

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 9TH, 2015

PRESENT: MAYOR FRANK KONRAD
COUNCILLOR JULIA BUTLER
COUNCILLOR CHRIS HAMMETT (joined at 10:20 am)
COUNCILLOR NEIL KROG
COUNCILLOR COLLEEN ROSS
COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE THOMPSON

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

GALLERY

CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM

CARRIED.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA

Adopt agenda
March 9th, 2015, COTW

MOTION: BUTLER

RESOLVED THAT COTW adopt the March 9th, 2015, COTW agenda as presented.

CARRIED.

REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

- a) BC Transit
Presentation from Daniel Pizarro, Senior Regional Transit Manager, as requested by Council

Mr. Pizarro made a presentation regarding how BC Transit can help Council in relation to Transit. He advised that BC Transit provides Stakeholder Communications, Operations and Contract Management. The key to their service is meeting the needs of their customers as restricted by budget. They are the Provincial authority responsible for the planning, funding and operations of all transit throughout the province. Important for Council is the shared services model which he presented - they turn Council's requests into their capital program. He advised that the Boundary area delivers approximately 1,625 service hours annually, 4.4 rides per service hour and 7,000 passenger rides per year. He commented that there is a fixed route between Grand Forks and Greenwood every Friday; and that the operating company for our area is the Interior Health Authority. Boundary Funding for the total system is \$138,851 for the year. He advised that a service review is done every five years. Further, he advised that the increase in service hours equates to increase in cost to local tax payers. The guiding element for elected officials is around local service standards and priorities. He spoke with regard to four touch points: Performance summary, Transit Improvement Program, three year forecast and annual operating agreement.

Questions and Answers:

- The amount the City pays is around \$23,447 towards the service, annually and the service is provided through the Regional District.
- He advised that the buses now have bicycle carriers
- What would process be to have regular stops throughout Grand Forks? Mr. Pizarro advised that Grand Forks is in line for its next service review; and further that the request would need to come to BC Transit from the Regional District.
- The City could utilize its existing hours to include scheduled pick-ups throughout the City, or if Grand Forks wished to expand their service, it would be contingent on additional funding.
- What are our BC Transit fares? \$1.50 is the local charge, and \$1.75 from Greenwood - Grand Forks. He advised that passes are distributed by the Ministry and through their website, and further, that people can call their number.

MOTION: KROG

RESOLVED THAT COTW receive the presentation from Daniel Pizarro, Senior Regional Transit Manager for BC Transit

CARRIED.

b)

Grand Forks Community Trails Society

Mr. Moslin made a presentation to Council with regard to a request from the Trail's Society and a bench in memory of Peter Perepelkin. Chris Moslin made a presentation to Council with regard to reintroducing the Trails Society services and further to a specific request to the "Perepelkin Bench" for the Observation Mountain Trail. He spoke with regard to their services and accomplishments including the overseeing of a number of the trails over the years. He further presented the Society's vision for trails for the future.

He spoke further regarding the Observation Mountain Trail and advised that the Society is especially asking for assistance for placing of the Perepelkin Bench on Observation Mountain. Mr. Moslin spoke about the monetary donation from Mr. Perepelkin before his passing. Mr. Moslin commented that he hoped that Council would give permission to mount the bench on the mountain and for sharing the cost of the bench and plaque, or perhaps, provide in-kind services to place the bench.

Questions and answers after the presentation:

- Has the Society looked at other benches other than the City benches? Mr. Moslin replied that, yes, they have looked at other options.
- Is the funding in place, to purchase the bench? Moslin advised that the Society has the funds in place for the bench; and further, what they are asking for from the City, is permission to place the bench on the mountain and in-kind labour and services.
- He advised that the closest spot to place the bench is approximately 200 yards from where a vehicle can go. The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the Manager of Operations would take a look at the spot to determine where the bench would be accessible.
- The Chief Administrative Officer advised it's within the City's Community Service Support Policy, to provide in-kind contribution to the Society.

MOTION: ROSS

RESOLVED THAT COTW recommend Council refer the request from Chris Moslin of the Grand Forks Community Trails Society, requesting assistance with the placement of the "Perepelkin Bench" on Observation Mountain Trail, to the March 9th Regular Meeting for discussion and decision.

CARRIED.

c)

George Longden - Representative for the Pickle Ball Players

Mr. Longden advised that there are several individuals who play pickle ball on a regular basis. He advised that pickle ball is played with paddles and is open to all ages and every member of the family. There are about 290 places to play in Canada, with approximately 14,000 players. Mr. Longden advised that they currently have two courts: one with the required lines for playing, at Barbara Ann Park, and a court at the Grand Forks Secondary School. He suggested that the City repurpose one of the two tennis courts at Barbara Ann Park, into four dedicated pickle ball courts, and that the cost to this would be approximately \$16,000. He added that by repurposing this court, would provide less confusion for players who play tennis or pickle ball, and increased utilization of existing facilities. He further spoke of a tourism potential where there is a circuit in the province where players travel. He further provided letters of support for the program from members of the public and organizations.

Questions and answers:

- Have they looked at the concept of combining pickle ball and badminton by changing the heights of the net? Mr. Longden commented that it was worth exploring.

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- How accessible are the rackets, and/or where can they be purchased? ... and perhaps a community collection for people to utilize the rackets? It was advised that pickle ball paddles range from \$60 to \$90 per paddle; however basic wooden ones are \$25.00 for beginners.
 - It was advised that the courts at Barbara Ann are in disrepair and that this may be a good time to repair and repurpose the courts at the expense of the City.
 - It was asked if there are any stats of the use of tennis courts at Barbara Ann and GFSS – and was advised that there are no stats.
 - It was suggested that it be prudent to consider if there are any grants available, perhaps with Healthy Communities. Mr. Longden went on to say that it can be costly to resurface the court; and perhaps it is an opportunity to bring the matter to the recreation commission to partner with the costs.
 - The Chief Administrative Officer suggested that staff could put together a brief consideration in the Financial Plan to provide a stimulus fund for the project and determine to see how it would play out in the budget process.
 - It was stated that the two requested are integrated - the resurfacing of the court, and the dedication of four courts
 - The pickle ball group advised that they are not an official club, and further, that they have approximately 14 to 16 players with four playing at one time. Ultimately others would be required to wait in line for their turn to play.
 - A member of the pickle ball group in the gallery advised that they didn't think it needed resurfacing, but rather fixing the cracks and then repurposing to the four courts.
 - Council questioned: is the \$16,000 included for the proposed resurfacing; and was advised by Mr. Longden, that the \$16,000 wouldn't include resurfacing, and that this figure is minimal to repurpose the court to the four pickle ball courts. He further added that the resurfacing would be a significantly higher cost and most likely over \$100,000
 - The Chief Administrative Officer advised that Council could, perhaps look at a small working community group to research the repurposing to determine the needs of the community. Further, that the City could, in short term, look at repairing the cracks.

MOTION: BUTLER

RESOLVED THAT COTW recommend Council refer the request from George Longden on behalf of the Pickle Ball players, requesting to convert one of the tennis courts at Barbara Ann Park into a Pickle Ball court, to the March 9th Regular Meeting for discussion and decision.

CARRIED.

**The Mayor called a recess at 10:12 am.
The meeting reconvened at 10:20 am.**

Councillor Hammett joined the meeting at 10:20 am

d)

Rotary

Rotary Spray Park - request for early budget approval and ability to sole source material and labour, in order to complete the project in 2015.

Maxine Ruzicka and Lynne Burch, representatives for the Rotary Club, made a presentation to Council with a request for early budget approval. Ms. Ruzicka spoke with regard to the members of the Rotary Club who were present at this meeting. She confirmed the City's partnership role in February, 2014, where Council approved Concept #3 for the spray park project, and further, that the project's cost is \$400,000. Ms. Ruzicka suggested that the Rotary Club would like to see the design include a grey water capture which complies with the City's water conservation plan. They spoke with regard to their initiatives in obtaining substantial funds for the project, and advised that they have letters of endorsement which they will give to staff at the end of their presentation. ~~Leanne Leander~~ *Leanne Leander* spoke on behalf of Family Services and the benefits to the families, both local and afar, and that the project would stimulate economic benefits to the community. The representatives spoke about the services provided by Scott Shepard from Urban Systems Limited, and for their pro bono work on the design of the spray park. *Ieda Leander*

Lynne Burch spoke about the lobster fest held last year and their plans for another feast this year in September, 2015. She further commented that the project fits within the City's Sustainable Community Plan, and that Rotary Clubs are often involved in spray park projects throughout the province in communities similar as ours. She advised that, to date, the organization has 80% of its funds in place, including the \$200,000 from the City in last year's financial plan for the project. She spoke further of the anticipated revenue yet to come: \$28,000 from the Credit Union, the selling of concrete yardage for a total of \$7,750, and the 2015 lobster feast at an estimate of \$25,000. To date, the secured donatable and in-kind funds total \$38,000. Ms. Burch commented that the total cash to date is \$375,690, which includes generated revenue and anticipated revenues.

The Rotary Club advised that the group is requesting that Council confirm the \$200,000 in the 2015 Financial Plan, and to give early budget approval to allow City staff to initiate the pre-construction steps, and further that Council needs to allow the sole sourcing of the Spray Park equipment to Rec Tech.

Questions and Answers:

- Any chance for granting from Vancouver foundation this year? No. there isn't
- Is there a water sensor in place, so that water comes on and off? The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the water would be triggered by some sort of activator and timer, and that spray park systems generally don't flow water all the time.
- Is the funding included in the 2015 Financial Plan? Staff advised it was carried forward from the 2014 budget.
- A funding earlier in the year of \$26,000 was flowed through City accounts to fund the expenditure of some of the equipment, through the Phoenix Foundation. Council had already approved the sole sourcing of the project and the means for the City to work outside of their Purchasing Policy for this particular project.
- A representative from the Rotary Club advised that Rec Tech is a proven supplier of this equipment.

MOTION: ROSS

THAT Committee of the Whole recommends that Council receive the information as presented by Rotary, regarding the Rotary Spray Park and refer the request to the

PRESENTATIONS FROM STAFF

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

PROPOSED BYLAWS FOR DISCUSSION

Chief Financial Officer - Financial Plan Bylaw

Introduction for consideration of the first three readings to the 2015-2019 Financial Plan Bylaw 2008 at the March 23rd, 2015 Regular Meeting.

- The Chief Financial Officer introduced the 2015-2019 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 2008. She summarized the general fund and advised that the average resident's assessment of their property is \$199,000 that equates to \$775.88 municipal tax payable.
- She presented three options: 1) Increase in Property Taxes to 4.96%, 2) 2% increase in Property Taxes, or 3) a 3 % Property Tax increase.
- Water Fund - She presented two options: Options: #1 - would be \$20,000 in reserves and an increase of 4.8% to the water rates. The increase in water rates would be \$3.35 per billing period or \$20.10 per year. Option #2 - would put \$10,000 in reserves, resulting in a 2.4% increase. The increase in water rates would be: \$1.70 per billing period and \$10.20 per year.
- Wastewater Fund: Option #1 – An amount of \$11,412 to meet revenue requirements for 2015. This equates to \$2.15 per billing period and \$12.90 per year. Option# 2: Requires \$11,412 to meet 2015 budget requirements, and places \$20,000 to reserves. This results in a wastewater increase of \$5.65 per billing period or \$33.90 per year. Option #3: Requires the \$11, 412 to meet 2015 budget needs, and places \$10,000 in reserves. This equates to increase of \$3.85 per billing period or \$23.10 per year

The Chief Financial Officer advised that all original capital projects have been included, as presented, in this plan. She spoke with regard to Schedule A of the proposed bylaw, and further spoke about Schedule B - revenues, property taxes and exemptions regarding sources of revenue. There was a conversation with regard to Parcel tax usage and its fundamentals.

She further spoke with regard to Schedule C - the carry forward of the Capital Projects and 2015 Capital Project requests.

Additional questions and answers:

- To add the borrowing balance update to the Financial Plan Bylaw

MOTION: THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT COTW recommends to Council to give first three readings to the 2015-2019 Financial Plan Bylaw 2008 at the Regular Meeting of March 23rd, 2015.

CARRIED.

Manager of Building Inspection & Bylaw Services

To give first three readings of the amended Schedule 2-A1 of the Municipal Ticketing and Information Bylaw No. 1957 (re Noise Control Bylaw No. 1963)

The Manager of Bylaw Services advised that this amendment is for housekeeping purposes because the numbering was out of sync. This bylaw re-adjusts this schedule to allow the City to issue tickets, if need be.

MOTION: THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT COTW recommends to Council to refer the amended Schedule 2-A1 of the Municipal Ticketing and Information Bylaw No. 1957 to the Regular Meeting of March 9th, 2015, for the first three readings.

CARRIED.

Manager of Building Inspection & Bylaw Services

To give first three readings of the amended Schedule 4-A1 of the Municipal Ticketing and Information Bylaw No. 1957 (re Unsightly Premises Bylaw No. 1962)

The Bylaw Manager advised that this is another housekeeping item where the numbering of the schedule was out of sync.

MOTION: ROSS

RESOLVED THAT COTW recommends to Council to refer the amended Schedule 4-A1 of the Municipal Ticketing and Information Bylaw No. 1957 to the Regular Meeting of March 9th, 2015, for the first three readings.

CARRIED.

INFORMATION ITEMS

CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

LATE ITEMS

Councillor Hammett put forward an item with regard to the ad hoc Deer Committee and to allow Mr. Gary Smith to speak as Chair of the Deer Committee.

MOTION: HAMMETT

RESOLVED THAT Council allow Gary Smith speak at the meeting with regard to the Deer Committee.

CARRIED.

Mr. Smith spoke with regard to concerns by citizens with regard to a couple of collars that had been rubbing off the hair on these particular deer. He advised that there was no final conclusion; but commented that the deer are at their least weight at this time of the year. The decision was to take the two collars off of the deer that were experiencing this. He spoke that there were 9 collars put on deer, in total, and one other deer has since died, which leaves six deer with collars in the area. He advised that he hoped to make a presentation at the next COTW on the deer management process, and that the Deer Committee would present that the committee has done all the steps in the Deer management plan including taking another look at the Deer Feeding Bylaw and Ticketing Bylaw, and advised that there are fines already in place. Mr. Smith spoke further, that the Deer Committee understands, that there is a general fund in the financial plan for their committee. They are asking that the committee have \$15,000 allocated to their committee from this proposed funding. Councillor Ross asked about habitual bating and if it was illegal? It was commented that it was; however, Mr. Smith advised that there has to be a catalyst to have the province get involved in this regard. Mr. Smith suggested that direction from Council to enforce the Deer Feeding Bylaw and ticketing violators in accordance with the City's Municipal Ticketing Bylaw would be the next step. Councillor Hammett commented that Council needs to empower their Bylaw Officer to issue tickets. Mr. Smith advised that the committee is doing a spring count on April 21st. Mr. Smith further spoke with regard to a request for residential signage on residential streets and that the committee will be bringing forward some concepts on signage. Mr. Les Johnson, of the gallery, suggested that those who are feeding the deer, take on the responsibility by providing community service to clean up of deer droppings.

MOTION: BUTLER

RESOLVED THAT Council receive the verbal report from Mr. Gary Smith, Chair of the ad hoc Deer Committee, and refer the issue of enforcement for the ability to disburse tickets in accordance with the City's Deer Feeding Bylaw to the March 9th Regular Meeting of Council.

CARRIED.

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

QUESTION PERIOD FROM THE PUBLIC

BUDGET PRESENTATION

IN-CAMERA RESOLUTION

Chief Administrative Officer
Immediately following the COTW Meeting, Council will hold an In-Camera Meeting

MOTION: THOMPSON / HAMMETT

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)(a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn

MOTION: THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 12:21 PM.

CARRIED.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



MAYOR FRANK KONRAD



CORPORATE OFFICER – DIANE HEINRICH