

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY MARCH 28, 2011

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

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

GALLERY

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN/WYERS

RESOLVED THAT THE AGENDA OF THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD MONDAY, MARCH 28TH, 2011, BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

- a) Corporate Officer's Report – Delegation, Habitat for Humanity

Rick Friesen, Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity Boundary Society made a presentation to Council requesting to have the fees associated with water, sewer and electricity connections to the 7 unit multiplex project on 72nd Avenue waived.

Mr. Friesen thanked Council for their previous generosity towards Habit for Humanity projects and further invited Council to attend their sod turning on April 16th, 2011.

Councillor Robert asked if Mr. Friesen could speak to the project. Mr. Friesen advised that the structure will be a 7 unit building, is going to be built green and will be energy efficient. Mr. Friesen further advised that the units will be individually purchased.

Mr. Friesen advised that he has talked with members of the CUPE Local Union 4728 who have offered to donate their labour for non-City employment hours subject to the City of Grand Forks donating the useage of the necessary equipment to make the connections.

The Mayor advised that research needs to be done with regard to the actual costs involved from the City's perspective before considering a resolution regarding Habitat for Humanity's request.

MOTION: DAVIES/ROBERT

RESOLVED THAT PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL TO RECEIVE THE PRESENTATION MADE BY RICK FRIESEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BOUNDARY SOCIETY, AND TO REFER ANY ISSUES FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. CARRIED.

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b) Corporate Officer's Report – Delegation, Dan Norton and Associates

Dan Norton made a presentation requesting Council's approval of a proposed Casino license at the property located at 136 Sagamore Avenue, Grand Forks. He advised that the building is currently available for sale and that a Casino located there would contribute to the City's tourism and economy. He further advised that approximately 10% of gaming profits revert to the City.

Councillor Thompson asked Mr. Norton if he has a business case plan in place and was advised by Mr. Norton that he could quickly put one together.

Councillor Wyers questioned Mr. Norton with regard to the timing issues in relation to the present Council body and was advised by Mr. Norton that the group has information from ground work done previously and should have a business case ready during this Council's period in office. The Mayor expressed his support to the group's venture.

Councillors Wirischagin and Thompson advised that they neither opposed nor approved of the Casino proposal and that further information would need to be forthcoming prior to making a decision.

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN/THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL TO RECEIVE DAN'S NORTON'S PRESENTATION WITH REGARD TO REQUESTING COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED CASINO LICENSE FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 136 SAGAMORE AVENUE. CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

None

INFORMATION ITEMS:

None

PROPOSED BYLAWS FOR DISCUSSION:

None

LATE ITEMS:

None

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

None

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.

- BOB SMITH – Spoke with regard to making a decision with regard to the proposed casino delegation, and advised that a Council decision needs to be made prior anyone spending a lot of money.
 - DAVE SMITH – He spoke with regard to the great job the City has done on the sidewalk systems
 - SYLVIA TREPTOW – Suggested that the public needs to be allowed to state their opinion with regard to a casino proposal.
 - LARRY PODMOROFF – He spoke with regard to dog problems at Barbara Ann Park and advised that individuals let their dogs run loose and are not cleaning up after their pets. He further advised that the same problem exists along the River trail. The Mayor advised that through the Regional District Dog Bylaw, dogs must be on leash when on public property with exception of the dog park by the cemetery. Mr. Podmoroff further advised that he had a complaint with regard to potholes on the City roads.
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Primary Committee Meeting of Council
MARCH 28TH, 2011

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN

**RESOLVED THAT THIS PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING IS ADJOURNED AT 7:49 P.M.
CARRIED.**

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR


CORPORATE OFFICER – DIANE HEINRICH