafest Kootenays event on August 7th & 8th, 2015, at James Donaldson Park and a request to the extension of the Noise Bylaw.

Council:

- advised that Mr. Varabioff will increase security with the liquor license
- the original event request stated there would be no liquor sold
- noise in a residential area, location
- Council requested that the event not have medicinal cannabis and was part of Council's negotiations for the event, educational material only
- requesting there be a cap on the time the event has bands playing until

MOTION: THOMPSON / HAMMETT

RESOLVED THAT Council approve the issuing of a special occasion liquor license to Chuck Varabioff for the Cannafest Kootenays event on August 7th & 8th, 2015, from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the James Donaldson Park subject to the Cannafest Kootenays obtaining third party (party alcohol) liability insurance, naming the City of Grand Forks as an additional insured on that policy; all Cannafest Kootenays liquor providers to hold a Serving It Right license certificate; and ICBC "drinking and driving" warning posters to be displayed.

CARRIED.

COUNCILLOR BUTLER OPPOSED THE MOTION.

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- f) Council:
- discussed the time the bands will play until and crowd dispersal
 - decibel levels
 - past events held at the park
 - capacity of park
 - damage deposit
 - parking arrangements & private property owners

CAO advised that there will be an information update from staff with regard to the event clarification and final group requirements

MOTION: ROSS / BUTLER

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council refer back to staff the extension of time, for both August 7th & 8th, to the Cannafest Kootenays to 12:30 am as outlined in Bylaw No. 1963

CARRIED.

BYLAWS

- a) Chief Financial Officer
To give first three readings to 2015-2019 Financial Plan Bylaw 2008

Council discussed:

- Whether the amount of time spent on the budget was sufficient
- Whether they required more information
- That concerned Councillors could spend time with the Chief Administrative Officer and the Chief Financial Officer to receive more information if necessary
- Council's desire move forward and approve the budget
- Meeting the Legislative reporting requirements

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the budget is up for approval as it has been presented to Council.

The Mayor advised that this is the first three readings and that the financial plan can be amended by Council at anytime.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the capital plan can be adjusted throughout the year, at Council's discretion.

MOTION: THOMPSON / KROG

RESOLVED THAT Council give first three readings to 2015-2019 Financial Plan Bylaw 2008

CARRIED. COUNCILLOR BUTLER OPPOSED THE MOTION.

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- b) Manager of Building Inspection & Bylaw Services
To give final reading to the amended Schedule 2-A1 of the Municipal Ticketing and Information Bylaw No. 1957, regarding the Noise Control Bylaw No. 1963.

MOTION: BUTLER / THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT the Regular Meeting recommends to Council that the amended Schedule 2-A1 of the Municipal Ticketing and Information Bylaw No. 1957 be given final reading.

CARRIED. SW

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- c) Manager of Building Inspection & Bylaw Services
To give final reading to the amended Schedule 4-A1 of the Municipal Ticketing and Information Bylaw No. 1957, regarding the Unsightly Premises Bylaw No. 1962.

MOTION: THOMPSON / BUTLER

RESOLVED THAT the Regular Meeting recommends to Council that the amended Schedule 4-A1 of the Municipal Ticketing and Information Bylaw No. 1957 be given final reading.

CARRIED. SW

LATE ITEMS

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC AND THE MEDIA

- a) Mr. James Hamilton
He spoke with regard to:
- giving three readings in one sitting
- Ms. Gloria Koch
She spoke with regard to;
- Councillor Ross's and Councillor Butler's comments on human rights.

ADJOURNMENT


MOTION: ROSS

RESOLVED THAT the March 23rd, 2015 Regular meeting was adjourned at 9:01pm

CARRIED.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


MAYOR FRANK KONRAD


DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER -
SARAH WINTON

Thursday 12th I attended the Rec Commission meeting. We discussed funding for the learning garden and a new gymnastics program for the fall.

Thursday afternoon I attended a briefing at city hall to discuss the MAPP'S project, council committees and Asset Management.

Thursday night I was at the year end performance for the Grand Forks Figure Skating Club. Thursday was a busy day!

This Thursday I was present for the Land Development Workshop in council chambers presented by the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training.

I'd like to take a few moments to address what I learned about our asset management program last week. Over the three months that our CAO was away he was working closely with an organization called Asset Management BC and has composed a strategy of planning for the future of our city's assets such as our pipes, wires, vehicles and other infrastructure. The large chart that's usually up on our wall in front of me documents the suggested money that needs to be raised for these items. The provincial government now requires our management team to report all expenditures for maintenance over a certain amount as an increase to our asset load. We are also required to include in our reporting how much each asset depreciates in value over the year.

One problem with this model is that to meet the demands of proposed savings we would have to raise taxes in the neighbourhood of 20%. As we have a large part of our community on a fixed income I want to encourage council to consider a tax increase close to the Consumer Price index of no more than 3%. Pensioners cannot afford any more than that! This shortfall of revenue needs to be found through other revenue streams – not over-taxation of the citizens of Grand Forks. An increase greater than the CPI is not something I can support.

My other concern is the concept of "Full Cost Recovery" for each utility. A Provincial website defines full cost recovery as the money used in science, monitoring, planning, facilitating community involvement, regulation and enforcement, staff time and a fair return to the crown for the use of a public resource. For me, that was a shock. With regards to the water rates committee that I will be sitting on I thought that the water rates were just supposed to cover the cost of delivery ie. Power for the pumps and chlorine. To do full cost recovery on something such as water that should be a basic human right would cause rates to skyrocket. Again, other revenue streams need to be seriously considered.

The third concept that I have been researching this week also came out of our asset management meeting. It is the concept of "Eco Assets". Although our CAO assured us that this wouldn't be happening here for the next few years what seems like a pilot project has developed in Gibson's BC. Eco Assets takes asset management to a whole new level by placing a dollar value on the natural resources within your community such as the aquifer, trees, soil and air. Specifically, Gibsons has placed a price on their aquifer and stated that water is undervalued, underpriced and overused. As a result of

this model Gibson's installed water meters, did extensive mapping of their aquifer, raised water rates by 15% in 2013 and then raised them again by 10% in 2014. I have concerns that once you place a dollar value on something, it is ready to be sold. Considering the worldwide trend to privatize municipal water, I find this step towards Market Environmentalism extremely dangerous. Market Environmentalism was also a new concept to me, but not new to people that study political science. Keith Stewart of York University in a paper entitled:

Avoiding the Tragedy of the Commons: Greening Governance through the Market or the Public Domain?

Writes:

The principal argument of this paper is that 'market environmentalism' represents a profoundly mistaken response to the environmental problematic. It will, in fact, replicate and entrench ecologically and socially destructive dynamics.

Their solution is to privatize, as far as possible, environmental regulation through the creation of markets in pollution, the privatization of collectively-held resources, and the shift toward corporate self-regulation and 'voluntary' environmental governance regimes. The advocates of this form of 'market environmentalism' argue that it will ensure the most efficient allocation of resources, provide environmental protection at the least cost, and use the power of the marketplace to stimulate entrepreneurial innovation, so as to develop technological solutions to our environmental problems.

I would have to agree with the writer. I don't think that large corporations and privatization are the solution to our environmental or infrastructure problems. Just like Gibson's, we have installed water meters. We've spent \$82 000 studying and mapping our aquifer. Now we have a committee to set water rates ready to convene. I would encourage this council not to go down the path that Gibson's and their consultants are going down and not to embrace Market Environmentalism.

REPORT TO COUNCIL

TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Councillor Christine Thompson
DATE: March 23, 2015
SUBJECT: Report to Council

Monday, March 16th I attended a meeting of the Gilpin Grasslands Committee. At that meeting I invited Barry Brandow to attend the upcoming Committee of the Whole Meeting as he wants to invite members of Council to tour the Nature Trust property on April 10th.

I am the Phoenix Foundation's representative to Success by 6 that is an educational program for children under the age of 6 and their parents. At the March 17th meeting we reviewed the proposed annual budget for presentation to and ultimate approval by the Board of Directors of the Phoenix Foundation.

The Phoenix Foundation held their monthly meeting March 18th. The Board undertook a first review of the constitution and bylaws with the intent to make recommended changes for consideration at the Annual General Meeting, usually held in September each year. This review will be continued at the April meeting.

I thoroughly enjoyed the March 19th Land Development and Readiness Workshop put on by the Economic Development Division of the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training. Council and Management from the Village of Midway and the City of Greenwood also attended the workshop. This was a very timely workshop inasmuch as our Council will be undergoing Strategic Planning in April.

I received a telephone call from Joy Osgood, Peter Perepelkin's widow. She expressed her pleasure that a "Perepelkin" bench is being placed on Observation Mountain by the Trails Society, and further that it was Peter's intention to make a contribution to the Trails Society of \$10,000 over 10 years in memory of his son, Keith.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Christine Thompson