

MINUTES of a Regular Meeting of Council held in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Monday, April 10, 2006 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Ian A. MacKenzie, Councillors Brennan, Keryluk, Porter, Quinn, and Robinson

ABSENT: Councillor Orville Wagner

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: 77/06 Moved by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Porter
RESOLVED THAT the Council Minutes of the March 27, 2006, Regular Meeting of Council, be approved as circulated.
Carried.

DELEGATIONS: None.

HEARINGS:

Portage Gospel Hall Rezoning, By-Law 06-8309 – 2nd and 3rd Readings Jim Soloman appeared and spoke in favour of the rezoning for 110 – 1st Street N.W.

78/06 Moved by Councillor Brennan
Seconded by Councillor Porter
RESOLVED THAT the public hearing for the Gospel Hall Rezoning now be closed.
Carried.

The property in question, Lot 391, Plan 12, Parish of Portage la Prairie, is presently zoned R1 – Single Family Residential. The applicants, Portage Gospel Hall, wish to rezone this property to EI – Educational and Institutional district.

The City of Portage la Prairie Development Plan 11.1 states: Institutional Development shall not be restricted to any one pre-defined area but shall be permitted to occur wherever it is most appropriate for that particular facility provided it is compatible and complimentary to adjacent uses.

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

As of this writing, we have not received any written objections to the proposed re-zoning scheme.

79/06 Moved by Councillor Brennan
Seconded by Councillor Porter
RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie approve the application to rezone the land legally described as: Lot 391, Plan 12, Parish of Portage la Prairie from R1 – Single Family Residential to EI – Education and Institutional district,

AND THAT By-Law No. 06-8309 be read a second time.
Carried.

Moved by Councillor Brennan

Seconded by Councillor Porter

RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 06-8309 be read a third time, finally passed, signed and sealed.

Carried.

In Favour: Mayor MacKenzie, Councillors Brennan, Keryluk, Porter, Quinn, and Robinson

**Financial Plan – Tax
Levy By-Law 06-8316
– 1st Reading**

No one appeared in support of or opposition to the Financial Plan.

80/06 Moved by Councillor Quinn

Seconded by Councillor Robinson

RESOLVED THAT the public hearing for the City of Portage la Prairie Financial Plan be now closed.

Carried.

In January 2006, City Council adopted the 2006 budget for the City of Portage la Prairie. The Tax Levy By-Law is comprised of the 2006 budget in the Financial Plan and sets the mill rates needed to raise the tax dollars. The 10-year Capital Plan also makes up part of the Financial Plan.

All the necessary assessment and taxation information has been received to pass the tax levy by-law.

81/06 Moved by Councillor Quinn

Seconded by Councillor Robinson

RESOLVED THAT the General and Utility Operating and Capital budgets for 2006 be amended to the amounts as listed in the Financial Plan.

AND FURTHER THAT By-Law No. 06-8316, being a by-law of the City of Portage la Prairie to authorize the levying and raising of property taxes for school and municipal purposes for the year ended December 31, 2006, now be read a first time.
Carried.

COMMITTEES:

**Finance, Legislative
& Property
Committee:**

**The Finance, Legislative and Property Committee respectfully
submits the following reports:**

Unpaid Water, Sewer
and Solid Waste to
Taxes, By-Law 06-
8299 – 1st Reading

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

82/06 Moved by Councillor Quinn

Seconded by Councillor Robinson

RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 06-8299 being a by-law authorizing unpaid water, sewer and solid waste charges to be added to taxes, be read a first time.

Carried.

Federal Gas Tax
Reserve, By-Law 06-
8317 – 2nd & 3rd
Readings

Section 168(1) of The Municipal Act, S.M. 1996, c58 provides that a municipality may by by-law establish reserve funds for any general or specific purpose. Municipalities have been instructed to set up a reserve fund to record the payments of the Federal Gas Tax Funding Agreement.

By-Law 06-8317 to create a Gas Tax Reserve Fund was given first reading on March 27, 2006.

83/06

Moved by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Robinson

RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 06-8317 being a by-law to create a Gas Tax Reserve be now read a second time.
Carried.

Moved by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Robinson

RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 06-8317 be now read a third time, finally passed, signed and sealed.
Carried.

In Favour: Mayor MacKenzie, Councillors Brennan, Keryluk, Porter, Quinn, and Robinson.

Election By-Law 06-
8318 – 1st Reading

The Municipal Councils and School Boards Elections Act took effect as of January 1, 2006 and replaces the former Local Authorities Election Act.

Two existing election By-laws, By-law No. 02-8139 and By-Law No. 02-8148, need to be repealed as they are no longer required under the new Act.

Section 8 of The Municipal Council and School Boards Elections Act allows two or more local authorities to conduct an election or any part of an election jointly. It has been past practice for the City of Portage la Prairie and the Portage la Prairie School Division to conduct elections jointly, with the City of Portage la Prairie conducting the election and cost sharing the expenses with the School Division. According to the new Act this requires a resolution of Council.

Section 10(1) of The Municipal Councils and School Boards Elections Act states that the Council of each local authority must appoint a Senior Election Official and may provide for his or her remuneration.

84/06

Moved by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Robinson

RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 06-8318 being a by-law to repeal existing election By-Laws that are no longer required under the new Municipal Councils and School Boards Elections Act, be now read a first time.
Carried.

**City Planning &
Economic
Development
Committee:**

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

Request for Support
for the 2006 Portage
Potato Festival

The third annual Portage Potato Festival is scheduled to take place Saturday, August 12, 2006, on Saskatchewan Avenue between Tupper Street & 3rd Street East as well as throughout Heritage Square.

The City of Portage la Prairie has already allocated \$7500 to the event in a cash donation approved in the 2006 budget deliberations. The Potato Festival Organizing Committee is requesting additional support from the City in the form of services to assist in the overall functions & marketing of the event.

The Committee also requested that Council consider extending the City's insurance policy to cover the Festival activities. As the Portage Potato Festival is an annual event, a benefit to the community and it complies with the criteria to be eligible for liability coverage under the City's policy, it is therefore recommended that the festival be listed permanently on the City's policy certificate.

It is anticipated that the above requests for support for the Potato Festival, in addition to the \$7500.00 already allocated to the event, will be at an additional cost to the City of at least \$3330.66.

85/06

Moved by Councillor Brennan
Seconded by Councillor Porter

1. RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie approve the closure of Saskatchewan Avenue E. from Tupper Street to 3rd Street E., 2nd Street NE from the east entrance to the Library parking lot to Saskatchewan Avenue, and Royal Road N. from the west entrance to the Herman Prior Parking lot to Saskatchewan Avenue from 9:00 p.m. Friday, August 11, 2006, until 3:00 a.m. Sunday, August 13, 2006 for the Potato Festival.
2. THAT the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie approve the request of the Potato Festival Committee for the City to provide additional financial support in an amount not to exceed \$3,331.00 for those services as identified in this report.
3. THAT the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie approve the Portage Potato Festival as an annual event as per the Special Event Insurance Policy EC-CD-AL and that the Festival be listed under the City's Municipal Insurance Program on an annual basis, providing compliance to the policy, at the sole discretion of the City.

Carried.

**Public Safety
Committee**

The Public Safety Committee has nothing to report.

**Waterworks
Committee**

The Waterworks Committee respectfully submits the following report:

Wastewater Treatment
Division 2005 Year
End Report – For
Information Only

Committee reviewed the Year End Report for the Wastewater Treatment Division.

Water Treatment Plant
2005 Year End Report
– For Information Only

Committee reviewed the Year End Report for the Water Treatment Plant.

**Transportation
Committee**

The Transportation Committee respectfully submits the following report:

Award of the Tender
for the Supply of a
Grader

This tender was advertised in the Daily Graphic and on the City web page, and all 5 bidders were contacted by telephone.

Tenders were invited for the supply of one new or used grader.

The low tender was submitted by Blight Equipment on a used (demo) RG200B New Holland grader. This unit met all specifications requested in the tender and has only 200 hours on the machine. It also comes with a 5-year / 400 hour full machine warranty coverage. Their price minus the trade of the City's 1988 720A Champion grader, net of GST rebate totals \$185,645.00.

The budget allotted for the purchase of a new grader is \$150,000.00 which brings the lowest tender submission in at \$35,645.00 over budget. The equipment reserve currently has unallocated funds that could be applied to the purchase of this new grader.

86/06

Moved by Councillor Keryluk
Seconded by Councillor Porter

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie award the tender for the supply of a grader to Blight Equipment for the purchase of one used RG200B 2005 New Holland grader for the bid price of \$228,570.00 including taxes, to be completely funded by the Equipment Reserve,

AND FURTHER THAT the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie accept the trade-in offer for the City's 1988 720 Champion grader for the price of \$27,000.00 excluding taxes.
Carried.

PR 240 Upgrading

There are funds in the 2006 budget to conduct a detailed design of an interim upgrade to the existing intersection of River Road and Crescent Road E. Prior to this design proceeding, it would be prudent for Manitoba Transportation and Government Services to conduct a traffic study to determine if traffic signals are warranted. If they are warranted, MTGS will likely recommend funding for construction in 2007. If signals are not deemed to be warranted, then it is not likely that the City will obtain any funding assistance.

The Portage School Board is making changes to its school organization which might result in greater pedestrian traffic in the area of Arthur Meighen High School.

87/06

Moved by Councillor Keryluk
Seconded by Councillor Porter

RESOLVED THAT Council of the City of Portage la Prairie request Manitoba Transportation and Government Services to conduct a warrant assessment for traffic signals on PR 240 (River Road) and Crescent Road East; and

THAT the City request the study be done in the Fall once the school demographics have changed; and

THAT Council request funding from the Minister of Transportation for the upgrade of the River Road and Crescent Road intersection and installation of traffic signals in 2007.
Carried.

Saskatchewan Avenue
West and River Road
Conceptual Design
Report

In 2005, Council authorized ND Lea to conduct a topographical survey and prepare a conceptual design for the Upgrading of Saskatchewan Avenue West, from 4th St W to the CP Rail crossing, and PR 240 (River Road). Manitoba Transportation and Government Services, as the agency responsible for the maintenance of PR 240 and Saskatchewan Avenue, was involved in discussions as the study progressed.

In discussions with City Council, it was agreed that Option 2, with 4 lanes of traffic; a small bicycle lane; a wide median, with left turn storage lanes; parallel parking lanes through the entire length of the project; and wide paved or grassed boulevards was preferred. It is recommended that the upgrading of Saskatchewan Avenue take place in three phases; 18th St to CPR rail crossing, 8th St to 18th St, and 4th St to 8th St.

The total cost of Saskatchewan Avenue upgrading is estimated at \$10.7 million, with the Utility responsible for approximately \$2.3 million. It is recommended to proceed with phases one and two beginning in 2007, and defer phase 3 to some point in the future. For phase 1 and 2, estimated at \$8.4 million, it is anticipated that the Province would be contributing at least \$1.5 million, and the utility would contribute approximately \$1.85 million. The remaining \$5 million would be paid for through debentures and fuel tax grants.

The long term design for the River Road/Crescent Road East intersection upgrade is estimated to cost \$830,000, and is recommended if the area to the east of Agassiz Youth Facility is developed. The long term design would be part of the City's contribution for the New Hospital Development and is in the Debt Management Plan. The recommended interim upgrade is estimated to cost \$295,000, with the Province contributing at least \$62,500 for traffic signals. There are funds in the 2006 budget to prepare detailed design drawings and construction contract specifications for the interim upgrade. The Province has not committed any funds to this project.

88/06 Moved by Councillor Keryluk
Seconded by Councillor Porter

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie accept the Saskatchewan Avenue West and River Road Conceptual Design Report as submitted.

AND THAT Council of the City of Portage la Prairie make a request for funding to the Minister of Transportation for the upgrade of Saskatchewan Avenue W.

AND THAT the City request from the Minister of Transportation what level of funding the Provincial Government will be contributing to the project.
Carried.

**Community Services
Committee**

**The Community Services Committee respectfully submits the
following report:**

North Memorial
School Playground

The North Memorial School Parents Advisory Committee has requested funding assistance for the purchase and installation of a play structure on the school grounds in the amount of \$10,000.00. This is to replace and or upgrade the present playground at the school. In the past the City has not funded or assisted in funding playgrounds on non-city property. At the present time there is no City playground close to the area of North Memorial School.

The City presently gives the Portage Neighborhood Connections a grant of \$3,465.00 per year as an operational grant. The City has provided funding to Parent Advisory Committees to set up skating rinks on school property.

Mr. Chuck Naish, NMS principal, was contacted and he advised that the PAC is not asking the School Board for financial support but it is applying for a Community Places Grant from the Province.

Council reviewed this report In Camera and requested Administration to provide additional information on this project prior to Council's making a decision.

Crescent Lake Study

The LaSalle Redboine Conservation District has asked for authorization to conduct a study of Crescent Lake water quality and install an information kiosk in Island Park.

Specifically the LSRBCD requires a letter of support from the City of Portage la Prairie for the project and permission to erect information in a widely accessible place near the entrance to Island Park at no cost to the City.

The LSRBCD in partnership with the Delta Marsh Field Station and The City of Portage la Prairie will conduct a baseline water quality analysis of Crescent Lake. During this process a historical review of Crescent Lake will be also compiled.

Once the analysis is complete the information will be designed into an information kiosk to be placed in or near Island Park. This project is designed to demonstrate sustainability and capacity of the watershed environment and provide residents with information about the health of Crescent Lake.

89/06

Moved by Councillor Porter
Seconded by Councillor Quinn

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie provide a letter of support authorizing the LaSalle Redboine Conservation District to conduct a study of Crescent Lake water quality and install an informational kiosk in Island Park or adjacent to Crescent Lake Bridge, with the location of the kiosk to be coordinated with the City Operations Department.
Carried.

**DEFERRED
BUSINESS:**

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Award of Tender for
the Supply of Fuel and
Lubricants

This tender was reissued with the necessary changes made to the specifications and the quantity amounts altered to better fit the City's usage.

The tender includes the supply of fuel and lubricants for a two-year period beginning April 1, 2006 and ending March 31, 2008. Bidders were requested to submit unit prices on 5 items with estimated quantities, with gasoline and marked diesel fuel being the major items.

All three bidders submitted prices for all materials and all three bids met the specifications asked for in the tender package.

90/06

Moved by Councillor Keryluk
Seconded by Councillor Porter

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie award the tender for the supply of Fuel and Lubricants, for a two year period, as specified in tender 06 OPS 013 to Imperial Oil for the tendered price of \$260,606.00.
Carried.

**World Health
Organization's Age-
Friendly Cities
Project**

The City of Portage la Prairie has been invited, as one of twelve cities from across the globe, and one of three from Canada, to participate in the Age-Friendly City Project. Portage la Prairie's unique urban and rural service sector, combined with a well known active senior community was why it was selected by the Province to participate. The City's obligation would be to provide leadership in hosting local focus groups with older persons and with community leaders to identify the major physical and social barriers to active ageing. Working with the Province of Manitoba, through the Senior's and Healthy Ageing Secretariat, a consultant will be contracted to conduct the focus groups and compile the results. Ultimately, the World Health Organization intends to share the learning of all twelve participating cities and prepare a practical tool to guide other cities into creating "age-friendly cities".

The City of Portage la Prairie would be required to send the community leader to Vancouver to participate at the full cost of the City, which is estimated at \$1,300 for airfare and accommodations. The Province of Manitoba has identified funds to support the full costs of the consultant for the final report. It is estimated that the project will commence in April and extend into January 2007 with minimal impact on City operations.

The City of Portage la Prairie has been identified as one of Canada's top twenty communities for retirement. Participating in this project would provide excellent international exposure for the City. In addition, the City of Portage la Prairie may also gain valuable insight into other "age-friendly" initiatives that may influence future planning.

- 91/06 Moved by Councillor Porter
Seconded by Councillor Quinn
RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie authorize the Manager of Community Development to participate and represent the City in the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Cities Project April 2006 until January 2007.
Carried.

**Queen Avenue
Property Sale/
Exchange with
Northland Homes**

Council reviewed this report In Camera.

- 92/06 Moved by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Robinson
RESOLVED THAT Council approve the offer as presented by Northland Homes & Apartments that would generally include:
- the transfer of the seven (7) City-owned lots legally described as Lots 1-7, Plan 41901, RL 64/65, to Northland Homes & Apartments in exchange for the property owned by Northland Homes & Apartments, legally described as:
 - Parcel 1 – Lots 1-24, Block 1 Plan 21286 PLTO in RL 54 and 56 Parish of Portage la Prairie; and
 - Parcel 2 – Lots 1-12, Block 2, Plan 21286 PLTO in RL 54 and 56 Parish of Portage la Prairie; and
 - Parcel 3 – Lots 1-8, Block 4, Plan 21286 PLTO in RL 54 and 56 Parish of Portage la Prairie.
 - Along with \$135,000 in cash;

AND FURTHER THAT each party be responsible for its own legal costs.
Carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Mayor

Manager of Administration