

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Council held in the Council Chambers on Monday, July 8, 2002 at 6:00 p.m.

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

**ABSENT:** Councillor Allen, Tenszen

**MINUTES OF MEETING:** 211/02 Moved by: Councillor Hamilton  
Seconded by: Councillor Quinn

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting held on June 24, 2002 at City Hall in Portage la Prairie and the Special Meeting Minutes held on June 28, 2002 at the Westward Resort be approved as circulated.  
Carried.

**DELEGATIONS:** Jenna Faurschou appeared before Council to express her appreciation and gratitude for the \$500 QEII Scholarship presented to her at the Portage Collegiate Institute graduation ceremonies.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The correspondence for this period was reviewed.

**HEARINGS:**

**Finance, Legislative & Property Committee:**

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

By-Law 02-8152 – Unpaid Water & Sewer Accounts – June – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

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

212/02 Moved by: Councillor Quinn  
Seconded by: Councillor Hamilton

THAT By-law 02-8152 being a by-law to authorize unpaid water & sewer charges be added to taxes, be read a first time.  
Carried.

By-Law 02-8155 - Management/Confidential Employees Salaries – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

Council reviewed this report in camera.

213/02 Moved by: Councillor Quinn  
Seconded by: Councillor Hamilton

THAT By-Law 02-8155 establishing Management and Confidential Employee salaries for 2003 and 2004 be given first reading.

THAT Policy No. HR-BH be hereby repealed.  
Carried.

By-Law 02-8156 - City Manager By-Law – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

Council reviewed this report in camera.

214/02 Moved by: Councillor Quinn  
Seconded by: Councillor Hamilton

THAT By-Law 02-8156 being a by-law to amend the City Manager By-Law 7868 be now read a first time and that the amendments to By-Law 7868 be made as per the report dated April 22, 2002.  
Carried.

**Waterworks Committee**

Your Worship:  
The Waterworks Committee respectfully submits the following reports:

Water Treatment Plant  
Upgrading – For Information  
Only

The tender for the final phase of the Water Treatment Plant upgrading and expansion, WTP Contract #2, closed on Friday, June 14, 2002. Seven bids were received ranging from \$8,631,144 to \$10,030,287. The pre-tender estimate prepared by Cochrane Engineering was \$9,273,904.

The low bidder is Penn-Co Construction who has a good reputation for completion of construction projects of similar size and complexity.

The major components of the contract include the replacement of ozone system, for disinfections and breakdown of organics; a third softening clarifier; granular activated carbon filters for organics and taste and odour removal; a chemical handling facility; and completion of an automated control system.

Approximately \$2.2 M of this contract is attributed to the Simplot Project, which is cost shared by the City, RM, Province & Simplot. The rest of this work is funded 50/50 by the City and the Manitoba Water Services Board. The Plant's Treatment capacity is being expanded to meet Simplot's additional demand.

Previous contracts included in the Water Treatment Plant Upgrading and Expansion project are summarized below:

- 1.) Reservoir and Pump Station (\$4 Million)
- 2.) South Water Supply Main (\$1 Million)
- 3.) WTP Upgrading Contract #1 – Pre-Treatment, Filter Modifications, and Lime Sludge Drying Ponds (\$5 Million)

Award of Tender – Biosolids  
Land Application

The tender was advertised in the Winnipeg Free Press, The Daily Graphic and the City of Portage la Prairie Web Site. The tender opening was Tuesday, June 18, 2002.

The work includes the removal of approximately 200 dry tones of solids from the WPCF anaerobic digester (BVF), hauling, and injection into farmland as a soil amendment and fertilizer. The mass of biosolids to be removed is much less than originally budgeted for, since Simplot will be removing more sludge at no cost to the City in the Spring of 2003.

The utility budget contains \$135,468.00 (including 3% GST) for land application of biosolids. (400 dry tones @ \$338.67 per tonne). The low bid is \$65,870.70 (\$329.35 per dry tonne) net of GST rebate. The majority of the cost of dispersal of the biosolids is paid for by Industry, however, the City manages this program.

215/02 Moved by: Councillor Hamilton  
Seconded by: Councillor Porter

THAT the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie award the tender of 02 OPS 018 to Assiniboine Injections Ltd. for the tendered price of \$68,266.00, including taxes.  
Carried.

Simplot Water & Sewer Pipe  
– For Information Only

The low bid for the Simplot water & sewer pipe is Nelson River at \$4,172,570.93 including 7% GST. This work includes the Simplot watermain and forcemain, as well as work for the RM and Simplot which is outside the scope of the Simplot project agreement.

Cochrane's pre-tender estimate was \$4,942,830.93. Funding for this project is coming from the City/RM/Province & Simplot. This included the following work for the RM and Simplot outside the scope of the Simplot Project Agreement:

Fire Main - \$85,000  
Fire Pond Fill Lines - \$150,000

Yellowquill Water - \$44,000  
Extra Rail Line Casing Pipe – Simplot - \$5000.00

Of the five bids received, three were under the estimate and two were over.

The next major tender is for the WPCF expansion, which closes on July 19, followed by the lift station on July 26<sup>th</sup>.

Massey Crescent Residents  
Delegation – For Information  
only

A number of residents from Massey Crescent attended the Council meeting to discuss the costs of hooking up to the City water supply, requesting Council consider a 50/50 split between the residents and the City. The rationale for the costs was explained to the residents, and the residents were advised that if there are any objections to the project, it would not be done until next year.

The Fire Chief was instructed to check out the fire hydrant in the area of Massey Crescent to determine its value for firefighting purposes.

**Transportation  
Committee**

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

Parking of Recreational  
Vehicles – By-Law 02-8151  
– 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

The new City of Portage la Prairie Traffic By-Law was passed by Council in July of 2001. While the by-law contains provisions for parking of large trucks and buses, it does not contain provisions for the parking of recreational vehicles on City streets.

In the new Traffic By-Law, as in the old by-law, large trucks (over one ton) and buses can park for one hour on streets where parking meters are not installed. And while the old by-law stated no vehicle could park on any street for more than 24 hours, the new by-law allows seven consecutive days. Neither by-law makes any reference to recreational vehicles.

It is now considered necessary to address the issue of parking of recreational vehicles on residential streets. It is believed that restricting the parking of recreational vehicles on residential streets to 48 hours, especially during the summer months, is reasonable. Therefore, it is suggested that the Traffic By-Law be amended.

216/02 Moved by: Councillor Porter  
Seconded by: Councillor Quinn  
THAT By-Law 02-8151 being a by-law to amend the City of Portage la Prairie Traffic By-Law 01-8105 by providing regulations for parking recreational vehicles, be now read a first time.  
Carried.

Grant-In-Aid – For  
Information Only

The City applied to the Manitoba Department of Highways and Transportation for the following grant-in-aid funding for street maintenance in 2002, and the approved funding is noted.

	Total Cost	GIA Request	Approved
Crescent Road Milling & Overlay 1 <sup>st</sup> Street SW to 4 <sup>th</sup> Street SW	\$40,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Crescent Road Milling and Overlay Kelly K Street W To 18 <sup>th</sup> Street SW	\$80,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
7 <sup>th</sup> Avenue West Overlay 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street NW to 4 <sup>th</sup> Street NW	\$6,300	\$3,150	\$3,150
Dust Control on Gravel Roads	\$7,200	\$3,600	\$2,865
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$133,500</b>	<b>\$66,750</b>	<b>\$66,015</b>

Under Highways' policy there is a limit on the funds available per kilometer of gravel road and that is why we received less than the requested amount.

Delegation – Irene Davis –  
TransCanada Yellowhead  
Association

Ms. Irene Davis, Executive Director of the TransCanada Yellowhead Association made a presentation to Council on her Association and its effect on the communities along the Yellowhead Highway. Ms. Davis will be meeting with the Director of Economic and Community Development to discuss tourism highlights in the City of Portage la Prairie.

**Community Services  
Committee**

Your Worship:  
The Community Services Committee respectfully submits the following reports:

Dutch Elm Disease

The City of Portage la Prairie and the Province of Manitoba annually enter into an agreement under the Dutch Elm Disease Act for the period April 1 to March 31. The Act allows for the sharing of actual costs up to \$.50 per capita. The total rebate will be approximately \$6,488 and will be received in 2003.

Eligible costs include pruning and replacement of diseased elm tree, basal spraying and general tree care. The estimated cost of the City program is \$19,400 and is included in the 2002 operating budget.

This program is critical to the maintenance of the urban forest and has assisted in the preservation of existing elms.

217/02 Moved by: Councillor Brennan  
Seconded by: Councillor Hamilton  
THAT The Council of the City of Portage la Prairie enter into an agreement with the Province of Manitoba for the cost-sharing of the Dutch Elm Disease Control Program for 2002/2003.  
Carried.

Pool Concession – For  
Information Only

Council reviewed options to provide food services at the Pool Concession in camera.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Water & Sewer Rate Study

On May 28, 2002, Council authorized Administration to conduct a review of the water and sewer rates.

While the City of Portage la Prairie has not conducted a water and sewer rate study since 1989, inflation has increased by 31.5% and operating costs for water and sewer collection and treatment have increased by 35%.

During this time, the City contributed \$17.5 Million towards water and sewer infrastructure and plans to spend an additional \$9.5 Million in 2002. The Water Plant upgrade includes granular activated carbon filters to ensure the formation of disinfections byproducts is minimized and objectionable taste and odour is reduced. The new reservoir and pump station provide additional capacity to meet potential fire protection flow demands in all areas of the City.

Since operating costs have significantly increased over the years, there remains a gap in our current rates and the rates calculated as per the

Public Utility Board guidelines. Rather than implement the increase in the rates in one year, it is recommended to increase rates over the next three years at 3.3% per year. Service charges are proposed to increase 3.7% per year for the next three years.

The 3.3% per year impact on a family with quarterly consumptions of 12,000 gallons would be an annual cost increase of \$13.00 in 2003, \$14.00 in 2004 and 2005. A large industry with quarterly consumptions of 60,000,000 gallons would see an annual increase in their utility bill of \$24,536 to \$26,182 in the years 2003 to 2005.

The application must be submitted after 1<sup>st</sup> reading to the PUB 30 days in advance of their monthly meeting. The approval process includes public input solicited by the Public Utilities Board, with approval timelines ranging from 60 days to 105 days from the PUB's initial review.

218/02 Moved by: Councillor Hamilton  
Seconded by: Councillor Porter

RESOLVED THAT By-Law 02-8157 being a by-law to authorize the change in water and sewer rates for 2003, 2004 & 2005 be given first reading; and

THAT application be made to the Public Utilities Board for approval of the rates as specified in the By-Law.  
Carried.

Citizen, Sportsperson and  
Cultural Person of the Year

Councillor Quinn advised that on behalf of Council, he presented awards to the Citizen of the Year, Sportsperson of the Year and Arts and Cultural Person of the Year at the opening ceremonies of the Portage Industrial Exhibition. Mr. Owen McKenzie was the recipient of the Citizen of the Year award and Mr. Karl Seidlitz was presented with the Sportsperson of the Year award. The winner of the Arts and Cultural Person of the Year, Mr. Paul Gillespie, was away and will be presented with his award at a later date.

Canada Day

The Mayor expressed his appreciation to City Staff and the Citizens of Portage la Prairie for their planning and preparation that made for a successful Canada Day Celebration.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

219/02 Moved by: Councillor Quinn  
Seconded by: Councillor Brennan

RESOLVED THAT the meeting adjourns at 6:26 p.m.  
Carried.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Manager of Administration