

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Council held in the Council Chambers of City Hall on November 13, 2001 at 6:09 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Brennan, Hamilton Porter, Quinn, Tenszen and Mayor MacKenzie in the Chair.

ABSENT: Councillor Allen

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: 317/01 Moved by: Councillor Hamilton
Seconded by: Councillor Porter
RESOLVED THAT Resolution No. 302/01 approved by Council on October 22, 2001, be amended by deleting the legal description and inserting therefore the following corrected legal description:

*"Parcel 1: Lots 22-37, Block 3, Plan 354 PLTO;
Parcel 2: Lots 1-10, Block 4, Plan 354 PLTO;
Parcel 3: Lots 16-23, Block 4, Plan 354 PLTO;
Parcel 4: The 66 foot Right-of-Way between Parcels 1 and 2 described above; and
Parcel 5: All that portion of Oxford Street shown outlined in red on Schedule "A" lying immediately to the North of Lot 22, Block 3, Plan 354 PLTO and extending Easterly along Oxford Street to the Western limit of Lot 23, Block 5, Plan 354 as shown on Schedule "A" (hereinafter referred to as the "Oxford Street Property").
Excluding the area to be used for new ball diamond development.*

And that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on October 22, 2001, in the Council Chambers of City Hall be approved as amended and that the Special Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2001 at the Westward Resort be approved as circulated.
Carried.

HEARINGS: None

DELEGATIONS: Linda Robinson – Pit Bull Issue

Linda Robinson, Prairie Director spoke to Council requesting that Council not amend the Animal Control By-Law to ban specific breeds as she felt that this is not the solution to the problem. She emphasized that the City of Portage la Prairie current Animal Control By-Law is clear in its intention, and just needs to be enforced. She also provided Council with a sample by-law from the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association.

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 reports:

Adding Unpaid Water & Sewer to Taxes – October, 2001 – By-Law 01-8114 – 1st Reading
June/Shirley This is part of the normal monthly procedure to allow unpaid water & sewer accounts to be added to property taxes.

318/01 Moved by: Councillor Quinn
Seconded by: Councillor Hamilton
RESOLVED THAT By-Law 01-8114 being a by-law to allow unpaid water & sewer accounts to be added to taxes be read a first time.
Carried.

Lease Renewal – Crime
Prevention Office
Marg

The lease for the Crime Prevention Office at 139 Saskatchewan Avenue East expires on October 31, 2001. The property owner, Paramount Investment Corporation, has offered a two-year renewal for the space at the rate of \$848.00 plus GST per month. This reflects a 5% increase over the current rent due to the increase in the utilities over the past year. They have also given us the option of a further one year extension upon the same terms and conditions.

319/01 Moved by: Councillor Quinn
Seconded by: Councillor Hamilton

RESOLVED THAT Council authorize the signing of the lease with Paramount Investment Corporation for the Crime Prevention Office at 139 Saskatchewan Avenue East on the condition that the recommendations stipulated in the Fire and Safety Inspection letter dated April 23, 2001 have been completed.
Carried.

2001 Taxes Added/Deletions
Nettie/Shirley

The assessors have provided a list of additions and deletions to the assessment roll dated October 1 and September 18 respectively. Council may cancel any taxes, debt or monies owing to the City.

The additional tax revenue budgeted for 2001 was \$213,000 while the actual amounts to \$125,383, a difference of \$87,617. While the operating fund is not impacted by this decrease, the transfer to the General Reserve will decrease by this amount.

320/01 Moved by: Councillor Quinn
Seconded by: Councillor Hamilton

RESOLVED THAT pursuant to Section 326 of The Municipal Act, the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie authorize additions and deletions to the assessment rolls of the City of Portage la Prairie and;

THAT the realty taxes for the deleted items as listed in Schedule A be cancelled.
Carried.

Organizational Meeting –
2001 – For Information Only

Section 4.1.3. of the City of Portage la Prairie Organizational and Procedures By-Law No. 00-8085 requires that Council shall hold an organizational meeting at the first Council meeting in November at which Council shall be organized for the following twelve months. The Organizational Meeting this year is scheduled for Tuesday, November 13, 2001, because City Hall is Closed Monday for Remembrance Day.

Joint RM/City Council
Meeting

Committee reviewed the agenda for this meeting which took place October 23,2001.

2002 Property Tax Discount
Rate – By-Law 01-8115 – 1st
Reading
Nettie/Shirley

The current tax discount rate is 2.7%, giving an **effective annual rate of 5.4%**, mid-way between the 90 day T-Bill and the City's investment rate of return at the time the by-law was passed.

Under the new banking services contract with the Bank of Montreal, the City's cost of short-term borrowing is Bank of Montreal prime interest rate less 0.5% and the City's current savings rate is Bank of Montreal prime less 1.75%.

At the Council Committee meeting of October 22, prime interest rate was 5.25%. The recommendation for the tax discount rate of 1.44% in January was based on this prime rate of interest and the current 90 day Treasury Bill rate of 2.26%.

However, the Bank of Canada has since lowered its prime interest rate to 4.5%, the lowest in 40 years. Dropping 75 basis points is significant enough to warrant a change to the initial recommendation for tax

discount. The 90 day T-Bill rate has been on a steady decline since the drop in interest rates.

It is now further proposed that the tax discount rate be decreased to 0.9% in January, decreasing by .15% per month to reach par in July. This would provide an effective annual rate of 1.8%. If the same amount of taxes are pre-paid in 2002 as in 2001, this would mean a reduction of \$16,400 in tax discount costs. (\$8,000 cost versus \$24,400 cost).

321/01 Moved by: Councillor Quinn
Seconded by: Councillor Hamilton
RESOLVED THAT By-Law 01-8115 to provide for the payment of taxes and to provide for the rates of discount for prepayment be read a first time.
Carried

Budget Meeting Dates

Budget dates for the 2002 Budget Committee meetings are set for November 17 and 18, 2001.

City Planning & Economic Development

Your Worship,
The City Planning & Economic Development Committee has nothing to report.

Public Safety Committee

Your Worship.
The Public Safety Committee respectfully submits the following reports:

October 16, 2001 Pit Bull Incident – For Information Only
Marg/Dennis

Committee reviewed a written report from the Director of Public Safety regarding the incident on October 16, 2001. They also listened to Mr. Dan Kellar of 262 – 5th Avenue N.E. Mr. Kellar advised he is working on a petition to ban pit bulls in the City of Portage la Prairie, and had approximately 500 names already. He will be leaving them at various establishments in town until November 1st. Mr. Kellar will then present his petition to Council. Mr. Kellar indicated that in lieu of a ban, he would settle for much stricter regulations regarding dangerous dogs.

This report was tabled to the next Council meeting on November 26, 2002.

RCMP Staff Sergeant Bob Bangs

Councillor Porter introduced the RCMP's Staff Sergeant Bob Bangs to Council.

Waterworks Committee

Simplot Water Supply Main and Sewage Forcemain – Engineering Services Agreement
Kelly

Cochrane Engineering has completed the Functional Design and Environmental Impact Assessment for the Simplot watermain and sewage forcemain and they have completed a topographical survey for the proposed pipe alignments.

Cochrane intends to complete the detailed design in about 3 months, then issue a tender in the Spring of 2002. The estimated cost of the work is \$4 million. The construction schedule hinges on the issuance of the Environment license for Simplot. Simplot has indicated that they would like a water supply in place for construction purposes.

The majority of the engineering fees will be split in accordance with the funding agreement between the four partners. The City's share shall be 1/6.

The MWSB has requested that the City administer the engineering services contract and that MWSB administer the construction contracts. MWSB staff time and disbursement costs will be over and above the engineering services amount.

- 322/01 Moved by: Councillor Hamilton
Seconded by: Councillor Porter
RESOLVED THAT the City of Portage la Prairie enter into an agreement with Cochrane Engineering Ltd. for the provision of engineering services for the detailed design and construction administration for the Simplot water supply main and wastewater forcemain, with an estimated fee plus disbursements of \$511,500 plus GST, to be cost shared with the RM of Portage la Prairie, the Province of Manitoba and Simplot, in accordance with the funding agreements. Carried.

Water Pollution Control
Facility Expansion –
Engineering Services
Agreement
Kelly

Council reviewed a report on the Engineering Services Agreement for the WPCF Expansion.

- 323/01 Moved by: Councillor Hamilton
Seconded by: Councillor Porter
RESOLVED THAT the City of Portage la Prairie enter into an agreement with Earth Tech Canada Inc. for the provision of engineering services for the detailed design and construction administration of the proposed expansion of the Water Pollution Control Facility, with an estimated total fee of \$852,900 plus disbursements of \$122,400, plus GST, to be cost shared with the RM of Portage la Prairie, the Province of Manitoba and Simplot, in accordance with the funding agreements, and that the incentive/reward proposal be accepted. Carried.

Transportation Committee

Your Worship,
The Transportation Committee respectfully submits the following reports:

Santa's Parade of Lights –
November 30, 2001
Kelly B

The Chamber has requested that both directions on Saskatchewan Avenue be closed as a result of a suggestion made after last year's parade. Due to the darkness, visibility is poor, and it was noted that several cars along the parade route did not reduce their speed in the westbound direction and there were many children and adults crossing the westbound lanes at many points on the avenue. It was a very unsafe situation.

At the west end, a north detour route should be provided in the westbound lane from 21st to the west. Traffic heading east on Saskatchewan from the Mall area will be stopped until the last float in the parade passes 21st Street. Some vehicles will obviously use the IGA parking lot as a detour route. A detour route on the south side is not possible.

- 324/01 Moved by: Councillor Tenzsen
Seconded by: Councillor Quinn
RESOLVED THAT Council authorize the closure of Saskatchewan Avenue in both directions between 21st Street and 9th Street East, and in the eastbound direction from Elm Street to 21st Street for the annual Santa's Parade of Lights, on the evening of Friday, November 30, 2001. Carried.

Central Plains AAA Midget
Hockey Team –For
Information Only

The Central Plains AAA Midget Hockey Team, and their coach Elwood Trotter, are planning a residential waste collection fundraiser, "Trash for Cash", on Saturday October 27, 2001. They plan to charge a small fee and solicit donations for collection of residential waste.

**Community Services
Committee**

Your Worship,
The Community Services Committee respectfully submits the

following report:

Press Release – Provincial
Recreation Conference
Announcement

Council read a press release announcing the 2002 Province-Wide Conference for Recreation Connections, Inc. being held in Portage la Prairie February 4-6, 2002.

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Award of Tender – Island
Park Wastewater Forcemain
Kelly B

The tender was advertised in the Winnipeg Free Press and The Daily Graphic. The tender opening was Friday, November 9, 2001.

The work includes the supply and installation of a 100 mm diameter polyethylene wastewater forcemain complete with surface restoration. The pipe installation is scheduled to start February 1, 2002 and will be completed February 29, 2001. The surface restoration work will be completed in the Spring of 2002.

There is approximately \$50,000.00 remaining in the budget with further expenses for the Oak Island Homes Lift Station.

325/01 Moved by: Councillor Hamilton
Seconded by: Councillor Porter

RESOLVED THAT Council of the City of Portage la Prairie award the tender of 01 OPS 023 to Towle Construction Ltd. for the tendered price of \$37,088.88.

New Reservoir and Pump
Station – For Information
Only
Kelly B

The new reservoir and pump station has been operated in manual mode for about one week during the day, receiving water from the WTP and transferring it to the McKay Reservoir. McKay then repressurizes the distribution system.

On November 15, 2001 two interconnections between the McKay feedermain and the distribution system at Cottonwood Drive and 22nd Street NW will be opened. This will cause a reversal of flow in many of the pipes in the west of the City, which might result in disturbance of the rust in the water lines. The system has been modeled on the computer, and pipes that may see high velocities in a reverse direction will be monitored. If rusty water develops, residents should flush their cold water taps and avoid using hot water until it clears.

ADJOURNMENT

326/01 Moved by: Councillor Hamilton
Seconded by: Councillor Porter

RESOLVED THAT the Council meeting adjourn at 6:49p.m.

Mayor

Manager of Administration