

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Council held in the Council Chambers of City Hall on January 8th, 2001 at 6:05 p.m.

PRESENT: Present: Councillors Allen, Brennan, Hamilton, Porter, Quinn, Tenszen with Mayor Ian MacKenzie in the Chair.

ABSENT:

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

01/01 Moved by Councillor Hamilton
Seconded by Councillor Allen

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Organizational Meeting held on December 11th, 2000 at 6:05 p.m., the Regular Meeting of Council held in the Council Chambers of City Hall on December 11th, 2000 at 6:10 p.m. and the Special Meeting held on December 28th p.m. 2000 at 12:05 p.m. be approved as circulated.
Carried.

HEARINGS:

DELEGATIONS:

Mayor MacKenzie presented Deputy Phil Carpenter with a Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The correspondence for this period was reviewed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance, Legislative & Property Committee

Your Worship, your Finance, Legislative and Property Committee respectfully submits the following report:

Unpaid Water & Sewer to Taxes for November, 2000 By-Law 00-8080 – 2nd and 3rd Reading

This is part of the normal monthly procedure to allow unpaid water and sewer accounts to be added to property taxes.

02/01 Moved by : Councillor Quinn
Seconded by: Councillor Hamilton

RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 00-8080 being a by-law to authorize unpaid water and sewer charges be added to taxes be read a second time.
Carried.

Shirley/June

THAT By-Law No. 00-8080 be now read a third time, finally passed, signed and sealed.
Carried.

In Favour: Councillors Allen, Brennan, Hamilton, Porter, Quinn, Tenszen and Mayor MacKenzie.

Road Opening – Lorne Avenue and Charlton Avenue – for information only.

A piece of Lorne Avenue East and a piece of Charlton Avenue have never been legally opened as a road. In order for the City to legally open that portion of Lorne Avenue East, a real property application must be filed to bring this land under the Real Property Act prior to registration of the by-law. This piece of property is held by the City in Deed 9709 under the Registry Act, and our solicitor has been requested to file an application to bring the Lorne Avenue property under the Real Property Act.

The Examiner of Surveys has indicated it will take from 4 to 6 months until registration of the plan is complete.
In accordance with the Municipal Act, the by-law is being circulated to various government agencies. Once the responses have been received, the by-law will receive 2nd and 3rd reading.

Adding Unpaid Solid Waste Collection Fees, Noxious Weed Accounts, Garbage Pickup fees, and False Alarm fines, By-Law 01-8083-1st Reading

In order to collect unpaid solid waste collection fees, noxious weed accounts, garbage pickup fees, and false alarm fines, it is the City's practice to add sums of money owing to the City of Portage la Prairie for these unpaid accounts to the Collector's Roll.

03/01 Moved by: Councillor Quinn
Seconded by: Councillor Hamilton

- Shirley/Nettie* RESOLVED THAT By-Law 01-8083 being a by-law to authorize the unpaid solid collection fees, noxious weed accounts, garbage fees, and false alarm fines be added to taxes, be read a first time.
Carried.
- Unpaid Water & Sewer to Taxes for December, 2000 By-Law 01-8084 – 1st Reading
Shirley/June 04/01 Moved by: Councillor Quinn
Seconded by: Councillor Hamilton
RESOLVED THAT By-Law 01-8084 being a by-law to authorize unpaid water and sewer charges be added to taxes be read a first time.
Carried.
- 2000 Board of Revision – for information only.
Marg The Board of Revision was held on November 20, 2000 to hear appeals on the 2001 assessment roll. Colliers Pratt McGarry made eight appeals on behalf of their clients. One of these was withdrawn, and the other seven were dismissed when the representative did not appear during the hearing of those appeals.
A second appeal, made on the 2000 Supplemental, was settled with the assessors without proceeding to the Board of Revision.
The assessment decrease caused by the appeals amounts to 299,600 and is offset by the increase in assessment of 279,800, resulting in a total decrease in assessment of 19,800. Broken down into residential and commercial, the effect on the tax revenue is:
Residential – a total decrease of \$514.25
Commercial – a total increase of \$21.92
- Investment Policy
Nettie/Marg 05/01 Moved by: Councillor Quinn
Seconded by: Councillor Hamilton
RESOLVED THAT the Investment Policy AC-AH be approved as amended.
Carried.
- Cancellation of Monies Owing
Nettie 06/01 Moved by: Councillor Quinn
Seconded by: Councillor Hamilton
RESOLVED THAT Council approve the cancellation of monies owing as set out in Schedules “A”, and “B”.
Carried.
- The Investment Policy now been revised to reflect current practice.
Significant changes include:
Format – the purpose has been summarized and the details of procedures have been expanded. A policy statement has been added to include the requirements legislated by the Municipal Act.
Responsibilities – This is the most significant of changes. It includes how funds are invested and the various guidelines to follow. It also includes reference to the Signing Authority By-Law No. 00-8070, which authorizes the City Manager or Director of Finance to invest funds on behalf of the Corporation.
Procedures – the procedures to obtain quotes from all local banks has been removed. Up to date information on various securities is faxed to the Director on a daily basis from Nesbitt Burns.

Strategic Plan – for information only.

Council prioritized the Strategic Plan in camera.

Joint Meeting with Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie – for information only.

Council discussed in camera issues for discussion at the joint meeting between the Councils of the City and Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie.

Agreement with Dakota Tipi First Nations – for information only.

Committee discussed in camera a proposed agreement with Dakota Tipi First Nations.

November Activity Report - for information only.

Committee reviewed the activity reports for November, 2000.

Current Projects List - for information only.

Committee reviewed in camera the Current Projects List.

City Planning & Economic Development

Your Worship, your City Planning and Economic Development Committee respectfully submits the following report

Application for Subdivision – Achtemichuk/N.M. Tilley Realty Ltd.- CP37/00.

The applicant Joe Achtemichuk, and the registered owner, N.M. Realty Ltd. wish to subdivide the property know as 2048 Crescent Road West, to create a new building lot. There is an existing residence located on Lots 1 and 2, with the balance of the property to be used as a new residential building lot. The application for subdivision received from the Province recommends that this proposal be approved with no conditions being required. The entire property is zoned R1-single-family dwelling district.

07/01 Moved by: Councillor Brennan
Seconded by: Councillor Allen

Dean

RESOLVED THAT Council of the City of Portage la Prairie authorize the application of Joe Achtemichuk, Applicant, and N.M. Tilley Realty Ltd., Registered Owner, to subdivide the property known as 2048 Crescent Road West and legally described as Lots 1,2,3,4 and the Southwesterly 11 feet perpendicular of Lots 5, Block 11, Plan No. 371, PLTO to create a new building lot which will be legally described as Lots 3 and 4 and the Southwesterly 11 feet perpendicular of Lot 5, Block 11, Plan No. 371, PLTO. Carried.

Island of Lights – for information only.

Councillor Ken Brennan read a press release on the success of the 2000 Island of Lights project. He noted an increase of 46% in the number of people that visited the display over last year, and indicated that all net revenues go toward recreation facility development within the city.

November Activity Report – for information only.

Committee reviewed the activity reports for November, 2000.

Public Safety Committee

Your Worship, your Public Safety Committee respectfully submits the following report

November Activity Report – for information only.

Committee reviewed the activity reports for November, 2000.

Waterworks Committee

Your Worship, your Waterworks Committee respectfully submits the following report

November Activity Report– for information only.

Committee reviewed the activity report for November, 2000.

**Transportation
Committee**

Your Worship, your Transportation Committee respectfully submits the following report

PR 240 Upgrade

Traffic flow and congestion in the area of River Road between Meighen Avenue and 5th St. SE is increasing with development in and around the City. The interchange at PR 240 and PTH 1 has lead to PR 240 being a major access route into and out of the City.

In budget deliberations, Council identified this concern and requested Administration to proceed to address the issue.

Potential cost implications to the City to upgrade PR 240 include:

- 1) intersection improvements at Crescent Road E. and PR 240 (Koko Platz entrance)
- 2) installation of land drainage sewers if the entire stretch is developed (the right of way will not likely be wide enough for ditches)
- 3) boulevard development
- 4) curb and gutter installation

Kelly

08/01 Moved by: Councillor Tenzen
Seconded by: Councillor Quinn

RESOLVED THAT Council authorize Administration to issue a letter to the Department of Highways and Transportation requesting PR 240 from Meighen Avenue to Crescent Road East at 5th St. SE to be upgraded in stages, and that a schedule of upgrading be developed between the City and the Department of Highways.

Carried.

Request for crosswalk

The principal of La Verendrye School submitted a letter concerning the safety of pedestrian traffic along 7th Avenue. He has requested a crosswalk to be installed across 7th Avenue at 7th St. NW. There is a crosswalk on 4th St. NW (4 way stop) and on 6th St. and 8th St. NW (4 way stop). There is a sidewalk on the north side of 7th Avenue, but there is no sidewalk on the south side. If an additional crosswalk is placed at this intersection, it could be expected that crosswalks at several other locations would be requested. Some years ago, the City removed several crosswalks around the City. The most favorable solution to the concern about pedestrian safety, but definitely not the least costly, is to construct additional sidewalks, especially in school zones. One option is to move the crosswalk from 6th Street to 7th Street.

Kelly

09/01 Moved by: Councillor Tenzen
Seconded by: Councillor Quinn

RESOLVED THAT Council deny the request for the installation of a crosswalk on 7th Avenue at 7th St. NW.

Carried.

Audible Crosswalks
Signals

The local visually impaired persons association has requested that audible signals and buttons be installed at crosswalks and signalized intersections. They would also like a new crosswalk installed on 5th St. SE at the Hospital.

The estimated cost of retrofitting the crosswalk signals on Saskatchewan Avenue at 9th St. E. would be about \$1500 for 3 audible (two tone) buttons, assuming there is adequate power available in the existing circuit. The cost of retrofitting traffic signals is estimated at \$10,000.

Highways have indicated that they are in the process of developing a standard for audible signals, and they would recommend waiting until the standard is developed. The standard would involve pole locations relative to the sidewalk and curb, ramp design, colour and texture delineation on the sidewalks, etc. There are a few installations of audible signals in Winnipeg and Morden.

Kelly

10/01 Moved by: Councillors Tenzen
Seconded by: Councillor Quinn

RESOLVED THAT Council include the installation of audible signal actuators at the crosswalk on the 2001 budget deliberation.

Carried.

Sidewalk Snow
Clearing

Request has been received to have the snow cleared from the path along the Crescent Lake bank. It is estimated that with a normal snowfall, it would take an additional 1.5 to 2 hours to clear the lake bank, including accesses from the street.

The original intent of the sidewalk snow-clearing program was to improve pedestrian safety in areas around public schools and other public facilities. The lake path does not meet this criteria, as it is more of a recreational walkway. However, there are no adjacent businesses or homeowners that would clear the snow from this path, as in other areas of the City. This path is the main artery from one end of the residential areas of the City to the other, and as such, could be considered a main pedestrian thoroughfare leading to many City facilities.

Kelly

11/01 Moved by: Councillor Tenzzen
Seconded by: Councillor Quinn

RESOLVED THAT Council authorize the expansion of the sidewalk snow clearing program to include the path along Crescent Lake, from Kelly K St. to Armstrong St.

12/01 Moved by: Councillor Porter
Seconded by: Councillor Hamilton

RESOLVED THAT Resolution No. 11/01 be tabled to the next Council meeting for additional information from the Operations Department.
Carried.

Crescentview School
Parking – for
information only.

Committee discussed in camera the concerns regarding the parking situation at Crescentview School. This item will be discussed at a later date.

November Activity
Report– for information
only.

Committee reviewed the activity report for November, 2000.

**Community Services
Committee**

Your Worship, your Community Services Committee respectfully submits the following report

Ecole Prince Charles
School Parent Council-
Request for an Outdoor
Skating Rink Grant

The City of Portage la Prairie Outdoor Skating Rink provides a maximum of \$500.00 towards the construction and maintenance of an outdoor rink. The Ecole Prince Charles School Parent Council has received the necessary permission from the Portage School Division and Prince Charles School to construct a skating surface for the students and residents in this area on the school property. The Parent Council has provided all the required documents that indicate they are prepared to maintain the ice surface throughout the winter as identified in the policy.

Dean

13/01 Moved by: Councillor Allen
Seconded by: Councillor Tenzzen

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie approve the request for grant funding in the amount of up to \$500.00 to the Ecole Prince Charles School Parent Council as per policy #ECD-CD-AB Outdoor Rink Grant Policy.
Carried.

La Verendrye School
Parent Advisory
Council-Request for an
Outdoor Skating Rink
Grant.

The La Verendrye School Parent Advisory Council has also received the necessary permission to construct a skating surface, and has also provided all the required documents that indicate they are prepared to maintain the ice surface throughout the winter as identified in the policy. This year they have requested \$500.00 for flooding, snow removal and rubber hose for the use of flooding.

Dean

14/01 Moved by: Councillor Allen
Seconded by: Councillor Tenzzen

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie approve the request for grant funding in the amount of up to \$500.00 to the La Verendrye School Parent Advisory Council as per policy #ECD-CD-AB Outdoor Rink Grant Policy.
Carried.

Arena Parking Lot
Lighting

Vandalism to cars is a concern at the Centennial Arena. The lighting in the east, central and west parking lots is a reasonably good, however, additional lighting could be provided.
The east parking lot is lit by lights mounted on the building as well as a pole-mounted light on the north side and a pole-mounted light at the sidewalk between Tupper and the Northeast corner of the parking lot. An additional pole mounted light could be installed on the north side of the parking light of an existing pole.
The central parking lot is lit by lights on the building and one pole mounted light at the back lane. Additional lighting in this area is not necessary.
The northwest parking lots is lit only with one pole mounted in the middle of the block on 5th Avenue.
The west parking lot is lit by building lights and the pole mounted light on the north side of 5th Avenue. An additional pole and light are recommended near the southwest corner of the lot. The cost of a light on an existing pole is about \$60.00. The cost to change an existing motion light mounted on Bill Morrison's building to dusk to dawn light is estimated at \$300.00. Mr. Morrison has verbally agreed to this.

Kelly

15/01 Moved by: Councillor Allen
Seconded by: Councillor Tenzsen
RESOLVED THAT Council authorizes the installation of:
1) A streetlight in the back lane between 2nd St. and 3rd St. on an existing pole, in the northwest parking lot and
2) A streetlight on an existing pole in the north central area of the east parking lot.
And that the City install a building mounted light on Bill Morrison's property and enter into an agreement with Bill Morrison to share operational costs of the light equally.
Carried.

Lion's Pool Site – for
information only.

Committee discussed in camera a location for the proposed new swimming pool.

Tourism Advisory
Committee
Appointments – for
information only.

Committee discussed in camera suggested names for appointments to the Tourism Advisory Committee. Councillor Allen distributed Terms of Reference for Councils review and discussion at the next meeting.

November Activity
Report - for information
only.

Committee reviewed the activity report for November, 2000.

**DEFERRED
BUSINESS**

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor MacKenzie made his end of year presentation on the state of the community.

NEW BUSINESS:

**Portage Neighborhood
Connections – Request
for an Outdoor
Skating Rink Grant.**

The City of Portage la Prairie Outdoor Skating Rink Policy provides a maximum of \$500.00 towards the construction and maintenance of an outdoor rink. The primary role of the City is to encourage the community to take ownership in providing recreation services on a cost-sharing basis.

Portage Neighborhood Connections is interested in constructing an outdoor rink on North Memorial School property. They have received the necessary permission from the Portage School Division and North Memorial School to construct a skating surface for the students and residents in this area on the school property. The rink will be constructed to provide an adequate ice surface.

Dean

16/01

Moved by: Councillor Allen
Seconded by: Councillor Tenszen

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie approve the request for grant funding in the amount of up to \$500.00 to Portage Neighborhood Connections as per policy #ECD-CD-AB Outdoor Rink Grant Policy. Approved.
Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

17/01

Moved by Councillor Hamilton
Seconded by Councillor Hamilton Porter

RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 6:58 p.m.
Carried.

Mayor

Manager of Administration

