

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY,
JANUARY 21, 2008 AT 7:30 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING, BRANDON, MANITOBA**

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

ABSENT: Youth Council Member

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Harwood-Fitzpatrick
513 That the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of City Council to be held on Monday, January 21, 2008 be adopted as presented. CARRIED.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Rice-Blight
514 That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council held on Monday, January 7, 2008 be taken as read and so adopted, all statutory requirements having been fulfilled. CARRIED.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:

(A) **SCOTT LAMONT AND KIRK DE FAZIO - BRANDON UNIVERSITY - SUPPORT FOR
INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT APPLICATION**

Scott Lamont, Vice-President (Administration & Finance) and Kirk De Fazio, Athletic Director appeared before City Council on behalf of Brandon University to request municipal support for the University's infrastructure grant application. They provided a verbal summary of the written documentation previously distributed to City Council, highlighting the proposed Fitness Centre for Brandon University and the Brandon community-at-large.

Black-Barletta
515 That the presentation by Scott Lamont and Kirk De Fazio on behalf of Brandon University with respect to requesting support for its infrastructure grant application be received and referred to the Administration for consideration and subsequent report to the February 4, 2008 meeting of City Council. CARRIED.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

(A) **2008 FINANCIAL PLAN**

City Council sat to receive representation on the City of Brandon's 2008 Financial Plan.

Grant McMillan, General Manager of Corporate Services appeared before City Council and provided a power point presentation on the Financial Plan.

Lee Bass, President, appeared before City Council on behalf of the Brandon Chamber of Commerce. He stated that the Chamber membership saw many positives in the 2008 Financial Plan however, any increase to taxes hurt business in the City. Mr. Bass further commented on the results of a recent poll of the Chamber's membership whereby it was felt that the City had no clear vision for the future or an adequate plan for infrastructure replacement. Several suggestions for the budget were put forward for Council's consideration this year and in future years.

No further representation was put forward either in support of or in opposition to the Financial Plan.

Black-Jessiman

516 That the Public Hearing on the City of Brandon's 2008 Financial Plan be concluded. CARRIED.

COMMUNICATION & PETITIONS:

Nil

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nil

ENQUIRIES:

(290) INFORMATION ON PROPOSED CASINO FOR PUBLIC

Councillor Barletta noted that all Councillors had received numerous enquiries from citizens regarding the proposed casino. He added that the Renaissance Brandon Committee had also requested information and clarification from the parties involved, those being the Association of Manitoba Chiefs, the Province of Manitoba and as well as the City of Brandon and noted that to date, aside from that which was reported in the media, no specific information had been received. He enquired if all three parties could provide a fact sheet of the key issues in the debate to enable the citizens of Brandon to make an informed decision on March 12, 2008.

His Worship advised that enough progress in the plans had not yet been made to enable the parties to put together such a document, however he anticipated that more information would become available over time. He noted that he had been in touch with both the Federal and Provincial Government on the issue as well as the Association of Manitoba Chiefs and further, that he had more meetings scheduled and would keep Council and the public apprised of the results of same. He also advised that the Province and the Association of Manitoba Chiefs had been urged to provide as much information as possible to City Council and the general public.

Further to this issue, Councillor Barletta referred to recent news reports surrounding the issues of revenue sharing and Urban Reserve status and he enquired if His Worship could provide an update on same.

His Worship responded that in the past he had consulted with the Province on the issue of revenue sharing whereby he had requested the same deal as the City of Winnipeg, that being 10%. However, he noted that nothing had been confirmed and that the issue would be dealt with by all of Council following the outcome of the plebiscite. He noted that he too had heard the speculation of the Urban Reserve status and advised that the issue was to be discussed in upcoming meetings with the applicants.

(291) CAPITAL UPGRADES REQUIRED FOR JET SERVICE IN BRANDON

Councillor Paterson referred to recent media reports whereby a gentleman from Boissevain who had circulated a petition for air service to Brandon noted that many capital upgrades to the airport were required before air service to Brandon would or could be considered. He enquired whether or not an update on same could be provided.

At the request of the Chair, the City Manager responded that Brandon, like many other airports across the country, had eased up on the capital upgrades since the Federal Government had handed over responsibility for same. He noted however, that upgrades to the airport continued and funds were consistently set aside in the budget for same.

(292) RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ELTON WIND ENERGY CO-OP

Councillor Paterson advised that he and Mr. Tom Keep, Environment Community Development Coordinator, recently attended a presentation in Forrest, Manitoba whereby they were provided with information on the Elton Wind Energy Co-op. He noted that the representatives of the group had expressed interest in a potential partnership with the City of Brandon and enquired whether or not City Administration could look into the matter.

At the request of the Chair, the City Manager responded that while the economics of the project could be investigated further at a later date, Mr. Keep had been and would continue to monitor the environmental aspects and would keep Council informed on the issue.

(293) CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION MONITORING SYSTEM

Councillor Paterson referred to a previous enquiry whereby he had enquired about the possibility of a closed circuit television monitoring system for the downtown area. He noted that the response from the Brandon Police Service had been negative, however, statistics showed that private enterprises that operated such systems had noted a reduction in incidents of misbehavior. He enquired if a potential partnership between the City and private enterprises that operated such systems within the City could be investigated.

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

(294) FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE RELOCATION OF RAIL LINES

Councillor Rice referred to recent media reports regarding funding provided by the Federal Government for the relocation of rail lines within cities. He noted that such a project was currently underway in the City of Winnipeg and that the City of Regina had completed a successful project in this regard whereby many acres had been freed up for housing developments within the City. He enquired whether or not this issue could be investigated for the City of Brandon.

His Worship the Mayor advised that both Winnipeg and Regina could be contacted, however, he was of the understanding that the Winnipeg project had been unsuccessful.

(295) PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION RE: PROPOSED CASINO

Councillor Jessiman enquired whether or not representatives from the Provincial Government and the Association of Manitoba Chiefs could be invited to host a public information session in the City on the proposed casino prior to the plebiscite vote on March 12, 2008.

His Worship the Mayor responded that the only responsibility of City Council on this issue was to conduct the plebiscite with a simple question as to whether or not there was support for a casino in Brandon. He advised that while every effort would be made to get as much information out to the public as possible, Council had no jurisdiction on the matter and the issue of a casino license fell within the parameters of the Province of Manitoba.

(296) EFFECT OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR BRANDON UNIVERSITY ON CITY PROJECTS

Councillor Jessiman referred to the earlier presentation by Brandon University with respect to the request for City support to secure Federal Government funding for the proposed Brandon University Fitness Centre. He noted that same had been referred to City Administration for a report back to City Council and enquired whether or not support for this project would affect the total amount of Federal funding received for infrastructure within the City.

His Worship the Mayor advised that past history had shown that projects such as this did in fact affect the total amount of Federal funding received by the City, however, all issues would be covered by City Administration in its report to allow Council to make an informed decision.

(297) CASINO PLEBISCITE

Councillor Campbell enquired whether or not there was enough time between now and March 12th to provide the public with information on the casino issue to allow for an informed decision to be made.

His Worship the Mayor responded that Council had been emphatic that the plebiscite question be clear and concise and reiterated that the only responsibility of Council was to ensure the public had an opportunity to decide on a casino whereby all other aspects of same were out of Council's control.

(298) TIPPING FEES AND SANITATION PICK-UP

Councillor Fitzpatrick referred to the recent removal of the tipping fees from the landfill site as well as the new bulk item pick-up program and enquired whether or not information on same could be provided.

At the request of the Chair, the City Manager responded that the \$3 residential tipping fee for loads under 500 kilograms had been removed as of January 1, 2008 as part of the new and improved sanitation system and further, that the new ticket based system for bulk item pick-ups by the sanitation department had also been initiated on January 1, 2008. He advised that tickets could be purchased at the Civic Services Complex or the Treasury Department at City Hall, whereby once the item had been ticketed, a pick-up could be scheduled by calling the Civic Services Complex.

(299) REVIEW OF WESTERN MANITOBA CENTENNIAL AUDITORIUM OPERATIONS

Councillor Fitzpatrick referred to previous discussions regarding a review of the operations of the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium and requested a status report on same.

At the request of the Chair, the City Manager responded that two bids had been received from interested parties, those bids had been reviewed, and a successful bidder had been determined, however, until all bidders had been notified, the name of the successful firm could not be provided. He added that once the contract had been awarded, the City would work with the successful bidder on a time schedule for the review and Council would be advised of the progress at that time.

(300) CASINO PLEBSCITE QUESTION

Councillor Black referred to recent discussion surrounding the simple wording of the question on the plebiscite ballot. He noted that the purpose of the simplicity was to avoid the requirement for the organization with the license to come up with a concrete, specific proposal, noting that it was imperative that all aspects, inclusive of location, remain negotiable. He enquired if His Worship agreed that the focus needed to be solely on the general principal of whether or not people were in favour of a casino for Brandon.

His Worship the Mayor confirmed that to be the case.

(301) EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Councillor Black enquired if information could be provided on the degree of information exchanged between law enforcement agencies within the Province of Manitoba.

At the request of the Chair, the City Manager responded that all relevant information was shared between all police agencies within the Province through Criminal Intelligence Services Manitoba and further, that the Brandon Police Service had a member working with this service who is funded by the Provincial Department of Justice.

(302) ATTENDANCE AT THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT PROGRAM WORKSHOP

Councillor Black referred to a recent invitation received for two members of City Council to attend a workshop on the new Conservation District Program to be held February 29, 2008 at the Victoria Inn. He enquired whether or not any interested Council member could attend or whether the attendance was restricted to only two members.

At the request of the Chair, the Acting City Clerk responded that the invitation was restricted to two members, however, interested Councillors were encouraged to contact the City Clerk's Office and should more than two members come forward, a random draw would be held.

(303) CHANGES TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Councillor Black advised that he had recently received information regarding changes to the Federal Employment Insurance Program whereby sit down interviews with clients were being abandoned and all interviews and/or applications would be on-line. He noted that historically the margin for error was much higher with on-line applications versus person-to-person interviews and further that these applications were processed outside the area by individuals who had no knowledge of Brandon, and therefore were unaware of the procedures of local businesses for seasonal employment etc. He enquired whether or not clarification on these matters could be requested from the Federal Government.

His Worship the Mayor responded that the Employment Insurance Program was a Federal Government Program and out of the jurisdiction of the City of Brandon and further that it would not be appropriate to enquire as to the services provided under that umbrella. He added that Councillor Black could make enquiries on his own, however, none would be made from His office on behalf of City Council.

(304) UPDATE ON THE RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Councillor Blight referred to previous discussions between the Brandon School Division and the City of Brandon regarding recreational properties as the Recreation Master Plan moved forward and recreation hubs were being created whereby he requested an update on same.

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

(305) COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Councillor Blight requested an update on the Community Strategic Plan.

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

(306) PARKING ON SNOW REMOVAL ROUTES

Councillor McCrae advised that a resident of Meadows Ward received a ticket for parking on a snow route. He noted that this person had time to move the vehicle to allow for snow removal but had been issued a ticket regardless. He enquired what steps were taken when vehicles were parked in such a way as to inhibit snow removal operations and further, what discretion was exercised by City staff in such cases.

At the request of the Chair, the City Manager responded that in the past, the no parking restriction on snow routes was enforced during the winter months regardless of snow fall, however, this season that had changed and a parking ban on such routes only occurred immediately following a snow fall at which time vehicle owners were requested to move their vehicle to allow plowing or be subjected to a ticket. He further responded that on streets not designated as snow routes, the street was posted 24 hours prior to the start of the clearing operations to enable people an opportunity to remove their vehicles and should those vehicles not be removed, they would be ticketed. He added these parking bans were strictly enforced as it was extremely difficult for snow removal equipment to work around parked vehicles and there was potential for damage to those vehicles.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ACCOLADES TO THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT DEPARTMENT

Councillor Paterson congratulated the Wastewater Treatment Department Management and Staff for being the first plant in Manitoba to comply with the Province of Manitoba Nutrient Management Strategy which restricts the amount of nitrogen and phosphorous in the effluent.

ACCOLADES TO THE STAFF WHO MAINTAIN THE SKATING OVAL

Councillor Paterson thanked the City staff for their hard work in maintaining the skating oval.

ASSINIBOINE WARD MEETING

Councillor Paterson announced that an Assiniboine Ward Meeting was to be held February 5, 2008 at the Riverbank Discovery Centre.

AIR CADET SQUADRON CHANGE IN COMMAND

His Worship the Mayor announced that a change in command of the Air Cadet Squadron was to take place Tuesday, January 22, 2008 at the Brandon Armouries, with Captain Alice McKeen leaving and Second Lieutenant Ian Sparrow taking over.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

(A) FIRE HALL LOCATION

Considered was a report from Mayor D. Burgess dated January 11, 2008 with respect to the above.

Campbell-Black

517 That the matter of amending Motion No. 464 (December 3, 2007) with respect to the location for the building of a new fire hall be referred to the March 3, 2008 meeting of City Council in order for all potential sites to be re-evaluated. LOST.

Burgess-Paterson

518 That City Council Motion No. 464 (December 3, 2007) with respect to the location for the building of a new fire hall be amended by deleting therefrom, the words: "at the southwest corner of 18th Street North and Maple Avenue" and substituting therefor, the words: "at the City owned property located on the west side of 19th Street North, south of Andrews Field (Lots T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z, AA, BB, and CC, Plan 25221 BLTO)." CARRIED.

(B) DISPOSAL OF A PORTION OF 1000 PARKER BOULEVARD TO CRANE STEEL STRUCTURES O/B/O MCKENZIE SEEDS LTD.

City Council considered a report from the Economic Development Officer dated January 14, 2008 with respect to the above.

Paterson-Barletta

519 That approximately 4.7 acres of land currently zoned MR Manufacturing Restricted located on the easterly portion of 1000 Parker Blvd. (Block 5, Plan 1405 ex. portion taken for Public Road 1541 (.30ac) ex. portion taken for Public Road ex. Plan 28167) be disposed of to Crane Steel Structures, or their designate, for the sum of \$168,000 plus G.S.T subject to the purchaser:

- (i) entering into a development agreement with the City of Brandon as attached to the report of the Economic Development Officer dated January 14, 2008;
- (ii) providing the City of Brandon Property Department with proof of a lease arrangement with McKenzie Seeds whereby the entire parcel, and any development there-on, is leased solely to McKenzie Seeds for the continued operation of their Brandon business for a period not less than 15 years; and
- (iii) agreeing that the land is sold as is and all necessary infrastructure and development related costs are the responsibility of the purchaser. CARRIED.

(C) PROPOSAL TO SUBDIVIDE 1725 - 18TH STREET NORTH (MIKE PRIESTNER REAL ESTATE INC.O/B/O KOKONAS)

City Council considered a report from the Planning Department dated December 28, 2007 with respect to the above.

Paterson-Jessiman

520 That the application of Mike Priestner Real Estate Inc. (c/o Dave Doerksen) on behalf of the owners, Albert John and Mario John Kokonas, to subdivide 1725 - 18th Street North (Parcel A, Plan 1363 BLTO Exc Nly 205 Feet) be approved subject to the owner or successor:

- 1) entering into a development agreement with the City of Brandon as attached to the report of the General Manager of Development Services dated December 28, 2007; and
- 2) providing the Planning Department with a letter from the regional Technical Services Engineer that drainage from this development will not have any impact on the highway drainage system. CARRIED.

(D) 2008 GRANT-IN-AID REQUEST

Considered was a report from the General Manager of Development Services dated January 8, 2008 with respect to the above.

McCrae-Fitzpatrick

521 That the Manitoba Department of Infrastructure and Transportation be advised that the City of Brandon intends to proceed with the milling and paving of 26th Street from Park Avenue to Richmond Avenue;

and further, that a grant in the amount of \$148,891 be requested from the Manitoba Department of Infrastructure and Transportation under the 2008 Grant-In-Aid Program. CARRIED.

(E) VIA RAIL PASSENGER SERVICE - RIVERS, MANITOBA

City Council considered a report from Mayor D. Burgess dated January 11, 2008 with respect to the above.

Burgess-Harwood

522 That the Council of the Town of Rivers be advised that the Council of the City of Brandon is supportive of VIA Rail's Brandon North passenger station being relocated to Rivers, Manitoba. CARRIED.

BY-LAWS:

NO. 6892 - TO AMEND BY-LAW NO. 6791 TO CLOSE AND CONVEY THE PUBLIC WALKWAY
IN BLOCK 1, PLAN 24636 (OTTER BAY)
2ND AND 3RD READINGS

It was noted that this by-law had received first reading at the January 7, 2008 meeting of City Council.

Blight-Fitzpatrick

523 That By-law No. 6892 to amend By-law No. 6791 to close and convey the public walkway in Block 1, Plan 24636 located between Otter Bay and the Public Reserve, be read a second time. CARRIED.

Blight-Fitzpatrick

524 That this by-law be read a third and final time. CARRIED.

In accordance with Section 137 of The Municipal Act, a recorded vote was taken on the motion to give By-law No. 6892 third reading.

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
His Worship Mayor Burgess	Nil
Councillor Barletta	
Councillor Black	
Councillor Blight	
Councillor Campbell	
Councillor Fitzpatrick	
Councillor Harwood	
Councillor Jessiman	
Councillor McCrae	
Councillor Paterson	
Councillor Rice	

GIVING OF NOTICE:

Nil

ADJOURN:

McCrae-Rice

That the meeting do now adjourn. (9:50 p.m.) CARRIED.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK