

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY MARCH 16, 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
CITY CLERK

V. Kumar
L. Burch

GALLERY

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in Council Chambers.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Add a Presentation by the Boundary Woodlot Association to the agenda to be scheduled to immediately follow the delegation of Dan Barron of the Ministry of Forests.

MOTION: MOSLIN / DAVIES

RESOLVED THAT THE AGENDA OF THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2009, BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

CARRIED.

REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

a) City Manager's Report – Presentations (2) Community Forest Licence

Delegation – Dan Barron of the Ministry of Forests and Range

Mr. Barron was welcomed to the meeting by Mayor Taylor. He began his presentation by advising that he is employed by the Ministry of Forests and Range out of Castlegar and he is here today to speak to Council on the matter of Community Forests. He stated that previously the City has

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expressed interest in a community forest as early as 2002. He advised that the Minister wants to make sure that the City is well aware what a community forest is and what is involved.

He explained what a community forest is, including the application process, stating that it is an area based tenure which includes an annual allowable cut. He advised that a Community Forest Licence is a long term investment not a short term venture, and that it has social and economic benefits and its goal is to promote sound stewardship. Mr. Barron explained the difference between a Community Forest Agreement and a Community Forest Licence. He advised that the benefits include flexibility, educational opportunities (school projects), local employment (support staff and contractors) tourism opportunities, and that the proposed Phoenix area has large recreational opportunities. He stated that profits made from timber go to the community and not to a large private company. He stated that the Community Forest would satisfy goals of the draft integrated community sustainable plan.

Mr. Barron advised that start up costs are expensive including the development of a management plan. He stated that the Minister has the authority to issue a direct award of a probationary community forest licence, which would require letters indicating community support from local businesses. He stated that the proponent, the City, is responsible for building the application, and proof of community awareness can be demonstrated by holding a public meeting. He advised that should Council be interested, a letter of interest with some sort of proof of community support should be forwarded to the Ministry.

He stated that the planning and development of the cutting permits, and the cost of the management plan, would be the high cost items. On questions from Council, Mr. Barron suggested that start up funds in the neighborhood of \$100,000 would be required. He further stated that there may be funding available from other sources for start up costs, and that this could be a joint effort from a number of municipalities.

Mr. Barron concluded his presentation, leaving information, including a community forest guidebook.

Delegation – Fred Marshall, Boundary Wood Lot Association

Fred Marshall was welcomed to the meeting by Mayor Taylor. Mr. Marshall presented the view of the Community Forest Licence from a Woodlot owner's perspective, advising that the boundary area has 32 wood lots and is one of the most successful wood lot programs in the province.

He suggested that the wood lot program could guarantee the city twice the benefits of the community forest licence. He referred to the 23,000 cubic meter tenure being proposed, stating that the tenure would be in three or four areas, and that there are wood lots in each of these areas and in sensitive watershed areas. He advised that wood lots can supply small local mills with specialty wood sources. He reminded Council that they have recently sent a letter in support of the expansion of the Wood Lot Program. He stated that 12 – 15 woodlots would take up the allowable cut for the community forest licence. Mr. Marshall advised that wood lot owners are responding to the pine beetle situation by salvaging timber and selling it to specialty mills, and that competition

for woodlots are held by the Minister of Forest and Range by tender proposal. He stated that if the City proposes a community forest they will be in direct competition with the woodlots. If the City declines, the tenure will be available for woodlots.

MOTION: DAVIES / THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL THAT THE CITY MANAGER'S REPORT, DATED MARCH 10, 2009, OUTLINING THE DELEGATIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF FORESTS AND RANGE, AND THE WOODLOT OWNERS, BE RECEIVED. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL THAT THE PRESENTATIONS MADE BY DAN BARRON OF THE MINISTRY OF FORESTS AND RANGE, AND BY FRED MARSHALL OF THE BOUNDARY WOODLOT ASSOCIATION, BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED.

MOTION: MOSLIN / WYERS

RESOLVED THAT THE MATTER OF THE DECISION OF WHETHER TO PURSUE A COMMUNITY FOREST LICENCE WITH THE MINISTRY OF FORESTS AND RANGE, OR ALTERNATIVELY SUPPORTING THE BOUNDARY WOODLOT ASSOCIATION'S REQUEST FOR AN EXPANSION OF THE WOODLOT PROGRAM, BE REFERRED FOR A DECISION AT THE JUNE 15TH REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL.

CARRIED.

OPERATIONAL DISCUSSION & PRESENTATIONS BY STAFF:

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

a) City Clerk's Report – Proposed Amendments to the Zoning Bylaw

MOTION: ROBERT / THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT THE CITY CLERK'S REPORT, DATED FEBRUARY 27, 2009, REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GRAND FORKS ZONING BYLAW, BE RECEIVED.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL THAT THE APPLICATION TO AMEND THE ZONING BYLAW, SPECIFICALLY THE I-1 ZONE TO INCLUDE "COMMUNITY EVENTS CENTRE" AS A PERMITTED USE IN SECTION 44(1) OF THE ZONING BYLAW AND TO ADD THE DEFINITION OF A COMMUNITY EVENTS CENTRE TO SECTION 3 OF THE ZONING BYLAW, BE PERMITTED TO PROCEED TO PUBLIC HEARING.

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AND BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT THE PROPOSED REZONING OF PROPERTIES ON 21ST STREET BETWEEN 68TH AND 66TH AVENUES, BEING AMENDED LOT A, DL 380, PLAN 35, PARCEL A, BLOCK 24, DL 380, PLAN 35, PARCEL B, BLOCK 24, DL 380, PLAN 35, AND LOTS 15, 16, 17, AND 24, BLOCK 29, DL 380, PLAN 35, FROM R-3 (MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO R-1 (SINGLE AND TWO FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) BE PERMITTED TO PROCEED TO PUBLIC HEARING IN ORDER TO CORRECT A MAPPING ERROR. CARRIED.

b) City Clerk's Report – Legislative Policies

Committee members discussed the proposed existing policies and focused on the GFSS Scholarship policy, stating that deleting the words "A sum of \$1,000", in the criteria section of the policy, would make the policy more clear.

MOTION: THOMPSON / DAVIES

RESOLVED THAT THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL THAT THE LEGISLATIVE: BYLAW AND GRANT POLICIES, NUMBERED 401 – 402, AND 502 BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED AND AMENDED AT THIS PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING, FOR IMPLEMENTATION NO LATER THAN MAY 1, 2009. CARRIED.

MOTION: ROBERT / THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL THAT STAFF BE DIRECTED TO DRAFT AN AMENDMENT TO THE NOISE CONTROL BYLAW THAT WOULD SEE THE CITY REACTING TO BARKING DOG COMPLAINTS, UPON THE RECEIPT OF 2 COMPLAINTS IN A 24 HOUR PERIOD. **AND BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT** THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THAT THE NOISE CONTROL BYLAW BE AMENDED TO PROHIBIT LOUD SPEAKERS IN VEHICLES. CARRIED.

REQUESTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

None

INFORMATION ITEMS:

None

LATE ITEMS:

None

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

Councillor Robert:

MOTION: ROBERT / THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THAT STAFF BE REQUESTED TO BRING FORWARD THE UNSIGHTLY PREMISES BYLAW FOR REVIEW BY COUNCIL.

CARRIED.

Councillor Davies:

Commented on the time frame for the decision on the Community Forest Licence in view of the Economic Development Task Force timelines. She stated that the Economic Development Task Force is not in a position to advise Council of their economic development findings before June 18th.

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.

Les Johnson

- Commented on the city's newsletter and the outline of Council's policy on media relations, stating his disagreement with the policy statement that if employees choose to comment to the media, they must get permission from their supervisor.
 - Suggested that Councillors take a tour of a woodlot prior to making a decision on the Community Forest Licence.
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ADJOURNMENT:

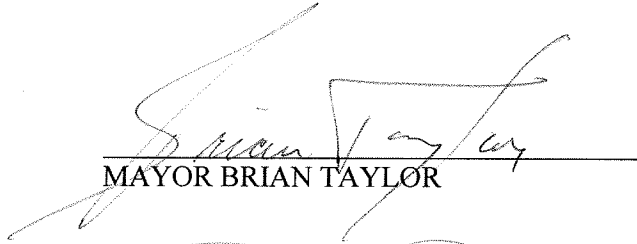
MOTION: DAVIES

RESOLVED THAT THIS PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING BE ADJOURNED 8:40 P.M.

CARRIED.

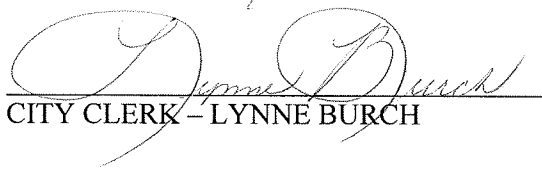
Primary Committee Meeting of Council
March 16, 2009

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brian Taylor", is written over a horizontal line.

MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lynne Burch", is written over a horizontal line.

CITY CLERK - LYNNE BURCH