

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY APRIL 16, 2007

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

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

➤ None

MOTION: ROBERT / MOSLIN

RESOLVED THAT THE AGENDA OF THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2007, BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED. CARRIED.

REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

None

Meeting was recessed at 7:30 p.m. in order to give those present in the gallery an opportunity to view the posted plans of the 2007 city projects. The meeting reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

OPERATIONAL DISCUSSION & PRESENTATIONS BY STAFF:

a) Deputy Clerk/Treasurer – Presentation on the Financial Status of the Municipality

By way of a power-point presentation, Dan Zabinsky, Chief Financial Officer, outlined the financial status of the City of Grand Forks. Mr. Zabinsky's presentation covered the following points:

- Reviewed the cash position, reserves, and capital assets of the City for the years 2005 and 2006.
- Reviewed the payables, revenues, debt, and equity position of the City for the years 2005 and 2006
- Reviewed Long Term Debt
- Reviewed Reserves for the years 2006 and 2005, including the Land Sales, Slag and the New Deal Gas Tax
- Reviewed General Revenues for the years 2006 and 2005
- Reviewed General Expenses for the years 2006 and 2005
- Reviewed the Water Fund revenues and expenses for 2005 and 2006
- Reviewed the Electrical Fund revenues and expenses for 2005 and 2006
- Reviewed the Sewer Fund revenues and expenses for 2005 and 2006
- Residential Taxes including average taxes payable for an average \$100,000 home in 2006 and in 2007.
- Reviewed the City Park Plan and advised that it will be funded through Towns for Tomorrow fund as well as reserve funds.
- Reviewed the Arts and Culture Town Square Plan and advised that it will be funded through Spirit Square Provincial Grant and reserve funds.
- Reviewed the Circuit Court Property Purchase, advising that the property will be renovated for a new Circuit Court Facility. He advised that this will free up the old Court House and use by the Art Gallery and the Boundary Museum.
- Reviewed the Park Lift Station project advising that this will involve the provision of heated washrooms and an outdoor covered stage in this area.
- Reviewed the Cycling Network plans.
- Reviewed the cost of core services for the public.

QUESTION PERIOD FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mayor Krog stated that City Council is interested in hearing from the public on the issues it is dealing with or on any other issue that is of interest to the general public. To ensure that this process is open and does not feel uncomfortable to anyone, he advised that Council has set up some parameters to follow. He requested the gallery that prior to speaking about their issue that they would advise Council of the following:

1. Identify yourself, stating your name and place of residence and the issue you are bringing forward.

2. The subject of your participation should be limited to items of broad public interest, not personal to your property. This is not a forum for complaints. Any complaints will be dealt with by Staff and can be made by calling or attending City Hall or other City department during business hours.
 3. The subject of your participation should be limited to items of broad public interest, not personal to your property. This is not a forum for complaints. Any complaints will be dealt with by Staff and can be made by calling or attending City Hall or other City department during business hours.
 4. Presentations: You must limit your questions and or comments to a maximum of five (5) minutes including questions from Council. This will permit time for all that are present to participate.
 5. Council may not make any decisions at this meeting and if Council wishes, the item would be referred to Staff for follow-up and recommendation for Council to consider at a regular meeting of Council.
-

Erna Gobbett

Inquired as to the reasoning for the 3 bag limit for yard waste. She suggested that the old way of having one pick up in the spring was a better solution. She went on to add that the 3 bag limit is too low. Mayor Krog advised that the public can take excess yard waste to the landfill site and dump it for free.

Member of the Public:

Inquired as to the status of the Community Centre. She was advised that the city is waiting for a response from the Province on the grant application.

Member of the Public:

Referred to the newsletter publication of the 3-Level Environmental Stewardship Plan. Councillor Moslin advised that many communities have passed Environmental pledges on what the individual communities would do for environmental stewardship. He went on to add that the document presented to the public involves not only Council but for all Grand Forks Citizens and Corporations. On a statement from the public, questioning Council's final determination, the Mayor advised that this is a voluntary measure but that public input will be considered.

Steve Maskall:

Commented on the zoning bylaw amendments previously addressed this evening, stating his objection to allowing property to be rezoned from high density to low density residential. He went on to advise Council of the potential trail from the north end of 7th Street along the old rail grade west to 17th Street. He was advised that it is identified on the trail plan.

Bob Smith:

Raised objections to adopting a Bylaw to ban wood stoves. Mr. Smith was advised that although this appears on the 3 level Stewardship plan, there is no plan to adopt a bylaw banning wood stoves at this time. Referencing the Town Square project, adjacent to the Court House, he commented that in his opinion, there is still not enough parking. Commenting on the proposed Community Centre, he advised that he has received information the proposed design is very expensive.

Jason Harshenin from the Gazette

Mr. Harshenin inquired as to what would happen if province does not approve the grant applications for funding these different projects. Mr. Harshenin was advised that the City would proceed with the project as far as the City portion of funding would take it, and the project would be extended over a number of years, as opposed to being completed in the next 18 months.

Erna Gobbett

Inquired as to the Community Centre status. She was advised that the City has made an application for funding, and the City has not yet received word from the province as to the grant application. It was also pointed out that the regional requisition needs to be determined, a tax level. In order to take this to the local citizens, Council needs to know how much of a financial contribution that the federal and provincial governments plan to make towards the project. It was suggested that the performing arts community requires a stage facility.

Councillor Robert

Discussed the issue of wood stoves, suggesting that although there is no plan to ban wood stoves, there may be initiatives forthcoming that encourage people to upgrade their wood stoves. He advised that the 3 level environment stewardship plan is showing the public the City's commitment to environmental stewardship. On the matter of the Community Centre, he advised that the planned building is a stand-alone building, a "plain Jane" building, that can be adapted for a community centre, a performing arts centre, etc.

Dave Milton

Thanked Council for their foresight and "gutsy moves" they have undertaken to date. He suggested that the court house be designated as a performing arts centre and that Council consider relocating the museum in former art gallery space.

Bill Campbell

Discussed quantity and quality of Grand Forks water. He referred to the Golder report suggesting that the water may be impacted by the Agriculture industry. He inquired as to water testing conducted by City. He stated that the Community Centre should include badminton courts, squash courts, etc. In responding to the question on water, the Mayor suggested that the City's water is regularly tested for a number of things and that this list can be provided to the public from City Hall.

Member of the Public:

Suggested that Council should look farther down the road and the community centre should not be where it is proposed, even though it would save money. Suggested that the facility should be relocated. Further suggested that a referendum be held on the location of the community centre. Suggested that the proposed location does not have enough parking.

Roy Ronaghan

With regard to development at Gyro Park and the location of the pavilion, Mr. Ronaghan pointed out the pollution in the area, from all the large trucks on Highway 3 adjacent to the parks area, suggesting that this is an unhealthy location. Councillor Moslin suggested that the location of the Pavilion is not carved in stone, but the heritage value is in this area, He did acknowledge however there are health concerns regarding the pollution located next to the highway, stating that the highway is the life blood of the commerce of the community and having the development close to the highway has benefits. Councillor Robert stated that the pavilion located in Gyro Park respects the Grand Forks Gyro Club and their previous contributions to the community. He stated that the City will look at these impacts when we go to design the pavilion. Mr. Ronaghan urged the city to take a second look at placing the pavilion next to the highway.

Rick Dockstader

Advised that he was here tonight with Art Gallery people who are struggling with possibilities for the move from Gyro Park to the Court House. He stated that the current building was built in 1957 as a centennial project by the Gyro Club of Grand Forks. He further advised that Gyro Park includes the old health unit building. He requested that the City consolidate lots and place a restrictive covenant on title stating that the property is to be used as community heritage site in perpetuity, before the project moves ahead.

Dave Milton

Advised that he is impressed with fiscal beautification going on around the city. Suggested residents in the vicinity of 14th Street and 67th Avenue would like “strategic plantings” on city property outside their residents.

Laura Savinkoff

Invited Council and all Members of the Public to attend a public forum titled “Uranium Free BC” on May 12th at the USCC in Castlegar. She advised that the forum will discuss the impacts of uranium mining in the area. On a question from the public, the City Manager advised that home owners will get a rebate on their electrical consumption as was done last year. It was clarified by the City Manager that the rebate is to the property owner, not the renter, because the liability to pay the bill is a liability of the property owner.

Cindy Marsh, of Brian's Barber Shop:

On an inquiry the Mayor suggested that the city plans to sit down with the tenants of the City's newly acquired building at 525 Central Avenue soon.

Roy Ronaghan

Requested clarification on the grants available to the City and what the funding is for. The City Manager advised that the Spirit Square program is the only grant program intended to commemorate the province's 150 Birthday in 2008. He stated that all other programs are available as the province is in a surplus position.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

None

REQUESTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

None

INFORMATION ITEMS:

None

LATE ITEMS:

None

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

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT THIS PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 9:13 P.M.

CARRIED.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

MAYOR NEIL KROG
APRIL 16, 2007

PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING

CITY CLERK LYNNE BURCH
PAGE 07-18

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS
AGENDA – PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday April 16, 2007

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT MATTER</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
1. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u>		Call Meeting to order after the Regular Meeting
2. <u>PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA</u> -	Agenda for April 16, 2007	Adoption of Agenda
3. <u>REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS:</u>		
4. <u>QUESTION PERIOD FROM THE PUBLIC</u>	Attendees in the gallery may ask Council questions at this time.	Hear Presentation and refer any issues for further discussion., Hear from the Public
5. <u>OPERATIONAL DISCUSSION & PRESENTATIONS BY STAFF</u>		
a) Deputy Clerk/Treasurer's Report – Financial Update	Chief Financial Officer, Dan Zabinsky will make a presentation, outlining the status of the financial position of City projects and project financing for 2007/08.	Receive Presentation
b) Staff Presentations – Town Square, City Park, Bicycle Plan, River Walk	Public Input and Information Session	Receive Presentation
6. <u>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:</u> None		
7. <u>REQUEST FROM CORRESPONDENCE</u>		
8. <u>INFORMATION ITEMS:</u> a)		
9. <u>LATE ITEMS</u>		
10. <u>REPORTS, QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL (VERBAL)</u> a)		
11. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	Adjournment	