

Minutes of a Meeting of Council held at City Hall in the City of Portage la Prairie on Monday, September 13, 2004 at 6:04 pm.

PRESENT: Mayor MacKenzie, Councillors Brennan, Keryluk, Porter, Quinn, Robinson, and Wagner

ABSENT:

ADOPTION OF MINUTES 213/04 Moved by: Councillor Quinn
Seconded by: Councillor Wagner
RESOLVED THAT the Council Minutes of August 23, 2004 be approved as circulated.
Carried.

DELEGATIONS: *Mr. Ray Hooper - Yellowquill RV dumping station*

Mr. Hooper appeared before Council with several concerns. The first concern was the odour and the traffic congestion caused by the Yellowquill RV Dumping Station. His second concern was the speed of traffic past 18th Street. And his third inquiry was why there is a service charge on the Water & Sewer bills. Council advised him they would get back to him regarding his concerns.

Mr. Lynn Switzer & Mr. Charlie Clifford – Canadian Seniors Games

Mr. Switzer and Mr. Clifford announced that Portage la Prairie won the bid for the 2006 Senior Games. Mr. Vic Savage, President of the MSOS Games congratulated the committee and the City on their efforts. The games will be held from August 27 – September 1, 2006. They anticipate 1500-2000 athletes to participate. Mayor MacKenzie congratulated them on their efforts and advised that the City is prepared to support their efforts.

Presentation- Mayor MacKenzie

Councillor Wagner presented Mayor MacKenzie with a plaque he received on his behalf at the Metis Gala Celebration held on September 11, 2004.

HEARINGS: None

CORRESPONDENCE The correspondence for this period was reviewed.

COMMITTEES:

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

Unpaid Water & Sewer to Taxes – By-Law 04-8231 – 1st Reading This is part of the normal monthly procedures to allow unpaid water and sewer accounts to be added to taxes.

214/04 Moved by: Councillor Quinn
Seconded by: Councillor Robinson
That By-Law 04-8231 being a by-law to authorize unpaid water & sewer charges be added to taxes be read a first time.
Carried.

Budget Roundtable Dates – For Information Only At the Strategic Planning Sessions held in April, Council expressed interest in soliciting the public for projects for the City to consider in the next budget year. The Budget Roundtable was held on September 8th and September 9th. Attendance at the budget meetings was low.

Transportation Operator C Position The incumbent in the Transportation Operator C position retired this summer and the position is vacant. Operator C does not operate heavy

equipment nor supervise seasonal staff.

Operator A staff operate heavy equipment, such as graders, loaders, and backhoes; trim trees using the bucket truck; operate dump trucks, paving machine, street sweeper, pumps, and steamers; and construct or repair sidewalks, land drainage sewers, and road patches. Operator A's also lead work crews and seasonal staff.

215/04 Moved by: Councillor Quinn
Seconded by: Councillor Robinson

RESOLVED That the Council authorize the deletion of the Transportation Operator C position and creation of Transportation A position, effective immediately.
Carried.

City Planning & Economic Development

The City Planning and Economic Development Committee respectfully submits the following report:

Immigration Attraction Plan

Over the past several years, the Economic and Community Development Department has undertaken a community labour development strategy that has included the following elements:

- Labour Assessment Survey
- High School Graduating Class Survey
- Youth Career Opportunity Expo
- Skills Link Program

216/04 Moved by: Councillor Brennan
Seconded by: Councillor Wagner

RESOLVED That the Economic and Community Development Committee of Council play the lead role in facilitating the Immigration Attraction Strategy including the establishment of the Portage Immigrant Settlement Services Committee's Terms of Reference

- That the Portage Immigrant Settlement Services Committee focus on making Portage la Prairie a welcoming community by:
 - Creating a public education program on the benefits of attracting immigrants
 - Establishing a linkage program into the community that includes early settlement support services that would include but not be limited to - housing, language training, health, education, recreation and leisure, cultural and religious needs and social and civic participation
 - Planning and coordinating a community orientation and settlement program post arrival
 - Securing private sector funding related to the development of a local immigration settlement services agency
- That the City conduct a local Mini Labour Assessment Survey in the fall of 2004 to determine the demand and specific need for skilled immigrant workers
- That the City, in conjunction with the Portage and District Chamber of Commerce host a general meeting of the business community to relay results of mini labour assessment survey, to explain the various programs that are offered through the Provincial Government as well as the Federal Government, and secure volunteers for the establishment of local Immigrant settlement services committee

- That the City retain the services of an Immigration Consultant to assist in the recruitment of skilled immigrants to the Portage la Prairie community at the discretion of Council.

Carried.

**Public Safety
Committee**

The Public Safety Committee has nothing to report.

**Waterworks
Committee**

The Waterworks Committee respectfully submits the following report:

Water & Sewer Penalty
– 2nd & 3rd Reading –
By-Law 04-8238

This by-law received 1st reading on August 23rd, 2004. It is now ready for 2nd & 3rd Reading.

217/04 Moved by: Councillor Robinson
Seconded by: Councillor Keryluk
THAT By-Law 04-8238, being a by-law to amend the water and sewer penalty, receive 2nd reading.

THAT By-Law 04-8238, be given third and final reading, finally passed, signed and sealed.

Carried.

Water Treatment Plant
Upgrades – Official
Opening

Mayor MacKenzie announced that the Official Opening of the upgraded Water Treatment Plant will take place on Monday, September 27, 2004 at 11:00 a.m. There will be brief speeches, tours of the plant as well as a lunch reception at the Days Inn. He invited the public to attend the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 11:00 a.m. at the Water Treatment Plant.

**Transportation
Committee**

The Transportation Committee respectfully submits the following report:

West Nile Update

To date the City has been larvacided three times. The application dates have been July 23 – 25, July 30 to August 1 and August 6-8. Another application is scheduled for approximately August 23rd depending on weather conditions.

The total cost of larviciding and the monitoring is estimated to be \$24,000.00 with the City responsible for 25% of cost or \$6000.00. The 2004-budgeted amount for larviciding is \$7000.00.

The plan is to larvacide again once the numbers are up on the larvae counts. This will be delayed a little with the present cool weather.

Amendment to the
Traffic By-Law

This By-Law received 1st reading on August 23, 2004. It is now ready for 2nd & 3rd Reading.

218/04 Moved by: Councillor Keryluk
Seconded by: Councillor Porter
RESOLVED That By-Law 04-8327 to amend the Traffic By-Law 01-8105 regarding Speed Limit Zones, be now read a second time.

That By-Law 04-8327 be now read a third time, finally passed, signed and sealed.

AND FURTHER THAT the Province of Manitoba be requested to post the speed limits on Saskatchewan Avenue East in accordance with Schedule "T" of By-Law 04-8327.

Carried.

**Community Services
Committee**

The Community Services Committee respectfully submits the following report:

12th Annual MHAC
Conference – For
Information Only

The 2004 Province-Wide conference for Municipal Heritage Advisory Council will be held in Portage la Prairie October 22 and 23, 2004.

**DEFERRED
BUSINESS:**

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Offer to Purchase –
Christianson Soils

On behalf of their client, Christianson Soils Ltd. has presented the City with an offer to purchase approximately 12.5 acres of land that is located directly east of the Water Pollution Control Facility for \$15,000 or approximately \$1200/acre.

The entire parcel of surplus land that the City owns is in the vicinity of 60 acres in total and the Operations Department has determined that the requested 12.5 acres are surplus and could be sold off if Council so desires.

The property is zoned Educational and Institutional with the general purpose of the zone permitting uses of either a public or private nature, which provides services to the community.

We are advised by the agent for the client that the use of the property will be to develop machinery sheds for a custom combining operation, which is not permitted under the zoning by-law.

Administration has no concerns with the sale of this land since the property is considered surplus, even though the offered price is less than the assessed value of \$19,400.00

All costs related to the development of the property, including subdividing, re-zoning, and any land development related costs are to be borne by the purchaser with both parties being responsible for their own legal costs.

219/04 Moved by: Councillor Quinn
Seconded by: Councillor Robinson

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie authorize the sale of approximately 12.5 acres of land to 3636314 Manitoba Ltd. (the purchaser), legally described as RL119, and as generally identified on Appendix A, for the total purchase price of \$15,000 plus GST and that the purchaser be responsible for any and all other costs related to the sale including title transfer, re-zoning, land development, and subdividing, and further that both parties be responsible for their own legal costs.
Carried.

Koko Platz Recreation
Club Inc.

Koko Platz Recreation Club Inc. have advised that the outdoor arena boards need to be replaced this fall if the rink is to be used for skating this winter. The estimated cost of replacing the boards is \$36,033.

The Koko Platz Recreation Club have raised \$20,000 of their own funding plus a Province of Manitoba Community Places grant of \$10,000 for this project. The Recreation Club advise they are \$6,033 short of the funding they require to replace the boards. In addition, the Recreation Club must first provide proof of paying all invoices associated with the outdoor rink board replacement before they can receive the Community Places grant.

The Koko Platz Recreation Club is the only remaining outdoor rink and community club in Portage la Prairie. The Club sells annual memberships and daily passes for use of the outdoor rink, rents out the hall and provides various program services. Purchase of annual memberships or daily passes are open to the public at large and are not dependent on residing in any particular area of the City. The City provides an annual operating grant of \$6,930 to the Koko Platz Recreation Club Inc.

220/04 Moved by: Councillor Porter

Seconded by: Councillor Brennan

RESOLVED THAT the City of Portage la Prairie provide a grant of \$6,000 to Koko Platz Recreation Club Inc. for replacement of the outdoor rink boards; and

Further That the City also provide a short term loan of \$10,000 toward board replacement costs on condition that the Recreation Club reimburse the City from proceeds of the Provincial Community Places grant.
Carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Mayor

Manager of Administration