

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 30, 2011 AT 7:30 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, BRANDON, MANITOBA

PRESENT: Mayor S. Decter Hirst in the Chair, Councillor S. Berry, Councillor M. Blight, Councillor J. Chaboyer, Councillor J. Fawcett, Councillor J. Harwood, Councillor J. McCrae, Councillor S. Montague, Councillor G. Rice, Councillor C. Roberts

ABSENT: Councillor L. Isleifson

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Harwood-Montague
230 That the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of City Council to be held on Monday, May 30, 2011 be amended by adding thereto under the Order of General Business as Item 11 (E), the proposal for the 8th Street Bridge Remediation/Replacement Plan, and that the Agenda, as amended, be adopted. CARRIED.

PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:

(A) CITY MANAGER

Her Worship the Mayor recognized Mr. Ted Snure for his role as the Acting City Manager over the past seven months. She extended her appreciation on behalf of City Council for the wisdom and guidance Mr. Snure provided during this time.

Her Worship the Mayor then introduced the new City Manager, Mr. Scott Hildebrand. Mr. Hildebrand noted that today was his first day on the job and he was very excited for the opportunity to work with everyone, noting that Mr. Snure had done an excellent job in the interim.

Her Worship the Mayor also extended Happy Birthday greetings to the City of Brandon who turned 129 years old today.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Rice-Harwood
231 That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of City Council held Sunday, May 8, 2011 be taken as read, all statutory requirements having been fulfilled. CARRIED.

Blight-Berry
232 That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council held Monday, May 9, 2011 be taken as read, all statutory requirements having been fulfilled. CARRIED.

McCrae-Chaboyer
233 That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of City Council held on Wednesday, May 18, 2011 be taken as read, all statutory requirements having been fulfilled. CARRIED.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:

(A) GERRY ROCAN AND ROB CULLEN - SPORT FIELD DEVELOPMENT

Gerry Rocan of the Brandon Soccer Association and Rob Cullen of Westman Youth Football appeared before City Council to present a proposal for a multi-use recreation facility for the City of Brandon to be located directly north of the existing Optimist Park.

Mr. Rocan advised that there were currently over 2,000 youth and adults playing soccer in the City of Brandon and that the development of the above noted property above was necessary to serve the present and future needs of Brandon Youth Soccer.

Mr. Cullen stated that there were over 700 participants in Westman Youth Football, and they too were outgrowing the facilities currently utilized for football.

Berry-Rice

234 That the presentation by Gerry Rocan and Rob Cullen regarding a proposal to develop soccer and football fields within the Veteran's Way Development be received. CARRIED AS AMENDED.

AMENDMENT

Fawcett-Montague

235 That the above motion be amended by deleting the words: "be received" and substituting therefor the words: "be referred to Administration for review and report." CARRIED.

(B) DENISE JUBENVILL, MANITOBA INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION - UPGRADES TO PROVINCIAL ROADS IN BRANDON

Denise Jubenvill, Technical Services Engineer for the Southwest Region of Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation presented plans for road construction work to be undertaken in and around the City of Brandon. The first project would be the final phase of the Brandon Eastern Access Route between PTH #110 and PR #457. Ms. Dubenvill advised that construction would be completed on both the east and west legs of the route and would require closure of PR #457 (Veteran's Way) between 1st Street and PTH #110. She noted that a detour would be in place for approximately 3 months.

Ms. Dubenvill stated that the second project would be the reconstruction of PTH #10 at the south end of Brandon. She explained that turning lanes would be installed at various locations and that Lyndale Boulevard would be re-aligned to the north to line up with Maryland Avenue. She noted that the intersection of Maryland Ave and 18th Street would be fully signalized.

Ms. Dubenvill concluded by announcing that a public open house would be held on Tuesday, May 31st from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Pioneer Room at the Keystone Centre for the PTH #110 project and everyone was welcome to attend.

Roberts-Harwood

236 That the presentation by Denise Jubenvill regarding Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation's planned upgrades to Provincial Roads in and around the City of Brandon for the 2011 construction season be received. CARRIED.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Nil

COMMUNITY QUESTION PERIOD:

INCREASE IN INCOME ASSISTANCE - POVERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. John Faulkner appeared before City Council to speak on the recommendation contained in the Poverty Committee Report dated May 24, 2011. Mr. Faulkner stated that he was in full support of the recommendation that the Province of Manitoba increase the current shelter allowance for people on income assistance. He noted that there had not been an increase in the rates since 1996, and as someone who was on income assistance, he could attest to the difficulty in living on the existing rates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

(A) WESTERN MANITOBA REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD MAY 9, 2011

May 9, 2011
Brandon, Manitoba

Mayor and Councillors
City of Brandon

The Western Manitoba Regional Library receives a Provincial Per Capita Operating Grant to help finance its day-to-day operations. The Grant has a ceiling of \$8.50 per capita, and the Western Manitoba Regional Library has been at the ceiling since 2005. The Per Capita Operating Grant was last increased in 2003, from a ceiling of \$7.50. To just sustain existing services, municipal levy increases are needed each year.

The Province has established grants designated for specific purposes to help deal with the funding issue, such as collection development support or technology costs. Meeting the day-to-day operating costs has become a major financial concern for libraries throughout the province.

Impacts of the grant ceiling on the Western Manitoba Regional Library:

- Since 2005, salaries and benefits costs have increased 26.8%
- Since 2005, the costs of maintaining our branch libraries (rent, maintenance, utilities, insurance) has increased 15.4%
- Since 2005, the book budget has not been increased
 - o The average cost of an adult novel has risen 12.5%.
 - o The average cost of a children's title cost has risen 9.5%.
 - o Demand continues to grow for electronic/ebook resources (over 10000 titles now available through eLibraries Manitoba, over 1300 loans already in 2011).
- Since 2005, the equipment and supplies budget has not been increased.
- Since 2005, the municipal per capita levy has increased 13.7%. A 5 percent increase in the municipal levy adds only \$2,565 to the budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City of Brandon support the Western Manitoba Regional Library in its request that the Province of Manitoba increase the Per Capita Operating Grant to the Library;

and further, that the City of Brandon express such support to the Premier of Manitoba, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor S. Montague

Montague-McCrae

237 That the report of the Western Manitoba Regional Library Board dated May 9, 2011 be received. CARRIED.

Montague-Berry

238 That the City of Brandon support the Western Manitoba Regional Library in its request that the Province of Manitoba increase the Per Capita Operating Grant to the Library;

and further, that the City of Brandon express such support to the Premier of Manitoba, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism. CARRIED.

McCrae-Blight

239 That the following resolution be submitted to the Association of Manitoba Municipalities for consideration and adoption at its annual convention being held November 21-24, 2011:

“WHEREAS meeting daily operating costs has become a major financial concern for libraries throughout Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS these libraries are dependent upon per capita grants by the Province of Manitoba to sustain their operations and provide their needed and appreciated services to their communities;

AND WHEREAS operating costs such as salaries, building rent and maintenance, books and electronic resources continue to escalate;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of Manitoba increase its per capita grant to libraries in Manitoba to support their continued viability and service to their communities." CARRIED.

(B) POVERTY COMMITTEE MAY 24, 2011

May 24, 2011
Brandon, Manitoba

Mayor and Councillors
City of Brandon

Your Poverty Committee met on April 14, 2011 and wishes to report as follows and submit recommendations where deemed necessary and expedient:

Committee Members: Councillor Jan Chaboyer (Co-Chairperson); Councillor Len Isleifson (Co-Chairperson); Councillor Stephen Montague; Lyndon Bournon; Vincent Harris; Glen Kruck; Ted Snure, Acting City Manager (ex-officio member)

(1) Increase in Employment And Income Assistance Shelter Allowance

The Poverty Committee, on an annual basis, requests statistics from the Provincial Government regarding increases in rent that exceed the guidelines for the above allowance for individuals and families receiving Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) Benefits.

According to these statistics there has been a dramatic increase in the number of cases where EIA recipients pay more in rent than what is provided to them through the EIA shelter allowance benefits. As of December 2009, forty one percent (41%) of EIA recipients were paying upwards of \$250 over and above what the EIA shelter allowance provides for rent.

At the January 18th, 2011 Poverty Committee meeting discussion regarding the need for an increase in EIA shelter allowance arose and as a result of that discussion a motion was brought forward and adopted by City Council at their meeting on March 28, 2011 that the Premier of Manitoba and the Department of Family Services and Consumer Affairs be requested by the Council of the City of Brandon to increase the Employment and Income Assistance shelter allowance so that it meets the actual rental costs in Brandon.

Through subsequent discussions with administration, it was deemed beneficial to gain support from the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM). At the April 14, 2011 Poverty Committee meeting, a draft recommendation was brought forward for discussion. It was proposed that the resolution be submitted to the AMM Western District Meeting for possible consideration at the AMM Annual Convention. The following recommendation is a result of those discussions:

RECOMMENDATION:

That the following resolution be submitted to the Association of Manitoba Municipalities for consideration and adoption at its annual convention being held November 21-24, 2011:

“WHEREAS many unfortunate Manitobans including entire families must rely on support from the Government of Manitoba under its Employment and Income Assistance Program and specifically, the shelter allowance to secure accommodations;

AND WHEREAS these Manitobans are encountering a serious and long-standing problem in that increases in shelter allowances and other components of social assistance payments have not kept pace with inflation since 1996 aggravated by historically low vacancy rate for private rental housing for both individuals and families in all cities and most towns in Manitoba and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in Manitoba having increased by 30% since 1996;

AND WHEREAS failure by the Manitoba Government to adjust shelter allowances to keep pace with rent inflation has forced social assistance recipients to draw on other components of their basic living allowances to make up the difference between their shelter allowance and their rent payments, therefore depriving themselves and their families of basic daily needs to supplement their rent;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of Manitoba increase the shelter allowance rate under its Employment and Income Assistance Program to ensure adequate and affordable accommodations to those in need;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the increase in the shelter allowance for Manitoba be adjusted annually to reflect the changing costs of accommodation as reported by Statistics Canada.”

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Jan Chaboyer,
Co-Chairperson
Poverty Committee

Chaboyer-Montague

That the report of the Poverty Committee dated May 24, 2011 be received. CARRIED.

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Chaboyer-Montague

That the following resolution be submitted to the Association of Manitoba Municipalities for consideration and adoption at its annual convention being held November 21 - 24, 2011:

“WHEREAS many unfortunate Manitobans including entire families must rely on support from the Government of Manitoba under its Employment and Income Assistance Program and specifically, the shelter allowance to secure accommodations;

AND WHEREAS these Manitobans are encountering a serious and long-standing problem in that increases in shelter allowances and other components of social assistance payments have not kept pace with inflation since 1996 aggravated by historically low vacancy rate for private rental housing for both individuals and families in all cities and most towns in Manitoba and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in Manitoba having increased by 30% since 1996;

AND WHEREAS failure by the Manitoba Government to adjust shelter allowances to keep pace with rent inflation has forced social assistance recipients to draw on other components of their basic living allowances to make up the difference between their shelter allowance and their rent payments, therefore depriving themselves and their families of basic daily needs to supplement their rent;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of Manitoba increase the shelter allowance rate under its Employment and Income Assistance Program to ensure adequate and affordable accommodations to those in need;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the increase in the shelter allowance for Manitoba be adjusted annually to reflect the changing costs of accommodation as reported by Statistics Canada.”
CARRIED.

(C) KEYSTONE CENTRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
VERBAL REPORT

MAY 30, 2011

May 30, 2011
Brandon, Manitoba

Mayor and Councillors
City of Brandon

Councillor Rice reported that the Keystone Board of Directors had met on May 26, 2011. He noted that applications for the position of General Manager closed today and that the position of Chief Accountant had been successfully filled. Councillor Rice noted that a Leadership Meeting would be held June 3, 2011 with representatives of the Province of Manitoba and the City of Brandon.

(D) BRANDON GENERAL MUSEUAM AND ARCHIVES INC.
VERBAL REPORT

MAY 30, 2011

May 30, 2011
Brandon, Manitoba

Mayor and Councillors
City of Brandon

Councillor Harwood that preparations were underway for the official opening on July 1, 2011 of the 9th Street location of the Brandon General Museum and Archives. He advised that the fundraising Dinner and Auction had been rescheduled to Thursday, June 16, 2011 at the Victoria Inn.

Councillor Harwood also announced that the Brandon General Museum and Archives Inc. had acquired its first collection from the Westman Retired Educator's Association and noted that it would be part of the display set up for the grand opening on July 1, 2011.

(E) WESTERN MANITOBA CENTENNIAL AUDITORIUM
VERBAL REPORT

MAY 30, 2011

May 30, 2011
Brandon, Manitoba

Mayor and Councillors
City of Brandon

Councilor Blight reported that the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium Board had met recently and had received a report from Meyers Norris Penny. He noted that there were several internal issues that would be dealt with in the coming weeks.

McCrae-Harwood

242 That the verbal reports of the Keystone Centre Board of Directors, the Brandon General Museum and Archives Inc., and the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium be received. CARRIED.

ENQUIRIES:

(83) EFFECT OF HIGH WATER INCIDENT ON CITY STAFF

Councillor McCrae referred to the recent high water event in the City of Brandon, he noted that city staff had worked extremely hard during this difficult time and enquired as to how things were going now.

Her Worship the Mayor responded that many city staff had been working around the clock on the flood fight while others kept the city running and commended all staff for a job well done. She noted that while the major crisis was over, there was still much work to be done before the city was back to normal. In conclusion, she thanked all staff for their efforts and encouraged citizens to be patient as city staff continued to deal with the ongoing issues of the high water incident.

(84) CONDITION OF MCDONALD AVENUE BETWEEN 29TH AND 32ND STREETS NORTH

Councillor Harwood advised that heaving and road break-up had occurred on McDonald Avenue between 29th and 32nd Streets North and requested an update on when repairs to same were expected.

At the request of Her Worship the Mayor, the General Manager of Operational Services responded that the water leak which had caused the problems had now been repaired with the road to be brought back to good condition in the near future.

(85) PHYSICAL CONDITION OF WHEAT CITY GOLF COURSE

Councillor Harwood requested an update on the physical condition of the Wheat City Golf Course.

At the request of Her Worship the Mayor, Bryce Wilson of the Community Services Department responded that while the lower portion of the course remained under water, the upper portion was in mid-summer condition and expected to be open June 1, 2011, pending City Council's decision with respect to same later in the meeting.

(86) MOSQUITO CONTROL IN CITY OF BRANDON

Councillor Montague noted that with the amount of standing water around the City of Brandon, mosquitos were expected to be a problem over the summer months and enquired if changes to the City of Brandon Mosquito Abatement Policy were being considered.

At the request of Her Worship the Mayor, the General Manager of Operational Services responded that Perry Roque, Director of Community Services was currently working with Brandon University on this issue, with a detailed report to City Council expected by the end of June 2011.

(87) SAFETY OF CHILDREN - SMALL CREEK ALONG 9TH STREET AND MARYLAND AVENUE

Councillor Montague advised that he had received complaints from area residents with respect to children playing around the creek located in the vicinity of 9th Street and Maryland Avenue. He noted that the residents were concerned for the safety of the children and enquired if precautions such as signage or fencing could be considered.

At the request of Her Worship the Mayor, the General Manager of Development Services responded that as the creek had been designed as part of the water feature for the condominium development, fencing was not an option. He noted however that warning signs had been posted during the construction and agreed to investigate if same needed to be supplemented or enhanced.

(88) REMINDER TO PUBLIC - CLOSURE OF KIRKCALDY DRIVE BETWEEN KNOWLTON DRIVE AND PATERSON CRESCENT

Councillor Fawcett noted that Kirkcaldy Drive, inclusive of the sidewalk, remained closed between Knowlton Drive and Paterson Crescent and enquired if a reminder to the public with respect to same could be included in the next media release.

At the request of Her Worship the Mayor, the City Manager agreed to pass the request on to the Director of Emergency Communications.

(89) PATIENCE AND TOLERANCE FROM PUBLIC - INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES

Councillor Rice reiterated Her Worship the Mayor's request to the public to be patient with staff with respect to infrastructure issues within the City of Brandon as front-line staff had worked extremely hard and long hours during the recent high water event. He added that staff continued to work hard to get the city back to normal as quickly as possible and that infrastructure issues such as potholes, etc. would be addressed as time permitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FUNDRAISING BARBEQUE FOR UNITED WAY FLOOD RELIEF PROGRAM

Councillor Montague announced that the Fundraising Barbeque for the United Way Flood Relief held at Sobey's South on May 22, 2011 had raised \$800 with the cheque to be presented to the United Way on May 31, 2011. He thanked Her Worship the Mayor and his fellow Councillors for their assistance with this event. Councillor Montague also noted that 31 dozen hotdogs had been consumed during the four hour period and thanked Brandon and area residents for their support.

TRAVELLERS DAY PARADE - JUNE 11, 2011

Councillor Blight announced that the City of Brandon would have a float in the 2011 Travellers Day Parade to be held June 11, 2011.

POTHOLE HOTLINE

Councillor Rice announced that potholes were to be reported to the Pothole Hotline at 729-2200 and encouraged callers to leave a street address to allow crews to be dispatched accordingly.

DEADLINE FOR UNITED WAY COMMUNITY RELIEF PROGRAM

Councillor Chaboyer announced that the deadline for applications for financial assistance from the United Way Community Relief Program was June 1, 2011.

BRANDON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Councillor Chaboyer announced that she had been pleased to attend the inaugural meeting of Brandon's Imagination Library on behalf of Her Worship the Mayor. She noted that the intent of the program was to provide a book every month to children between the ages of 0 and 5 years until they started school. Councillor Chaboyer added that the Imagination Libraries had originally been started in the United States by Dolly Parton and had spread to 12 Aboriginal Communities in Manitoba with fundraising having begun for a library in the City of Brandon.

NATIONAL AWARDS FOR PHOTOGRAPHY TO TIM SMITH, BRANDON SUN

Councillor Fawcett announced that he was pleased to read that Tim Smith of the Brandon Sun had recently been presented with two national awards for photography.

ACCOLADES TO RESIDENTS IN FLOOD PREPARATION

Councillor Fawcett issued accolades to residents for their forward thinking and hard work in flood preparation.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

(A) BRANDON UNIVERSITY HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE COMMUNITY ACCESS AGREEMENT

Councillor Chaboyer declared a conflict of interest in this matter due to her employment with Brandon University and left the Council Chamber without any further discussion.

City Council considered a report from the General Manager of Operations dated May 24, 2011 with respect to the above.

Harwood-Montague

243 That the City of Brandon enter into a Community Access Agreement with Brandon University to provide for general public access to Brandon University's Healthy Living Centre, a copy of which is attached to and forms part of the report of the General Manager of Operations dated May 24, 2011 subject to the Contribution Agreement to be made between said parties being completed and attached as Schedule A to the Community Access Agreement. CARRIED.

Following the above motion being voted on, Councillor Chaboyer reentered the Council Chamber.

(B) WHEAT CITY GOLF COURSE PROPOSED REDUCED RATES

Submitted for consideration was a report from the General Manager of Operations dated May 25, 2011 with respect to the above.

Harwood-Blight

244 That effective June 1, 2011 and pending the passage of a by-law to amend Annual Schedule of Fees By-law No. 6986, the reduced rates at the Wheat City Golf Course for 2011 attached to the report of the Community Services Department dated May 25, 2011 be approved. CARRIED.

(C) EXTENSION OF REPORTING DEADLINE - WHISTLE BLOWER POLICY

Considered was a report from the Acting City Manager dated May 24, 2011 with respect to the above.

McCrae-Rice

245 That Motion No. 066 (City Council Meeting - January 10, 2011) with respect to the establishment and implementation of a Whistle Blower Policy for reporting incidents of noncompliance of the City's internal control policies be amended by deleting the words: "no later than June 1, 2011" and substituting therefor, the words: "no later than July 18, 2011". CARRIED.

(D) EXTENSION OF REPORTING DEADLINE- TASK FORCE ON ACCOMMODATION TAX

City Council considered a report from Councillor S. Berry dated May 24, 2011 with respect to the above.

Berry-McCrae

246 That Motion No. 225 (City Council Meeting - May 9, 2011) with respect to the establishment of a Task Force on the possibility of imposing an accommodation tax in the City of Brandon be amended by deleting the words: "for its meeting to be held June 27, 2011" and substituting therefor, the words: "no later than July 18, 2011". CARRIED.

(E) PROPOSAL - 8TH STREET BRIDGE REMEDIATION

Submitted was a report from the Acting General Manager of Development dated May 20, 2011 with respect to the above.

Roberts-Montague

247 That the proposal of Dillon Engineering for the 8th Street Bridge remediation/replacement plan in the amount of \$190,403 (excluding GST) be accepted;

and further, that an additional \$20,000 be allocated from 8th Street Bridge Replacement Reserve to cover the shortfall. CARRIED.

BY-LAWS:

NO. 6999 TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 620 MCDIARMID DRIVE (PT. OF BLOCK 7, PLAN 1058) FROM PR PARKS AND RECREATION TO RMD RESIDENTIAL MODERATE DENSITY MULTIPLE FAMILY ZONE (WESTERN MANITOBA SENIORS NON-PROFIT HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE LTD.)

Considered was a report from The Planning Department dated May 18, 2011 with respect to the above.

Harwood-Blight

248 That By-law No. 6999 to rezone the property located at 620 McDiarmid Drive (Pt. of Block 7, Plan 1058 BLTO) from PR Parks and Recreation Zone to RMD Residential Moderate Density Multiple Family Zone be read a first time. CARRIED.

NO. 7000 TO OPEN THE EAST/WEST AND NORTH/SOUTH LANES IN THE SW 1/4 36-10-19 WPM
LOCATED EAST OF FIRST STREET NORTH AND NORTH OF THE ASSINIBOINE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE FIRST STREET NORTH CAMPUS

Submitted for consideration was a report from the Planning Department dated May 19, 2011 with respect to the above.

249 Fawcett-Roberts
That By-law No. 7000 to open the east/west and north/south lanes in the SW 1/4 36-10-19 WPM located east of 1st Street North and north of the Assiniboine Community College 1st Street Campus be read a first time. CARRIED.

GIVING OF NOTICE:

Nil

ADJOURN:

Chaboyer-Blight
That the meeting do now adjourn (9:29 p.m.). CARRIED.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK