

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

MONDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2009

PRESENT: MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR
COUNCILLOR JOY DAVIES
COUNCILLOR CHRIS MOSLIN
COUNCILLOR GENE ROBERT
COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE THOMPSON

CITY MANAGER
CITY CLERK

V. Kumar
L. Burch

CALL TO ORDER:

The Mayor called the Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in Council Chambers.

RECESS TO PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING:

MOTION: THOMPSON / DAVIES

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 7:06 p.m. and reconvened at 8:27 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

- None

MOTION: MOSLIN / DAVIES

RESOLVED THAT THE FEBRUARY 16, 2009 REGULAR MEETING AGENDA BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

MINUTES:

MOTION: MOSLIN / DAVIES

RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL, HELD ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2009, BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

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

Councillor Moslin:

Councillor Moslin reported on the following:

- Proposed an additional resolution for presentation at the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments Conference on the purchase of carbon off-sets .

MOTION: MOSLIN / DAVIES

WHEREAS THE CLIMATE CHANGE CHARTER REQUIRES MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONAL DISTRICTS TO PURCHASE "CARBON OFF-SETS" AS PART OF THEIR OBLIGATION TO BECOME CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2012; AND

WHEREAS THIS MONEY CAN BE MORE EFFECTIVELY SPENT BY THE SAME LOCAL GOVERNMENTS THAT PAY IT;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES PETITION THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA TO ALLOW MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONAL DISTRICTS TO ADMINISTER AND INVEST IN LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS WITH THEIR OWN "CARBON OFF-SET" FUNDS.
CARRIED.

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- Announced that the Cowpath and Habitat for Humanity Public Meeting will be held on Monday March 30th 7:00 p.m.
 - Advised that he will be attending the Climate Change Conference on Friday March 6th and will further attend the Clear Air Forum on Monday March the 9th.

Councillor Thompson:

Councillor Thompson reported on the following:

- Reported on her attendance at an information meeting on Restorative Justice on February 4th.
 - Advised that she will be attending the newly elected seminars in Nelson on Tuesday through Thursday of this week.
 - Advised that she will be attending the Community Futures Board Meeting on February 25th.
 - Advised that she will be attending the annual general meeting of the Society For the Preservation of Arts and Culture on February 25th.
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Councillor Robert:

Councillor Robert reported on the following:

- Reported on his attendance at the Restorative Justice information meeting on February 4th.
 - Reported on his attendance at the Grand Forks Meat & Produce Cooperative meeting, advising that the group intends to undertake a marketing plan, making products available at farm gate prices locally. At the request of Councillor Robert, the Mayor appointed him to sit on this board as a Council liaison.
 - Reflected on his attendance at a meeting with the Boundary Women's Coalition on men's issues.
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Councillor Davies:

Councillor Davies reported on the following:

- Reported on her attendance at several meetings including the Boundary Air Quality Committee, and Community Futures. She went on to advise that she has organized the first meeting of the Boundary Economic Development Task Force for April 2nd at the Senior Citizens Centre.
- She requested Council's permission for herself and Councillor Wirischagin to attend a two-day workshop on transitioning in Abbotsford.

MOTION: DAVIES / THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT COUNCILLORS DAVIES AND WIRISCHAGIN BE AUTHORIZED TO ATTEND A TWO DAY WORKSHOP ON TRANSITIONING TO BE HELD IN ABBOTSFORD ON MARCH 20TH AND 21ST, 2009. CARRIED.

MOTION: ROBERT / THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT ALL REPORTS OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, GIVEN VERBALLY AT THIS MEETING, BE RECEIVED. CARRIED.

REPORT – REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KOOTENAY BOUNDARY

Mayor Taylor, the City representative on the Board of Directors for the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary reported on the following Regional District matters:

- Explained the revenue shortfall at the Grand Forks Landfill, stating that the problem is a result of the economic downturn, less refuse is being sent to landfill and therefore tipping fees revenue is down. He advised that the Regional District Board has determined to increase tipping fees at the Grand Forks Landfill. He further discussed goods like used tires, stating a proposal that these tires be returned to manufacturers and not to the landfill. He advised that yard waste is costing the RDKB and so the Board is looking at charging fees for tipping yard waste at the Grand Forks Landfill.
- At the Mayor's invitation, Councillor Robert, Alternate to the Regional District Board, reported on his attendance at the Boundary Economic Development Commission meeting in place of the Mayor. He advised that the meeting of the BEDC, a presentation was made on the upcoming Community Transition Action Plan. He reviewed key objectives of the Plan. He stated that at the same meeting there was a presentation from the Phoenix Foundation on the proposed project Vital Signs project. He further reported on the presentation from the Okanagan Film Commission, suggesting that the City work on a film policy. In conclusion he reported on other BEDC initiatives such as agriculture, the Route 3 magazine and the rail line abandonment.

MOTION: THOMPSON / DAVIES

RESOLVED THAT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KOOTENAY BOUNDARY VERBAL REPORTS FROM MAYOR TAYLOR AND COUNCILLOR ROBERT BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED.

This Regular Meeting was recessed at 9: 20 p.m. and reconvened at 9:31 p.m.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAFF FOR DECISIONS:

a) City Clerk's Report – BizPal

MOTION: THOMPSON / DAVIES

RESOLVED THAT THE CITY CLERK'S REPORT, DATED FEBRUARY 9, 2009, REGARDING THE FEASIBILITY OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS BECOMING INVOLVED WITH THE BIZPAL PROGRAM, BE RECEIVED FOR DISCUSSION.

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AND BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS BECOME A BIZPAL PARTNER, AND THAT STAFF BE DIRECTED TO WORK WITH THE MINISTRY OF SMALL BUSINESS AND REVENUE TO CREATE THE SPECIALIZED GRAND FORKS LINK TO THE BIZPAL WEBSITE.

CARRIED.

b) City Clerk's Report – Conflict of Interest Policy

MOTION: THOMPSON / ROBERT

RESOLVED THAT THE CITY CLERK'S REPORT, DATED FEBRUARY 10, 2009, REGARDING A DRAFT ETHICS, CONDUCT AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY, BE RECEIVED FOR DISCUSSION. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE ETHICS, CONDUCT AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY BE ADOPTED AS PRESENTED AND IMPLEMENTED NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 2009.

Councillor Davies voted against the motion.

c) City Manager's Report – Phoenix Foundation, Vital Signs Project

MOTION: ROBERT

RESOLVED THAT THE CITY MANAGER'S REPORT, DATED FEBRUARY 10, 2009, REGARDING A REQUEST FROM THE PHOENIX FOUNDATION TO FUND A PORTION OF THE VITAL SIGNS PROJECT, BE RECEIVED. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS CONTRIBUTE THE REQUESTED \$3,000 TOWARDS THE VITAL SIGNS PROJECT.

The resolution failed to attract a seconder.

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MOTION: MOSLIN / DAVIES

RESOLVED THAT THE CITY MANAGER'S REPORT, DATED FEBRUARY 10, 2009, REGARDING A REQUEST FROM THE PHOENIX FOUNDATION TO FUND A PORTION OF THE VITAL SIGNS PROJECT, BE RECEIVED. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL ENDORSES THE PROJECT, VITAL SIGNS, FOR THE BOUNDARY COMMUNITIES WITHOUT PROVIDING A DIRECT FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION FROM THE CITY. AND BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT THE CITY SENDS A LETTER TO THE BOUNDARY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION RECOMMENDING THAT THE ENTIRE \$14,000.00 REQUESTED FROM BOUNDARY COMMUNITIES BE FUNDED FROM THE BOUNDARY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION'S 2009 BUDGET.

CARRIED.

Councillor Robert voted against the motion.

REQUESTS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

None

INFORMATION ITEMS:

MOTION: ROBERT MOSLIN

RESOLVED THAT INFORMATION ITEMS NUMBERED 5A TO 5Q,

- a) Letter from the Editor of the Grand Forks Gazette expressing concerns over the City's Governance Policies.
- b) Letter from Evelyn Deverson suggesting that the City petition the RDKB Recreation Commission to consider continuing the \$2.00 drop in fee at the Pool Gym facilities.
- c) Email reply from MOE to the Clerk advising that the Ministry is not currently pursuing the Gilpin Grasslands process.
- d) Shaw Cable Systems congratulations and request for a meeting with the Mayor.
- e) Letter of congratulations from the Prayer Group enclosing a book for Mayor and Council.
- f) Copy of the Mayor's letter to SIDIT supporting the initiatives of the Grand Forks Community Trail Society.
- g) BC Housing informational letter on making rent more affordable for families.
- h) Letter from Art Stavenjord clarifying the original intent of the City's contribution to the Phoenix Foundation.
- i) GFSS letter requesting confirmation of City Scholarships.
- j) Operation Clean Sweep, Pitch in Canada Week
- k) RDKB Building Inspection Activity Report for January 2009.
- l) Chamber of Commerce request for organizational assistance and use of James Donaldson Park for 2010 Provincial Pipes and Drums competition.
- m) Email from Fraser Basin Executive Director on the 2009 State of the Fraser Basin Conference
- n) HealthLink BC new service combining a number of resources accessed through 8-1-1
- o) Ministry of Advanced Education & Labour Market Development , Diverse Communities
- p) Boundary Air Quality Committee Minutes of February 5th meeting
- q) School District 51 Boundary Agenda Package for Feb 10th Board of Education Meeting

BE RECEIVED AND ACTED UPON AS RECOMMENDED.

CARRIED.

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Councillor Members brought forward the following information items for further discussion:

Item 10(b) – Letter from Evelyn Deverson proposing that the Recreation Commission bring back the \$2 drop in for the use of the pool gym facilities. The Mayor stated he will follow up as the RDKB representative.

Item 10(c) – Ministry of Environment's response to the Council's request for a presentation on the Gilpin Grasslands. Mayor Taylor stated that he will bring forward once again to the RDKB table. Councillor Moslin stated he will follow-up with the Ministry.

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Item 10(d) Letter from Shaw Cable – The Mayor advised that a meeting with himself and Shaw Cable has been tentatively set. Discussion about running wireless internet service at the senior centre in City Park for the benefit of seniors.

Item 10(e) Mayor Taylor recognized the Prayer Group that meets in City Hall.

Item 10 (f) – The Mayor advised that the letter of support for the Trails Group grant application was sent to SIDIT, Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust.

Item 10(f) – BC Housing letter advising families of an affordable rent program. Discussion surrounded the need to make families aware of the program. It was suggested that Gazette be encouraged to do a news story on initiative.

Item 10(h) – Letter from Art Stavenjord clarifying the original Phoenix Foundation contribution from the City. Mayor Taylor advised that what has been and is being done by the foundation is benefitting the whole community.

Item 10(i) – Grand Forks Secondary School Scholarship

MOTION: THOMPSON / MOSLIN

RESOLVED THAT THE LETTER FROM THE GRAND FORKS SECONDARY SCHOOL REQUESTING CONFIRMATION ON THE ANNUAL CITY OF GRAND FORKS SCHOLARSHIP BE RECEIVED. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE ANNUAL CITY OF GRAND FORKS SCHOLARSHIP BE CONFIRMED AS BEING A SUM OF \$1,000 - \$500 TO BE AWARDED TO EACH OF TWO CANDIDATES PROCEEDING TO A TECHNOLOGY OR VOCATIONAL TRAINING, WHO RESIDE WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS. CARRIED.

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MOTION: MOSLIN / THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT THE LETTER FROM THE GRAND FORKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUESTING SUPPORT FOR THE 2010 PROVINCIAL PIPES & DRUMS COMPETITION, BE RECEIVED. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE CITY SUPPORT THE EVENT BEING HELD IN GRAND FORKS ON MAY 1, 2010. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT APPROVAL FOR THE USE OF JAMES DONALDSON PARK BE GRANTED. CARRIED.

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Item 10(p) – Boundary Air Quality Committee Minutes – Councillor Moslin advised that no member of public applied to be a member of the BAQC, and further stated that there is still time to become involved by writing a letter of intent to the City.

Item 10(n) – Healthlink 8-1-1. Requested that this healthlink be linked to the City’s website.

BYLAWS:

- a) **Chief Financial Officer's Report – Bylaw 1868, Electrical Utility Regulatory Amendment Bylaw, first, second and third readings**

MOTION: THOMPSON / DAVIES

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1868, CITED AS “ELECTRICAL UTILITY REGULATORY AMENDMENT BYLAW NO. 1868, 2009”, BE GIVEN FIRST READING.

CARRIED.

MOTION: MOSLIN / THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1868, CITED AS “ELECTRICAL UTILITY REGULATORY AMENDMENT BYLAW NO. 1868, 2009”, BE GIVEN SECOND READING.

CARRIED.

MOTION: MOSLIN / THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1868, CITED AS “ELECTRICAL UTILITY REGULATORY AMENDMENT BYLAW NO. 1868, 2009”, BE GIVEN THIRD READING.

CARRIED.

LATE ITEMS:

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC AND THE MEDIA:

ADJOURNMENT:


MOTION: DAVIES

RESOLVED THAT THIS REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL BE ADJOURNED AT 10:46 P.M.

CARRIED.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR


CITY CLERK – LYNNE BURCH

FEBRUARY 16, 2009

REGULAR MEETING

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