

PUBLIC NOTICES AND MEETINGS

UTILITY BILL DATES FOR THE COMING YEAR

In order to provide an improved, consistent billing service to our valued utility ratepayers, the City has chosen the last working day of every second month, to be the date that the **Utility Bills** will be mailed out. Also a set due date will be put in place. This will be the **FIRST WEDNESDAY** of every second month.  
Please refer to the Schedule to the right for these dates.

MAILING DATE (Last working day of every other month)	BILL DUE DATE (First Wednesday of every other month)
December 31, 2008	February 4, 2009
February 27, 2009	April 1, 2009
April 30, 2009	June 3, 2009
June 30, 2009	August 5, 2009
August 31, 2009	October 7, 2009
October 30, 2009	December 2, 2009

TRAFFIC PATTERN CHANGES

2ND STREET AND 68TH AVENUE

Effective **December 9th, 2008**, the intersection at 2nd Street & 68th Avenue will change from a 4-Way Stop Intersection to a **2-Way Stop Intersection**, to allow for better traffic flow patterns for large commercial vehicles. With these changes—**2nd Street Stop Signs will remain**. North—South and 68th Avenue will become a through road from Highway 3 to the Interfor Sawmill. We urge traffic to use caution as many driv-

ers may forget that the traffic on 68th Avenue will no longer be slowing down and STOPPING at this intersection. The City would appreciate that all Industrial Businesses inform their transportation companies that although 68th Avenue will be a through road to use extreme caution when approaching this intersection, as many drivers may forget and assume that the transport trucks approaching are going to “STOP”.  
Please observe the new signage.

CONNECTING ROADWAY FROM 72ND AVENUE AT 8TH STREET

The connecting roadway from 72nd Ave at 8th Street leading up to the intersection at 9th Street and 73rd Avenue (commonly known as the Cowpath), will be closed to Public access commencing Spring 2009.

This roadway cuts across 3 legal building

lots that are in the planning stages for development of affordable housing. The alternative route is to use 11th Street as the connector between 72nd Avenue & 73rd Avenue. Alternately, use Central or Kettle River Drive for through traffic to & from downtown.

Holiday Greetings from the  
Mayor, Councillors and all  
City Staff

CITY HALL CLOSURE HOURS

December 24th 2:00 PM  
December 25 & 26th Closed  
December 31st 2:00 PM  
January 1st & 2nd, 2009 CLOSED



**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**2009-2013 FINANCIAL & SERVICE**  
**PLAN TO BE HELD AT THE**  
**SENIOR’S CENTER IN CITY PARK**  
**ON WEDNESDAY,**  
**DECEMBER 17, 2008**  
**7:00 PM TO 9:00 PM**

Council would like to welcome the public to attend.

The proposed draft will also be made available December 15th, 2008, or sooner, on our Web Site and at the front Counter of City Hall as well.

**UPCOMING**  
**2008-2009 REGULAR**  
**COUNCIL MEETINGS**  
**(Subject to Change)**

Monday, December 15, 2008  
Monday, January 5, 2009  
Monday, January 19, 2009  
Monday, February 2, 2009  
Monday, February 16, 2009  
Monday, March 2, 2009  
Monday, March 16, 2009  
Tuesday, April 14, 2009  
Monday, April 27, 2009  
Monday, May 11, 2009

All Regular Meetings of Council are held in Council Chamber at City Hall, beginning at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise posted.

Following is a listing of scheduled upcoming Primary Committee Meetings of Council for the City of Grand Forks for the remaining 2008 and for the upcoming 2009 year. Primary Committee Meetings are scheduled to follow the Regular Meeting of Council.

Monday, December 15, 2008  
Monday, January 19, 2009  
Monday, February 16, 2009  
Monday, March 16, 2009  
Monday, April 27, 2009

**PLEASE NOTE:** Primary committee meetings have time allotted for the general public to address Council or ask questions about any City activities or plans. Just arrive at the meeting at 7:00 and you will be allowed to speak.

**ADOPTION OF A**  
**PROCEDURE BYLAW**

The City’s current Procedure Bylaw is available on our web site at [www.city.grandforks.bc.ca](http://www.city.grandforks.bc.ca) under “Bylaws”. The new Council is required to adopt a new Procedure Bylaw

Additional Council Meeting dates & Primary Committee will be published after the new Procedure Bylaw has been adopted.



NEW COUNCIL

The term of the new Council commences on December 1st, 2008, and continues until November 30th, 2011, or just before the first Monday in December 2011, whichever is later.

The following were elected to the Council:

Mayor Brian Taylor	667 Votes
Councillor Christine Thompson	755 Votes
Councillor Cher Wyers	711 Votes
Councillor Gene Robert	689 Votes
Councillor Joy Davies	646 Votes
Councillor Chris Moslin	601 Votes
Councillor Michael Wirischagin	584 Votes

**ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNCIL, MAYOR, COUNCILLORS AND CITY MANAGER IN A LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

For an effective functioning of a City government there are several key features to look at, including the understanding of the roles of the Mayor, Councillors and the City Manager/Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Central to the capacity of Council to govern effectively is the presence of a qualified City Manager /CAO. There is often confusion as to who “runs” the City. This confusion arises from various perceptions people have about the roles of Council, the Mayor, Councillors and the City Manager. To understand the various roles and powers of the “offices” occupied in the City, the first place to look is at the statutory powers of the three levels of government in Canada. The Constitution Act {British North America (BNA)} divided areas of responsibilities between the Federal Government and the Provinces. There is no mention of municipal government. Municipal government is within the jurisdictions of all the Provinces. Hence, any power given to the municipal government is derived from

the Province. The two governing legislative statutes applicable to all local governments in BC (except the City of Vancouver) are *the Community Charter* and *the Local Government Act*. Part 5 and Sections 114 to 116 defines the responsibilities of the Mayor and Councillors. The City Manager or the Chief Administrative Officer’s (CAO) responsibilities are given in Section 147 of *the Community Charter*. A council member’s statutory duty assigned is to consider the well being of the community, contribute to the development of policies and programs, participate in meetings and carry out duties assigned by Council. The Mayor is the head and Chief Executive Officer of the City. The key responsibilities are to provide leadership by recommending bylaws, resolutions and other measures that, in the Mayor’s opinion, may assist in providing peace, order and good government. The Mayor also communicates information to Council, presides at Council meetings and provides general direction to the City Manager and other

officers respecting the implementation of municipal policies, programs and other directions of Council. The City Manager’s statutory responsibilities include the overall management of the operations of the City, ensuring policies, programs and other directions of the Council are implemented and advising and informing Council on the operation and affairs of the municipality. The City Manager hence provides advice and recommendations to council. He/she makes no decisions, passes no bylaws or resolutions. He/she is directed by decisions of City Council.

Essentially in North America, the majority of local government’s use the “Council -Manager” form of local government that combine the strong political leadership of elected officials in the form of a Council with strong managerial experience of an appointed City Manager. In this form of government, Council members are leaders and policy makers elected to represent the Community, concentrate on policy issues and be responsive to citizens’ needs and wishes. Council is a legislative body that approves budgets, service levels, taxation, user fees and charges. The day to day management of the City, within the approved services and financial plan, lies with the City Manager.

7217— 4th Street  
Box 220  
Grand Forks, BC. V0H 1H0  
Phone: 250-442-8266  
Fax: 250-442-8000  
Email: [info@grandforks.ca](mailto:info@grandforks.ca)



We are on the Web!  
[www.city.grandforks.bc.ca](http://www.city.grandforks.bc.ca)

CITY OF GRAND FORKS



COMMUNITY FOREST LICENSE PROPOSAL

A Community Forest is an area based tenure under the Forest Act that provides authority to harvest timber and do other things provided it meets community objectives and there is a direct benefit to the Community. An opportunity for the City exists to obtain a Community Forest Licence. There are approximately 23,000 cubic meters of annual harvest or annual allowable cut (AAC) which is available for small tenures that have not been allocated. The first offering is usually for 5 years, reviewed in year 3 and at year 5. If successful, a 25-year licence may be issued, which is renewable every 10 years. The key benefits of a Community Forest is educational opportunities and school projects, local employment, tourism opportunities and direct financial benefit. The downside of the Community Forest is that start up can be expensive, requires an administrative structure, ongoing operation and overhead

costs and comply with legislative, environmental and infrastructure requirements. The application process involves the Minister of Forests inviting an application with the assurance of available AAC in the operating area, where there is local support and land use issues are addressed. The applicant must demonstrate that government objectives will be met, proof of community awareness, support and involvement, consultations with First Nations have occurred, there is a viable business Plan and an Administrative Structure in place. The application process requires commitment of funding to undertake a business plan. The feasibility stage and planning requires an initial expenditure in the magnitude of up to \$60,000. This Council will consider the merits of a Community Forest Licence and act accordingly. No decision has been made by this Council.

INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL

The City has undertaken a comprehensive planning exercise to prioritize infrastructure that requires renewal in the next 10 years. Such an exercise is taken to consolidate and present to the residents a discussion paper on the renewal program of infrastructure. No doubt many of you are aware that majority of the City's infrastructure has aged considerably. A long term plan is required to commence renewal. The Infrastructure Report's main focus is to prioritize all roads, water and sewer mains and storm drainage system. This Report is expected to be ready by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

POLICY ON SNOW CLEARING OF ROADS

The following is the priority for winter snow clearing of roads:

- Priority #1:**

  - Valley Heights.
  - Second Street from Airport to 75th Ave.
  - 72nd Ave/Kettle River Dr./68th Ave. from 5th Street to Spragget Bridge.
  - 7th Street/75th Ave./Riverside Drive from 72nd Ave. to Central Ave.
  - Boundary Drive from 68th Ave. to 77th Ave.
  - Donaldson Drive from Boundary Drive to Central Ave.
  - McCallum View/17th Street/77th Ave. from Columbia Drive to
- Boundary Drive.

  - 76th Ave. from Columbia Drive to 22nd Street.
  - 22nd Street from Central Ave. to 77th Ave.
  - 75th Ave. from 22nd Street to North Fork Road.
  - 7th Street/75th Ave./Riverside Drive from Central Ave. to 85th Ave.
  - 73rd Ave. from Boundary Drive to 8th Street.
  - 27th Street from 68th Ave. to Central Ave.

**Priority #2:**

  - Main arterial streets in downtown core and City-owned parking lots

- and the airport.
- Priority #3:**
- General residential streets.
- Priority #4:**
- Cul-de-sacs and non-through streets, lanes and alleys.
- Airport:** Snow Removal at the Municipal Airport shall be:
- Priority #1 :**
- When an emergency Medi-vac call originates, personnel will immediately be dispatched to clean the runway and taxiway A.
- Priority #2:**
- At all other times, the airport will be considered a priority #2.

POLICY ON SNOW CLEARING OF SIDEWALKS

The following is the priority for winter snow clearing of sidewalks:

- Priority #1:**

  - Sidewalks in the downtown core adjacent to City owned property.
  - Wheelchair ramps and alley drops.
  - Central Ave. (Hwy3) from the bridge (including bridge) to Donaldson Drive (GFSS, Perley School, RCMP).
  - 19th Street from Central Ave. to
- 77th Ave.

  - 76th Ave. from Donaldson Drive to 23rd Street.
  - 22nd Street from Central Ave. (Hwy3) to 77th Ave. (Hospital, Hardy View Lodge).
  - 75th Ave. from 22nd Street to 28th Street (Hutton School).
  - 19th Street from Central Ave. to 68th Ave.
  - Kettle River Drive from 8th Street
- (Boundary Lodge) to 68th Ave. and including 68th Ave. to 19th Street.

  - Boundary Drive from 68th Ave. to 77th Ave.

**Priority #2:**

  - City-owned buildings—Fire Hall, City Hall, Library, Museum, Court House, and Scout Hall.
  - Second Street from Public Works Yard to bridge (including bridge).

THE FUNCTIONING AND FINANCING OF AN ELECTRIC UTILITY

In the past, the focus has been on water and sewer utility. The third utility the City operates is electrical power distribution. As many of you know, the electrical utility operates on power purchased from other neighbouring utility companies. The City acquires all the power from FortisBC. FortisBC acquires power from various sources to meet the annual and monthly peak loads of demand. The energy required to meet the demand for all customers in FortisBC territory on an annual basis is 3,463 Giga watt hours (GWh). FortisBC produces 45 3/4% of energy from the dams on Kootenay River, 25% is produced from Brilliant Dam, 2% is acquired from the Brilliant upgrade, 1% is acquired through Demand Side Management (DSM) and Independent Power Producers (IPP), 26% comes from BC Hydro and 1/4% is acquired on the spot market. The City gets a blended source of power from all these sources.

Each source of power is priced differently. A blended rate structure is utilized. The older dams provide the cheapest power. The new upgrades and spot market are considered expensive power. The City gets a blended purchase rate from FortisBC. Thirty-six percent (36%) of FortisBC power load is directed at residential, 22% is for general service, 27% to wholesale customers such as the Cities of Grand Forks,

Summerland, Penticton, Kelowna and Nelson, 7% to industrial and 8% is system losses. The City, along with the other wholesale municipal customers, is an active participant in public hearing before British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC). The most recent filing for revenue requirement by FortisBC is available on BCUC website: www.bcuc.com. The 2009 application for revenue requirement {rate increase} is 5.64% (net of customer incentive sharing. In 2008 customer incentive sharing is approximately 1%. Without the incentive sharing, the rate increase [revenue required to operate the utility] is 6.59%. The City has objected to this rate increase of this magnitude and is working with BCUC to decrease the revenue requirement through expenditure management. The proposed rate increase when approved by BCUC will be effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. The City flows the rate increase to the ratepayers once BCUC signs an Order approving the rate increase. BCUC is an independent body that adjudicates rate applications filed by all utilities in BC. Within the City, there are 2471 residential and 378 commercial ratepayers of the Electrical System. Not all residents and commercial properties and taxpayers are connected to the City's electrical system. The electrical power distribution system operations are managed inde-

pendently of water, sewer and property taxation. Purchased power for the City makes up 82% of the cost component of operating the electrical system. The remaining 18% is the operating and maintenance costs. *The City follows* the electrical utility rate structure utilized by public and privately owned utilities. The basic components of a rate structure are : customer charge ( the city uses the term “administration charge” to not confuse with the FortisBC ), consumption charge and demand charge. The “customer charge or the administration charge” is a fixed charge to pay for costs applicable to all ratepayers. It does not vary with the metered rate regardless of how much or how less the power is utilized. A simple example of a cost component included in the “*administration or customer charge*” is the cost of postage. It costs the same to mail an invoice of \$10 or \$100. In previous newsletters, the City has provided extensive explanation on the rate structure components. The City also returns when there is surplus available in the electrical system to the property owners who are connected to the system. This is similar to the incentive FortisBC shares with the ratepayers and shareholders.

MUNICIPAL PURPOSES AND SERVICE PRIORITIES

On an annual basis, the City is required to prepare a Five Year Financial Plan. The Plan focuses on the activities, programs, projects and services to be provided to the Community. The first phase of the Plan involves consultation with the general community. During the consultation process, the City presents services based on these core priorities: *Health and Sanitation:* Waste collection and disposal, sanitary sewer, portable water, cemetery, animal and pest control; *Access and Mobility:* Streets, sidewalks, snow and ice removal, drainage, pedestrian safety and traffic control; *Safety and Protection:* Policing & victim assistance, crime prevention, building and safety (fire prevention, control and inspections) legisla-

tive functions (bylaws, building codes and fire codes compliance); *Quality of Life:* Recreation, open spaces, parks & play fields, flowers and gardens. The foregoing core priorities are based on the general scope of the legislative authority of “municipal purposes”. Section 7 of the Community Charter states that “the purposes of a municipality include: providing good government, providing for services, laws and matters for the community’s benefit, providing stewardship of the public assets; and fostering economic, social and environmental well being. Within this general scope of the “municipal purposes, there are specific areas where the city is restricted from exercising its legislative powers. For example, the city is pro-

hibited from providing direct and indirect benefit to a commercial or industrial undertaking with certain exceptions. Generally, where a provincial government and federal government have legislative powers, the City cannot override or make additional regulations and bylaws. Based on this general principle, the City does not engage in providing affordable housing, social services, health, education and environmental services. The services are further restricted by the availability of revenues. The basic principle in providing any service is to have a source of revenue before a service can be funded. Municipal governments across BC have only one source of revenue: property tax. As many taxpayers are well aware, property tax cannot support every service.