

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2015

PRESENT:

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

*As amended at the
Oct 26, 2015 Regular
Meeting*

OK *all*

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
CORPORATE OFFICER
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
MANAGER OF DEVELOPMENT & ENGINEERING
MANAGER OF OPERATIONS
DEPUTY MANAGER OF OPERATIONS

D. Allin
D. Heinrich
R. Shepherd
S. Bird
D. Reid
D. Drexler

GALLERY

ABSENT: COUNCILLOR CHRIS HAMMETT

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- a) Adopt agenda
October 13th, 2015, Regular Meeting agenda

MOTION: ROSS / THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT Council adopt the October 13th, 2015, Regular Meeting agenda as presented.

CARRIED.

3. MINUTES

- a) Adopt minutes
September 1st, 2015, Special Meeting to go In-Camera minutes

MOTION: THOMPSON / BUTLER

RESOLVED THAT Council adopt the September 1st, 2015, Special Meeting to go In-Camera minutes as presented.

CARRIED.

- b) Adopt minutes
September 9th, 2015, Special Meeting to go In-Camera minutes

Councillor Butler asked to have the minutes amended to reflect that she was opposed to Section 90 (1) (c), as she felt that discussions relating to the City budget should be discussed in an open public meeting and not to Council, In-Camera, first.

MOTION: THOMPSON / KROG

RESOLVED THAT Council adopt the September 9th, 2015, Special Meeting to go In-Camera minutes as amended.

CARRIED.

- c) Adopt minutes
September 14th, 2015, Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes

MOTION: BUTLER / THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT Council adopt the September 14th, 2015, Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes as presented.

CARRIED.

- d) Adopt minutes
September 14th, 2015, Regular Meeting minutes

MOTION: KROG / THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT Council adopt the September 14th, 2015, Regular Meeting minutes as presented.

CARRIED.

4. REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. REPORTS, QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

- a) Corporate Officer's Report
Written reports of Council

Councillor Butler had a question for Councillor Ross regarding the Ministry of Energy and Mines Meeting while she was at the UBCM. Councillor Ross advised the Ministry advised that they will continue to do exploratory work throughout BC which is a concern for her, and she wanted to give Council a heads up.

MOTION: THOMPSON / KROG

RESOLVED THAT all written reports of Council be received.

CARRIED.

7. 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 October 6th, the BEDC met in Grand Forks where the group reviewed a work list that Community Futures was developing. He advised that he will arrange to get the full report on First Class for Council's review. He advised that the group further discussed the Rural Dividend criteria for small communities and of opportunities for rural BC and first nations and that they will be talking further how this will roll out in Grand Forks. He further commented that the main focus of BEDC revolved around three major focus areas – 1) being trails where they discussed a region wide trail strategy and master plan under the economic development umbrella. He reported that Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, CAO, John MacLean and Area E Director, Vicki Gee, met with Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen, where recommendations came out from this meeting. He advised that the RDOS have developed GIS mapping tools that are interactive for both recreation and commuters, and that the cost for these tools are around \$135,000 per year. Further, he added, that a big part of the project is dealing with conflict resolution with land owners. The other two focus points which Councillor Krog briefly touched upon where: 2) an agreement to revisit the agriculture plan; and 3) community forests.

Councillor Krog further advised that the Regional District hasn't yet found another site for the former downtown recycle bins which were displaced upon the arrival of the new fire truck.

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.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAFF FOR DECISIONS**

- a) Manager of Development & Engineering Services
Valley Heights Developments application for Strata Conversion

Manager advised that the City received an application for conversion of four apartments as required by the strata act. She advised that the application was applied for in 2013.

MOTION: KROG / BUTLER

RESOLVED THAT Council approve the strata conversion application of a commercial/residential building located at 7330 Riverside Drive and direct the Approving Officer to sign the Form T "Endorsement by Approving Officer", certifying that the conversion has been approved, in accordance with Section 242 of the Strata Property Act.

CARRIED.

- b) Manager of Development & Engineering Services
Application for a Development Variance Permit to request an increase in the ratio of apartments to the principal building from 30% to 50% to allow for the current four apartments upstairs to remain and to comply with the Zoning Bylaw

MOTION: KROG / BUTLER

RESOLVED THAT Council considers the Development Variance Permit application and selects option one, as presented.

CARRIED.

MOTION: KROG / ROSS

RESOLVED THAT Staff prepare a report regarding pros and cons that would research the downtown core in relation to a ratio increase of apartments to the principal building.

CARRIED.

- c) Manager of Development & Engineering Services
Approval from Council to permit Granby River Mining Company Inc. to enter into a Mortgage of Lease Agreement with Community Futures Development Corporation in order to secure financial funding for plant upgrades at its operations in Grand Forks and approval for the City to enter into a Non-Disturbance Agreement with Community Futures.

Council advised that they would like to know more about the remedies of the agreement, and that there is a concern for the establishment of remediation to the site fifty years down the road. Councillor Ross asked if there was an opportunity to speak with the Ministry in a partnership role.

MOTION: BUTLER / KROG

RESOLVED THAT the matter regarding the Granby River Mining Company Inc. be referred back to Staff for further information before proceeding, and to bring forward at the next Regular Meeting on October 26th, 2015.

CARRIED.

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- d) Manager of Operations
Electric Vehicle and Charging Update

The Manager of Operations spoke with regard to the charging stations and that Tesla has decided to change the charging station program where municipalities are not provided Electric Charging Stations as previously planned, and further added that a family from Manitoba likes Grand Forks, and have donated one electric car charging station to the community which will be installed by City Hall. Councillor Butler asked if the funds for the electric vehicle could come out of the climate action fund, and was advised that the funds could be used for this project. Councillor Ross objected to this proposal stating that she felt that the climate action funding should not be allocated to a vehicle.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the City had budgeted for an SUV for 2015, and in order to reduce our Carbon footprint, purchasing an electric vehicle would seem a viable option as part of the City's fleet. He further advised that Council could choose to defer this decision to the 2016 budgeting process.

MOTION: KROG / THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT Council approves amending the 2015 Financial Plan from the Equipment Replacement Fund to include the additional costs of up to \$15,000 for the purchase of an electric vehicle.

After a discussion, there was no vote on the above resolution.

MOTION: BUTLER / ROSS

RESOLVED THAT Council chooses to defer the purchase of an electric vehicle to the 2016 Financial Plan and budgeting process.

CARRIED.

9. **REQUESTS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE**

10. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

- a) Nadine Heiberg
Letter regarding Common Law and the City of Grand Forks over the years

MOTION: ROSS / THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT Council receive for information.

CARRIED.

- b) Meeting minutes
Meeting minutes of June 23rd, August 5th, September 15th, and September 16th held with the Transition Housing Project Steering Committee

MOTION: THOMPSON / BUTLER

RESOLVED THAT Council receive for information.

CARRIED.

- c) Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
Deer Committee Meeting in Penticton, BC on October 21st

Councillor Krog advised that a member of Council should attend the meeting.

MOTION: ROSS / THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT Council receive for information.

CARRIED.

MOTION: ROSS / THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT Council approves a representative from Council to attend the Deer meeting.

CARRIED.

- d) Sunshine Valley Women's Institute
Request to build a sidewalk along the road in front of the Silver Kettle Village

MOTION: ROSS / BUTLER

RESOLVED THAT Council receive for information.

CARRIED.

- e) Grand Forks ATV Club
Letter of invitation to the Grand Opening for the Bluejoint Recreation Site

MOTION: KROG / BUTLER

RESOLVED THAT Council receive for information. Council to note the open invitation for October 15th.

CARRIED.

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- f) Scott Davis
Letter of concern regarding current Asset Management Plan
MOTION: BUTLER / KROG

RESOLVED THAT Council receive for information.

CARRIED.

- g) Visland Media
Alex Miller is requesting a non-binding letter of support for a potential television show based on a reality TV show for an eco-home building competition

Council advised that this would be a great exposure for the community if this came to fruition. The Chief Administrative Officer advised that it would be necessary to amend the Zoning Bylaw and OCP to include an application to allow for this type of zone. He further advised that once they have received the non-binding letter from Council, this will give the catalyst for Visland Media to seek sponsors.

MOTION: KROG / BUTLER

RESOLVED THAT Council receives for information and determines to provide a non-binding letter of support to Visland Media for the proposed tiny eco home series to take place in the City of Grand Forks.

CARRIED.

11. BYLAWS

- a) Corporate Services
Council's consideration to approve existing Bylaw No. 1999 as the Election's Bylaw for the upcoming By-Election

MOTION: BUTLER / THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT Council determines that Bylaw No. 1999, "A bylaw to provide for the determination of various procedures for the conduct of local government elections and other voting", is satisfactory as the bylaw to be utilized for the upcoming by-election.

CARRIED.

- b) Chief Financial Officer
Bylaw 2020 to Establish Community Works Reserve Fund

MOTION: THOMPSON / BUTLER

RESOLVED THAT Council give final reading to Community Works Reserve Fund Establishment Bylaw 2020, 2015.

CARRIED.

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- c) Manager of Operations
Water Regulations Bylaw No. 1973-A1

MOTION: KROG / BUTLER

RESOLVED THAT Council refers Bylaw No. 1973-A1 regarding Water Regulations, to the Regular meeting on November 23rd Regular Meeting.

CARRIED.

- d) Manager of Building Inspections & Bylaw Services
Amendment Bylaw No. 1957 A-3 to the Municipal Ticketing & Information Bylaw No. 1957

MOTION: ROSS / BUTLER

RESOLVED THAT Bylaw No.1957 A-3, Municipal Ticketing & Information Bylaw be referred to next regular meeting on October 26th, 2015, for final reading.

CARRIED.

- e) Chief Financial Officer
2016 Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 2018

Councillor Ross advised that she is struggling with the Masonic Building and the Curling Club and would like to see more of a rationale. The Chief Financial Officer advised that the annual tax exemption bylaw has been the status quo and there has been no discussion to do anything different to date. Councillor Thompson asked if the City can afford to grant all of these permissive tax exemptions, and suggested that the City needs to take a long hard look at the process for next year.

MOTION: BUTLER / ROSS

RESOLVED THAT Council give first three readings to Bylaw No. 2018 - 2016 Permissive Tax Exemptions.

CARRIED.

12. **LATE ITEMS**

13. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC AND THE MEDIA**

SCOTT DAVIS - He spoke with regard to the Asset Management Review, and of the elimination of the three full time outside works positions, and asked how the City will manage to pick up the slack. The Chief Administrative Officer advised that with the changes coming forward - how many people does the City hire to continue to fix our

failing assets? He spoke about the necessary Capital requirements and that the City has about \$10,000,000 in renewal requirements to address. Mr. Scott further inquired about the elimination of two full time positions from the inside staff; the Chief Administrative Officer spoke about contractual obligations of management and how this determines how the inside organization will look in the future. Mr. Scott spoke about the services that are provided by Public Works and asked that Council give serious consideration when making their decisions on the matter.

SUKIE LAWRENCE - He advised that the Union members are here to witness the issue as a group.

SCOTT DAVIS - Asked if this process is the first step of eliminating the Union in the City? The Mayor advised that the question is derogatory; the Chief Administrative Officer advised that this question is so far removed from the financial situation of the City, that it is not even open for discussion.

LES JOHNSON - He advised that he was curious how the electric vehicle dovetails into the Asset Management program. The Chief Administrative spoke with regard to the triple bottom line and carbon neutrality, and that there is a financial burden to some required replacement of assets.

14. ADJOURNMENT

a) Meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM

MOTION: BUTLER

RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:44 PM

CARRIED.

CERTIFIED CORRECT.



MAYOR FRANK KONRAD



CORPORATE OFFICER - DIANE HEINRICH