

**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**Monday, May 4th, 2015**

**PRESENT:** MAYOR FRANK KONRAD  
COUNCILLOR JULIA BUTLER  
COUNCILLOR CHRIS HAMMETT  
COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE THOMPSON  
COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WIRISCHAGIN

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

GALLERY

**ABSENT:** COUNCILLOR COLLEEN ROSS  
COUNCILLOR NEIL KROG

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**CALL TO ORDER**

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

CARRIED.

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**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA**

Adopt agenda  
May 4th, 2015, COTW

MOTION: BUTLER

**RESOLVED THAT the COTW adopt the May 4th, 2015, COTW agenda as presented.**

CARRIED.

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## REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

### Grand Forks Dog Park

Request for consideration of expansion and improvements to the current Grand Forks Dog Park

#### Overview:

- benefits of a Dog Park
- proposal - expansion, gazebo, parking area, seasonal porta potty, memorial plaque program
- expansion - double-gated area with two different areas, shelter, stairs from parking
- on-going financial support - memorial plaques

#### Discussion:

- Gary Smith - security improvement
- Nigel James - potential other site for a Dog Park location
- surrounding neighborhood support, liability for installing stairs, insurance
- asking City to do the labor for the gate installation
- Phoenix Foundation
- testing for Cemetery site area

MOTION: THOMPSON

**RESOLVED THAT the COTW recommends to Council to receive for information and discussion the request from Kathy Novokshonoff of the Grand Forks Dog Park, requesting expansion and improvements to the current Grand Forks Dog Park.**

CARRIED.

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### Grand Forks Deer Committee

Verbal report and presentation providing information on the deer collaring program

#### Overview:

- 166 deer last count, two counts done per year (Spring and Fall), monitoring since 2007
- Collaring Project - nine GPS collars and team established, included two vets from University of Calgary, ear tags, biopsy, hair samples, fecal samples, collars rot off in approx. two years
- between Rock Creek and Christina Lake one of the highest collision rates in the province

#### Discussion:

- will the deer with the chaffing neck be more prone to bug bites? Biologist monitors this
- when deer sedated, are they in good health? Yes, only takes approx. 10 mins.
- Donna Semenoff - stats - why did population of deer go down? A lot of variables such as food, collisions, etc.
- Frank Triveri - how close are we to solution of the problem? In progress

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- Beverly Tripp - what will happen with information compiled?
  - fines for deer feeding, timelines for a cull
  - CAO - Council should present data captured and meet with Minister at the UBCM
  - Donna Semenoff - how can public attend and know when Deer Meetings are on?
  - CAO - Deer Committee Meetings will be posted on the board at City Hall. Minutes should be submitted to Corporate Services and distributed as a Summary of Information Item
  - what to continue to do about natural migration & habitat, work together with Area D

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN

**RESOLVED THAT the COTW recommends to Council to receive for information the presentation from Gary Smith of the Grand Forks Deer Committee.**

CARRIED.

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### **PRESENTATIONS FROM STAFF**

Fire Chief  
Fire truck questions

Overview:

- current truck has expired and run its course
- suggestion made to replace truck by Fire Underwriters criteria
- overview of timeline for truck purchase proposal
- Fleet Replacement Plan
- Fire Underwriters Survey apparatus service schedule
- performance expectations have increased
- Public Fire Protection Classification grades, currently rated 6 (1-10 scale, 1 being the best)
- residential rating of 2
- financing

Discussion:

- thank you to the Fire Dept.
- James Hamilton - truck size, previous parking proposal discussion, residential insurance rate
- Nigel James - commercial vs residential insurance rates, training cost of firefighters on new vehicle

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN

**RESOLVED THAT the COTW recommends to Council to receive the presentation by the Fire Chief regarding the new ladder truck.**

CARRIED.

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Monthly Highlight Reports from Department Managers  
Staff request for Council to receive the monthly activity reports from department managers

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Discussion:

- clarity of fence location at farmland near hospital
- watering time restrictions
- deer feeding complaints, household visits to violators in question regarding Bylaw

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN

**RESOLVED THAT the COTW recommends to Council to receive the monthly activity reports from department managers.**

CARRIED.

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The Mayor recessed the COTW Meeting at 10:25 am  
The Mayor reconvened the COTW Meeting at 10:37 am

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**REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

Corporate Services  
March 23rd Report of the Community Engagement Session

Overview and Discussion:

- strategic planning
- Sylvia Treptow - when Strategic Plan available to public? First draft being compiled, approx. two weeks
- Gloria Koch - will public be able to input more into the Plan soon or in the near future? Received public input already from many suggestions - now compiled
- draft at COTW Meeting for more collaboration
- James Hamilton - good ideas from report and public input from Community Engagement Session

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN

**RESOLVED THAT the COTW recommends to Council to receive the report regarding the March 23rd, 2015, Community Engagement Session.**

CARRIED.

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Corporate Services  
Proposed Council Technology Allowance Policy

Overview and Discussion:

- computer technology allowance for Council at \$500 per year for their own systems
- CAO - Council would own their own computers, fits in with Asset Management Policy of not owning more assets
- if in excess of allowance, at own cost
- compatible software will be purchased and installed to be able to work on City business, only hardware will be owned by Council

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- City will not have this in inventory, IT Dept. will maintain security, software related to City business
  - CAO - once Policy adopted, Council members will provide their own computers. If a Council member does not have their own computer initially, they would be provided one from inventory and would be able to opt in or out of this policy
  - Councillor Hammett - can the \$500 go towards the current computers that Council has from the City? CAO - will look into this
  - Councillor Thompson - if Council opted out, they would not receive the \$500 allowance? CAO - correct

MOTION: THOMPSON

**RESOLVED THAT the COTW recommends to Council to receive the report from the Corporate Officer with regard to a proposed Council Technology Allowance Policy, and refers the policy to the May 25th, 2015, Regular Meeting of Council for consideration to adopt.**

Councillor Butler advised she would like to amend the motion.

MOTION: BUTLER

RESOLVED THAT the COTW recommends to Council that should a new Council member not be able to provide a computer from the \$500 allowance, they should be able to use an old City computer until such time they can secure their own.

Councillor Wirischagin advised that he would be against the amended motion.

Discussion:

- Councillor Butler - new Council should be allowed a City computer
- Councillor Hammett - when a Council member leaves the City, how are they guaranteed that information is gone from the computer? CAO - cannot guarantee, Council works under Oath of Office, Council member liable, City protected by law

Councillor Butler advised that she would like to remove her amended motion.

Councillor Butler advised she would like to amend the motion.

MOTION: BUTLER

RESOLVED THAT the COTW recommends to Council a proposal for an opt out clause instead.

CARRIED.

AMENDED MOTION

MOTION: THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT the COTW recommends to Council to receive the report from the Corporate Officer with regard to a proposed Council Technology Allowance Policy, and refers the policy to the May 25th, 2015, Regular Meeting of Council for

consideration to adopt with the consideration of the amended motion for members of Council to opt out of the yearly allowance and to include this option in the policy for consideration.

CARRIED.

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Manager of Operations  
Universal Water Meter Program

MOTION: THOMPSON

**RESOLVED THAT the COTW recommends to Council to defer this presentation to the next meeting when all members of Council are present.**

Councillor Butler opposed the motion.

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**PROPOSED BYLAWS FOR DISCUSSION**

Manager of Operations  
Bylaw 2015 - Electrical Utility Regulatory Bylaw

Discussion:

- Councillor Butler - Photo Voltaic Services should be corrected (one location says Residential), originally passed with an amendment at the January 26th Regular Meeting.
- CAO - an adjustment will be made before it comes to Council for the May 25th Regular Meeting

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN

**RESOLVED THAT the COTW recommends to Council to give first three readings to Bylaw 2015 - Electrical Utility Regulatory Bylaw to be referred to the May 25th, 2015, Regular Meeting of Council.**

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

Donna Semenoff

- spoke about the Electrical Bylaw amendment, Penticton opting out of wireless - less expensive - could City research wireless, non-emitting meters and manual reads.

Discussion regarding meter replacement and meter read procedures.

CAO

- spoke in regard to the opportunity for a different meter and compatibility, costs, operation, staff time.

Shaylene Campbell

- spoke about the possibility of having both readings with one visit for both electrical and water meters, will City be responsible for health risks of water meters, why City of Grand Forks has double the employees compared to Trail.

CAO

- replied that the Electrical & Water departments are two different departments. Water bills are read for industrial/commercial users at different times than the Electrical department reads electric meters. Water rates for residential are flat rates. Municipality of Grand Forks owns its own electrical utility. Each department is totally different - water, sewer, parks, roads, fire. Municipality is run with efficient staff level. A digital touch pad can be installed in the home with no emissions or a pit meter.

Karin Bagn

- spoke in regards to the Urban Systems report, water meters, and the full disclosure of the CAO. She stated that she is not a lawyer in Canada.

Councillor Thompson

- personnel issues are discussed in an In-Camera meeting.

Frank Triveri

- asked if his letter to Mayor and Council was received? Stated that his letter was not regarding a personnel issue. He would like his letter made as a public record.

CAO

- Mr. Triveri's letter has been received. Council agendas are a business of the City and the public does not set an agenda. In the Community Charter under Section 90, it deals with personnel issues and is protected for that purpose. If dealing with personnel issues, a member of the public does not have the privilege of discussing in a public forum. All salaries over \$75,000 are public knowledge. If a letter is dealing with the corporation, it is a different process. Information is always available to the public, components of personal issues are not ever available.

Councillor Butler

- personnel issues are at the discretion of those speaking under Section 90 in the Community Charter. She further advised that the new contract of the CAO has gone to the public through the FOI process already. She would like to encourage Council to

release all In-Camera minutes, does not have an issue for Mr. Triveri's letter to appear on an agenda.

Councillor Thompson

- Mr. Triveri's letter has been circulated and read, answers will be provided, at this meeting it is not appropriate, time is required for Council to process.

Sylvia Treptow

- inquired about her letter submitted asking information about water meter insurance, answers received from the City were not processed in a timely manner. The Mayor apologized to Ms. Treptow.

Les Johnson

- spoke in regards to the cost of reading meters and the negative perception that City staff is just driving by.

Nigel James

- spoke in regards to electrical meters (pay as you go) to perhaps solve the payment of electrical bills.

James Hamilton

- spoke in regards to the \$500 Council technology allowance and electrical power cutoff request from a landlord.

Gloria Keogh

- spoke positively to Mr. Kopan's request for a Development Variance Permit for an accessory building on his property, as she advised that she received a letter from the City as a neighbour close to the property.

Donna Semenov

- stated that electrical/water meters to be read at the same time would be more efficient and spoke of not enough room for the public to attend meetings currently in Council Chambers.

CAO

- responded that rental of another space to hold Council meetings may be a consideration; however, the building would have to have availability of equipment, internet, communication devices, etc.

Fire Chief

- 47 people is the occupancy load in Council Chambers.

Ms. Hamilton

- grateful to Les Johnson for broadcasts of Council meetings; however, they are not the same as live meetings
- allowance for public input near door would help for larger crowds. Fire Chief stated that the Exit corridor cannot be blocked.

Councillor Butler

- how much did the report cost from Urban Systems regarding the Water Meter options that was deferred? CAO advised that it was between \$5-7,000.



James Hamilton

- spoke in accordance to his letter sent to the City with insurance issues re Bylaw 1973. He would like a reply.

Bob Smith

- would like the City to be responsible for outstanding bills and collection of overdue amounts.

CAO

- responded that electricity is tied to the property and the responsibility is with the landlord.

Councillor Hammett

- City does not have the responsibility to approve/disapprove when a landlord chooses and signs on a tenant.

Councillor Thompson

- both tenant and landlord sign the application for electricity, both receive bills, City provides service to landlord.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

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MOTION: THOMPSON

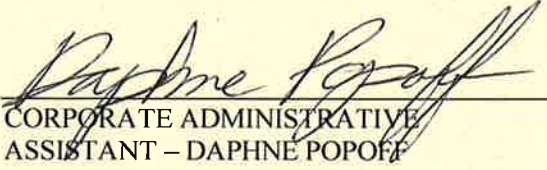
The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 12:33 pm

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**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

  
MAYOR FRANK KONRAD

  
CORPORATE ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT – DAPHNE POPOFF