

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

**REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**MONDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2006**

**PRESENT:** MAYOR NEIL KROG  
COUNCILLOR ANN GORDON  
COUNCILLOR TOM HINTER  
COUNCILLOR CHRIS MOSLIN  
COUNCILLOR PATRICK O'DOHERTY  
COUNCILLOR GENE ROBERT  
COUNCILLOR TOM SHKRABUIK

CITY MANAGER	V. Kumar
CITY CLERK	L. Burch
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	D. Zabinsky

GALLERY

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**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Mayor called the Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: ROBERT / GORDON

**RESOLVED THAT THIS REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL BE RECESSED AT 7:01 P.M. TO ALLOW FOR THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING, AND THAT THIS REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL BE RECONVENED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING.**

CARRIED.

The Meeting was recessed at 7:01 p.m. and reconvened at 8:39 p.m.

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**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Councillor Moslin requested that an item be added to the Clerk's report on proposed AKBLG resolutions, as he wished to propose an additional resolution
- Councillor Gordon requested that an item be added to the Clerk's report on proposed AKBLG resolutions, as she wished to propose an additional resolution.

MOTION: GORDON / MOSLIN

**RESOLVED THAT THE AGENDA BE ADOPTED, AS AMENDED.**

CARRIED.

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**MINUTES:**

MOTION: O'DOHERTY / GORDON

**RESOLVED THAT** THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2006, BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

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**REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS:**

NONE

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

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**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAFF FOR DECISIONS:**

**a) City Clerk's Report – Proposed Resolutions for AKBLG**

MOTION: GORDON / SHKRABUIK

WHEREAS FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER HAS PROVEN TO COST BRITISH COLUMBIA TAXPAYERS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND SOCIAL SERVICES;

AND WHEREAS SOME MUNICIPALITIES HAVE TAKEN A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN REQUIRING LICENSED ESTABLISHMENTS TO POST WARNING SIGNS IN THEIR PLACE OF BUSINESS AS TO FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA BE REQUESTED TO PASS PROVINCIAL LAWS REQUIRING ALL LICENSED ESTABLISHMENTS AND RETAIL LIQUOR OUTLETS TO POST WARNING SIGNS IN THEIR PLACES OF BUSINESS, WARNING WOMEN OF THE DANGERS OF CONSUMING ALCOHOL DURING PREGNANCY.

CARRIED

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MOTION: O'DOHERTY / SHKRABUIK

WHEREAS IN CANADA, HEATING COST TO RESIDENTS IS A MAJOR COMPONENT OF ALL HOUSEHOLDS AFTER INCOME TAX INCOMES AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS REPORTED TO BE CONSIDERING A REDUCTION IN GST CHARGED ON TAXABLE GOODS AND SERVICES;

.../ resolution continued on next page

AND WHEREAS THE IMMEDIATE ELIMINATION OF GST ON HEATING FUELS, NATURAL GAS AND ELECTRICITY WOULD ASSIST ALL INCOME LEVELS IN MANAGING THEIR AFTER TAX INCOME;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS REQUESTS THE SUPPORT OF ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE IMMEDIATE AND PERMANENT ELIMINATION OF GST ON ALL FUELS, NATURAL GAS AND ELECTRICITY UTILIZED IN HEATING RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES.

CARRIED.

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MOTION: SHKRABUIK / ROBERT

WHEREAS THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT RECEIVES A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF REVENUES FROM LIQUOR TAXES AND MORE RECENTLY INCREASED TAX ON LIQUOR TO CAPTURE AS MUCH AS \$81 MILLION IN EXTRA REVENUE AND ;

AND WHEREAS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE INCREASINGLY FACING PRESSURES FROM RESIDENTS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT SERVICES SUCH AS ENFORCEMENT, EDUCATION, TREATMENT ARISING FROM LIQUOR RELATED OFFENCES COMPARED TO OTHER MUNICIPAL SERVICES PLACING AN INCREASED BURDEN ON PROPERTY TAXES;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PROVINCE PROVIDES A PORTION OF LIQUOR TAX TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO DEFRAY THE COST OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN PREVENTION AND EDUCATION RELATING TO LIQUOR AND LIQUOR RELATED OFFENCES OR ALTERNATIVELY GRANT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TAXATION AUTHORITY TO LEVY A TAX ON ALL LIQUOR SOLD WITHIN LOCAL GOVERNMENT JURISDICTION IN ORDER TO DEFRAY SUCH PREVENTION AND EDUCATION RELATED PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

CARRIED.

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MOTION: O'DOHERTY / ROBERT

WHEREAS THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT PROVIDES FOR A HOME OWNER GRANT TO INDIVIDUAL HOME OWNERS ANNUALLY AS AN OFFSET TO SCHOOL TAXES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$470 TO THOSE UNDER AGE 65 AND \$745 TO THOSE 65 AND OVER OR WITH DISABILITIES, AND THE HOME OWNER GRANT AMOUNT AVAILABLE HAS NOT CHANGED SINCE 1993, A PERIOD OF 13 YEARS;

AND WHEREAS DURING THE PAST 13 YEARS, AS SCHOOL TAXES HAVE INCREASED, INFLATION HAS ERODED THE BENEFITS OF THE HOME OWNER GRANT TO HOME OWNERS, PARTICULARLY SENIORS;

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY AND BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS THROUGH THE UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES PETITION THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO RAISE THE HOME OWNER GRANT AMOUNTS FOR INDIVIDUAL HOME OWNERS AND SENIORS BEGINNING IN 2007.

CARRIED.

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MOTION: SHKRABUIK / GORDON

WHEREAS THE BANKS AND FORESHORE AREAS OF RIVERS TRAVERSING THROUGH MUNICIPALITIES ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT;

AND WHEREAS THERE ARE DANGEROUS TREES AND OTHER VEGETATION THAT POSE RISKS TO LOCAL RESIDENTS AND THEIR PROPERTY, AS WELL AS BEING A POTENTIAL RISK TO MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROPERTY;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA BE PETITIONED TO ENSURE THAT REGULAR INSPECTIONS ARE CARRIED OUT IN RIPARIAN AREAS, AND THAT TREES AND OTHER VEGETATION THAT POSE A RISK OF LIABILITY ARE DEALT WITH IN A TIMELY MANNER.

CARRIED.

Councillor Robert voted against the resolution

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MOTION: O'DOHERTY / GORDON

WHEREAS THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT HAS DOWNLOADED THE WATER QUALITY MONITORING OF RIVERS AND STREAMS WITHIN MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING THE COST OF REGULAR TESTING;

AND WHEREAS LABORATORY EXAMINATIONS FOR WATER QUALITY TESTS IN RIVERS AND STREAMS CAN COST LOCAL GOVERNMENTS THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS ANNUALLY AND THE RESULTS OF THESE LABORATORY TESTS ARE NOT REQUIRED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA BE PETITIONED TO ABSORB THE COST OF WATER QUALITY MONITORING IN RIVERS AND STREAMS, WITHIN MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES, WHICH TESTS ARE NOT DIRECTLY REQUIRED BY THE MUNICIPALITY.

CARRIED.

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MOTION: HINTER / GORDON

WHEREAS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS RELY HEAVILY ON PROPERTY TAXES FOR REVENUE WHICH RESULTS IN A REGRESSIVE TAX FOR PROPERTY OWNERS

AND WHEREAS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO BALANCE REVENUE SOURCES BETWEEN PROPERTY TAXES AND OTHER FORMS OF TAXATION

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT BE PETITIONED TO PROVIDE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITH THE OPTION TO IMPOSE SALES TAXES TO FUND LOCAL TOURISM INITIATIVES SUCH AS BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS, SPECIAL EVENTS, MARKETING , PROMOTION, VISITOR'S INFORMATION CENTRES, TRAILS AND OTHER TOURISM AMENITIES.

CARRIED.

Councillors Shkrabuik and Robert opposed the motion.

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MOTION: GORDON / ROBERT

WHEREAS THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HAS NOT CHANGED THE AMOUNT OF UNCONDITIONAL GRANTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS UNDER 5,000 POPULATION SINCE 1998 AND THE AMOUNT PROVIDED EACH YEAR HAS BEEN ERODED BY INFLATION.

AND WHEREAS THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HAS PLEDGED TO INCREASE THE UNCONDITIONAL GRANT AMOUNTS IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT BE PETITIONED TO INCLUDE INDEXING OF THE UNCONDITIONAL GRANTS BASED ON THE CHANGE IN PROVINCIAL GDP EACH YEAR.

CARRIED.

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MOTION: MOSLIN / HINTER

WHEREAS THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HAS IDENTIFIED AS A PRIORITY THE NEED TO DEVELOP AN IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR THREATENED AIR SHED WHILE RETAINING THE AUTHORITY TO GRANT EMISSION PERMITS;

AND WHEREAS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS UNDERTAKEN RESPONSIBILITIES FOR NATIONAL AIR QUALITY THROUGH INTERNATIONAL TREATIES SUCH AS THE KYOTO ACCORD;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE UBCM URGE THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO:  
EXPAND MONITORING PROGRAMS FOR LOCAL AIR QUALITY TO ALL REGIONS OF

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BETTER UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF THE EMISSIONS AND TO DEVELOP AN INVENTORY OF WHAT THE SOURCE OF THE EMISSIONS ARE IN THE AREA;  
TOGETHER WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS DEVELOP AIRSHED MANAGEMENT PLANS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS AND PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH  
DEVELOP FULL TIME MONITORING PROGRAMS SO THAT INFORMATION ABOUT AIR QUALITY CAN BE QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY REPORTED BACK TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE INTERNET AND OTHER MEDIA;  
CONSULT WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE PERMIT GRANTING PROCESS  
GRANT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS THE AUTHORITY AND THE MEANS TO MANAGE THEIR AIRSHEDS;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE UBCM REQUEST THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FUNDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO MONITOR AND DEVELOP AIR SHED MANAGEMENT PLANS TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE LOCAL AIR QUALITY PROBLEMS. CARRIED.

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MOTION: GORDON / HINTER

WHEREAS MOTOR VEHICLES PRODUCE MORE THAN 30 PERCENT OF ALL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND RESEARCH IN CANADA HAS INDICATED THAT THE ADDITION OF CELLULOSE ETHANOL TO VEHICLE FUEL REDUCES EMISSIONS SUBSTANTIALLY AND A BLEND OF 10% CELLULOSE ETHANOL IN VEHICLE FUEL REDUCES GREENHOUSE GAS CLOSE TO 10 GRAMS OF CARBON DIOXIDE FOR EVERY KILOMETER DRIVEN;

AND WHEREAS CELLULOSE ETHANOL IS A RENEWABLE RESOURCE PRODUCED FROM CORN OR SUGAR CANE AND IS ECONOMICAL AND USER FRIENDLY TO ALL VEHICLES;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT PETITION THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO LEGISLATE THAT ALL VEHICLE FUELS CONTAIN A CORRECT PERCENTAGE OF CELLULOSE ETHANOL BY 2010 TO SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

CARRIED.

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**b) City Clerk's Report – BMX Request for Funding**

MOTION: SHKRABUIK / GORDON

**RESOLVED THAT** COUNCIL APPROVE A ONE-TIME GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,000 FOR THE PROPOSED BMX TRACK INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES, AND APPROVE

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CITY LABOUR TO ASSIST WITH EXTRA CLEANING DURING THE WEEKEND OF THE BORDERLINE NATIONALS AT AN APPROXIMATE COST OF \$1,000.

MOTION: SHKRABUIK / GORDON

**RESOLVED THAT THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION, REGARDING THE FUNDING REQUEST RECEIVED FROM THE GRAND FORKS BMX SOCIETY, AND THE CITY CLERK'S REPORT, DATED FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2006, BE DEFERRED TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL.**

CARRIED.

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**c) City Clerk's Report – Strategic Action Plan**

MOTION: GORDON / O'DOHERTY

**RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL ADOPTS THE 2006 STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2006, DELAYING ALL IDENTIFIED DEADLINES BY TWO MONTHS.**

CARRIED.

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**d) Deputy Clerk/Treasurer's Report – RDKB Requisitions**

MOTION: GORDON / MOSLIN

**RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL APPROVES THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS SHARE OF FUNDING OF REGIONAL SERVICES AS PRESENTED.**

CARRIED.

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**REQUESTS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

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**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

MOTION: HINTER / GORDON

**RESOLVED THAT INFORMATION ITEMS NUMBERED 5A TO 5Q BE RECEIVED AND ACTED UPON AS RECOMMENDED.**

CARRIED.

Staff was directed to follow-up on the UBCM resolution on the assistance to non-profit organizations for insurance, as it was not included in the package sent.

**BYLAWS**

**a) Bylaw 1797 - Electrical Utility Regulatory Amendment Bylaw**

MOTION: GORDON / SHKRABUIK

**RESOLVED THAT** BYLAW NO. 1797, CITED AS “ELECTRICAL UTILITY REGULATORY AMENDMENT BYLAW NO. 1797, 2006”, BE FINALLY ADOPTED.

CARRIED.

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**b) Bylaw 1799 – City of Grand Forks 2006-2010 Financial Plan**

MOTION: GORDON / SHKRABUIK

**RESOLVED THAT** BYLAW NO. 1799, CITED AS “YEAR 2006 – 2010 FINANCIAL PLAN BYLAW”, BE FINALLY ADOPTED.

CARRIED.

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**c) Bylaw 1800 - Amendment to the City of Grand Forks Zoning Bylaw**

MOTION: O'DOHERTY / HINTER

**RESOLVED THAT** BYLAW NO. 1800, CITED AS “AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS ZONING BYLAW NO. 1800, 2006”, BE GIVEN FIRST AND SECOND READING.

CARRIED.

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**LATE ITEMS:**

None

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

**Councillor Robert** – brought forward the matter of Spring Clean-up.

MOTION: ROBERT / GORDON

**RESOLVED THAT** STAFF BE REQUESTED TO BRING FORWARD A REPORT ON THE OPTIONS FOR THE SPRING CLEAN-UP PROGRAM.

CARRIED.

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**Councillor Moslin** – reported on the Air Quality Management inaugural meeting. He referred to minutes prepared by City Staff, and highlighted some of the items, stating that there were participants from major industry, interior health, Council, city staff, concern citizens, etc. He stated that the next meeting will be April 11<sup>th</sup> at a location to be determined, with representatives from all



sectors participating. He stated his intention is to forward the minutes to all participants. Councillor Hinter brought forward his concerns of the City's participation, stating that the City should only have one representative participating in the committee. Councillor Moslin stated that the Ministry of Environment has advised that a draft report on the data collected on the City Hall roof over the past year could be available in draft form to the City.

Councillor Moslin reported that he will be meeting with Ray Gaudart this week to discuss recycling issues. Some discussion ensued as to various items on the next Waste Management Committee agenda.

**Mayor Krog**

Reported that he attended the RDKB Planning & Development meeting, and the RDKB Budget presentation. He reported on the changes in RDKB requisitions, stating that Mosquito control, animal control and the Aquatic Centre will see a reduction in requisition. The Library, Transit, Recreation Programming and the Arena will all see increases, and there is no change to the Curling Rink requisition.

Reported that he, along with Councillor Hinter and the City Manager met with industries to discuss issues of concern and to provide our financial plan and information on the utilities restructure.

Mayor Krog reported on the recent West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District meeting. He stated that Lawrence Chernoff, Mayor of Castlegar has been elected Chair. He advised that the Board received a presentation by Interior Health on their new information technology. He stated that the 2006 annual budget was approved with a residential tax rate increase of approximately 9%. He further reported on the Emergency Generator Upgrades for the Boundary Hospital, as well as the planned expansion of Sunshine Manor which is intended to accommodate a total of 80 residential care beds, which construction is scheduled to begin in June and completed in 2008.

Attend budget meeting.

Outlined that he will be attending a RDKB Waste Management Committee Meeting on Wednesday in Grand Forks, and advised that the agenda contains an item on the downtown recycling bins.

Report that he has been invited to participate in the Southern Interior Development Trust meeting in Nelson on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

MOTION: HINTER / SHKRABUIK

**RESOLVED THAT MAYOR KROG OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE BE AUTHORIZED TO ATTEND THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR DEVELOPMENT TRUST MEETING IN NELSON ON THURSDAY, MARCH 2ND.**

**CARRIED.**

He reported on meetings with the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Kevin Weaver, Region Manager for the Ministry of Economic Development along with Economic Development Officer Mona Mattei, and Chamber representatives to discuss a plan to regionalize the Visitors Information Centre in Grand Forks as well as satellite VICs in Midway, Greenwood and Christina Lake.

MOTION: GORDON / ROBERT

**RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS FORWARD A LETTER TO COMMUNITY FUTURES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, WENDY MCCULLOCH, IN SUPPORT FOR FUNDING TO PROCEED WITH A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRADES AND SKILLS TRAINING CENTRE IN THE BOUNDARY REGION.**

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**CARRIED.**

**Councillor Gordon**

Reported on bus services, and in particular the Trail area bus service. She advised that discussion is taking place on the possibility of implementing a scheduled bus service from Grand Forks to Trail to accommodate those requiring medical treatments.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY / SHKRABUIK

**RESOLVED THAT ALL REPORTS PRESENTED BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL BE RECEIVED.**

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**CARRIED.**

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: O'DOHERTY

**RESOLVED THAT THIS REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL BE ADJOURNED AT 10:03 P.M.**

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**CARRIED.**

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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MAYOR NEIL KROG

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CITY CLERK - LYNNE BURCH