

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF COUNCIL  
MONDAY APRIL 19TH, 2010

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

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER L. Burch  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER C. Arnott  
CORPORATE OFFICER D. Heinrich

GALLERY

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The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m.

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**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

Amendments to the agenda:

- To remove Item 3(b) Delegation, David Evdokimoff of Boundary Electric as he was unable to attend.

MOTION: DAVIES/THOMPSON

**RESOLVED THAT THE AGENDA OF THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF MONDAY, APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2010. BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED. CARRIED.**

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**REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS:**

***a) Corporate Officer's Report – Delegation International Forest Products (Interfor)***

Ron Vautour, a representative of Interfor made a presentation with regard to Industrial Taxation concerns. He spoke about the difficulties the Mill has experienced in the past two years and of the negative impacts experienced by their employees and the community as a result of the economic downturn. He went on further to advise that major industry in this area is burdened with 26% of the tax base. He stated that their industry rates are the fourth highest in BC, with only Powell River, North Cowichan and Port Alberny with taxes higher than Grand Forks and that their tax rate is higher in Grand Forks in relation to the company's other operations. Mr. Vautour completed his report by stating that Interfor is looking for a reduction in taxes.

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Councillor Thompson asked if Interfor would provide the assessment currently on their Castlegar property in relation to their tax rate paid at that location so that Council could compare this information to the Grand Forks assessment and tax rate. Mr. Vautour advised that he would try to make that information available to Council.

MOTION: ROBERT/DAVIES

**RESOLVED THAT THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THAT THE PRESENTATION BY RON VAUTOUR OF INTERFOR REGARDING INDUSTRIAL TAXATION ISSUES, BE RECEIVED. CARRIED.**

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***b) Corporate Officer's Report – Delegation from the Tourism Initiative Team of the Economic Development Task Force***

Lorraine Dick, Chair of the Tourism Initiative Team, a sub-committee of the Grand Forks Economic Task Force, made a presentation with regard to their group's proposal. She spoke about a number of recommendations their committee focused upon including the development of a marketing plan, improving the City's appearance, creating a vision, improving signage and improving website presence.

Councillor Davies thanked the Tourism Initiative Team for their presentation and hard work.

MOTION: DAVIES/THOMPSON

**RESOLVED THAT THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THAT THE PRESENTATION MADE BY THE TOURISM TEAM OF THE GRAND FORKS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK WITH REGARD TO THE GROUP'S PROPOSED INITIATIVE, BE RECEIVED. CARRIED.**

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***c) Corporate Officer's Report – Delegation from Al Grant of the Boundary Environmental Alliance***

Al Grant of the Boundary Environmental Alliance made a presentation in support of a resolution proposed by Barry Brandow to Council at the April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Regular Meeting of Council with regard to the exclusion of cattle from Overton Creek Watershed. He spoke with regard to high E-coli presence in many streams related to cattle population.

The Mayor advised that although the City holds a water licence on Overton Creek, the City does not use the water from this source for any purpose. Councillor Moslin stated that Council should continue to push for Provincial Government resources to try to remedy the issue.

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MOTION: ROBERT/THOMPSON

**RESOLVED THAT THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THAT THE PRESENTATION MADE BY AL GRANT OF THE BOUNDARY ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE IN SUPPORT OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION BY BARRY BRANDOW TO COUNCIL AT APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2010, REGULAR MEETING WITH REGARD TO THE EXCLUSION OF CATTLE FROM THE OVERTON CREEK WATERSHED, BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED.

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

a) Corporate Officer's Report – Council's request to bring back for discussion, the exclusion of Cattle from Overton Creek Watershed from April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010 regular meeting.

MOTION: DAVIES/THOMPSON

**RESOLVED THAT THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE CORPORATE OFFICER'S REPORT DATED, APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2010 WITH REGARD TO THE ISSUE OF NO CATTLE WITHIN THE OVERTON CREEK WATERSHED.**

CARRIED.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

None

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**OPERATIONAL DISCUSSION & PRESENTATIONS BY STAFF:**

None

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**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

None

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**PROPOSED BYLAWS FOR DISCUSSION:**

None

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**LATE ITEMS:**

None

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

None

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**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.

- **Peter Perepolkin** – He advised of his opposition to the removal of the electrical rebate as adopted in the Financial Plan and has asked Council to reconsider their decision.
- **John Thomas** – He had a question with regard to the increase of the proposed Electrical Rates, which forms part of the regular meeting agenda. He was advised that the City is passing on the cost of increases in conjunction with the Fortis rate increase. He also expressed his disappointment in the lack of beautification e.g. no flower baskets.
- **Les Johnson** – He spoke briefly on his views on the electric rate increase and the issue of no hanging baskets.
- **Donald Pharand** – He spoke with regard to two past petitions on the subject of water systems issues in our area and asked that Council support Mr. Brandow's request for a resolution regarding the protection of Overton Creek.
- **Roy Ronaghan** – He referred to a comment made by Councillor Moslin with regard to a resolution that Councillor Moslin plans to make at the Regular Meeting with regard to an invitation to the Minister of Forest & Range, Ministry of Environment and the Cattleman's Association. Mr. Ronaghan elaborated on their Water Management practices and wanted to know what the criterion is that these groups use with regard to water management such as Overton Creek. He also asked the completion date for the new Lift Station, and was advised that May 15<sup>th</sup> is the activation date.

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: ROBERT

RESOLVED THAT THIS PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 9:11 P.M.

CARRIED.

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**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**



MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR



CORPORATE OFFICER – DIANE HEINRICH