

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF COUNCIL  
MONDAY OCTOBER 24, 2011

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  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

L. Burch  
D. Heinrich  
C. Arnott

GALLERY

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

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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

MOTION: WYERS/THOMPSON

**RESOLVED THAT** THE AGENDA OF THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD MONDAY, OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2011, BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

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REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

None

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- a) Corporate Officer's Report – Presentation from Alex Love, the City's Electrical Consultant, on Smart Meters

Alex Love, the City's Electrical Consultant, made a presentation with regard to Smart Meters to clarify issues that are circulating through the media. He spoke with regard to customer concerns regarding privacy issues, economics and health concerns. He further advised that BC Hydro is planning to deploy the use of Smart Meters within BC. He went on to say that costs could be less than regular meters due to reduced meter reading costs. He further advised that Power theft can be reduced with the use of Smart Meters.

He spoke with regard to exposure from Radio Frequency Emissions concerns and reported that RF Emissions are regulated across Canada and that Smart Meter emissions are below Health Canada's maximum level. He spoke with regard to concerns to privacy issues where it was believed that data from these Smart Meters could be used to spy on customers and advised that the utility companies who are implementing Smart Meters are bound by the Privacy Act and that it's against the law to give out information obtained via the Smart Meter.

Mr. Love compared Smart Meters versus the Advanced Meter Readers (AMR). He advised that AMR Meters are the ones that the City currently uses and that these only submit one reading, the same as mechanical meters, but that they have the ability to transmit power usage data to a remote reader as the City currently does. He advised that Smart meters have the ability to record several types of information as required by the Power Company and that the data transmissions are encrypted making it difficult for someone to "hack the information".

Mr. Love further advised that Grand Forks does not intend to install Smart Meters and that the AMR meters the City currently uses work well. He further commented that there would be no cost savings to the City by going to Smart Meters.

The Mayor asked if Council would allow members of the public to ask questions with regard to Smart Meters; Council indicated they had no issue with members of the public asking questions after the presentation.

A member of the public asked if there was any risk from of a radioactive component and was advised that Smart Meters do not have a radioactive component – only a radio frequency.

MOTION: WYERS/DAVIES

**RESOLVED THAT THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE PRESENTATION GIVEN BY ALEX LOVE, THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS' ELECTRICAL CONSULTANT, REGARDING SMART METERS. CARRIED.**

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- b) Corporate Officer's Report – Presentation from Cecile Arnott, Chief Financial Officer on the Third Quarter Report.

The Chief Financial Officer made a presentation to Council with regard to the third quarter report. She advised that the Focus Areas in the presentation would include operations, capital projects, the financial plan, and the fiscal assessment.



MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN/THOMPSON

**RESOLVED THAT THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE THIRD QUARTER REPORT PRESENTED BY CECILE ARNOTT, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER. CARRIED.**

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**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

None

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**PROPOSED BYLAWS FOR DISCUSSION:**

a) Corporate Officer's Report – Amendment to the Zoning Bylaw

Staff is presenting an amendment to the zoning bylaw for Council's consideration. This is a housekeeping bylaw that is correcting an error in the metric conversion from the imperial measurement regarding maximum height for buildings in the Community Use Zone.

MOTION: THOMPSON/WIRISCHAGIN

**RESOLVED THAT THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL THAT STAFF BE DIRECTED TO DRAFT THE APPROPRIATE ZONING AMENDMENT BYLAW AND THAT COUNCIL WAIVES THE PUBLIC HEARING PROCESS PURSUANT TO SECTION 890 (4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT. CARRIED.**

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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.

- LAURA SAVINKOFF – Thanked Council for their kind letter and greetings with regard on their support for the Canadian Peace Alliance conference. She invited

Primary Committee Meeting of Council  
OCTOBER 24TH, 2011

Mayor and Council to attend the Southern Interior Peace Alliance Annual  
Conference on November 5th at 9:00 pm at the Slavonic Seniors' Centre.

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN

**RESOLVED THAT THIS PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING IS ADJOURNED AT 7:51 P.M.  
CARRIED.**

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**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**



MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR



CORPORATE OFFICER - DIANE HEINRICH