

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Council held at City Hall in the City of Portage la Prairie on Monday, April 23, 2007 at 6:05 p.m.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Dave Quinn, Councillors Bereza, Ferris, Keryluk, Shindle and Wagner

ABSENT: Mayor Ken Brennan

ADOPTION OF MINUTES 119/07 Moved by: Councillor Wagner
Seconded by: Councillor Shindle
RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held at City Hall on Tuesday, April 10, 2007 and the Special Meeting Minutes of Council held at City Hall on April 19, 2007 be approved as circulated with the following amendment to resolution 115/07: "RESOLVED THAT the notice requirement to hold a special meeting be waived. Carried Unanimously".
Carried.

DELEGATIONS: None

HEARINGS:

2007 Financial Plan and Transfer from Environmental Reserve to Equipment Replacement Reserve
No one appeared to speak in favour of or object to the 2007 Financial Plan and transfer from Environmental Reserve to Equipment Replacement Reserve.

120/07 Moved by: Councillor Wagner
Seconded by: Councillor Quinn
RESOLVED THAT the hearing for the 2007 Financial Plan and Transfer from Environmental Reserve to Equipment Replacement Reserve now be closed.
Carried.

City Council adopted the 2007 budget for the City of Portage la Prairie on March 12, 2007. The Tax Levy By-Law is comprised of the 2007 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.

The mill rate is based on the budgeted amount of tax dollars the municipality requires to meet its obligations in 2007. The 2007 Budget Estimates relies on \$7,778,525 in taxes to meet all the expenditures not recovered by other revenues. The total tax dollar requirement is spread over the entire assessment base for the City. This results in an increase of .805 mills or 2.82% to the City's municipal mill rate. The 2007 municipal tax rate is \$29.343 for every \$1,000 of the assessment portion that is subject to taxation.

The School Board's mill rate within the City of Portage la Prairie increased by 2.5% from 2006. The Foundation levy, which is applicable to commercial property only, did not increase from 2006.

The 2007 budget includes the transfer of \$75,000 from the Environmental Reserve to the Equipment Reserve. The Municipal Act section 168(2) requires a public hearing for this change in use.

121/07 Moved by: Councillor Shindle
Seconded by: Councillor Wagner
RESOLVED THAT \$75,000 from the Environmental Reserve be transferred to the Equipment Replacement Reserve in accordance with the 2007 budget.

THAT the General and Utility Operating and Capital budgets for 2007 be amended to the amounts as listed in the attached Financial Plan.

THAT By-Law No. 07-8360, 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 ending December 31, 2007 be given first reading.
Carried.

Variation – Rick Yaskiw –
536-5th Street NE

No one appeared in favour of or objection to this variance request.

122/07 Moved by: Councillor Bereza
Seconded by: Councillor Wagner
RESOLVED THAT the Public Hearing for the variation request of Rick Yaskiw now be closed.
Carried.

The applicant, Rick Yaskiw, is applying for a variation order to allow the side yard on a corner lot to be reduced from the required 3.6m to 1.68m to allow for a screened in three season sunroom.

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

123/07 Moved by: Councillor Bereza
Seconded by: Councillor Wagner
RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie approve the variation request of Rick Yaskiw to vary the front yard to be reduced from the required 3.6m to 1.68m at the property known as 536 5th St NE which is legally described as Lots 23/24, Block 1, Plan 365, Parish of Portage la Prairie.
Carried.

Variation – Nor Villa
Hotel Corp – 177
Saskatchewan Avenue
West

Mr. Douglas Chernachan from the Midtown Motor Inn made himself available for questions or comments regarding this variation.

Mr. Brent Irwin, of Irwin Flooring appeared before Council and indicated he had some concerns about this variation with regards to parking and accessibility to his business.

Mr. Douglas Chernachan spoke again and addressed the concerns raised by Mr. Irwin.

A letter was received and read into record from the St. Mary's La Prairie Anglican Church of Canada objecting to the variance.

124/07 Moved by: Councillor Bereza
Seconded by: Councillor Wagner
RESOLVED THAT the public hearing for the variation request of Nor Villa Hotel Corp now be closed.
Carried.

The applicant, Nor-Villa Hotel Corp., are applying for a variation order to allow for vendor sales to be expanded.

This building is in a C1 – Central Commercial zoning district.

The application has been circulated to the various City Departments with concerns being expressed regarding parking, snow storage/removal and pedestrian safety.

The Planning District has concerns about parking and pedestrian safety.

125/07 Moved by: Councillor Bereza
Seconded by: Councillor Wagner
THAT the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie deny the variation request of Nor-Villa Hotel Corp. to vary

- 1) required parking stall length of 6m to be reduced to 5.49m;
- 2) required parking stall width of 3m to be reduced to 2.87m;
- 3) maximum parking lot entrance/exit width of 10.7m to be increased to 24.69m;
- 4) requirement to create 5 new parking stalls to be reduced to 3 stalls;
- 5) requirement of parking lot to be 1m off property line to be reduced to 0m.

at the property known as 177 Saskatchewan Avenue West which is legally described as Lots 22/24 & 65, Plan 12, Parish of Portage la Prairie.
Carried.

COMMITTEES:

Finance, Legislative & Property Committee

Unpaid Water, Sewer & Solid Waste to Taxes for March – By-Law 07-8345 – 2nd & 3rd Reading

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

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

126/07 Moved by: Councillor Shindle
Seconded by: Councillor Wagner
RESOLVED That By-Law No. 07-8345 being a by-law to authorize unpaid water, sewer and solid waste charges be added to taxes be read a second time.
Carried.

Moved by: Councillor Shindle
Seconded by: Councillor Wagner
RESOLVED That By-Law 07-8345 be read a third time, finally passed, signed and sealed.
Carried.
In Favour: Councillors Bereza, Shindle, Ferris, Wager, Keryluk and Deputy Mayor Quinn.

Monthly Activity Reports

Council reviewed the monthly activity reports for March 2007.

City Planning and Economic Development Committee

6th Annual Youth Career Opportunity Expo – For Information Only

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

Council reviewed a report on the 6th Annual Youth Career Opportunity Expo.

Agreement to Lease Land for Portage la Prairie Signs

The Portage la Prairie Beautification Committee has allocated \$100,000 in their budget for two Portage la Prairie signs to be located on Highway #1 on the east and the west sides of the City.

W. Ronald Farming Co. Ltd. has agreed to locate a Portage la Prairie sign on their property. The sign location is 200 meters east of the Fort la Reine Museum sign and thrashing machine east of Portage la Prairie.

The lease is for a Portage la Prairie sign approximately 32 feet long with a landscaped area around the sign. The annual lease fee is \$2,000, plus the annual Consumer Price Index increase. Term of the lease is for 20 years.

127/07 Moved by: Councillor Bereza
Seconded by: Councillor Keryluk
RESOLVED That Section C, Claus 5a) be amended by deleting the

reference to “2006” and replacing it with “2007”.

That the Mayor and City Manager be authorized to sign the amended land lease agreement with W. Ronald Farming Co. Ltd. for the purpose of locating a Portage la Prairie sign on River Lot 28, Parish of High Bluff .
Carried.

Monthly Activity Reports Council reviewed the monthly activity reports for March 2007.

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

Monthly Activity Reports Council reviewed the monthly activity reports for March 2007.

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

Monthly Activity Reports Council reviewed the monthly activity reports for March 2007.

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

Monthly Activity Reports Council reviewed the monthly activity reports for March 2007.

Community Services Committee **The Community Services Committee has nothing to report.**

Progress for Portage Request for Facility Waiver The Progress for Portage Fastball Tournament has been successfully held in previous years as a non-profit event. Any proceeds in the past have been contributed to facility upgrades in the Republic of Manitobah Park.

Mr. Jim Lehman, on behalf of the Progress for Portage Fastball Group, has requested Council’s consideration to waive all related facility rental fees. It is difficult to determine the total facility waiver request at this time, however, the rental costs have been estimated at approximately \$1,500 in previous years. The tournament does not meet the eligible criteria to be considered under the Hosting Assistance Grant and therefore the request is at the discretion of Council.

128/07 Moved by: Councillor Shindle
Seconded by: Councillor Bereza

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie authorize Administration to waive any facility rental fees that may be applicable to the Progress for Portage Fastball Committee fundraising fastball tournament on June 1-3, 2007 and further, that Administration require the committee to provide the City with a financial statement that outlines the net profits that are contributed towards the development of new ball diamonds for Republic Park.
Carried.

Manitoba Council Scouts Canada – For Information Only Council reviewed a report on the Manitoba Council Scouts Canada hosting Scouting campouts in 2007 from June 1-3 and August 31-September 2. Council has no concerns with the “Wolforees” being held at Island Park.

Home, Leisure & Sport Expo – For Information Only Council reviewed a report on the Home, Leisure & Sport Expo scheduled to be held on April 27 & 28, 2007 at the Canad Inns and Portage Curling Club.

Monthly Activity Reports Council reviewed the monthly activity reports for March 2007.

DEFERRED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Wilkinson Crescent JR Cousin Consultants has nearly completed the Topographical Survey and

Reconstruction

Detailed Design for the Reconstruction of Wilkinson Crescent from Armstrong St to River Road. The cost estimate is significantly higher than what has been budgeted. Direction is required from Council on how to proceed with the work.

The Class B cost estimates identified a construction budget of \$2,414,943 plus \$241,494 contingency (\$2,656,437) if the works were completed as one contract based on 2007 pricing. This includes GST, but does not include engineering. The GST rebate would be close to engineering costs.

There is \$300,000 included in the 2007 budget for construction. The project has been divided into 4 phases and the cost estimates are as follows:

Phase 1 (between Bridge and Phoebe to Roe St)	\$637,996 plus \$63,800 contingency
Phase 2 (between Bridge and Phoebe to CVS)	\$605,995 plus \$60,600 contingency
Phase 3 (Roe to Armstrong)	\$860,041 plus \$86,004 contingency
Phase 4 (CVS to Cres Rd E cul-de-sac)	\$438,740 plus \$43,874 contingency

The phasing would result in a total construction cost of \$2,797,050 based on 2007 pricing, which is \$150,000 higher than constructing the work all at once. There is \$1,540,000 in the debt management plan for this work.

Doing all of the work in one year would reduce the cost and it would also reduce the inconvenience to residents due to the road closure. If the work is done in 2, 3, or 4 phases, that would mean there would be 2, 3, or 4 summers of road closures, noise and dust for the residents to suffer. Since the budget is significantly less than estimated construction costs, it is recommended to defer the first construction to 2008. It is recommended to proceed with the work in two phases at most. The worst sections of road are phase 1 and phase 2, and then phase 3 and phase 4, however, it might make more sense to combine phases 1 and 3, and phases 2 and 4 so that the road is completed in a west to east manner.

129/07 Moved by: Councillor Wagner

Seconded by: Councillor Keryluk

RESOLVED That the reconstruction of Wilkinson Crescent and Crescent Road East take place over as few years as possible as the budget allows, and that construction begins in 2008.

Carried.

Pilot Study of Vulnerability of Public Infrastructure to Climate Change

CCPE is managing a project in partnership with Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) to assess the engineering vulnerability of four categories of physical public infrastructure (buildings; stormwater and wastewater systems; water resources; and roads and associated structures) to the impacts of climate change, referred to as the "NEVA Project".

In February, Council authorized participation in the pilot study project. A Memorandum of Understanding regarding the participants' responsibilities must be signed.

The City has been asked to lead the pilot study of the vulnerability of our water resources infrastructure to climate change. The study will assess various design parameters used to construct existing public infrastructure and assess the validity of these design parameters against the potential weather extremes that are forecasted due to climate change. The intent of the study is to determine potential vulnerability of existing infrastructure to weather extremes and also leading to the development of national design standards for infrastructure.

As for the City's obligations, the project would involve hiring of an engineering firm to provide an assessment of the City's water resources infrastructure and complete the pilot study in accordance with the terms of reference developed by the NEVA committee. There would also be some staff time involved in providing data and facility information. The budget for the work is \$55,000, with \$5000 of that being "in-kind"

provided by the City. If the cost of the engineering services work exceeds \$50,000, the agreement indicates that the overrun would be evenly shared between the City and CCPE.

This is an excellent opportunity for the City to have its water systems assessed at no direct cost to the City.

130/07 Moved by: Councillor Keryluk
Seconded by: Councillor Ferris

RESOLVED That Council authorize the Mayor and Manager of Administration to sign, on behalf of the City, the Memorandum of Understanding with the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers for the National Engineering Vulnerability Assessment (NEVA) Project Pilot Study Carried.

Award of Engineering Services

In 2006, ND Lea completed a conceptual design and provided cost estimates for the upgrading of the PR 240 and Crescent Road E. intersection. The concept plans were completed and presented to Council in 2006.

Council authorized administration to proceed to issue a request for proposals for engineering services for the Design and Construction of the PR 240 and Crescent Road E. intersection. The RFP was issued to three Engineering companies. The deadline for receipt of proposals was April 11, 2007. One proposal was received.

The scope of work includes all engineering services such as detailed design drawings, cost estimates, contract preparation, consultation with Manitoba Infrastructure, construction management and contract administration. ND Lea prepared the conceptual design for the intersection.

The fee proposal for engineering services is as follows (taxes not included):

Design Services	\$38,255
Construction Administration	\$40,650
As-Built drawings	\$ 3,305
Total Fee	\$82,210
Estimated Disbursements	\$ 5,000
Estimated Material Testing	\$ 7,500

There is \$500,000 included in the 2007 budget for the construction of the PR 240 and Crescent Road E. intersection. The City has requested funding assistance for this project from the Province of Manitoba. They apparently have \$400,000 currently budgeted. The February 2006 construction estimate, including traffic signals, was \$1,000,000. Due to construction cost inflationary trends, it is estimated that the project could cost \$1,200,000.

131/07 Moved by: Councillor Wagner
Seconded by: Councillor Ferris

RESOLVED THAT the contract for engineering services for the Design and Construction of PR 240 and Crescent Road E. intersection be awarded to ND LEA Inc. for the proposed cost of \$94,710, plus GST. Carried.

PR 240 Upgrading

The conceptual design of the upgrade to the intersection of River Road and Crescent Road E. was completed in early 2006, with short term and long term design options. A request for funding was submitted to the The Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation in the Spring of 2006. The Minister recommended constructing the long-term option.

The detailed design of the full upgrade to the existing intersection of River Road and Crescent Road E. has begun.

Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation has requested that a resolution of

Council requesting funding in a specific amount be forwarded to them. The local office indicates that they have received approval for \$400,000 for this project. This represents approximately half of the 2006 estimated cost of construction, without signals. With traffic signals, concrete medians as requested by the Province, and inflation, it is anticipated that the project could cost \$1.2 million in total.

132/07 Moved by: Councillor Wagner
Seconded by: Councillor Ferris

RESOLVED That the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie request Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation for funding in the amount of 50% (\$600,000) of the cost of construction (estimated at \$1.2 million) of the upgraded intersection of PR 240 (River Road) and Crescent Road East. Carried.

Multiplex Management
Committee – Creation of
and Appointment of
Members

The Portage Recreation Committee was the initial driving force behind the Multiplex project and came to Council with their proposal in 2006. The Rural Municipality and the City of Portage la Prairie both contributed financially to undertake a survey with regard to the communities' recreational needs. The survey provided the foundation to move forward with the Multiplex project.

On March 29, 2007 the City of Portage la Prairie and the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie held a press conference to announce their joint commitment to building a Multiplex. A total of up to 24 million dollars has been allocated to the project, with one third coming from the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie and two thirds from the City of Portage la Prairie. Additional monies will be contributed to the project with the assistance of the Portage Recreation Committee through various fundraising efforts.

To undertake such a large project a committee must be established to provide direction and liaison between the stakeholders. A committee consisting of three members of Council from the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie and three members of Council from the City of Portage la Prairie as voting members and two members, co-chairpersons, from the Portage Recreation Committee as advisors would create a balanced representation for this steering committee.

133/07 Moved by: Councillor Shindle
Seconded by: Councillor Bereza

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie approve the creation of a Multiplex Management Committee consisting of three members of Council from the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie and three members of Council from the City of Portage la Prairie as voting members and two co-chair persons from the Portage Recreation Committee as advisors; with the purpose of the Multiplex Management Committee being to provide recommendations to both the City of Portage la Prairie and the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie relating to the Multiplex;

AND THAT the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie appoint Mayor Ken Brennan, Deputy Mayor Dave Quinn and Councillor Jeff Bereza to be the City of Portage la Prairie's representatives on the Multiplex Management Committee;

AND FURTHER THAT the Multiplex Committee be authorized to expend up to \$500,000, with 2/3rd or \$333,333 from the City Recreation Reserve on condition that the RM contribute 1/3 for the purpose engaging a project manager, investigating site options and paying other preliminary costs related to construction of the recreation multiplex.

Carried.

Department of Recreation
& Leisure Services – For
Information Only

Councillor Shindle advised that the Multiplex Project will be managed by a joint Board. In anticipation of this, the Department of Economic & Community Development has been split to accommodate this new venture. Dean Yaremchuk will be the Director of Economic & Community Development and Jenn Sarna will be the Director of Recreation & Leisure Services. Council congratulated Jenn Sarna on her recent promotion.

Meighen Avenue Tenders City Council reviewed tenders received on the City land on Meighen Avenue.

134/07 Moved by: Councillor Shindle
Seconded by: Councillor Wagner

RESOLVED THAT the City of Portage la Prairie decline to accept any of the tenders received for the City property on Meighen Avenue between River Road and Bridge Road.

Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Easements – Nicholas
Kolansky & 5420075
Manitoba Ltd./Days Inn
Portage la Prairie

The City of Portage la Prairie intends to install a low pressure sewer line through property owned by Nicholas Kolansky and 5420075 Manitoba Ltd./Days Inn Portage la Prairie. Easement agreements will be required to construct, maintain and operate the low pressure sewer line to service the Water Treatment Plant. The service line will be connected to the Poplar Bluff wastewater forcemain.

135/07 Moved by: Councillor Shindle
Seconded by: Councillor Wagner

RESOLVED THAT Council of the City of Portage la Prairie approve the signing of agreements between the City of Portage la Prairie and Nicholas Kolansky authorizing the easement over Parcel 1, Plan 1147 PLTO in PL 22, and

between the City of Portage la Prairie and 5420075 Manitoba Ltd./Days Inn Portage la Prairie, over Lot 1, Plan 1817 PLTO located in the Parish of Portage la Prairie.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Council adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Mayor

Manager of Administration