



The Corporation of the City of Grand Forks
Regular Meeting of Council
MINUTES

Meeting #: R-2019-18
Date: Monday, October 21, 2019, 7:00 pm
Location: 7217 - 4th Street, City Hall Council Chambers

Present: Mayor Brian Taylor
Councillor Zak Eburne-Stoodley
Councillor Cathy Korolek
Councillor Chris Moslin
Councillor Christine Thompson
Councillor Rod Zielinski

Absent: Councillor Neil Krog

Staff: Daniel Drexler - Corporate Officer
Kevin McKinnon - Deputy Corporate Officer
Dolores Sheets - Manager of Development & Engineering Services
David Reid - Manager of Operations
Graham Watt - Recovery Manager
David Bruce - Manager of Inspection & Bylaw Services
Ron Mattiussi - Acting Chief Administrative Officer

GALLERY

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Taylor called the October 21, 2019, Regular Meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

a. Adopt agenda

October 21, 2019, Regular Meeting agenda

Resolution #: R341/19/10/21 MOVED/SECONDED

THAT Council adopts the October 21, 2019, Regular Meeting agenda as presented.

Carried

3. **MINUTES**

a. Adopt minutes - Special to go In-Camera

October 7, 2019, Special to go In-Camera Meeting minutes

Resolution #: R342/19/10/21 MOVED/SECONDED

THAT Council adopts the October 7, 2019, Special to go In-Camera Meeting minutes as presented.

Carried

b. Adopt minutes - Regular

October 7, 2019, Regular Meeting minutes

Resolution #: R343/19/10/21 MOVED/SECONDED

THAT Council adopts the October 7, 2019, Regular Meeting minutes as presented.

Carried

4. **REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

6. REPORTS, QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

a. Reports of Council

Councillors

Councillor Thompson advised that she attended the Grand Forks Social Services Advisory Group (GFSSAG) meeting last week. The Mayor appointed her to sit at the table replacing him at the group. Although unable to attend the presentations, she acknowledged the Volunteer of the Year recipients.

Councillor Stoodley reminded residents of the many great activities occurring in town around Halloween.

Councillor Moslin provided more information from the GFSSAG meeting. The group discussed standards for doing a Point-In-Time count. He attended the Recreation Commission meeting, where the 5-year financial plan was reviewed. The Community Trails Society repainted the kiosk at the Darrell J. Priede Bridge.

Resolution #: R344/19/10/21 MOVED/SECONDED

THAT all reports of Council at the October 21, 2019, Regular Meeting be received.

Carried

7. REPORT FROM COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KOOTENAY BOUNDARY

a. Verbal Report - RDKB Representative

Verbal report from Council's representative to the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary

Read the RDKB agendas here:

<https://rdkb.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/314>

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The mayor summarized recent discussion at the RDKB board:

- Consideration of declaring a climate emergency within the regional district, which other regional districts have done;

- Contaminated soil handling at landfills - most is hydrocarbon contamination;
- Workshop on Indigenous Relations - a report has been prepared;

Asked about the Trails master plan, the Mayor advised that nothing new has happened. The board has funded the plan but work on it is in the hands of the Regional Economic Development group.

Resolution #: R345/19/10/21 MOVED/SECONDED

THAT Mayor Taylor's report on the activities of the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, given verbally at this meeting be received.

Carried

8. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAFF FOR DECISIONS

9. REQUESTS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

a. Downtown Business Association

Downtown improvements and recommendations in regard to revitalization

The Corporate Officer clarified the requests made by the Downtown Business Association in their letter. The DBA would like to connect LED Christmas lights to City infrastructure for power.

The Manager of Operations advised that the process of converting Market Avenue's decorative street lighting to LED has posed challenges in locating light modules that will fit the existing heads. There have been challenges with how to connect Christmas lights in awnings to the decorative poles for power, and the use of extension cords in trees. The utility will need to look into Code specifications regarding these connections for LED lights.

Discussion included the electrical loads and capacity of circuits and hanging extension cords across sidewalks.

There was further discussion around the tree at Market and 3rd.

- The tree has been identified as a problem previously due to roots lifting brickwork.
- The Tree Bylaw allows the removal of a tree which interferes with infrastructure.

- There are a few trees around town which the City would like to remove and replace with smaller trees over the next year.
- Operations would like to remove the tree over the winter and replant in the spring.
- With the removal of the tree, the bench in the same area could be reconfigured.

Discussion moved to the proposed 4-way stop at 2nd and Market, with the advice that final report from ICBC was sent to the former Deputy Manager of Operations and needs to be collected from that electronic mailbox.

Resolution #: R346/19/10/21 MOVED/SECONDED

THAT Downtown Businesses be permitted to tie into City power for the purposes of running Christmas lights in their awnings provided that safety and load requirements are met.

Carried

Resolution #: R347/19/10/21 MOVED/SECONDED

THAT the letter from the Downtown Business Association be received for information.

Carried

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Quarter 3 - 2019 Financial Reports

Financial Services

Discussion noted that the City is still \$3.4M short in funding allocated for flood repairs. The Capital plan needs to have completed projects removed from the list of active projects.

Resolution #: R348/19/10/21 MOVED/SECONDED

THAT the Quarterly Financial Report be received for information.

Carried

11. **BYLAWS**

12. **LATE ITEMS**

- a. Consideration Options for Resolving the Issue of a Cold-Weather Shelter for this Winter

Development, Engineering and Planning

Attachment will be available prior to the meeting.

The Manager of Development, Engineering, and Planning presented a report identifying a "process to move forward in establishing an emergency shelter in the City."

- Similar sized and some larger communities were examined to see how they are dealing with shelters.
- Most have facilities in commercial zones.
- The first priority is to deal with the immediate need for a cold weather shelter.
- The gap is selecting a location and identifying need.

There was discussion of communities "our size" and whether the Regional District is participating as a member of the Grand Forks Social Services Advisory Group (GFSSAG).

Councillor Zielinski presented resolution R349.

Discussion ensued:

- The City alone does not have the financial resources to fund this.
- Support for a temporary shelter but not something on a permanent basis.
- The need for this topic to become a regional issue due to staff and financial resources
- Funding should be BC Housing rather than RDKB or City.
- Apprehension about the motion as the responsibility is not solely the City's, but the City shares responsibility with regional and provincial partners.
- If this issue is a City responsibility, then staff time should be directed at this issue.

Councillor Moslin moved an amendment to the original motion, adding words to indicate the issue is a shared responsibility.

Discussion continued about partners from other levels of government:

- The Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions has a plan, but no funding for that plan.
- A proposal was made to use the former nurses' residence near the hospital, but Interior Health was not prepared to make that location available.

Councillor Thompson proposed a friendly amendment to Councillor Moslin's amendment, specifying other levels of government and service providers, which was accepted.

Discussion continued around the City's responsibilities and included zoning and advocacy. The GFSSAG has been working on the issue separately from those tasks assigned to City Staff.

The Interim CAO spoke about Staff's position:

- Not the role of the City to build a shelter;
- Workshop process to define what Council is looking for in terms of zoning definitions;
- Seeking help from the GFSSAG to come up with solutions.
- When the GFSSAG comes up with proposed solutions, the City will need to react. Staff is looking for guidance as to that reaction.
- Establishment of a timeline with target dates.

Resolution #: R349/19/10/21 MOVED/SECONDED

THAT the City of Grand Forks believes it's the City's responsibility to have a shelter within the City.

Amended

Resolution #: R350/19/10/21 MOVED/SECONDED

THAT motion R349 be amended to read "THAT the City of Grand Forks believes that it is a shared responsibility with other levels of government and service providers to have a shelter within the City."

Carried

Resolution #: R351/19/10/21 MOVED/SECONDED

THAT the City of Grand Forks believes that it is a shared responsibility with other levels of government and service providers to have a shelter within the City.

Opposed (1): Zielinski

Carried

Resolution #: R352/19/10/21 MOVED/SECONDED

THAT Council receive the report for information and refer the next steps (an Interim Needs Assessment) to the advisory committee (GFSSAG).

Carried

b. Consideration Options Report for item 12.a

13. ITEMS RELEASED FROM IN-CAMERA

14. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC AND THE MEDIA

Nigel James suggested that the City has no responsibility for housing, it is BC Housing's responsibility. Those residing in the Warming Centre have not taken any actions through the summer to help themselves.

Angela Nichols spoke about the change in weather impacting those who are living outside. She expressed disappointment that no discussion on a shelter location has happened.

Nigel James noted that BC Housing has 52 units which have yet to be occupied on 19th street and that 3 or 4 could be used as a winter shelter.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

The October 21, 2019, Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Resolution #: R353/19/10/21 MOVED/SECONDED

RESOLVED THAT the Regular Meeting be adjourned.

Carried

Mayor Brian Taylor

Dep. Corporate Officer – Kevin McKinnon