

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH, 2007 AT 7:30 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, BRANDON, MANITOBA

PRESENT: Mayor D. Burgess in the Chair, Councillor D. Jessiman, Councillor D. Paterson, Councillor E. Black, Councillor G. Rice, Councillor J. McCrae, Councillor J. Harwood, Councillor K. Fitzpatrick, Councillor M. Campbell, Councillor M. Blight, Councillor V. Barletta, Youth Councillor Stacy Senkbeil

ABSENT: Nil

PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:

Nil

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

110 Rice-Harwood
That the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of City Council to be held on Monday, February 19th, 2007 be adopted as presented. CARRIED.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

111 Blight-Fitzpatrick
That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of City Council held on Monday, February 5th, 2007 be taken as read and so adopted, all statutory requirements having been fulfilled. CARRIED.

112 Harwood-Fitzpatrick
That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council held on Monday, February 5th, 2007 be taken as read and so adopted, all statutory requirements having been fulfilled. CARRIED.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:

(A) CROSSWALK SAFETY ON 18TH STREET IN THE VICINITY OF BRANDON UNIVERSITY

Nathan Peto presented a 200 name petition to City Council with respect to requesting the Province of Manitoba to install overhead crosswalk signals to alleviate the current safety concerns on 18th Street in the vicinity of Brandon University. He also requested that high volume traffic signs be installed in the area, similar to other schools in the City as many students had to cross 18th Street in order to reach the University.

113 Barletta-Black
That the presentation by Nathan Peto with respect to crosswalk safety on 18th Street in the vicinity of Brandon University be referred to the Administration for consideration and subsequent report;

and further that a letter be sent to Manitoba Department of Infrastructure and Transportation requesting an immediate review of the situation. CARRIED AS AMENDED.

AMENDMENT

114 Black-McCrae
That the above motion be amended by deleting the second subparagraph in its entirety. CARRIED.

(B) UPDATE FROM CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Darryl Darling provided an update on the Crime Prevention Committee, including the number of members, its mandate, and a review of a meeting held with another community having a similar committees. He viewed the process of determining strengths and challenges and advised that the one project the committee was going to undertake dealt with the graffiti issue.

Black-Harwood

115 That the presentation by Darryl Darling and Karen Fisch on behalf of the Crime Prevention Committee be received. CARRIED.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Nil

COMMUNICATION & PETITIONS:

Nil

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nil

ENQUIRIES:

(74) 3D FIREFIGHTING TECHNIQUES

Councillor Paterson referred to recent media information with respect to 3D firefighting techniques and provided written material to the City Clerk with respect to same. He enquired if the material could be forwarded to the Fire Chief for consideration.

His Worship the Mayor agreed to take this matter under advisement.

(75) UPDATE ON 2005 FLOODING

Councillor Fitzpatrick noted that His Worship the Mayor had been involved in further discussions with the Federal Government with respect to compensation for the 2005 flood and he enquired if an update could be provided.

His Worship the Mayor advised that he had spoken to The Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of Safety, while he had been in Ottawa the previous week and noted that discussions were still ongoing, but nothing further could be reported at this time.

(76) UPDATE ON HANDI-TRANSIT

Councillor Fitzpatrick enquired if an update could be provided on the handi-transit service.

At the request of the Chair, the Manager of Transportation advised that the Transit Department had just completed an evening emergency call procedure to provide emergency contact when the Dispatch Office was closed.

In conjunction with the above, Councillor Black noted that with the closure of the private handi-transit service provider, many clients who relied on handi-transit were not currently registered with the City and he enquired what the procedure was for same.

The Manager of Transportation advised that residents could contact the Dispatch Office at 729-2437 for applications and information on the registration procedure. He advised that calling in advance was a requirement for booking the service.

Councillor McCrae enquired if the Administration could provide an information sheet to Councillors to help them answer questions raised by their constituents whereby the Manager of Transportation confirmed same would be done, and further advised that individuals could check the handi-transit newsletter on the City's web page.

Councillor Campbell enquired how many buses were in operation for handi-transit and if taxi service was still being utilized.

The Manager of Transportation advised that the City operated three buses during peak hours and one in the evening for handi-transit. He further advised that taxi service was still used for ambulatory service, with prior bookings required.

(77) UPDATE ON RECREATION CENTRE GOLF COURSE

Councillor Fitzpatrick reported that the City of Brandon was missing out on 2007 bookings for tournaments at the golf course, due to the uncertainty of its future ownership and/or operation and he enquired if an update could be provided.

At the request of the Chair, the General Manager of Operational Services advised that booking were being taken for golf tournaments and interested individuals or organizations could contact Cora Lee at 729-2257, or once the contract was finalized, in the near future, calls could be made directly to the Recreation Centre.

(78) SOUND SYSTEM IN COUNCIL CHAMBER

Councillor Fitzpatrick advised that he had received complaints from the viewing audience with respect to the poor quality of the sound system from the Council Chamber whereby the audience could view the picture, but was unable to hear what was being said, particularly if the Councillors were not speaking directly into the microphones. He enquired if the matter could be reviewed.

His Worship the Mayor agreed to take this matter under advisement.

(79) SUPPORT FOR JOINT FACILITY WITH YMCA AND BRANDON UNIVERSITY

Councillor Black advised that he had read a report in the newspaper which stated that the joint facility with the YMCA and Brandon University had received support from the three levels of government and he enquired when the City had provided such support, as Council had never endorsed same.

His Worship the Mayor noted that it was his belief that the report suggested three levels of support, that being the Federal and Provincial Governments and the University, as the City had not been involved in the discussions.

(80) BUILT GREEN PROGRAM

Councillor Rice referred to "Built Green" being an industry driven voluntary program that promotes green building practices to encourage environmentally friendly construction and he enquired if the Administration could research same to see how Brandon could promote green living.

His Worship the Mayor agreed to take this matter under advisement.

(81) FREE PARKING AT METERS FOR HYBRID VEHICLES

Councillor Rice enquired if the Administration could investigate free parking at meters for hybrid vehicles as a means to support the initiative.

His Worship the Mayor agreed to take this matter under advisement.

(82) MONEY MATTERS: A FINANCIAL RESOURCE KIT

Councillor Harwood referred to an article in the Brandon Sun with respect to students at Brandon University having prepared a manual entitled "Money Matters: A Financial Resource Kit" for low income families and he enquired if the Poverty Committee would consider same in its endeavours.

His Worship the Mayor agreed to take this matter under advisement.

(83) CITY INITIATIVES ON GREEN HOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Councillor McCrae noted that there would be both Federal and Provincial elections coming up and suggested that green house gas emissions would be an issue for most candidates. He enquired if an update could be provided on what the City was currently doing with respect to the green house gas emissions issue, and what, if any, future endeavours were being reviewed to ensure measurable improvements and/or returns.

His Worship the Mayor advised that the City had done extremely well with environmental issues, particularly in the transit division, but also with C4 initiatives. He further stated that the City was always looking for ways to improve. He confirmed that a report would be requested that outlined what has been done and what was planned for the future.

In conjunction with the above, Councillor Black enquired if there were any agencies that did monitor provinces and cities to determine what their outputs were for green house gas emissions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

POVERTY COMMITTEE PUBLIC FORUMS

Councillor Rice invited individuals and stakeholders to take part in the public forums that would be held at 7:00 p.m., February 28th and March 6th, 2007 in the foyer at City Hall to discuss Solutions to Overcome Poverty (STOP).

RIVERVIEW WARD MEETING

Councillor Black announced that he would hold a Ward Meeting on March 6th, 2007 at the East End Community Centre at 7:30 p.m. Items to be discussed would include the Recreation Facilities Master Plan, in particular having residents become more involved with the Community Centre, the Citizens on Patrol Program and the Crime Prevention Committee.

REPAIRS TO CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY CROSSING ON 34TH STREET

Councillor Fitzpatrick announced that a temporary repair had been made at the Canadian National (CN) Railway crossing on 34th Street and noted that permanent repairs would be made in the spring. He extended his thanks to the City and CN for the repair.

ASSINIBOINE WARD MEETING

Councillor Paterson announced that he would hold a ward meeting to discuss the Recreation Facilities Master Plan, as many recreation facilities being considered were located in the Assiniboine Ward. He reported that the proposed date for the meeting was March 7th, with further details to be forthcoming.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

(A) RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

Considered was a report from the General Manager of Operational Services dated February 5th, 2007 with respect to the above.

Black-Paterson

116 That the Recreation Facilities Master Plan - January 2007 as attached to the report of the General Manager of Operational Services dated February 5th, 2007 be received as information and referred to a Special Meeting of City Council to be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 12th, 2007 for debate on the particulars of the plan and its adoption. CARRIED.

(B) CITY OF BRANDON COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

City Council considered a report from the General Manager of Corporate Services dated January 23rd, 2007 with respect to the above.

McCrae-Fitzpatrick

117 That the Communication Strategy outlined in the report of the General Manager of Corporate Services dated January 23rd, 2007 be approved. CARRIED.

Prior to the above motion being voted on, questions were raised with respect to the cost of implementation, expertise of trainers, who would act as spokespersons and the timeline for implementation.

Also during the discussion, it was suggested that the City consider the use of a "citizen broadcast network" whereby interested individuals could submit their email addresses to the City, for notification purposes.

(C) AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICES SCHOOL

Submitted for consideration was a report from Councillor D. Paterson dated February 5th, 2007 in accordance with his notice of motion filed at the February 5th meeting of City Council.

Paterson-Barletta

118 That an ad hoc committee be created to formalize and promote the establishment of a national emergency services school in Brandon if the Federal and Provincial Governments are considering such establishment in Canada. CARRIED.

Prior to the above motion being voted on, Councillor Jessiman advised that preliminary contact with respect to establishment of an emergency response school in the west had been made, whereby a contact name had been provided to the City Manager at that time, and the Emergency Coordinator.

(D) EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR OVERLAND FLOODING

Considered was a report from Councillor E. Black dated February 5th, 2007 in accordance with his notice of motion filed at the February 5th meeting of City Council.

Black-Jessiman

119 That the following be submitted to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities as an emergency resolution for consideration at its 2007 Annual Conference:

WHEREAS unexpected and uncontrollable overland flooding due to acts of nature continues to devastate many Canadians;

AND WHEREAS the level of such devastation is well beyond the ability of the affected Canadians to cope and contend with the effects of such flooding;

AND WHEREAS Provincial and Municipal Governments are limited in their means to address such hardships and assist the victims of such flood ravaged areas;

AND WHEREAS the Federal Government's Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements currently denies any assistance to many affected Canadians when such overland flooding causes sewer back-up in residential homes;

AND WHEREAS the majority of these affected Canadians do not have the financial means to resume a normal home life after such overland flooding;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal Government amend its Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements policy on emergency funding that results in sewer back-up in a significant number of residences in areas affected by overland flooding in order to adequately and urgently compensate the affected residents. CARRIED.

AMENDMENT

Campbell-No Seconder

That the above motion be amended by removing the words: "a significant number of".

As there was no seconder to the above motion, it was ruled Out of Order by the Chair.

(E) ELECTION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS - FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES

Submitted for consideration was a report from Councillor D. Jessiman dated February 8th, 2007 with respect to the above.

Paterson-Campbell

120 That the City of Brandon assume the cost of Councillor D. Jessiman attending meetings of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' National Board of Directors in the event he is elected to said Board. CARRIED.

BY-LAWS:

Nil

GIVING OF NOTICE:

(A) EDUCATION OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ON IMPORTANCE OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN CIVIC AND PUBLIC SCHOOL AFFAIRS

In accordance with Rule 60 of City Council Procedure By-law No. 6634, Councillor McCrae gave notice of his intent to introduce at the March 5th, 2007 meeting of City Council the following motion:

"WHEREAS on Election Day, October 25th, 2006, only 47.7% of eligible Brandon voters exercised their franchise;

AND WHEREAS democracy works best with maximum citizen participation;

AND WHEREAS the high school students of today are the voters and leaders of the future;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Brandon invite the Board of Trustees of the Brandon School Division to join in the establishment of a permanent speakers' roster of Councillors and Trustees for the purpose of educating Brandon high school students about the importance of citizen participation in civic and public school affairs."

ADJOURN:

Barletta-Blight

That the meeting do now adjourn. (9:21 p.m.) CARRIED.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK