

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY JULY 20, 2009

PRESENT: MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR
COUNCILLOR JOY DAVIES
COUNCILLOR CHRIS MOSLIN
COUNCILLOR GENE ROBERT
COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE THOMPSON
COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WIRISCHAGIN
COUNCILLOR CHER WYERS

CITY MANAGER
CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY

V. Kumar
D. Heinrich

GALLERY

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in Council Chambers.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Add Jason Zwaal, Delegation regarding the Sunshine Crew Employment from Sunshine Valley Community Services
- Add Laura Savinkoff, Delegation regarding the Boundary Peace Initiative to abolish nuclear weapons

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN/THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT THE AGENDA OF THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF MONDAY, JULY 20, 2009, BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

CARRIED.

REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

a) City Manager's Report – Delegation, Economic Development Task Force

Presentation was made by Paul Plamondon, Chairman of the Agriculture Committee for the Economic Development Task Force on Haskap Berry Production in Grand Forks.

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PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING

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MOTION: DAVIES/ROBERT

RESOLVED THAT THE CITY MANAGER'S REPORT, DATED JULY 15, 2009, OUTLINING THE DELEGATION OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE-AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE TEAM, BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Paul Plamondon was welcomed to the meeting by Mayor Taylor. Mr. Plamondon made a presentation regarding the Haskap Berry Production and explained that this berry (or also known as the blue honeysuckle) can be organically farmed with virtually no necessary pesticides and is subject to very little diseases. Health benefits of this berry include that they are high in Vitamin C and antioxidants. These berries are very popular in Japan and sell for approximately \$5.00 per lb. They ripen in mid-June and the buds can withstand below freezing temperatures. The Agricultural Committee is looking for assistance with regard to: 1) area soil specialist; 2) area climate specialists, and 3) funding. Some stumbling blocks Paul mentioned was the need to get young people interested in farming, education, financial support, harvesting of new products in the area, marketing, and shipping the product out of Grand Forks.

Council Davies advised that if Council is in agreement, then the City's Economic Development Plan would be incorporated into the Boundary Economic Development Committee's Plan.

In response to an inquiry from Council as to potential funding sources, Mr. Plamondon advised that the BC Fruit Growers Association has not been contacted yet.

MOTION: AVIES/THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT THE PRESENTATION MADE BY PAUL PLAMONDON ON BEHALF OF THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE REGARDING HASKAP BERRIES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE BE RECEIVED AND THAT THE COMMITTEE'S INITIATIVE BE INCLUDED IN THE CITY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

CARRIED.

Mr. Plamondon was thanked for making his presentation relative to Haskap Berry production in Grand Forks,

Council Davies talked about the engagement of this committee who has volunteered to date, approximately 200 hours of their time in developing their initiatives on behalf of the Economic Development Task Force

b) City Manager's Report – Delegation, Wood Stove Exchange Program

Presentation by John Vere, Coordinator for the Wood Stove Exchange Program

John Vere was welcomed to the meeting by Mayor Taylor. As Co-ordinator of the Wood Stove Exchange Program, he advised that, the application to the Ministry of Environment for next year's funding is due by end of this week. He asked for the City's support of staff "in kind" to continue with the administration for funding for another year. Mr. Vere also stated that the main

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complication with wood stove purchases (all EPA approved) lies with insurance inspection. Costs to purchase a stove can range from \$500.00 for the do-it yourselfers to upwards of \$3,000.

MOTION: MOSLIN/ROBERT

RESOLVED THAT THE CITY MANAGER'S REPORT, DATED JULY 8, 2009, OUTLINING THE DELEGATION OF THE WOODSTOVE EXCHANGE PROGRAM, BE RECEIVED.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE PRESENTATION MADE BY JOHN VERE ON BEHALF OF THE WOOD STOVE EXCHANGE PROGRAM, BE RECEIVED.

AND FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL THAT THE CITY CONTINUES IT'S SUPPORT TO THE WOOD STOVE EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN PROVIDING CITY STAFF IN KIND FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDING PROVIDED THE PROGRAM RELATES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY ONLY. CARRIED.

Mr. Vere was thanked for making the presentation on the wood stove exchange program.

c) City Manager's Report – Delegation, Equilibrium Communities Initiative

Presentation by Alan Cooper of Sunxt Developments Ltd.

Alan Cooper was welcomed to the meeting by Mayor Taylor. Mr. Cooper stated that he is one of four partners in Sunxt Developments Ltd. and they are the developers of the Riverside Meadows Subdivision in Grand Forks. He stated that he would like to have Council's involvement and support in the process of the Equilibrium Communities Initiative. Mrs. Cooper, one of the four partners in this venture handed out information summaries for Council's perusal. Mr. Cooper advised that Riverside Meadows Subdivision, already contains some of the guidelines required in the Federal Government's Initiative. The monies, if granted, would not go towards the subdivision itself, but go towards community benefits which would include a high degree of national and international publicity. Enhancement to community, if granted, would be in the form of 1) Energy Efficiency, 2) Land Use and Housing, 3) Waste Water Recapture, 4) Transportation Possibilities and 5) Financial Viability. Mr. Cooper advised that support from Council is crucial and that he and his partners are prepared to put in the time to do the required report.

MOTION: THOMPSON/DAVIES

RESOLVED THAT THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL THAT THE CITY MANAGER'S REPORT, DATED JULY 9, 2009, OUTLINING THE DELEGATION OF THE EQUILIBRIUM COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE BE RECEIVED,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS COUNCIL REQUEST THE DEVELOPER TO PROVIDE THE CITY WITH A DRAFT REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS (RFS) AS REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 4 OF THE EQUILIBRIUM COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE FOR REVIEW BY CITY STAFF WITH A STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL PLACED ON THE AUGUST 17TH 2009 REGULAR MEETING AGENDA.

CARRIED.

d) Delegation by Laura Savinkoff – Boundary Peace Initiative to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

Ms. Savinkoff made a presentation with regard to the dangers to the world with the placement of nuclear weapons which could be activated at a moment's notice. The Boundary Peace Initiative is holding Nagasaki/Hiroshima Days August 6 to 9th, and is seeking endorsement and support from Council. She mentioned that on August 9th the BPI are having a Silent Auction to raise funds for their peace initiatives. The ceremony commences at 1:00 pm and she urged the community to participate.

MOTION: ROBERT/THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT THE PRESENTATION MADE BY LAURA SAVINKOFF ON BEHALF OF THE BOUNDARY PEACE INITIATIVE BE RECEIVED, AND THAT COUNCIL SUPPORTS AND ENDORSES THE ANNUAL BOUNDARY PEACE INITIATIVE CEREMONY TO BE HELD AUGUST 9, 2009.

CARRIED

e) Delegation by Jason Zwaal Representative for the Sunshine Crew of the Sunshine Valley Community Services

Jason Zwaal made a presentation on behalf of the Sunshine Crew regarding proposed employment with the City. As a Crew, they are looking to clean debris, leaves and weeds from the tree wells and cracks in sidewalks in the downtown core from 2nd Street to 5th Street between Central Avenue and 72nd Avenue. The crew would consist of 3 persons one of which would be a coach. Mr. Zwaal recommended that an hourly total for all 3 employees would be \$39.50 per hour and would take approximately 5 hours a week; the only other expenses incurred by the City would be to purchase some supplies needed to do the job. Sunshine Valley Community Services would take care of WCB.

MOTION: MOSLIN/ROBERT

RESOLVED THAT THE PRESENTATION MADE BY JASON ZWAAL ON BEHALF OF THE SUNSHINE CREW OF THE SUNSHINE VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES BE RECEIVED. BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL THAT THE CITY SUPPORT, IN PRINCIPLE, A SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH SUNSHINE VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES CONTINGENT ON FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND AGREEMENT BY CUPE LOCAL 4728.

CARRIED

OPERATIONAL DISCUSSION & PRESENTATIONS BY STAFF:

None

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

a) City Manager's Report – Policy for Volunteer of the City

MOTION: THOMPSON/WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT THE CITY MANAGER'S REPORT, DATED JULY 14, 2009, REGARDING ADOPTING A POLICY FOR VOLUNTEERS OF THE CITY, BE RECEIVED.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT A VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION POLICY.

CARRIED.

REQUESTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

a) City Manager's Report – Industry Revitalization Tax Exemption Renewal For Interfor

MOTION: THOMPSON/DAVIES

RESOLVED THAT THE CITY MANAGER'S REPORT, DATED JULY 14, 2009, REGARDING BYLAW 1780 ESTABLISHING A MAJOR INDUSTRY REVITALIZATION PROGRAM FOR ALL CLASS 4 PROPERTIES AS DEFINED IN THE BYLAW, BE RECEIVED.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT STAFF BE AUTHORIZED TO PREPARE A BYLAW TO PROVIDE A FURTHER EXTENSION OF FIVE YEARS UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT WITH ANY AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE REQUIRED TO CONTINUE THE REVITALIZATION PROGRAM.

CARRIED.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

None

LATE ITEMS:

None

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

a) City Manager's Report - Boating on the Kettle and Granby Rivers

Complaints have been received from local area residents including petitions which have been circulated to Council members.

The Mayor asked if anyone from the Gallery wished to speak on this topic.

Les Molnar had concerns that the Integrated Land Management as outlined in the Recommendation was more involved with Commercial use. He felt that this matter should be looked at as a combined Regional District and City issue and that it would be better to have a government body bring this issue forward.

Alan Cook – His current residence is on the Kettle River. The airboat would affect aquatic life and noise is also an issue. Any motorized vehicles are not acceptable.

Jock MacKay – Questioned if motorized boats would be able to see people floating or swimming on river.

Les Johnson – Spoke on insurance implications and liability to City should a business licence be authorized.

Alan Cooper – Suggested that entrepreneurs coming into the City need a vision and this vision does not fit in as the rivers are the essence of this town. He feels it is a worthwhile fight not to allow this venture.

David Janzen- Opposed to airboats

Norm Walker – A Citizen who spoke against any motorized vehicle disrupting wildlife.

Eva Anthony – She stated that the community vision on tourism should be eco-tourism and jet boats definitely are not a part of this. She was also concerned with bank erosion from boats. Others cities have passed noise bylaws where airboats cannot operate within half mile of population.

MOTION: THOMPSON/ROBERT

RESOLVED THAT THE CITY MANAGER'S REPORT, DATED JULY 9, 2009, REGARDING LOCAL AREA RESIDENTS' COMPLAINTS AND PETITIONS CIRCULATED TO COUNCIL MEMBERS REGARDING BOATING ON THE KETTLE AND GRANBY RIVERS BE RECEIVED.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT STAFF BE INSTRUCTED TO WRITE A LETTER OF CONCERN AGAINST ALL MOTORIZED VEHICLES ON THE KETTLE AND GRANBY RIVERS TO BOTH PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS, AND THE LETTER BE COPIED TO ALASKA TOURS. CARRIED.

MOTION: DAVIES/THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT STAFF COME BACK WITH RESEARCH SO SEE IF THE CITY IS ABLE TO PROVIDE ITS OWN LEVEL TO CONTROL THE USE OF MOTORIZED VEHICLES.

MOTION DEFEATED

OTHER COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

Eva Anthony advised that a group of Citizens are having a meeting next week at Selkirk College next week to start a legal petition which will be directed at the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary.

Les Molnar advised that the Regional District needs to be involved as well as District areas also front both the Kettle and Granby Rivers.

Nigel James – He urged caution to Council, stating that the use of motorized vehicles on the Rivers comes under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government

Laura Savinkoff suggested our MP, Alex Atamanenko would a good advocate to lobby the Federal Government against the use of motorized vehicles on the rivers.

QUESTION PERIOD FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mayor Taylor 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, and the normal rules apply.

OTHER PUBIC CONCERNS:

- David Janzen expressed his concern about the traffic at Spraggett Bridge. He commented that there are parked cars on each side of the road in tubing season and that should a small child or other pedestrian dart out into traffic, there is the potential for a horrific accident.
- Phil Baker expressed concerns regarding Council's conduct at the Council Meeting of June 29th, 2009. He asked Councillor Davies to step down from her Council seat.

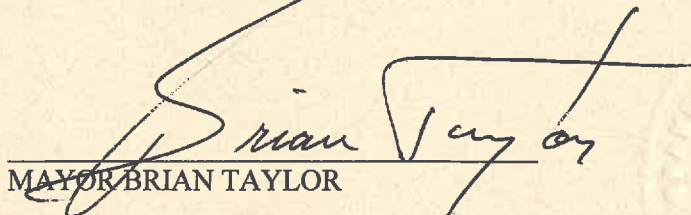
ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT THIS PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING BE ADJOURNED 9:00 P.M.

CARRIED.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR


CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY – DIANE HEINRICH