

Minutes of a Meeting of Council held in the Council Chambers of the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie on Monday, March 14, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.

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

**ABSENT:**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES** 57/05 Moved by: Councillor Wagner  
Seconded by: Councillor Quinn  
RESOLVED THAT the Council Minutes of the February 28, 2005 Council Meeting be approved as circulated.  
Carried.

**DELEGATIONS:** Best Booth Award Presentation  
Mayor MacKenzie presented an award to Warrant Officer Trevor Jesseau of the 13<sup>th</sup> Field Battery 26 Field Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery for the best display booth at the recent Youth Career Expo sponsored by the City of Portage la Prairie.

Request for Permission to Build  
Byron Popeil, 400 Baker Street, approached Council to request permission to add on to his house located in an M1 Light Industrial area. Council indicated they would request a report from the Planning District on the options available for Mr. Popeil.

**HEARINGS:**

Variation – Doug & Bev Atchison – 343 Caithness Street No one appeared for this public hearing.

58/05 Moved by: Councillor Brennan  
Seconded by: Councillor Wagner  
RESOLVED THAT the Public Hearing for the variation request of Doug & Bev Atchison now be closed.  
Carried.

The applicant, Bev & Doug Atchison, are applying for a variation order to allow the front yard requirement of 7.5 meters to be reduced to 5.79 meters, in order to construct an addition.

This building is in an R1-60 – Single family dwelling district.

The application has been circulated to the various City Departments with no concerns being expressed at time of writing.

Public notices will be sent to all property owners within a 100 meter radius. There are no concerns with the application as presented.

59/05 Moved by: Councillor Brennan  
Seconded by: Councillor Wagner  
RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie approve the variation request of Bev & Doug Atchison to vary the front yard from the required 7.5 meters to 5.79 meters at the property known as 343 Caithness St. which is legally described as Lot 6, Plan 2494, PLTO in Parish Lot 94, Portage la Prairie.  
Carried.

**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 & Solid Waste to Taxes – By-Law 05-8256 – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

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

60/05 Moved by: Councillor Quinn

Seconded by: Councillor Robinson

RESOLVED THAT By-Law 05-8256 being a by-law to authorize unpaid water, sewer and solid waste charges be added to taxes be read a first time.

Carried.

False Alarm Statistics

Council reviewed a False Alarm Statistics Report.

Long Plain First Nation Municipal Services Agreement

The City has been providing water and sewer and landfill solid waste services to the Rufus Prince Building for decades. The agreement also provides water and sewer services and solid waste landfill services to the new Kishkeemaquah Conference and Gaming Centre that will comprise the existing Gas Bar, VLT Lounge and Cafeteria building in addition to the new hall under construction. The agreement also provides for fire protection services to both buildings.

The agreement provides that Long Plain will pay water and sewer bills for services used. In addition, Long Plain will pay an annual fee for the Kishkeemaquah Gaming and Conference Centre based on the building assessment and the City mill rate, excluding policing costs.

61/05 Moved by: Councillor Quinn

Seconded by: Councillor Robinson

RESOLVED THAT the Mayor and Manager of Administration be authorized to sign a Municipal Services agreement with Long Plain First Nation Reserve 6B.

Carried.

Year End Results – 2004

Committee reviewed financial Results for the year 2004. A year-end surplus in the General Operating Fund of \$222,259 is realized, as well as a year-end surplus in the Utility Operating Fund of \$69,479.

The 2004 budget was adopted prior to the approval of the GST rebate legislation and therefore did not include the additional 3% rebate. Municipalities now receive the full rebate of GST effective February 1, 2004. On December 31, 2004, the additional 3% GST recovery amounted to \$186,336. The recoveries from February to May have been reported as separate amounts in both the General Fund and Utility Fund. Since legislated approval, the full GST recovery has been reflected in the applicable expense amount.

62/05 Moved by: Councillor Quinn

Seconded by: Councillor Robinson

RESOLVED THAT the un-audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2004 be adopted and

FURTHER THAT the General Operating surplus be transferred to the General Reserve, and

FURTHER THAT the Utility Operating surplus be transferred to the Utility Reserve.

Carried.

Debt Management Plan

Council reviewed a report on the Debt Management Plan In-Camera.

**City Planning &  
Economic  
Development**

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Career  
Opportunity Expo – For  
Information Only

Doc Walker  
Recognition Signs

2004 Economic &  
Community  
Development Year-End  
Report

**Public Safety  
Committee**

Pawnbroker's By-Law –  
By-Law 05-8268

**Waterworks  
Committee**

Water Distribution  
System Quality  
Monitoring

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

Council reviewed a report on the Youth Career Opportunity Expo being held on March 3, 2005.

The band “Doc Walker” has been entertaining crowds across Canada and making a name for themselves in the Canadian Country Music scene. The Manitoba based group was noted to be “...the biggest country music success story this province has seen in decades” by The Winnipeg Free Press (Sunday, February 8, 2004, Bartley Kives) and frontman Chris Thorsteinson and his bandmate Dave Wasyliw were raised and had their musical starts in the Portage la Prairie area.

To date, Portage la Prairie does not have any signage recognizing Doc Walker's success in the music industry. Signage will create an awareness of not only the band Doc Walker, but also their proud hometown community of Portage la Prairie to travelers on the highway past Portage la Prairie.

63/05 Moved by: Councillors Brennan  
Seconded by: Councillor Wagner

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie approve the following option for the “Doc Walker” recognition signs:

- Full colour sign located at Portage 1A Highway East & West (location to be determined)
- Approximately 8'x8' aluminum coated plywood
- Minimum 8" Letters
- Picture of the band with “Home of” at the top
- \$400 sign only plus \$180 posts and materials plus \$300 for installation = \$880 plus tax.

Carried.

Council reviewed the Economic & Community Development's Year End Report.

**The Public Safety Committee respectfully submits the following report.**

64/05 Moved by: Councillor Wagner  
Seconded by: Councillor Brennan

RESOLVED THAT first reading of By-Law 05-8268 be deferred to a future meeting.  
Carried.

**The Waterworks Committee respectfully submits the following reports:**

The Phosphoric Acid Feed system was put into operation at the Water Treatment Plant on October 14, 2003 to inhibit the corrosion of metal from the piping within the water distribution system.

The ongoing program has shown a reduction in Lead leaching into the water and the continued monitoring will allow for the decrease of Phosphoric Acid feed to a maintenance level of 1.5 to 2.00 mg/L. The distribution system will be monitored on a bimonthly basis for metals and for phosphoric acid feed control.

**Transportation  
Committee**

**Your Worship:  
The Transportation Committee respectfully submits the following  
report:**

Removal of Parking  
Meter

A request has been received from Owen and Paula McKenzie to remove the parking meter in front of the house at 50 Royal Road S. to accommodate staff parking during shift changes. The house is owned by Owen McKenzie and is a group home for seniors rented by Visions of Independence. There is a driveway between the house and the funeral home that is owned by the funeral home.

The parking meter in question is the last parking meter to the south on the east side of the street. On the west side of the street there are three additional parking meters further south. Parking meters are installed to enhance traffic movement. Removing the parking meter in front of 50 Royal Road S. may not alleviate the parking problem for the staff since other vehicles would then be permitted to park in that space all day.

In the past, Council has denied requests for parking passes; most recently a request from the Portage Learning Centre for student passes. There is no provision in the Traffic By-Law to allow for free parking at meters, except for two hours for handicapped vehicles.

65/05 Moved by: Councillor Keryluk  
Seconded by: Councillor Porter  
RESOLVED THAT Council deny the request to remove the parking meter in front of the house at 50 Royal Road S.  
Carried.  
Abstained: Councillor Wagner

**Community Services**

**Your Worship:  
The Community Services Committee has nothing to report.**

**DEFERRED  
BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

CUPE Agreement

Council reviewed the CUPE Negotiations Report In-Camera.

66/05 Moved by: Councillor Quinn  
Seconded by: Councillor Robinson  
RESOLVED THAT the Mayor and City Manager be authorized to sign a Collective Agreement with CUPE Local 1002.  
Carried.

By-Law 05-8272 – Out  
of Scope Salaries By-  
Law – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

Out of Scope Employees are covered by the Out of Scope Employees Manual that sets out provisions for benefits and salaries. It is proposed that the salary for Out of Scope employees be increased by 3% for 2005, 3% for 2006 and 3.75% for 2007.

New to the contract for 2005 is the following:  
Easter Monday is now viewed by the City as a statutory holiday  
The maximum annual family sick leave is increased from 6 to 8 days a year

67/05 Moved by: Councillor Quinn  
Seconded by: Councillor Robinson  
RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 05-8272 being a by-law of the City of Portage la Prairie to increase the salary for Out of Scope employees for the years 2005 to 2007 be now introduced and read a first time.  
Carried.

By-Law 05-8271 –  
Confidential and  
Management Staff  
Salaries By-Law – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Reading

It is proposed that the salary for Confidential Staff and Management Staff be increased by 3% for 2005, 3% for 2006 and 3.75% for 2007.

68/05 Moved by: Councillor Quinn  
Seconded by: Councillor Robinson  
RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 05-8271 being a by-law of the City of Portage la Prairie to increase the salary for Confidential & Management Staff for the years 2005 to 2007 be now introduced and read a first time.  
Carried.

By-Law 05-8270 –  
Council Salaries By-  
Law – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

It is proposed that the salary for Council members be increased by 3% for 2005, 3% for 2006 and 3.75% for 2007.

69/05 Moved by: Councillor Quinn  
Seconded by: Councillor Robinson  
RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 05-8270 being a by-law of the City of Portage la Prairie to increase the salary for Council members for the years 2005 to 2007 be now introduced and read a first time.  
Carried.

Community Futures

The City received a request from the Provincial Community Futures Development Corporation for financial assistance to host a luncheon.

70/05 Moved by: Councillor Quinn  
Seconded by: Councillor Robinson  
RESOLVED THAT the City provides a grant up to \$1000 to host the CFDC Conference to be held in Portage la Prairie in September 2005.  
Carried.

Marg Loewen, Manager  
of Administration -

Councillor Brennan commended Marg Loewen on her 24 years of service to the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie. He indicated how she was a pillar of information and on behalf of Council, wished her all the best in her retirement.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

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Mayor

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Manager of Administration