

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2020 AT 7:00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, BRANDON, MANITOBA

PRESENT: Mayor Rick Chrest In The Chair, Councillor Shawn Berry, Councillor Shaun Cameron, Councillor Jan Chaboyer, Councillor Barry Cullen, Councillor Kris Desjarlais, Councillor Jeff Fawcett, Councillor John LoRegio, Councillor Bruce Luebke, Councillor Glen Parker

ABSENT: Councillor Ron W. Brown

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Desjarlais-Parker

652 That the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of City Council to be held Monday, March 16, 2020 be amended by adding under the Order of General Business the following item: Alterations to Regular Council Meeting Dates for April and May, 2020; and that the agenda, as amended, be adopted. CARRIED.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Cameron-Chaboyer

653 That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council held on March 2, 2020 be taken as read and so adopted, all statutory requirements having been fulfilled. CARRIED.

HEARING OF PRESENTATIONS:

(A) **BRIAN KAYES, DIRECTOR OF RISK & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - CITY OF BRANDON COVID-19 RESPONSE**

Brian Kayes, Director of Risk and Emergency Management appeared before City Council to provide an update on the City of Brandon's response to COVID-19. Mr. Kayes advised the City's Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) was activated on March 12, 2020, with direction and advice provided from the Manitoba Provincial Health Department. He indicated the City's Emergency Response team's goal was to limit the spread of the virus within the community and to provide the basic level of City services.

Mr. Kayes identified the following City services as essential: Police; Fire; Emergency Medical; E911; Water Treatment Facility; Airport; and Sanitation. He state that the City would work to protect and maintain these essential services while trying to flatten the curve of rate of infection.

Mr. Kayes stated things were changing quickly and the response was continually adjusted to reduce the spread of the virus. The City had canceled and/or postponed organized public functions, limited access to some City facilities and there was a great potential for further actions, including the closing of non-essential services.

In conclusion, Mr. Kayes stated it was the responsibility of everyone to do their part in reducing the spread of this outbreak by practicing social distancing which meant having a six (6) foot space between you and another person; limiting interaction to no more than ten (10) minutes; washing your hands; keeping your hands off your face; and following travel advice from the Provincial and Federal Governments..

Cameron-Chaboyer

654 That the presentation by Brian Kayes, Director of Risk & Emergency Management with respect to the City of Brandon's response to COVID-19 be received. CARRIED.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS/FEEDBACK:

Nil

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:

Nil

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Nil

COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:

Nil

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

(A) PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT MARCH 10, 2020

Considered was a report from the Director of Human Resources dated March 10, 2020 with respect to the meeting of the Personnel Committee held February 20, 2020.

LoRegio-Cullen

655 That the report of the Personnel Committee dated March 10, 2020 be received. CARRIED.

LoRegio-Cullen

656

That the City of Brandon enter into a three (3) year agreement with the Brandon Police Association for the period January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2022 as per the Memorandum of Settlement whereby wages shall be increased as follows:

- Salary increases for sworn members:
 - January 1, 2020 - First Class Constable salary increase by 1.75%
 - January 1, 2021 - First Class Constable salary increase by 1.75%
 - January 1, 2022 - First Class Constable salary increase by 1.75%

- Salary increases for non-sworn members:
 - January 1, 2020 – increase of 2.25% for each rate
 - January 1, 2021 – increase of 2.25% for each rate
 - January 1, 2022 – increase of 2.25% for each rate CARRIED.

(B) AUDIT & FINANCE COMMITTEE VERBAL MARCH 16, 2020

Councillor Fawcett provided a verbal report from the meeting of the Audit and Finance Committee held on March 9, 2020. He noted the main topic discussed was the 2019 Financial Information Return, the City’s 2019 General and Utility Fund surpluses, and which reserves to allocate these surpluses to. He noted that the 2019 Financial Information Return would be discussed under General Business, and that the Committee made one amendment, which was included in the report. Once the return was adopted by Council, The Municipal Act required that the City file this report with the Province.

(C) BRANDON GENERAL MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES LTD. VERBAL MARCH 16, 2020

Councillor Cameron provided a verbal report on behalf of the Brandon General Museum and Archives Ltd. (BGMA) whereby he noted the main focus for BGMA in 2020 had been on refreshing exhibits. Councillor Cameron shared a number of events that had taken place or were upcoming at the museum including the “Behind Brandon’s Green Door” Bottling History of the City; a speaker event with author Sherilyn Decter titled “Bootlegs and Automobiles”; “Dissecting Technology”; and Taxidermy Tuesdays which were scheduled for the last Tuesday of every month. He noted during the month of March “Walking Through Westman, Uncovering Our Past” exhibit would be on display.

Councillor Cameron noted the BGMA is still looking for a more suitable space to house the museum. He stated the museum had received notification that their Celebrating Manitoba’s 150 Grant application submission was very impressive with a solid plan of success to curate the Manitoba 1870 exhibit, which should open to the public on May 12, 2020.

LoRegio-Cameron

657 That the report of the Audit and Finance Committee and Brandon General Museum and Archives Ltd. be received. CARRIED.

ENQUIRIES:

(105) METHODS OF PAYMENT FOR CITY SERVICES

Councillor Cameron enquired why the City of Brandon did not accept credit cards as a method of payment for municipal taxes and other services. He further enquired as to the impact on residents should the policy be changed to accept credit card payments.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that it had been a business decision to not accept credit card payments due to the costs that would be incurred to do so. He explained that credit card fees are charged based on a percentage of the transaction value ranging from 1.5% to 2.5% per transaction.

With respect to the potential impact on residents, Mr. Hammond stated that while it was difficult to estimate how many residents or small businesses may take advantage of the credit card payment option, the costs would be absorbed by all residents resulting in increases in taxes and water rates. He added that it was anticipated that an on-line credit card payment would be launched later this year with the fees being incurred by the payee.

The Acting City Manager noted that the current methods of payment included: payments through on-line banking or telephone banking; payments through the mortgage company; pre-authorized payments for water bills; tax installment plan; cheque or money order by mail or in the drop-box located outside City Hall; or in person by debit, cheque, money order or cash.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

YMCA CLOSURE

Councillor Fawcett announced that in an effort to limit the spread of COVID-19, the Brandon YMCA had closed down effective immediately until further notice. He noted that at this time, the daycare remained open however, that could change in the coming days.

MEETING OF WMCA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Councillor Parker announced that the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium (WMCA) Board of Governors would be meeting Tuesday, March 17, 2020 to discuss upcoming events etc. planned for the WMCA. He encouraged anyone with questions regarding this issue to go to the WMCA website at www.wmca.ca.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

(A) 2019 FINANCIAL INFORMATION RETURN

City Council considered a report from the Finance Department dated February 28, 2020 with respect to the above.

LoRegio-Fawcett

658 That pursuant to Section 183(2) of The Municipal Act, the 2019 Financial Information Return (unaudited) be adopted. CARRIED.

(B) CITIZEN APPOINTMENTS TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Submitted for consideration was a report from the Legislative Services Department dated March 5, 2020 with respect to the above.

Cameron-Parker

659 That the following appointments be and are hereby made to the Planning Commission with terms of office to commence April 1, 2020 and expire on March 31, 2023:

Colleen Anderson
Lashawnda Hobson CARRIED.

(C) 34TH STREET EXTENSION - RAILWORKS AND UTILITY RELOCATES

Considered was a report from the Acting Director of Engineering Services dated March 9, 2020 with respect to the above.

Cullen-Cameron

660 That an additional \$500,000 be expended from the Gas Tax Reserve for Rail Works (by CP) and Utility Relocations associated with the 34th Street Extension Project. CARRIED.

(D) APPOINTMENT TO JOINT PLANNING COMMITTEE

City Council considered a report from the City Clerk dated March 9, 2020 with respect to the above.

Berry-Cullen

661 That the following members of Council be appointed to the Joint Planning Committee of the Keystone Planning District and the City of Brandon with terms of office to expire November 16, 2020:

Mayor Rick Chrest
Councillor Jeff Fawcett CARRIED.

(E) AMENDMENTS TO ANIMAL CONTROL BY-LAW NO. 5900

Submitted for consideration was a report from Councillor Bruce Luebke dated March 3, 2020 with respect to the above and in accordance with his notice of motion given at the regular meeting of City Council held March 2, 2020.

Luebke-Fawcett

662 That Administration review the current provisions of Animal Control By-law No. 5900 and prepare amendments with respect to impound regulations and any other areas identified for Council's consideration at a subsequent meeting of City Council. CARRIED.

(F) 2020 FLOOD PREPAREDNESS FUNDING PROPOSAL

Considered was a report from the General Manager of Operations dated March 11, 2020 with respect to the above.

Fawcett-Parker

663 That the City of Brandon supports the applications for funding under the 2020 Flood Preparedness Funding Program for portable light/generator units, suction hose lines and a battery operated torque wrench, as outlined in the report of the General Manager of Operations dated March 11, 2020. CARRIED.

(G) ALTERATIONS TO REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR APRIL AND MAY, 2020

LoRegio-Cameron

664 That pursuant to Section 20 of Procedure By-law No. 6634, the schedule of regular meetings of Council during the months of April and May be altered/cancelled whereby meetings shall be held on Monday, April 20 and Monday, May 11, 2020 respectively. CARRIED.

BY-LAWS:

NO. 7267 TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1901 AND 1955 – 34TH STREET FROM AGRICULTURE TO RESIDENTIAL SINGLE DETACHED AND PARKS AND RECREATION ZONES

City Council considered a report from the Planning and Buildings Department dated March 4, 2020 with respect to the above.

Berry-Chaboyer

665 That By-law No. 7267 to rezone property located at 1901 34th Street and 1955 34th Street (Pt. SW ¼ 10-10-19 WPM and Pt. Parcel 2 and 4, Plan 1731 BLTO) from Agricultural (A) zone to Residential Single Detached (RSD) zone and Parks and Recreation (PR) zone, be read a first time. CARRIED.

GIVING OF NOTICE:

Nil

ADJOURN:

Berry-Chaboyer

That the meeting do now adjourn (8:27 p.m.) CARRIED.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK