

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY DECEMBER 6TH, 2010

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

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
CORPORATE OFFICER

L. Burch
D. Heinrich

GALLERY

CALL TO ORDER:

The Mayor called the Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Amendments to the Agenda:

- Add late item to 4 (b) Delegation – Boundary Emergency Transitional Housing (BETH) to the agenda
- Modify the late item to 4 (a) Delegation – Grand Forks Art Gallery Society regarding Council's reconsideration of a November 1st, 2010, motion whereas the Mayor advised that Council is past the thirty days for the Mayor to bring back the issue, and further advised that the tabled motion made by Councillor Robert on November 22nd, 2010, would be considered after the presentation of the Delegation by the Grand Forks Art Gallery Society.
- Postpone Item 11(a), the proposed Bylaw for the 2011-2015 Five Year Financial Plan until the Regular Meeting of December 20th, 2010.

MOTION: ROBERT/DAVIES

**RESOLVED THAT THE DECEMBER 6TH, 2010, REGULAR MEETING AGENDA BE
ADOPTED AS AMENDED. CARRIED.**

MINUTES:

MOTION: DAVIES/THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY NOVEMBER 22ND, 2010, BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED. CARRIED.

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MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN/THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND, 2010, AND ALL RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED. CARRIED.

REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

a) Delegation, Grand Forks Art Gallery Society.

Robert J. Morton, President of the Grand Forks Art Gallery Society made a presentation to Council speaking with regard to community buildings and community assets and advised that one of biggest community assets is Central Avenue and the Heritage Courthouse as its focal point. He further commented on how these assets contribute to the liveability and attractiveness to our community.

He spoke with regard to the permanent heritage exhibition which he advised, should be ready for next tourist season and suggested that they would like to work very closely with the Boundary Museum Society with regard to different perspectives for the community. He further spoke with regard to admission fees and advised that Gallery 2 operates on a donation/member basis which amounts to around \$10,000 per year. He commented that the layout of the building makes it hard to control traffic for admission purposes and suggested that gift shop revenues far exceed what any mandatory admission charges would bring in.

He advised that he is asking Council to pass a motion that would provide annual funding of \$120,000 plus building services costs for the year 2011.

Councillor Thompson asked if the Art Gallery Society had reviewed their budget with regard to their shortfalls. In response to a question from Councillor Thompson, Mr. Morton advised that Roger Boulet's contract is for \$31,000 and that Peter Galonsky has a contract for \$30,000 for a total of \$61,000. Councillor Thompson inquired if any of these contracts could be deferred and was advised that they could be.

MOTION: DAVIES/THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE PRESENTATION GIVEN BY ROBERT J. MORTON, PRESIDENT FOR THE GRAND FORKS ART GALLERY SOCIETY WITH REGARD TO THE SOCIETY'S REQUEST FOR COUNCIL TO RECONSIDER THE ANNUAL FUNDING INCLUDING THE BUILDING SERVICE COSTS OF THE HERITAGE COURTHOUSE BUILDING. CARRIED.

TABLED MOTION FROM NOVEMBER 22ND REGULAR MEETING:

MOTION: ROBERT/MOSLIN

RESOLVED THAT THE ART GALLERY 2, VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE AND HERITAGE SERVICE RECEIVE \$10,000 FOR EACH OF THE THREE SERVICES FOR A TOTAL OF \$30,000 TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2011 FINANCIAL PLAN.

MOTION DEFEATED.

b) Delegation, Boundary Emergency Transitional Housing Society

Mr. Patrick Stephenson, representative for the Boundary Emergency Transitional Housing Society spoke with regard to the role which is played by their Society. He advised that there are seven active directors involved in this Society, and that they have a history of working with impoverished persons. He thanked Council for the funding supplied through the recent grant in aid process and further advised that there is an urgent need for a building to act as an extreme weather emergency shelter. He advised that the community needs to address the issue of poverty and homelessness, and that he is looking for full support from Council in this aspect. He advised that the Society has three phases to complete in order to be successful in their agenda: the first phase is the extreme weather emergency shelter, the second phase is a permanent shelter and the third phase is transitional housing.

Mr. Stephenson advised that work that needs to be done prior to procuring an extreme weather emergency shelter that includes insurance and liability, and to deal with NIMBY'S (not in my back yard) neighbours close to proposed shelters. He further advised that five places, so far, have been turned down because of obstacles. Mr. Stephenson introduced two other members of the Society that were in attendance at the meeting, Ray Hansen and John Heavener. Mr. Heavener advised that the society needs to do their job and that the political realm needs to be left out of the process. Mr. Stephenson advised there are approximately 20 people who are believed to be homeless in Grand Forks at this time.

MOTION: WYERS/THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE PRESENTATION GIVEN BY MR. PATRICK STEPHENSON FROM THE BOUNDARY EMERGENCY TRANSITIONAL HOUSING SOCIETY WITH REGARD TO INFORMATION ON HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY.

CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

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

Councillor Davies:

Councillor Davies reported on the following items:

- She reported on her attendance to the presentation from Michael Strukoff, Superintendent of School District 51 Boundary and Lynne Burch, CAO for the City of Grand Forks with regard to the Fiber Project on November 29th at the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary Board Room.
 - She reported on her attendance to the Community Learning House at the Public Library on November 30th, 2010.
 - She reported on her attendance at the Community Choral Christmas Concert on December 5th, and commented on the fabulous entertainment.
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Councillor Thompson:

Councillor Thompson reported on the following items:

- She reported giving a tour of the basement area at City Hall where the community archives will be housed to Linda Wills, Bob Demartealaere, Sue Adrian, Brian Grey and Mary Macalpine on November 23rd.
 - She reported that on November 29th, she and other members of Council and the Board of Education attended a presentation made by the City's CAO, Lynne Burch and the Superintendent of Schools, Michael Strukoff with regard to the Fibre Optic Project.
 - She reported that the Boundary Restorative Justice Society held their meeting on Tuesday, November 30th. She advised that Staff Sergeant Harrison, Councillor Robert and she worked together to create a proposed policy which was approved by the members upon its presentation. She announced, with regret, that Laura Savinkoff resigned as president and coordinator of the society.
 - She reported on her attendance at the celebration of life for Jean Clifton who passed away on November 24th.
 - She advised on her attendance at the Choirs for Christmas concert presented by the Grand Forks Choral Society on Saturday evening and congratulated all of the talented singers involved in the performance.
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Councillor Robert:

Councillor Robert reported on the following items:

- He advised that he would like to have the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan brought to the next Council Meeting for discussion and of the eventual attachment as a partner document to the Official Community Plan.
- He asked if the City has a Climate Action Plan and Climate Action Inventory as well as a Green House Gas Emissions reduction plan and was advised that the City did have these.
- He spoke with regard to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business report on municipal spending and commented that the public sector has always been an easy target for corporations such as the CFIB.

- He reported on his attendance at a Community Futures Meeting on November 24th, and spoke with regard to the discussion on the reopening of the Midway Mill
 - He spoke with regard to the ammonia breach at the outside ice plant at the Grand Forks Arena and offered compliments to the recreation department who followed emergency procedures perfectly. He also thanked the Grand Forks Fire Department for doing a great job as well.
 - He spoke with regard to the death of John Lennon 30 years ago on December 8th and quoted Lennon's lyrics, "Give Peace a Chance".
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Councillor Wyers:

Councillor Wyers reported on the following items:

- She reported on her attendance at a Citizens on Patrol Meeting on November 30th, and she advised that David Squarebriggs is assuming the position as Chair.
 - She reported that the Boundary Dog Sled Association has advised that they currently have five dog sled teams registered for the January 28-31, 2011 event. She advised that anyone wishing to volunteer for the event, to contact Dr. Ruth Sims at the Vet Clinic or herself. She further advised that they are looking for people with snowmobiles and people with flagging credentials.
 - She reported on her attendance with the President and Past President of the Grand Forks Art Gallery Society on December 2nd to discuss the building services cost issue regarding the Heritage Courthouse building.
 - She reported that a Christmas Cookie Sale will be held at the Grand Forks Public Library on Tuesday, December 7th.
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Councillor Moslin:

Councillor Moslin reported on the following items:

- He thanked City Staff for their participation along with the Boundary Women's Coalition in lowering the Flag at City Hall this day in honour of the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.
- He advised that Interior Health Association has issued a News Release announcing forty new care beds for our area
- He reported that the Trans Canada Trail Association has granted \$50,000 to the Grand Forks Trail society for the purchase of benches and trail extras such as signage.
- He spoke with regard to the Deer Committee that met on December 3, 2010, and advised that these minutes will be going to Council in the Weekly Summary, and that the Deer Committee has some recommendations for Council which will be presented on December 20th
- He offered congratulations to the Grand Forks Choral Society on a great performance at the Christmas Concert last weekend.

MOTION: MOSLIN/DAVIES

RESOLVED THAT STAFF PREPARE A REFERENDUM QUESTION THAT WILL AUTHORIZE BORROWING TO IMPLEMENT THE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AS PROPOSED IN THE KERR WOOD LIEDAL REPORT. CARRIED.

MOTION: MOSLIN/THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT THE BOUNDARY MUSEUM SOCIETY AND GRAND FORKS ART GALLERY BE INVITED TO THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING ON DECEMBER 20TH, 2010, TO PROVIDE INPUT FOR REFERENDUM QUESTIONS WITH REGARD TO FUNDING FOR BOTH SERVICES. CARRIED.

Councillor Wirischagin:

- Councillor Wirischagin advised that he did not have a report
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Mayor Taylor:

The Mayor reported on the following items:

- The Mayor complimented City Staff on dealing with the first snowfall of the season.
- He spoke with regard to the Deer Committee that he would like to see the educational brochure printed up on glossy paper for distribution to community and visitors. He advised that this will inform people that this is a deer community. He further spoke with regard to a relocation program for the deer by joining forces with the Ministry of Environment as proposed by Ministry representative, Brian Harris, and commented that it looks promising. He further advised that the City needs somebody to deal with putting down wounded deer in a compassionate way and reported that the Deer Committee is targeting this issue.

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN/THOMPSON

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

REPORT FROM THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KOOTENAY BOUNDARY (VERBAL)

A copy of the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary Minutes of October 28th, 2010 is attached to this report.

- Mayor Taylor reported that the RDKB are currently in budget negotiations. He advised that he is looking for some support for playing fields and suggested that one-third the cost of the playing fields could be regional cost as an opening position.
- He spoke with regard to an allocated \$35,000 which on the table for governance studies
- Councillor Moslin inquired with regard to the October 28th minutes on the heritage report (heritage conservation service) and asked if there was anything to share on this feasibility study. The Mayor advised that he has a hard copy and will provide it to Council in the Weekly Information Summary
- Councillor Robert asked with regard Kettle River Watershed Study and if the City contributed to it financially. The Mayor advised that the City funded the Kettle Falls Rail Business Study as a sole entity and did not contribute to the Watershed Study. Councillor

Robert further inquired about the BCUOMA process and the Mayor advised that a letter will be addressed later on in the agenda. Councillor Robert asked if Grand Forks was a part of the Carbon Neutral Audit, and was advised that the City is, and that the new environment committee will filter this information.

- Councillor Davies inquired with regard to waste management and the Mayor advised that there hasn't been a Regional Environment Services Committee meeting yet.

MOTION: THOMPSON/MOSLIN

RESOLVED THAT THE REPORT REGARDING THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KOOTENAY BOUNDARY BY THE CITY'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, BE RECEIVED. CARRIED.

A recess was called at 9:05 PM and the meeting reconvened at 9:13 PM.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAFF FOR DECISIONS:

- a) **Chief Administrative Officer's Report – Joint Fibre Optic Community Network with School District 51 Boundary**

Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Operation of the Fibre Project

MOTION: THOMPSON/ROBERT

WHEREAS THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS AND SCHOOL DISTRICT 51 BOUNDARY WISH TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO DEVELOP A COMMUNITY FIBRE OPTIC NETWORK TO SERVE THE CITY, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND OTHERS, AND HAVE SECURED GRANTS TO FUND PORTIONS OF THIS PROJECT;

NOW THEREFORE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS HEREBY RESOLVES TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING IN THE FORM PRESENTED AND AUTHORIZES THE MAYOR AND THE CORPORATE OFFICER TO EXECUTE SAME ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS; AND CONFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO PURSUING THE PROJECT TO THE MUTUAL ADVANTAGE OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS AND SCHOOL DISTRICT 51 BOUNDARY. CARRIED.

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- b) **Corporate Officer's Report – Acting Mayor for the Council Year 2010-2011**

Bylaw 1889 requires Council at the first regular meeting in December each year, to designate from among its members, Councillors to serve on a rotating basis as Acting Mayor to act in the place of the Mayor when the Mayor is absent or unavailable.

Cont'd on next page.....

MOTION: WYERS/WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT THE CORPORATE OFFICER'S REPORT, DATED NOVEMBER 16TH, 2010, REGARDING THE APPOINTMENTS FOR ACTING MAYOR FOR THE COUNCIL YEAR 2010-2011, BE RECEIVED, AND THAT THE FOLLOWING COUNCILLORS BE APPOINTED AS ACTING MAYOR FOR THE CORRESPONDING TWO MONTH PERIOD FOR THE ENSUING COUNCIL YEAR: COUNCILLOR DAVIES – DECEMBER 2010 AND JANUARY, 2011; COUNCILLOR MOSLIN – FEBRUARY AND MARCH, 2011; COUNCILLOR ROBERT APRIL AND MAY, 2011; COUNCILLOR THOMPSON – JUNE AND JULY, 2011; COUNCILLOR WIRISCHAGIN – AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, 2011; AND COUNCILLOR WYERS – OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 2011. CARRIED.

- c) **Chief Administrative Officer's Report – Proposed Abandonment of the Kettle Falls International Railway, Danville to Kettle Falls, Serving Grand Forks and Christina Lake Areas.**

In August, 2010, Council hired Davies Transportation Consulting Ltd. to undertake a business case study of the Kettle Falls International Railway.

MOTION: ROBERT/DAVIES

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE SHORT LINE RAILWAY BUSINESS CASE, AS DEVELOPED BY DAVIES TRANSPORTATION CONSULTING INC., DATED DECEMBER 1ST, 2010, AND DETERMINES TO SHARE THE REPORT WITH INTERESTED PARTIES, AND FURTHER INVITES ALL STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING JOHN SLATER, MLA; ALEX ATAMANENKO, MP; REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KOOTENAY BOUNDARY; THE SHIPPERS; GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES FROM WASHINGTON STATE, AND COMMUNITY FUTURES, TO A MEETING IN GRAND FORKS, TO BE SCHEDULED FOR MID TO LATE JANUARY, TO DISCUSS THE FINDINGS OF THE REPORT AND TO DETERMINE WHAT ACTION SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN FOR THE FUTURE OF RAIL SERVICE IN THIS AREA. CARRIED.

REQUESTS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

None

INFORMATION ITEMS:

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN/THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT INFORMATION ITEMS NUMBERED 10(a) TO 10(k) BE RECEIVED AND ACTED UPON AS RECOMMENDED AND/OR AS AMENDED. CARRIED.

- a) Correspondence from School District 51 Boundary providing information with regard to the School Community Connections Program Grant and the proposed storage and washroom facility located on the grounds of Perley Elementary School. **Recommend to receive for information.**
 - b) Correspondence from the Local Government Leadership Association awarding Councillor Thompson with a Level One LGLA Certificate. **Councillor Thompson to advise staff if planning to attend the forum in February, 2011 – Councillor Thompson will be attending.**
 - c) Email correspondence from a student from the University of British Columbia who would like to speak to the Deer Committee with regard to the Grand Forks deer issues. **Recommend that Councillor Moslin respond to her email.**
 - d) Correspondence from Community Futures regarding the Boundary Youth Success Program City Hall Tour- asking that a group of 10 youth and a facilitator tour City Hall as a part of their training and knowledge experience. **Recommend that Staff arrange to have a liaison give a tour of City Hall and to provide workplace information on what the City looks for in its employees.**
 - e) Correspondence from the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary regarding BC Used Oil Management Association suggesting that the City write a letter to the BCUOMA Board of Directors demanding better access to used oil, oil filters and used oil bottle recycling programs for the City of Grand Forks. **Recommend that the Mayor send a letter to the BCUOMA Board of Directors and to the Government of BC demanding better access to used oil, oil filters and used oil bottle recycling programs for the City of Grand Forks and to attach Marguerite Rotvold's letter to Mayor's correspondence.**
 - f) Correspondence from Jo Ann Sergeant expressing concerns regarding Deer. **Recommend that the correspondence be referred to the Deer Committee.**
 - g) Correspondence from the Grand Forks International Society requesting a letter of support for the 2011 Grand Forks International. **Recommend that Council send a letter of support for the 2011 Grand Forks International Baseball Tournament.**
 - h) Correspondence from Community Futures Boundary requesting assistance from businesses in completing a 2010-2011 Business Retention and Expansion Survey for the Boundary area. **Recommend to receive for information.**
 - i) Correspondence from the City of Trail regarding the Excise Tax Act Amendment and its impact on Pension Plan Employers. **Recommend that Council send a letter in support of the City of Trails' efforts.**
 - j) UBCM-Member Release regarding Campaign Expense Limits. **Recommend to receive for information – further information is provided on the web link provided in the correspondence.**
 - k) Task List for November 22nd, 2010 of completed and in progress tasks. **Recommend to file.**
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BYLAWS:

None

LATE ITEMS:

None

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC AND THE MEDIA:

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: ROBERT

RESOLVED THAT THIS REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL BE ADJOURNED AT 9:58 P.M. CARRIED.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR



CORPORATE OFFICER- DIANE HEINRICH