

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY MAY 28, 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 7:01 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Delete Item No. 3(c) Delegation of Chamber of Commerce to present the 2007 Campground Operational report.

MOTION: SHKRABUIK / GORDON

RESOLVED THAT THE AGENDA OF THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF MONDAY, MAY 28, 2007, BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED. CARRIED.

REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

a) City Clerk's Report – 2006 Audited Financial Statements

Welcomed to the meeting was Am Naqvi from the City's External Auditing firm of Berg, Naqvi, Lehmann. Mr. Naqvi began his presentation to Council by thanking them for inviting him to this meeting. He began by reviewing the management letter and the auditing standards letter previously sent to Council. He advised that the auditor's report is issued without qualifications. He discussed the City's policy for travel expenses, stating that this is a high risk area, and confirmed that a written travel expense policy is in place. He suggested that the City is undertaking a number of large projects, including the Granby River Walk, Town square and City park upgrade and further suggested that an accounting staff person be assigned to track these expenses.

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He commented on the high risk area of technology, noting the City's substantial investment in technology upgrades. He concluded that he was favourably impressed with management staff, and his firm was pleased with the cooperation that they received from all City staff. Mr. Naqvi answered questions from Council.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY / GORDON

RESOLVED THAT THE PRESENTATION, MADE BY AM NAQVI OF BERG, NAQVI, LEHMAN, THE CITY'S EXTERNAL AUDITING FIRM, BE RECEIVED. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE 2006 AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND RELATED INFORMATION BE RECEIVED AND APPROVED.

CARRIED.

b) City Clerk's Report – RCMP Report

Welcomed to the meeting, was Sgt. Darrel Little of the Boundary Detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Sgt Little began his report by bringing Council up to speed on detachment staffing levels, advising that a new staff member has arrived from the academy, and another increase in personnel in June will bring the total of personnel to the level required for Grand Forks.

He stated that detachment members, including himself, and members of Council and Staff had recently walked the proposed Granby River walkway and he circulated copy of a letter which outlines the Detachment's input for the construction of the trail.

He advised that the D.A.R.E. program has been implemented in Christina Lake Elementary School and the Local Detachment has plans to implement the program for Grand Forks schools and west boundary schools. He stated that Detachment members will continue to attend youth committee meetings.

In closing Councillor Hinter outlined a recent incident of his positive experience in calling the RCMP and having them respond immediately. He stated that the City appreciates the Local Detachment's response to concerns raised by Council.

MOTION: ROBERT / MOSLIN

RESOLVED THAT THE PRESENTATION MADE BY SGT DARRYL LITTLE, OF THE BOUNDARY DETACHMENT OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE, BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED.

c) City Clerk's Report – Boundary Air Quality Committee

Welcomed to the meeting was Joy Davies, Coordinator for the Boundary Air Quality Committee,

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who introduced Michelle Caskey, chair of the community engagement committee, and Jon Westaway. She turned the presentation over to Ms. Caskey. Michelle discussed plans for Environment Week, scheduled for June 3 – 9, 2007, and in particular the planned Commuter Challenge, suggesting that residents use alternative means to get to work and other venues. Council was advised that Communities will be participating against each other in logging kilometers walked or biked, that would otherwise have been logged in vehicles getting to and from work. Ms. Davies advised that there are prizes available to those who log the highest number of kilometers accomplished without the use of motor vehicles. It was suggested that City Council and staff participate in the Challenge, in an effort to reduce greenhouse gases.

MOTION: HINTER / O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT THE PRESENTATION MADE ON BEHALF OF THE BOUNDARY AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE, REGARDING THE UPCOMING PLANNED COMMUTER CHALLENGE, BE RECEIVED. CARRIED.

OPERATIONAL DISCUSSION & PRESENTATIONS BY STAFF:

None

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.
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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.

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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.

Marion Robbins of Van Ness Way:

Brought forward the matter of proposed water restrictions, and her concerns of the proposed sprinkling hours that there was not advance notice of, except for the Newsletter. She was advised that the hours proposed are based on peak demands and conservation. The City Manager advised that the newsletter is the notice to the public of Council's intention. He stated that in order to keep rates constant, the city needs to focus on conservation, and as such, hours of water usage have been reduced to the hours that are best for the City's overall water system. Ms. Robbins objected to her underground timed system being used between midnight and 4:00 a.m., stating that the system is noisy and the nighttime hours are inconvenient. It was suggested that we may accommodate this situation by allowing those with underground systems to water during regular sprinkling times. It was explained that this proposal of water usage hours is all about well management for the City.

Jon Westaway of 16th Street

Stated his concerns of over watering, and further stated his support for the installation of residential water meters. The City Manager advised that water meters are now compulsory for commercial and institutional users, and in this regard, Council is moving forward. He stated that the data from these meters will outline more fully the water usage of Grand Forks residents.

Jason Harshenin, of the Gazette

On a question from Mr. Harshenin, the City Manager advised that the City has heard nothing further on the City's recent applications for grant funding.

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: ROBERT

RESOLVED THAT THIS PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 7:55 P.M.

CARRIED.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

MAYOR NEIL KROG

CITY CLERK LYNNE BURCH

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

Monday May 28, 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 May 28, 2007	Adoption of Agenda
3. <u>REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS:</u>		
a) City Clerk’s Report – 2006 Audited Financial Statements	Presentation by the City’s external Auditing firm, Berg, Naqvi, Lehman	Hear the presentation
b) City Clerk’s Report – RCMP Report	Presentation by the Local Detachment of the RCMP	Hear the Presentation
c) City Clerk’s Report – Chamber of Commerce Presentation	Presentation on the 2007 operation of the City Park Campground	Hear Presentation
d) City Clerk’s Report – Boundary Air Quality Committee	Presentation on the Commuter Challenge	Hear Presentation
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>		
6. <u>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:</u> None		
7. <u>REQUEST FROM CORRESPONDENCE</u>		
8. <u>INFORMATION ITEMS:</u> a)		

9. LATE ITEMS

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

a)

11. ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment