

**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**MONDAY MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2013**

**PRESENT:** MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR  
COUNCILLOR BOB KENDEL  
COUNCILLOR NEIL KROG  
COUNCILLOR PATRICK O'DOHERTY  
COUNCILLOR GARY SMITH  
COUNCILLOR CHER WYERS

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	D. Allin
CORPORATE OFFICER	D. Heinrich
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	R. Shepherd
DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER	S. Winton
MANAGER OF OPERATIONS	H. Wright
MANAGER OF TECHNICAL SERVICES	S. Bird
MANAGER OF ENVIRONMENTAL & BUILDING CONSTRUCTION SERVICES	W. Kopan
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF	K. McKinnon

GALLERY

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The Mayor called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:**

MOTION: O'DOHERTY

**RESOLVED THAT THE AGENDA OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD MONDAY, MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2013, BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.**

**CARRIED.**

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**DELEGATIONS:**

- a) Sandra Barron – Visitor's Choice Publications

Sandra Barron made a presentation to Council with regard to the Boundary Country Visitor's Choice Publication. She advised that their official status gives them the ability to circulate to airports and visitor information centres throughout the Province. She further spoke with regard to the new mobile application that allows smart phones to scan for information. She suggested that the Visitor's Choice guide would provide good exposure to the City's proposed branding initiative.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY

**RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL TO RECEIVE THE PRESENTATION FROM SANDRA BARRON OF VISITOR'S CHOICE PUBLICATION AND FURTHER RECOMMENDS HER REQUEST FOR THE CITY TO PLACE A FULL PAGE AD IN THE 2013 VISITOR'S CHOICE PUBLICATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,360 PLUS TAX BE ADDRESSED AT THE EVENING MEETING TONIGHT.**

CARRIED.

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b) Matt Thompson – Story & Co Branding Presentation

Matt Thompson, the representative for Story & Co, will present to Council, information around the development of the new brand for the City of Grand Forks, in conjunction with the Economic Development Advisory Committee. He spoke with regard to four audiences which are involved: 1) the City; 2) Tourism; 3) Economic Development; and 4) the world at large. He recommended that there is a role for a communications manager to spearhead the branding process and initiatives within the community.

- Councillor Wyers suggested that the rivers be depicted with a "blue colour".
- Councillor Krog commented with regard to the lack of colour as well and further asked what the actual brand is. Mr. Thompson, delegate, advised with regard to the tag lines: "settle down" and "original, peaceful living" as the "feeling" for the brand.
- Sasha Bird, Manager of Planning and Development, asked if the brand was replacing the City Crest we currently have; and was advised that, yes, it would.
- Councillor Kendel thanked Matt Thompson for all of his work and commented that he felt that the brand represents the "heart" of the community.
- Les Johnson, camera technician, asked about the communication functions of the City. Mr. Thompson advised that it's the people and their exchange of thoughts – the more communication, the stronger the community. The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the communications piece is being worked on with a communications consultant.
- Mr. Longden, member of the public, spoke with regard to the best kept secret in Grand Forks, in the form of tubing leisure activities that are so popular in our area, and suggested that there should be pictures of floaters (tubers).

MOTION: SMITH

**RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL TO RECEIVE THE PRESENTATION MADE BY STORY & CO AND REFERS THE MATTER TO THIS EVENING'S REGULAR MEETING FOR A COUNCIL DECISION.**

CARRIED.

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**OPERATIONAL DISCUSSIONS FROM STAFF:**

None

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**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

- a) Manager of Environmental and Building Construction Services - New Office Furniture

Staff request for Council's consideration to proceed with the purchase of the New Office Furniture

MOTION: O'DOHERTY

**RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL TO DIRECT STAFF TO PROCEED WITH THE \$12,500 EXPENDITURE FOR THE OFFICE FURNITURE FROM RESERVES AS PROPOSED IN THE 2013 BUDGET.**

**CARRIED.**

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- b) Staff Report - James Donaldson Park - Policy

Council's request for Discussion Purposes for usage of James Donaldson Park.

- The Mayor advised that it warranted taking a look at utilizing the park for other uses.
- The CAO advised that Policy 1201, the current policy for James Donaldson Park, would need to be re-developed if other uses for the park were being considered; he further explained that currently, schedules for the planning the sports activities have been organized outside of the City, and suggested that the City could oversee the sports and events bookings for the park.
- The Mayor further advised that the current policy doesn't include fees for groups to use the park.
- Councillor Krog spoke with regard to the facilities at the park, other than the field, which could offer other uses for the community and for group activities.
- Councillor Smith suggested that he would like to see the restrictive parts of the existing policy removed so that the park could be opened up for other uses.
- Councillor O'Doherty commented that with the utilization of the other facilities at the park, that the park could potentially be used year 'round.
- The Mayor spoke with regard to the possibility of using the park for softball in addition to the traditional baseball, and commented that the current basing structure would need to have capability to change.
- Councillor Krog commented that he would rather see other functions than that of softball as, he advised, the City has other parks that are used for this function. He further suggested revenue could be generated by using James Donaldson Park for other uses, and that the revenue could be used to enhance the park amenities.
- The Chief Administrative Officer suggested that the City would seek public input with regard to the use and purpose of the park while Staff is re-developing the policy.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY

**RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS FORWARDING THEIR SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS BACK TO STAFF TO RESEARCH AND DEVELOP A REVISED POLICY TO BETTER SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY.**

CARRIED.

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c) Chief Administrative Officer – Monthly Highlight Reports from Department Managers

- The CAO spoke with regard to the activities and highlights of each of the departments.
- Councillor Krog asked if the information for the COTW meetings be provided on the screen and was advised that staff would accommodate.
- A member of the public inquired on the time line for completion of the Overton Creek project which was mentioned in the Manager of Planning and Development's report, and was advised that the project will be going out for tender next week.
- Councillor Smith spoke with regard to the aphid problem the City currently experiences on the trees in the downtown core, and asked if the City would consider utilizing a friendly bug deployment, such as ladybugs. The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the City could refer this initiative to the Environment Committee to research this option. Councillor Smith advised that he would provide his expertise in this field.

MOTION: SMITH

**RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL TO RECEIVE THE MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORTS AS PRESENTED.**

CARRIED.

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**OPERATIONAL DISCUSSION FROM STAFF:**

None

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The Mayor called for a short recess for 10:00 AM

The meeting reconvened at 10:12 AM

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**PROPOSED BYLAWS FOR DISCUSSION:**

- a) Chief Financial Officer - Bylaw 1948 – City for Grand Forks 2013 - 2017  
Financial Plan Bylaw

- The Chief Financial Officer made a presentation with regard to the proposed 2013-2017 Financial Plan which is scheduled for Council's consideration of three readings at the March 18<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting.
- She spoke with regard to the removal of the HST this year on April 1<sup>st</sup>, and advised that the loss of HST rebates will impact the budget, which could mean a loss of funds between \$50,000-\$100,000. She further spoke with regard to the decrease in the Small Communities Grant for 2013.
- Ms. Shepherd advised that the Public Open House held on February 27<sup>th</sup> regarding the five year financial plan was well attended, and further commented that next year's process will include further public engagement.
- Ms. Shepherd advised that the municipality receives just under 50% of the total yearly property taxes and commented that the balance of taxes paid by property owners are distributed to other organizations such as hospital, schools, policing and the Regional District.
  
- Ms Shepherd introduced Kevin McKinnon, Deputy Fire Chief, who spoke with regard to the requirement of a new fire truck, scheduled for purchase in the near future, and explained the requirements of the Fire Underwriters Survey based on multiple criteria including equipment age.
  - i. A member of the public asked if the existing fire truck carried any worth and was advised that the existing truck represents a very small value.
  - ii. The Chief Administrative Officer spoke with regard to the proposed changes to the fire department and of partnerships developed with the Regional District. He further advised that there will be discussions regarding funding options for the new fire truck and that it could be funded either as an operational expense or capital project.
  
- Ms. Shepherd introduced Hal Wright, the Manager of Operations. He spoke with regard to processes within the Asset Management program such as Crack Filling of roads which require this repair, and that it is estimated that this will extend the life of the City's roads by five to seven years. The Chief Administrative Officer advised that not all roads fall into this repair category and that other roads requiring attention will be addressed in the infrastructure plan. Mr. Wright further spoke with regard to the purchase of the Diesel Powered Chipper necessary to meet the demands of tree removal, storm cleanups and deadfall issues and that current stockpiled branches would cost approximately \$15,000 for a contractor to process. He further advised that as part of the chipping process, by-products are created for use by the City. Mr. Wright further spoke with regard to the proposed purchase of a construction screener which would enable the City to produce its own sand, top soil, and drainage rock and that it would gain a return of approximately \$42,000 each year.
  
- Roxanne introduced Sasha Bird, the Manager of Planning and Development, who spoke with regard to the 2013 Capital Projects. She advised that the Multi-Utility projects which will be funded from the Borrowing Bylaw No. 1923, would address specific areas in the City with simultaneous repairs of roads and utilities. She spoke further to the three phases of the Asset Management Plan that intends to prioritize the projects. She advised that the \$215,000 funding for initiating the

phases would additionally come from the Borrowing Bylaw No. 1923, and would be initiated for 2013.

- Roxanne introduced Wayne Kopan, Manager of Environmental and Building Construction Services who spoke with regard the Heating Systems in the Public Works and Fire Hall facilities which will enable the City to reduce its carbon footprint. He further spoke with regard to the change in Lighting Requirements regarding and the replacement of obsolete T-12 style lighting fixtures with the new T-8 and LED lighting. He advised that it is more cost effective to completely replace the units than to try to fix the existing lighting.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY

**RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL TO RECEIVE THE STAFF REPORT REGARDING THE 2013-2017 FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN, AND CONSIDER FIRST THREE READINGS AT THE MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR MEETING.**

CARRIED.

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**LATE ITEMS:**

None

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

Councillor Wyers announced that Area D is having their town meeting this evening and suggested that because of the new Council format, that Council and the public attend the meeting after Council's evening meeting has adjourned.

The Mayor advised that Council is open for suggestions to make Council Chambers work more efficiently and that the City is looking for options to provide an improved, more efficient restructuring of the room.

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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.

GEORGE LONGDEN- He advised that he would like to distribute buttons to all members of Council and Staff with regard to the Community Trails Society. He advised that Brian McAndrew designed the button recognizing features of the trail within his artwork. He further advised that there is a meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup> that will include the various groups involved in the trail system, including the Grand Forks ATV Club. He further spoke with

regard to the damaged fence which is past the Black Train Bridge and asked in the City could find a way to make the repairs.

LES JOHNSON- He spoke with regard to having a vibrant communication messaging strategy, and suggested that the use of You Tube videos regarding City operations may provide information opportunities to the Citizens and provide a clearer understanding of how the City operates.

NIGEL JAMES – He provided a general comment with regard to Bylaws and his perception of the City's inability to enforce certain bylaws such as watering infractions, unsightly premises, etc. He further suggested that if the City can't enforce its bylaws, then they should get rid of them, or review them. He was advised that the City's is currently creating a graduated ticketing bylaw that would potentially deal with some of these nuisance bylaws.

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** O'DOHERTY

**RESOLVED THAT THIS PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 11:17 AM.**

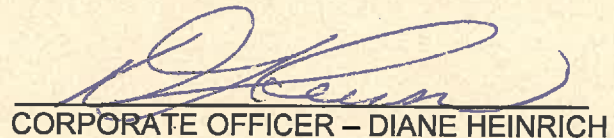
CARRIED.

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**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

  
MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR

  
CORPORATE OFFICER – DIANE HEINRICH