

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

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**Monday, September 14, 2015**

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

ACTING CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
ACTING CORPORATE OFFICER  
MANAGER OF BUILDING AND  
BYLAW SERVICES  
MANAGER OF OPERATIONS  
CORPORATE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

D. Heinrich  
R. Shepherd  
S. Winton

W. Kopan  
D. Reid  
D. Popoff

GALLERY

**ABSENT:** COUNCILLOR JULIA BUTLER

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Mayor called the COTW Meeting to order at 9:02 am.

CARRIED.

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**2. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA**

- a) Councillor Ross  
Late items amendment to agenda

MOTION: ROSS

**RESOLVED THAT the COTW agenda be amended to include three late items: Syrian refugees, community picnic, and Voter Challenge.**

CARRIED.

- b) Adopt agenda  
September 14th, 2015, COTW

MOTION: ROSS

**RESOLVED THAT the COTW adopt the September 14th, 2015, COTW Meeting agenda as amended.**

CARRIED.

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**3. REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

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**4. PRESENTATIONS FROM STAFF**

- a) Corporate Services  
Volunteer Appreciation Night - Call for Nominations - Policy #204

Discussion:

- awards will be in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce presentations

MOTION: THOMPSON

**RESOLVED THAT the COTW recommends Council provides notice to the public calling for nominations from the public for exceptional volunteer service in the City of Grand Forks in accordance with Council Policy #204 at the September 14th Regular Meeting.**

CARRIED.

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

Discussion:

- more information on Venture Connect
- potential developers conference calls explained
- interviewing for Casual Admin. in reference to FTE's
- RFP and EOI submission bids
- RFP's bids were from Argosy Construction and Boundary Excavating
- EOI's bids were from Mainstream Mechanical, Dandy Plumbing, and Bob Kendel

MOTION: THOMPSON

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

CARRIED.

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5. **REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

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6. **PROPOSED BYLAWS FOR DISCUSSION**

- a) Corporate Officer  
Re-introduction of the current City of Grand Forks Bylaw No. 1999, 2014, for various procedures for the conduct of Local Government elections and other voting and Election timeline information.

MOTION: THOMPSON

**RESOLVED THAT the COTW recommends to Council to determine that the current City Bylaw No. 1999, 2014, for the conduct of local government elections remain in place for the upcoming local government By-Election and refer the matter to the October 13th, 2015, Regular Meeting for consideration.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council receive and discuss, for information purposes, the Election timeline with regard to the By-Election.**

CARRIED.

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- b) Chief Financial Officer  
2016 Annual Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw

Discussion:

- permissive exemptions for property taxes
- \$29,000 Municipal portion only, equates to .98 percent of the Municipal tax portion
- church exemptions
- Councillor Thompson recommended that each organization provide a financial statement prior to the October 13th Regular Meeting showing their need for permissive exemption
- Acting CAO stated that the Bylaw must be adopted by the end of October
- Masonic Hall, Grand Forks Curling Club, and Recreation Center property taxes
- land parcel where Aquatic Center, Curling Club, and Arena are situated on
- Not-for-Profit status and registration
- Acting CAO stated that the Community Charter defines who the municipality determines should be under the permissive tax exemption and what needs to be done
- assessed values of properties

MOTION: THOMPSON

**RESOLVED THAT the COTW recommends that Council give first three readings to Bylaw No. 2018 "2016 Permissive Tax Exemptions" at the October 13th, 2015, Regular Meeting.**

CARRIED.

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7. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

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8. **CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS**

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9. **LATE ITEMS**

a) Councillor Ross  
Syrian refugee crisis

Discussion:

- BC Government and immigration process
- Premier Christy Clark pledge
- refugee sponsorship, hosting Syrian families, and sending a message of humanitarianism of Grand Forks
- Sheila Dobie, Community Literacy Coordinator letter
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) task force
- Regional District's support as well
- concerns regarding safety issues, infiltration
- Immigration Canada
- Gallery input

MOTION: ROSS

**RESOLVED THAT the City of Grand Forks support the agencies in the Boundary and Regional District of Kootenay Boundary in the process of sponsoring refugees from the Syrian crisis.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Grand Forks send a letter of support of refugees in Canada to Premier Christy Clark and to the FCM.**

CARRIED.

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b) Councillor Ross  
Community picnic after fires

Discussion:

- possibility of an open mic
- bring community together
- share experiences
- thank people
- potluck or your own lunch
- annual event perhaps

MOTION: ROSS

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**RESOLVED THAT an invitation be posted in the local papers, online, and through posters inviting families to join City staff, Council, and our firefighters to come together, weather permitting, for a picnic in City Park on Saturday, October 10th, 2015, from Noon-2:00 pm.**

CARRIED.

- c) Councillor Ross  
Voter Challenge

Discussion:

- encouraging democracy
- higher voter turnout

MOTION: ROSS

**RESOLVED THAT the City of Grand Forks join with other communities within the Regional Boundary District and enters into the Voter Challenge in the upcoming Federal Election.**

CARRIED.

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

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**11. QUESTION PERIOD FROM THE PUBLIC**

- a) - Fil Mauro made and handed Mayor and each Council member "a round Tuit".
- Sukie Lawrence, President of Local CUPE 4728 asked to read a letter received regarding a formal 60 day working notice, separate from the Media Release. Council suggested submitting the request to the Mayor in writing for the next Regular Meeting's agenda. Mr. Lawrence asked if Council was aware that the CAO intended to remove specific titles from the Collective Bargaining Unit for the City of Grand Forks and is Council fully aware of the grievance procedure inacted on a poison municipal workplace?
  - Acting CAO stated that the CAO presented a report to Council In-Camera and then the next day to CUPE 4728 and that the full report will be presented to the public in October. The grievance procedure is In-Camera.
  - Mr. Lawrence asked if Council knew that the CAO was planning to cut three unionized positions and employees despite the terms of the Collective Agreement?
  - Acting CAO answered that Council was presented with the report that indicated that there were going to be employees cut from Public Works. She spoke regarding Article 3.01 in the Collective Agreement and Management having to make some hard decisions to get the infrastructure back on track and was a direction of Council.
  - Mr. Lawrence stated that CUPE has contacted Regional, National, and have consulted with legal council and have been advised that the municipality's actions violate the Labour Relations Code. The CUPE has filed several grievances and will be

forced to apply to the Labour Relations Board to have the situation addressed.

- question asked why the administration answers the CUPE members questions and not Council directly? Mayor replied that under the Collective Agreement, Union does not address Council. Council is aware In-Camera and encourage communication is respectful in a safe workplace.

- air quality during the fires, Interior Health involvement during this health hazard, communication through the Regional District.

- will the counting during the bi-election be done electronically or manually? Acting CAO gave the explanation of the process.

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b) Mayor Konrad recused himself from the COTW Meeting at 10:35 am.  
Councillor Hammett became Acting Mayor.

- discussion regarding water meters, engineer reports, residential use, cost-effective evaluation, conservation, previous Council decision, Stage 2 Watering Restrictions

Mayor Konrad returned to the COTW Meeting at 10:48 am.

- Manager of Operations spoke in regards to the inquiry of door-to-door patrol of checking electrical meters

- Steven Howard, Chief Shop Steward for CUPE local 4728 asked what the best way to bring forth any concerns to Council would be? Mayor Konrad replied that concerns would be channelled through Administration staff. Mr. Howard said that this is a bit of a communication challenge. Mayor Konrad replied that then you would have to utilize the means through your Employment Agreement.

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12. **ADJOURNMENT**

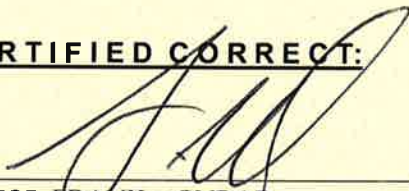
The Mayor adjourned the COTW Meeting at 10:50 am.

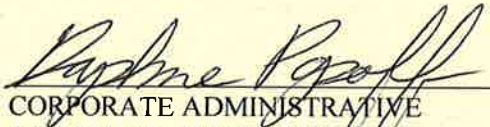
CARRIED.

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**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

  
MAYOR FRANK KONRAD

  
CORPORATE ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT - DAPHNE POPOFF