

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

## January 7, 2019 City Council Meeting

### (16) CONDITION OF 26TH STREET NEAR RAILWAY TRACKS

---

Councillor LoRegio noted that there were significant bumps in the road along the portion of 26th Street that had been repaired last year, with the largest bump being near the railway tracks. He enquired if temporary repairs could be made to level out the road until a permanent fix could be done in the spring.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that a new ramp was installed in the left lane southbound on 26th Street and the transition strip between the differing asphalt heights had also been completed. Mr. Sage noted that signage notifying motorists of the bump was erected last week in the median on the southbound side of 26th Street. The City Manager confirmed that the final asphalt work, inclusive of the transition over the railway tracks, was to be completed by the contractor in 2019.

### (17) UPDATE ON PAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES

---

Councillor Chaboyer requested information on the payment of property taxes, inclusive of the discounts for early payment and an update on the Education Property Tax Credit provided by the Province of Manitoba.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that discounts for prepayments on the 2019 Property Taxes would be given from January to May 2019 with the discounts ranging from 2.00% in January downward to 0.5% in May. He noted that the maximum prepayment amount accepted was a value equal to the 2018 taxes.

Mr. Sage confirmed that the Education Property Tax Credit Advance (maximum \$700) provided by the Province of Manitoba to assist with the school tax portion of the tax bill still existed, hence, taxes were reduced by that amount for qualified properties.

Further to this issue, His Worship the Mayor advised residents that the Tax Installment Plan (TIP) was available for those who wanted to pay their taxes on a monthly installment through their bank rather than lump sum once a year. He encouraged anyone interested in signing up for the program to contact the Finance Department at (204) 729-2228.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

## (18) REVIEW OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE SIREN

---

Councillor Fawcett enquired if an overview of the Emergency Response Siren System could be provided.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the 11 emergency alerting sirens located throughout the City of Brandon were tested on the first Wednesday of each month at 4:40 p.m. He advised that each alert test ran for a maximum of three (3) minutes and included a scripted voice message explaining the test. Mr. Sage noted that the test is followed by an all-clear tone and a second scripted message.

The City Manager advised that the test originated from the Brandon Police Service and that during an actual emergency the cycle of three (3) minute alert tones followed by the voice message would be continued for up to 30 minutes, dependent on the situation. He noted that the alert messaging would also be provided to local media with information posted on the Brandon Police Service and City of Brandon Twitter Accounts. Mr. Sage stated that a door to door notification may also be implemented in certain emergency situations. He explained that samples of the tones could be heard at [www.emerg.brandon.ca](http://www.emerg.brandon.ca).

## January 21, 2019 City Council Meeting

## (19) REVIEW OF COMMUNITY CENTRES

---

Councillor Cameron requested an update on the comprehensive review of community centres, inclusive of the status of the review process and the potential budget implications as a result of same. He further enquired if a final report had been issued by the ad-hoc committee on the viability of community centres.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager confirmed that a review, inclusive of building assessments, had been completed a number of years ago in an attempt to obtain funding from other levels of government for community programming. He advised that as a result of the building assessments, it was determined that the facilities were not at a condition that local government should expect and resulted in the closure of the Southend Community Centre due to the extent of disrepair. He further noted that foundation structural issues identified at Valleyview

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

Community Centre had been remedied in 2017. The City Manager advised that a plan was in place to ensure all community centres were being maintained and safe.

Mr. Sage reminded everyone that a refresh of the Recreation Master Plan for the City of Brandon was currently underway with the results of same anticipated to identify the role of community centres and how same were used by the citizens. He advised that, until the Master Plan was completed, it was difficult to determine the budgetary requirements.

## **(20) SIDEWALK CLOSURE IN 00 BLOCK OF 9TH STREET (MCKENZIE SEEDS)**

Councillor Desjarlais noted that the sidewalk in front of the former McKenzie Seeds Building in the 00 Block of 9th Street remained closed and enquired as to the reasons for same.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that building inspectors had been concerned with shifting in the sidewalk and requested that the sidewalk remain closed for safety reasons. He confirmed that the area would be reassessed in the Spring to determine the necessary repairs needed to ensure public safety.

## **February 4, 2019 City Council Meeting**

## **(21) UPDATE ON MAINTENANCE WORK IN BROOKWOOD POND AND GREENSPACE**

Councillor Berry referred to previous enquiries with respect to the maintenance work in the Brookwood Pond and Greenspace area and enquired if a further update could be provided.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the Engineering Department had recognized that the drainage profile in the area could be negatively impacted by the maintenance work in the Brookwood Greenspace. He advised that a plan showing the proposed drainage elevations along the entire corridor was near completion and would be used by the Operations Department to complete the work by spring.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

(22)

## AUTHORITY FOR CHANGING SPEED LIMITS WITHIN CITY BOUNDARIES

Councillor Berry noted that Provincial Legislation was changing in the near future whereby the City of Brandon would be given authority to change the speed limits within its boundaries. He enquired if this issue had been discussed with Manitoba Infrastructure.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager confirmed that new Traffic & Transportation Modernization Act which included the downloading of speed control to local municipalities for roads not designated Provincial Routes or Trunk Highways was expected to come into effect March 1, 2019.

He advised that new policies and procedures for managing and evaluating speed reduction requests would be included in the amendments to the City of Brandon Traffic By-law to be brought forward to City Council in the spring.

## **February 19, 2019 City Council Meeting**

(23)

## SNOW REMOVAL - STREETS AND SIDEWALKS

Councillor Desjarlais requested an update on the process followed with respect to the removal of snow pushed up onto the sidewalks by the plows clearing the streets.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that due to the high levels of snow recently received, some areas of sidewalk had been heavily impacted by the street clearing, and crews were making every effort to clear those sidewalks as quickly as possible. He encouraged residents who noticed sidewalks or walkways blocked after street clearing to contact the Public Works Department at (204) 729-2285.

The City Manager advised that a full review of the snow removal process, inclusive of sidewalks, was planned with a full report to be provided to City Council upon completion of same.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

## March 4, 2019 City Council Meeting

### (24) SNOW REMOVAL UPDATE

---

Councillor Cameron requested an update on all snow removal efforts throughout the City of Brandon, inclusive of how problematic areas could be reported.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that snow clearing efforts were ongoing with all snow removal from the latest storm expected to be completed by March 13, 2019. Mr. Hammond advised that requests for snow removal could be made by calling the Public Works Department at (204) 729-2290 or at [www.brandon.ca](http://www.brandon.ca) under the "Contact Us" header.

## March 18, 2019 City Council Meeting

### (25) UPDATE ON CONDITION OF MCDONALD AVENUE AND OTHER CITY STREETS

---

Councillor Cameron noted that he continued to receive complaints from residents with respect to the condition of McDonald Avenue. He enquired if an update could be provided regarding the planned work over the summer months to remedy this situation on a more permanent basis. Councillor Cameron also enquired how problem areas, potholes and other spring melt issues could be reported.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that watermain replacements between 27th Street and 31st Street as well as 17th Street to 20th Street were planned for 2019. He noted that the replacement of the sidewalk, curb and gutters was included in the 27th - 31st Street repairs with a full reconstruction of McDonald Avenue between 26th and 34th Streets planned for the near future.

The Acting City Manager advised that pothole crews were out working and encouraged residents to access the "Report an Issue" form on the City of Brandon website at [www.brandon.ca/report-an-issue](http://www.brandon.ca/report-an-issue) to have their concerns addressed.

### (26) UPDATE ON FROZEN WATER LINES

---

Councillor Parker noted that there were numerous frozen water lines in the City of Brandon and enquired when this issue was expected to be addressed. Councillor Parker further enquired if utilizing private contractors to assist with the thawing of lines could be considered if the problem persisted.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that to date, there had been 186 calls for service with respect to frozen water lines with 142 lines thawed, temporary service lines installed at 24 properties and 20 lines currently waiting to be thawed. Mr. Hammond advised that the average wait time for frozen water lines to be thawed was 2 days. He noted that residents were welcome to contact private contractors, however those contractors were also kept busy thawing private services in the City of Brandon and neighbouring communities. The Acting City Manager advised that frozen water lines could be reported during working hours to the Meter Shop at (204) 729-2192 and after 4:30 p.m. to the Emergency Line at (204) 729-2285.

(27)

## **COMPLETION OF STREET REPAIRS ON 26TH STREET**

---

Councillor LoRegio enquired when the final repairs to 26th Street were expected to be completed.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the General Manager of Development Services responded that it was anticipated the repairs would be completed at the end of May 2019. He agreed to look into this matter further and provide a more definitive timeline to City Council.

## **April 1, 2019 City Council Meeting**

(28)

## **WILD TURKEYS IN THE SOUTH END OF BRANDON**

---

Councillor Brown advised that he had received numerous complaints from south end residents with respect to wild turkeys causing damage to their property and vehicles. He noted that the turkeys were pooping everywhere and pecking at the paint on vehicles and houses. Councillor Brown enquired if this issue could be investigated by the Animal Control Officers.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the turkeys had previously been relocated; however, it appeared they had returned to their previous location. He agreed to take this matter under advisement.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

## April 15, 2019 City Council Meeting

### (29) BACK LANE MAINTENANCE STRATEGY

Councillor Parker requested an update on the status of the back lane maintenance strategy for both gravel and paved back lanes.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that a committee had met several times to identify issues and brainstorm potential solutions with respect to the development of a back lane maintenance strategy. He confirmed that input from City Council would be sought at the draft stage in late September, with the final version expected to be completed by November 2019. The City Manager further noted that asphalt lanes identified as problematic would be patched as soon as possible and encouraged everyone to report any back lanes requiring maintenance.

### (30) CONDITION OF STREET IN 00 BLOCK OF 29TH STREET

Councillor Cameron advised that as a result of a lack of curbing, drainage issues had caused mud to build up on the east side of the 00 Block of 29th Street. He enquired if this problem could be addressed as soon as possible.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the application of gravel and grading of the street was planned for April 16, 2019. He confirmed that this area would be monitored on a regular basis in the future.

### (31) PICK-UP SCHEDULE FOR GREEN BINS AND DELIVERY OF YARD WASTE BINS

Councillor Berry enquired when the regular pick-up of residential green bins was expected to start. He further enquired when the yard waste bins would be placed at the drop off points throughout the City of Brandon.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager stated that the collection of residential green bins was expected to start on April 30, 2019. The City Manager advised that the yard waste bins had been placed at the recycling depots located at 1st Street and Richmond Avenue, the Sportsplex, Westridge Community Centre, Rideau Park and 34th Street and Victoria Avenue last week.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

(32)

## **2019 GAS TAX FUNDING**

---

Councillor Berry referred to a recent announcement by the Government of Canada with respect to an increase in the Gas Tax funds distributed to Manitoba municipalities. He requested further information on the expected amount of the funds, timeframe for receipt of same, and any restrictions placed on how the funds were to be spent. Councillor Berry also enquired if any new projects were planned with the additional funds.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that a media release had been issued by the Federal Government in March, followed by a similar member advisory from the Association of Manitoba Municipalities in April that Manitoba municipalities were expected to receive a one-time doubling of their normal Gas Tax allocation in 2019. He advised that the City of Brandon had not yet received any formal notice from the Federal Government on the amount, timelines or restrictions. Mr. Sage confirmed that the allocation in 2018 was \$3,050,089 with no plans in place with respect to how the additional funds may be purposed.

The City Manager stated that it was anticipated that this issue would be discussed at Council's upcoming Strategic Planning Session. Mr. Sage noted that because these funds were not included in the 2019 City of Brandon Budget, City Council approval would be required for any project to be funded by this new revenue.

(33)

## **PARKING ISSUES - 2ND STREET AND MCTAVISH AVENUE**

---

Councillor Luebke advised that he had received complaints from residents in the area of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and McTavish Avenue with respect to daytime parking on the street. He advised that non-residents were occupying spots daily on the street which caused congestion and left no parking available for the residents themselves. Councillor Luebke enquired if potential solutions to this problem could be explored.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the Engineering Department had received a written request from a resident of the 500 block of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street that the availability of daytime parking in the area be investigated. He confirmed that the resident was advised that an assessment of the area would be conducted upon receipt of a petition from 100 per cent of the property owners on the affected street.

Mr. Sage noted that, in the meantime, the posted signage in the area would be looked at to ensure adequate sightlines were being maintained. The City Manager agreed to have a follow-up report provided to City Council on the resolution of this issue.



# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

**(34) POLICY ON STANDARDS OF CONTRACTED CONSTRUCTION WORK**

---

Councillor LoRegio referred to the issues with the construction work on 26<sup>th</sup> Street and enquired as to the City of Brandon's policy with respect to the standards for contracted work.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that all contracted work was to be completed to City of Brandon standards with a guaranteed warrantee that if those standards were not met, the contractor was required to fix the problems and no projects were signed off on by the city until all standards were met. He noted that, with respect to 26<sup>th</sup> Street specifically, the work was not completed in the fall resulting in further issues having developed over the winter months.

## May 6, 2019 City Council Meeting

**(35) SYNCHRONIZATION OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS ON 26TH STREET**

---

Councillor Berry noted that the flow of traffic heading north from Richmond Avenue along 26th Street was poor. He enquired if the traffic lights on 26th Street at Richmond, Brandon and Park Avenues could be synchronized to ensure vehicles were not required to stop at every intersection.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that traffic volumes in both directions at various points along 26th Street would be evaluated with a full report on this issue to be provided to City Council by June 4, 2019.

**(36) SYNCHRONIZATION OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS ON VICTORIA AVENUE TRAVELLING WEST AND BREVITY OF LEFT TURN SIGNALS AT VICTORIA AVENUE AND 1ST AND 18TH STREETS**

---

Councillor Luebke referred to the irregularities in the synchronization of traffic lights for vehicles travelling west on Victoria Avenue from 1st to 18th Streets. He advised that the brevity of the left turn signals at Victoria Avenue and 1st and 18th Streets was also an issue with typically only one or two vehicles getting through before the lights changed. He enquired if Manitoba Infrastructure could be requested to review both of these issues.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that recent assessments of the traffic flow along Victoria Avenue had shown that the dominant traffic volume flow runs eastbound; therefore, signals had been coordinated accordingly to ensure the highest priority was given to the highest traffic flow volumes. He advised that, although the dominant traffic volume is eastbound, there was enough time in the

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

normal cycle timings sequence to pass through the lights heading westbound. Mr. Sage noted that the signals may seem out of coordination if there are multiple interruptions of the timing sequences due to pedestrians pushing the buttons to cross the street.

With respect to the brevity of the left turn arrows at 18th and 1st Streets and Victoria Avenue, the City Manager responded that, dependent on the time of day, the signals typically run 4-11 seconds of dedicated green time over a 60 - 90 second cycle. The City Manager advised that the timing could be shortened by pedestrians pushing the buttons to cross the street or vehicles in the intersection completing their left turns as the light turned red. Mr. Sage agreed with Councillor Luebke that the brevity of the left turn signals may be problematic and confirmed that this matter would be further investigated with Manitoba Infrastructure.

(37)

## **DUST CONTROL IN BACKLANE BEHIND CLARK DRIVE**

---

Councillor Cameron advised that he had received complaints from area residents with respect to the amount of dust generated from vehicles travelling in the backlane behind Clark Drive and enquired if this issue could be addressed as soon as possible.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that maintenance was currently being conducted in the graveled backlanes in preparation for the application of dust control. He confirmed that maintenance of all backlanes was expected to be completed by the end of May with the dust control program expected to begin in early June.

Councillor Cameron further enquired as to the process for applying additional gravel to backlanes, inclusive of the schedule for same and whether or not Clark Drive could be added to that schedule.

His Worship the Mayor agreed to take this matter under advisement.

(38)

## **WASHROOM FACILITIES DOWNTOWN**

---

Councillor LoRegio enquired if the installation of portable washroom facilities in the vicinity of the Kristopher Campbell Skateboard Park could be considered.

Councillor Desjarlais noted that capital project funding had been approved for the installation of washroom facilities in Princess Park and enquired as to the status of that project.

His Worship the Mayor agreed to take both these matters under advisement.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

## May 21, 2019 City Council Meeting

### (39) CITY POLICY ON REPLACEMENT OF GARBAGE BINS

Councillor LoRegio enquired as to the City of Brandon's policy with respect to the replacement of residential garbage bins destroyed by fire or other criminal activities, most specifically, who was responsible to pay for replacement of same.

His Worship the Mayor agreed to take this matter under advisement.

## June 4, 2019 City Council Meeting

### (40) NOTIFICATION OF ACCESS CUT-OFF DUE TO CONSTRUCTION ON 18TH STREET

Councillor LoRegio advised that he had received a complaint from a business owner on 18th Street who stated that he had not received notification prior to access to his business being blocked off for construction. Councillor LoRegio stated that a similar situation occurred in 2018 with the businesses affected by construction on 26th Street. He enquired if the notification process could be reviewed and improvements made to ensure issues such as these were avoided in the future.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the Engineering Department was aware of this issue and was reviewing options to ensure this situation was not repeated in the future. He agreed to take this matter under advisement.

With respect to the 26th Street project, the City Manager confirmed that the Engineering Department had reviewed the concerns raised and planned face to face meetings with affected business owners to avoid such issues arising in the future.

### (41) CONCERN WITH SAFETY OF WALKWAY CONNECTING WAVERLY DRIVE WITH WILLOWDALE CRESCENT

Councillor LoRegio advised that the area around the walkway connecting Waverly Drive and Willowdale Crescent had become a dumping ground and was overrun with brush. He stated that with children using the walkway to access Waverly School, the condition of the area and recent fires had raised serious safety concerns. Councillor LoRegio enquired if this issue could be addressed as soon as possible.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the location of the walkway posed certain challenges. He confirmed that the area would be re-evaluated for better lighting and changes to how the grass, trees and bushes were maintained. Mr. Sage noted that the Parks Department crews had been dispatched to trim trees, cut grass and clean up any debris found in the area. He stated that the area would be monitored more closely in the future and encouraged feedback from area residents should they notice any issues.

The City Manager also confirmed that recent fire events in the area were being investigated by the Brandon Police Service with assistance from the Brandon Fire & Emergency Services Department with every effort being made to find the person(s) responsible.

(42)

## **CONTROLLED BURNS IN NATURAL GREENSPACES**

---

Councillor Berry also referred to the danger of fires in the area of Willowdale Crescent and Waverly Drive. He noted that the City of Brandon had previously conducted controlled burns in larger greenspaces and enquired why same had been discontinued.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that controlled burns within the City of Brandon had been stopped at the request of residents. He advised that concerns had been raised with the smoke causing breathing problems along with other issues, and it was felt that the best solution was to stop the controlled burns. Mr. Sage agreed that a full report on this issue, inclusive of potential areas, times of the year and times of day for potential controlled burns would be provided.

(43)

## **UPDATE ON DUST CONTROL IN BACK LANE ALONG CLARK DRIVE**

---

Councillor Cameron referred to a previous enquiry whereby he had advised that dust was causing problems in the backlane on the west side of Clark Drive and noted that the problem now was on the east side as well. He enquired if a dust control solution could be undertaken for both backlanes and consideration given to graveling same.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the dust control program was expected to begin June 17, 2019. He confirmed that the east side backlane would be reviewed and graveled if necessary. The City Manager noted that graveling for dust control was often a short-term solution, however if the dust continued after graveling, calcium would be applied.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

## June 17, 2019 City Council Meeting

### (44) UPDATE ON ENQUIRY REGARDING PETS UPON ARRIVAL PROGRAM

---

Councillor Chaboyer referred to a previous presentation by Brandon and Area Lost Animals (BALA) with respect to suggested improvements to the process followed when animals are taken to the Brandon Animal Pound. She noted that BALA had suggested that other cities found that pets registered online as soon as they are impounded had resulted in them being claimed much quicker. She enquired if this system could be considered for the Brandon Pound.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that these issues would be forwarded to the Chief of Police for a report back as soon as possible.

## July 15, 2019 City Council Meeting

### (45) WATERING OF CITY PLANTERS

---

Councillor LoRegio advised that he had received enquiries from residents with respect to city employees watering planters in the rain or shortly after a rainfall and enquired as to the reasons for same.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the reservoirs in the large planters were filled every 10-15 days with the hanging baskets being filled 2-3 times per week dependent on the heat/sun. Mr. Sage noted that due to the size of the plants and flowers and the canopy in the planters, very little rain reached the soil and therefore, staff usually needed to water planters and baskets after a rainfall.

### (46) DECOMMISSIONING OF RIVERHEIGHTS PADDLE POOL

---

Councillor Cullen noted that he had received numerous calls from area residents with respect to the decommissioning of the Riverheights Paddle Pool. He enquired as to the reasons for the closure and the future plans for same.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the 2007 Recreation Master Plan had suggested the closure of the Riverheights Paddle Pool upon the completion of the Valleyview Spray Park. He explained that with the opening of the Spray Park, the close proximity of the two parks, and the low daily attendance at the Riverheights Paddle Pool, it had been determined that the paddle pool would no longer be operated and would be decommissioned at a later date.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

## (47) **URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

---

Councillor Desjarlais requested an update on the status of the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the internal group had met regularly with a draft of the Plan expected to be presented to City Council in late fall. Mr. Sage advised that the Urban Forestry team had already implemented several practices aimed to improve and maintain the city's urban forest such as training and development with respect to invasive species, the use of gator bags for watering new plantings, and educating the public on the benefits of trees and the importance of not moving firewood outside of the City.

## **August 12, 2019 City Council Meeting**

## (48) **OUTDOOR SPORTS COMPLEX UPDATE**

---

Councillor LoRegio requested an update on the proposed outdoor sports complex site on 1st Street, inclusive of the status of the Provincial Study and the potential of Optimist Park as an alternative location.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the 3-year capital project was being proposed for funding from 2020-2022. He advised that an internal committee of staff from the Community Services, Engineering and Property, and Planning & Building Safety Departments had been formed to develop timelines and details for the project. Mr. Sage confirmed that should City Council support the more defined budget estimates and detailed design, the project could be started as soon 2020. He noted that this project was also being considered for funding under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) as part of a partnership with the Provincial and Federal Governments, and stated that further details on this issue would be provided in September.

The City Manager advised that the Provincial Study at 1st Street and Veterans' Way was completed in early July with the property having been cleared for development by Provincial Heritage Resources.

With respect to Optimist Park, Mr. Sage confirmed that, with the preferred 1st Street and Veterans' Way site being cleared, there was no need to consider the alternative location. He also reminded everyone that the former Optimist Park was privately owned and operated by the Brandon Youth Soccer Association was not flood protected due to its proximity to the Assiniboine River and channel at 1st Street.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

(49)

## **8TH STREET ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION BRIDGE DESIGN STUDY**

---

Councillor Desjarlais requested an update on the 8th Street Active Transportation and Pedestrian Bridge Design Study.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the 8th Street Active Transportation Bridge Preliminary Design Study was complete. He advised that the Study refined the preferred concept and further investigated geotechnical bridge configuration, constructability and CP Rail considerations. Mr. Sage stated that the detailed design phase was typically immediately followed by construction and was not anticipated to begin until funding was in place. The City Manager confirmed that Administration continued to explore opportunities for funding assistance, inclusive of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program whose intake process was this Fall.

Further to this issue, Councillor Desjarlais requested that an informal meeting be set up whereby the final design and cost estimates could be discussed. Councillor LoRegio requested that a discussion on the potential debentures be included at that meeting.

His Worship the Mayor agreed to take this matter under advisement.

(50)

## **2019 OUTDOOR POOL ATTENDANCE**

---

Councillor Parker requested an update on the Outdoor Pool attendance for 2019.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the year-to-date attendance at the Kinsmen Pool was 2,135 and projected to be below the 2018 seasonal attendance of 3,803. He noted that with the closure of the Keystone Pool, attendance was expected to increase at the Kinsmen Pool; however, such had not been the case. Mr. Sage confirmed that the total between both pools in 2018 was 5,722, with same having steadily declined over the past 5 years.

The City Manager noted that the 2019 Recreation & Community Facilities Master Plan found that a new outdoor aquatic leisure concept facility was high on the list of priorities for investment. Mr. Sage confirmed that such a facility was to be part of the Capital Budget requests and public input would be sought on this project in the future.

(51)

## **TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN CONCERNS - VICTORIA AVENUE BETWEEN 26TH STREET AND CREIGHTON BOULEVARD**

---

Councillor Cameron requested an update on his previous enquiry with respect to traffic and pedestrian concerns on Victoria Avenue between 26th Street and Creighton Boulevard.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the average daily traffic counts at the intersection of Victoria Avenue and McDiarmid Drive saw approximately 18,000 vehicles and 780 pedestrians access this intersection. He advised that while the existing traffic signals at 26th Street and Victoria Avenue provided a safe crossing for pedestrians and cyclists, improvements to the McDiarmid Drive and Victoria Avenue were being recommended.

The City Manager advised that the Transportation Association of Canada's Pedestrian Crossing Control Guide recommended that a pedestrian corridor or rectangular rapid flashing beacon be installed at any intersection where traffic volumes exceeded 9,000 vehicle movements. Given that this intersection saw 15,200 vehicle movements, installation of a pedestrian corridor was being recommended and would be included in the Engineering Department's 2020 Budget requests. He advised that Manitoba Infrastructure had been approached with respect to cost sharing; however, this installation was not expected to take place until Spring 2020 at the earliest.

Further to this issue, Councillor LoRegio enquired if the new system of lighting at the sides of the road at pedestrian corridors had been tested to ensure drivers paid attention to same.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that numerous tests had been conducted and the updated version had proven to be extremely successful from both a driver and pedestrian standpoint. He confirmed that he had personally driven in areas where the corridors were designed this way and assured Councillor LoRegio that same were very effective.

## **(52) 15TH STREET AND PRINCESS AVENUE TRAFFIC COUNTS**

Councillor Desjarlais advised that he had requested traffic counts to be conducted at the intersection of 15th Street and Princess Avenue in the vicinity of Stanley Park during the school year. He enquired if same had been completed or were planned for early in the upcoming school year.

His Worship the Mayor agreed to take this matter under advisement.

## **(53) LIGHTING IN BACK LANE BEHIND PARK AVENUE BETWEEN 26TH AND 34TH STREETS**

Councillor Cameron advised that safety concerns had been raised with respect to the back lane behind Park Avenue between 26th and 34th Streets and enquired if the installation of lighting at this location could be considered.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that this issue would be investigated by the Engineering Department with a response provided to City Council as soon as possible.



# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

**(54) UPDATE ON FENCING AROUND MCKENZIE SEEDS BUILDING**

Councillor Desjarlais requested an update on the status of the removal of the fencing around the McKenzie Seeds Building on 9th Street.

His Worship the Mayor agreed to take this matter under advisement.

**(55) SPEED ZONES AROUND SPRAY PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS**

Councillor Chaboyer enquired if reduced speed zones could be considered for areas around spray parks and playgrounds within the City of Brandon.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that, with the dissolution of the Provincial Highway Traffic Board, municipalities were now able to set speed zones within their jurisdiction and this matter would be discussed at an informal session of City Council in the near future.

**(56) REVIEW OF STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN**

Councillor Chaboyer enquired if a review of the Strategic Plan, inclusive of potential capital projects and the funding for same, could be considered.

His Worship the Mayor agreed to take this matter under advisement.

## September 3, 2019 City Council Meeting

**(57) PAVING IN FRONT OF WAVERLY SCHOOL**

Councillor LoRegio referred to the milling and paving work currently taking place on Park Avenue in front of Waverly School and enquired why same was not completed prior to school starting back in September.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the processing of the asphalt materials had been delayed. He confirmed that the staff planned to coordinate with the Brandon School Division to ensure that the work was completed during Professional Development Days when school was not in session.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

**(58) COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN**

---

Councillor Luebke requested an update on the status of the final report from the Strategic Planning Session held in April 2019.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the Strategic Planning report has been received and was to be reviewed by City Council at a meeting scheduled for late September 2019. He confirmed that the report included the following six strategic directions agreed upon at the session: create a community-wide economic strategy, develop a long-term recreation capital and operations program, create a long-term infrastructure replacement and maintenance program based on an asset management strategy, continue with downtown improvements based on the Downtown Enhancement Program, improve community-wide responsiveness to social challenges and generate a financial sustainability model.

**(59) REVIEW OF THE KINSMEN POOL**

---

Councillor Parker enquired if a comprehensive report on the Kinsmen Pool could be provided. He requested that the overall condition of the pool, estimated operating costs as well as usage and water cost comparisons over a 3-year period be included in the report.

His Worship the Mayor agreed to take this matter under advisement.

**(60) PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNALIZATION**

---

Councillor Cameron referred to recent discussions with respect to the installation of a rectangular rapid flashing beacon at the pedestrian corridor located on Victoria Avenue at McDiarmid Drive and enquired if same could be considered between Lorne & Louise Avenues on 18th Street.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the McDiarmid Drive location was a pilot project being undertaken in partnership with Manitoba Infrastructure. He stated that, should the project be successful, more locations throughout the City of Brandon would be considered. He agreed to take this matter under advisement.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

## September 16, 2019 City Council Meeting

**(61) POTENTIAL CROSSWALK AT 13TH STREET AND STICKNEY AVENUE**

---

Councillor Desjarlais enquired if an accessible crosswalk could be installed to connect residents of Sokol Manor to the recently installed accessible bus stop.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the enquiry would be referred to Engineering Department for review. He stated that all requests of this nature required a traffic study to determine if a crosswalk was warranted. Once the traffic study was completed, the Engineering team would provide a response to Council on this enquiry.

**(62) SPEEDING ALONG STICKNEY AVENUE**

---

Councillor Desjarlais requested an update on the analysis of collision data at the intersection of McDonald and Stickney Avenues. He further enquired if Brandon Police Service could assess the speed of traffic along Stickney Avenue.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager affirmed that Engineering staff would work with BPS to determine the history to provide a response to Council regarding collision statistics. He also confirmed that the Brandon Police Service (BPS) would begin a speed study of Stickney Avenue starting September 16, 2019 to run for seven days. He stated that staff required time to tabulate the information and that a report would be provided on or before September 25, 2019.

**(63) IMPROVED DRAINAGE FOR THE NORTH BACK LANE BEHIND ROSSER AVENUE BETWEEN 30TH AND 34TH STREETS**

---

Councillor Cameron requested an update to Council in regards to work being undertaken to improve drainage in the area along the North back lane behind Rosser Ave between 30th Street and 34th Street.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

At the request of his Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that a recent review of the lane indicated that trees needed to be trimmed to allow graders access to the lane to complete the work, which was completed on September 4th. He advised that the lane did not have much grade and that to achieve proper drainage, elevations and slope were critical. Survey crews measured the lane for elevations and determined areas in the lane needed up to six inches of material removed. Public works also called for utility locations which had been completed the previous week. Mr. Sage confirmed that the chargehand would meet with Engineering to finalize the grading plan in the coming week, with work starting the week of September 23, 2019.

**(64) STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR DRAINING POOLS IN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOODS**

---

Councillor Cameron enquired as to what the standard operating procedures were for draining residential pools in the community.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager advised that draining pools should not compromise a neighbor's property, that drainage should be at a controlled rate, similar to rain runoff, and ideally directed towards a storm water system (i.e. front street). He advised that lanes were challenging as many pools were located in rear yards that naturally sloped to the lane, but as long as the drainage was at a controlled rate and not impacting any properties in the area, similar to rainfall, this would not be a by-law contravention. Mr. Sage stated that in the unlikely circumstances where a resident was draining a pool at an uncontrolled rate, where adjacent properties were being impacted, the impacted resident should contact By-law Enforcement, and city officials would then work with the homeowner in question to find a proper solution for draining a pool without affecting the neighborhood.

**(65) REQUEST FOR SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT SIGN FOR CHRISTIAN HERITAGE SCHOOL ON 26TH STREET**

---

Councillor Berry inquired if 30km/hour school-zone signage could be installed on 26th Street for the Christian Heritage School.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that Engineering had initiated the opening of the stretch of 26th Street South of Maryland to allow for the establishment of a school zone and once completed, signage could be installed by the Operations Department. Mr. Sage stated that this was expected to be carried out within the next month.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

**(66) MAINTENANCE OF ROAD FROM MARYLAND AVENUE AND 26TH STREET TO CHRISTIAN HERITAGE SCHOOL**

---

Councillor Berry enquired if maintenance could be conducted on 26th Street South of Maryland as the street had come into disrepair.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the road leading to Christian Heritage School was gravel that had calcium applied to the street surface for dust control. He advised that maintenance required water applied prior to grading to keep the calcium activated or have the maintenance grading conducted after a rainfall when the road surface was still damp. He stated that the maintenance grading of the street would be done by or on Wednesday of the coming week.

**(67) UPDATE ON CONSTRUCTION WORK ON WILLOWDALE CRESCENT BETWEEN 34TH STREET AND SILVERBIRCH DRIVE**

---

Councillor Berry requested an update on construction work being carried out on Willowdale Crescent between 34th St and Silverbirch Drive.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that Willowdale Crescent between 34th Street and Silverbirch Drive was expected to be completed within the year. He advised that progress on the road reconstruction component had appeared slower as the contractor had also been replacing the water main. He stated that as this was a busy collector street, the City would work with the contractor to prioritize the project over others when it came to late-season paving in preparation of opening to traffic for the winter.

**(68) EXTENSION OF PEDESTRIAN/BIKE PATH BEHIND MARQUIS CRESCENT**

---

Councillor Berry inquired if the proposed pedestrian/biking path behind Marquis Crescent would be completed within the year.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that if seasonal temperatures were attained in September and October, the proposed multi-use trail along Maryland Avenue between 27th Street and Marquis Drive was expected to be completed within the year.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

## October 7, 2019 City Council Meeting

### (69) POLICY FOR PLACEMENT OF SCHOOL ZONE AND SPEED SIGNS

Councillor Loregio enquired as to what the sign placement policy was in relation to school zones and, additionally, the impact it had on crosswalks within school zones.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the Engineering Department established school zones to create safe environments for children in high traffic areas of a school. He stated that school zones usually began at property lines but may be shortened or extended after evaluation. He advised that if the City received concerns about sightlines, on-street parking, speed compliance, traffic calming, intersection treatment, or any other similar concerns around school zones, Administration would look at the utility of existing infrastructure to determine if there was a shortfall or if additional measures were required. Mr. Sage affirmed that in the case of Waverly School, Engineering had reviewed the existing posted signage and was working with the Operations Department to make changes that would ensure continued safety in the school zone.

### (70) TRAFFIC ON RICHMOND AVENUE WEST OF 18TH STREET

Councillor Loregio enquired if Administration would conduct a study into increased commercial traffic on Richmond Avenue west of 18th Street.

His Worship the Mayor agreed to take this matter under advisement.

### (71) SIGNAGE AT 18TH STREET AND ROSSER AVENUE

Councillor Luebke enquired if additional signage could be posted at the intersection of Rosser Avenue at 18th Street to emphasize the lane assignments.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager advised that Rosser Avenue west of 17th Street had been recently resurfaced and line painting was underway. He stated that Engineering would work with Manitoba Infrastructure, who operated the signals in the intersection of 18th Street and Rosser Avenue, to determine if signage could be placed on the signal arms themselves as well as painting delineated lines connecting the two sides of Rosser Avenue. Mr. Sage affirmed that the City was working with Manitoba Infrastructure to improve the alignment of the intersection as a part of the Daly Overpass design.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

(72)

## REQUIREMENT FOR LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR USER GROUPS AT SPORTSPLEX

Councillor Luebke enquired if the City's liability insurance policy had changed in relation to the Sportsplex facility and, if affirmed, what the changes were.

Further to this issue, Councillor Berry enquired if changes impacted all facilities operating under the policy, such as the Keystone Centre.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the matter would be reviewed by City Administration with a response provided to City Council and affected user groups at a later date.

(73)

## SPEED LIMITS ON SECTIONS OF RICHMOND AVENUE AND PATRICIA AVENUE

Councillor Berry requested an update from Administration on his previous enquiry with respect to reducing the speed limit on Richmond Avenue from Linden Boulevard west to the 34th Street traffic circle from 60km/hour to 50km/hour. He additionally requested the same be done for Patricia Avenue from 34th Street to 42nd Street.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the Engineering Department was working on a policy and procedure for processing speed limit changes within the City of Brandon. Upon completion, Engineering would present the recommended policy and procedure to Council for adoption, and at that time, the queue of requests received would be evaluated. He confirmed that the two segments of roads listed by Councillor Berry had been added to the queue for speed limit review. Mr. Sage outlined that Engineering was working to have the policy for Council to adopt later in the fall.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

**(74) PROPOSED COMPLETION TIMELINE FOR SEWER AND WATER MAIN CONSTRUCTION PROJECT ON MCDONALD AVENUE**

---

Councillor Cameron requested an update from Administration on the proposed completion timeline of the sewer and water mains project on McDonald Avenue between 27th and 31st Streets. Additionally, he enquired if the City could review the condition of the southern back lane, which handled eastbound traffic on McDonald Avenue.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager advised that provided there was favourable weather in October and November, the project was expected to be completed by mid-November. He affirmed that Engineering was aware of the back lane condition and continued to coordinate with Public Works to perform routine maintenance. Mr. Sage outlined how recent heavy rains had created challenging conditions and how it was necessary to wait several days after a rain event to access the lane with heavy equipment.

## October 21, 2019 City Council Meeting

**(75) MAINTENANCE OF BACK LANE ON 20<sup>TH</sup> STREET BETWEEN RICHMOND AND OTTAWA AVENUES**

---

Councillor LoRegio enquired if maintenance could be undertaken to improve the back lane on 20th Street between Richmond Avenue and Ottawa Avenue and the lane that extended to 22nd Street as they had fallen into disrepair.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager Dean Hammond responded that prior to crews being able to apply asphalt to the potholes, the back lane south of Richmond Avenue extending from 20th Street to 22nd Street would require street sweeping to clean the leaves and other debris. He affirmed that sweeping of the lane was to be completed on October 22, 2019 with Streets crews filling the potholes by the end of the week, weather permitting.

Further to this issue, Councillor LoRegio enquired if similar maintenance could be conducted in the back lane of Queens Avenue in the proximity of Meadows School.

His Worship the Mayor agreed to take this matter under advisement.



# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

**(76)      PARKING CONCERNS AROUND ALASKA BAY**

---

Councillor Cameron requested an update from Administration on the anticipated completion date for construction of the Pacific Avenue extension along Alaska Bay as area residents were experiencing parking issues.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager Dean Hammond responded that heavy precipitation experienced in September and October had saturated the base material on the construction site. He advised Council that a meeting with the contractor was held on October 16, 2019 to discuss the plan going forward, considering the less than ideal site conditions. He updated Council that the extension of Pacific Avenue from 26th Street to 24th Street may not be completed within the year and the contractor had agreed to construct access points for parking spots isolated by the construction. Mr. Hammond advised that the access points may be completed before the end of October.

**(77)      BACK LANE – MCDONALD AVENUE**

---

Councillor Cameron requested clarification from Administration on the scope of work intended for McDonald Avenue between 27th Street and 31st Street.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager Dean Hammond responded that until the extension of 34th Street from Pacific Avenue to McDonald Avenue was completed in 2020, the only access to residences west of 26th Street was McDonald Avenue. He noted that without 34th Street to serve as an alternative access point from the west, it was not possible to completely rebuild McDonald Avenue and still maintain two lanes of traffic as the back lane was not wide enough to accommodate same. He outlined that during the watermain replacement project, one lane of traffic would be maintained on McDonald Avenue with the other in the back lane. Mr. Hammond advised that McDonald Avenue between 26th Street and 34th Street was scheduled to be rebuilt in 2023.

**(78)      UPDATE ON ACCOMMODATION TAX RESERVE**

---

Councillor Cameron, on behalf of Councillor Desjarlais, requested an update on the status of the Accommodation Tax Reserve.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager Dean Hammond responded that taking into account the current Accommodation Tax Reserve balance, less any grant approvals committed to but not yet paid, the Reserve had a balance of just under \$500,000.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

He noted that the 2019 third quarter remittance was not due until October 20, 2019, and the fourth quarter remittance was not due until January 20, 2020. Based on historical Accommodation Tax revenues and occupancy rates, he projected that the Reserve would have a balance of approximately \$800,000 by year end. Mr. Hammond advised that this would not factor in any grant approvals that may occur before the end of the year.

**(79) STATUS OF BACK LANE MASTER PLAN POLICY**

---

Councillor LoRegio requested an update from Administration on the back lane master plan policy.

His Worship the Mayor agreed to take this matter under advisement.

## November 4, 2019 City Council Meeting

**(80) SCOPE OF WORK AT WATER TREATMENT PLAN**

---

Councillor Cameron enquired as to the scope of work planned for the treed area behind the residences on the north side of McDonald Avenue as work proceeded on the Water Treatment Plant.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager Dean Hammond outlined that the work involved installing a new grounding bed for the natural gas lines which serviced the area. Mr. Hammond advised that Manitoba Hydro had confirmed that no trees should be removed as a result of the project.

**(81) LEAD LEVELS IN CITY OF BRANDON DRINKING WATER**

---

Councillor Fawcett referred to a recent news report with respect to the amount of lead in the drinking water in the City of Brandon and enquired if further information on this issue could be provided.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the General Manager of Development Services Mr. Patrick Pulak responded that the City of Brandon continued to work with Manitoba Health and the Office of Drinking Water to ensure residences identified as having potential lead in their drinking water were provided the information they required. Mr. Pulak confirmed that 5 years ago a program had been conducted whereby residents could bring in samples of their drinking water to have it tested for lead.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

A separate program offered a rebate of up to \$100 for residents who purchased a water filter certified to remove lead. He advised that both programs were ongoing and information on same was updated on the website on a regular basis. The General Manager added that the addition of orthophosphate as means of eliminating lead from the drinking water was also being considered as part of the upgrades to the Water Treatment Plant.

Further to this issue, Councillor Desjarlais enquired whether notifications were sent out to the residents of the property or the property owners. He also enquired what was being done to address the potential language barriers for residents in the affected properties.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the General Manager responded that the notifications had been sent to both the residents and the property owners to ensure the tenants were aware of the potential for lead in their drinking water. Mr. Pulak responded that work was still in progress with respect to addressing the language barrier issues.

Councillor Luebke enquired if an open house for residents to come and pick up the testing kits could be considered for Spring 2020. His Worship the Mayor agreed to take this matter under advisement.

His Worship the Mayor explained that the news reports indicated that Brandon had refused to release the test data, which was not the case. He noted that while the City had subsidized the tests the actual tests were submitted by the homeowners and therefore the results were theirs to share, not the City of Brandon's. Mr. Pulak reiterated Mayor Chrest's comments and noted that any statistical data not specific to a certain residence had always been freely shared.

His Worship the Mayor assured that there was no traceable lead in Brandon's water supply, the distribution system had no lead pipes and the water leaving the Water Treatment Plant was free of lead. He noted that the only problem areas were with the potential lead connections to some of the older homes. The General Manager of Development Services advised that simply flushing the toilet and running the taps for a short period of time in the morning would be enough to flush the lines of any dangerous lead build-up.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

## November 18, 2019 City Council Meeting

### (82) OPENING OF WALKWAY FENCE ON WAVERLY DRIVE

Councillor Loregio referred to a fence which had been installed two years ago between 72 Waverly Drive and 76 Waverly Drive to prevent pedestrians from crossing train tracks and to use the walkway located further west instead.

He informed City Council that the fence had been illegally removed, resulting in pedestrians again crossing the train tracks in an unsafe manner. Councillor LoRegio enquired as to when the fence was expected to be repaired.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, Acting City Manager Dean Hammond confirmed that the fence would be reattached within the week. Mr. Hammond requested that anyone who witnessed removal of or damage to this fence report same to the Public Works Department immediately.

### (83) SNOW ANGELS PROGRAM

Councillor Chaboyer referred to the "Snow Angels" program, whereby citizens volunteered to remove snow from sidewalks of physically disadvantaged citizens in the community. She enquired if the program was going to be implemented and if so, suggested the advertising of same.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, Acting City Manager Dean Hammond advised that the Snow Angel program was open for the 2019-2020 winter season. He directed individuals looking to volunteer or for assistance with shoveling their sidewalk to visit <http://snowangels.brandon.ca/>, email [snowangels@brandon.ca](mailto:snowangels@brandon.ca), or call the General Enquiry Line at 204-729-2186. Mr. Hammond confirmed that the City would be actively promoting the program through the City of Brandon website and social media platforms.

Further to this enquiry, Councillor Desjarlais requested that active community outreach efforts with senior groups and churches to increase awareness of the program be conducted.

His Worship the Mayor agreed to take this matter under advisement.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

(84)

## **REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF SPECIALIZED FOSTER HOMES IN BRANDON**

Councillor Chaboyer reiterated previous concerns raised by Council with regards to specialized foster homes in Brandon and expressed the need for City Council to understand the regulations which surrounded the private facilities. Additionally, Councillor Chaboyer enquired if a meeting with the respective Provincial Agencies regarding concerns with these homes could be arranged.

His Worship the Mayor responded that discussions had taken place with pertinent agencies and both the Minister of Justice and Minister of Families had been made aware of the issues. He advised that both Ministers had expressed interest in the situation but could not confirm if either department had yet affected a solution.

His Worship Mayor Chrest committed to seeking an opportunity for Council to meet with Provincial Department Officials to begin further dialogue towards addressing issues related to private foster homes for the benefit of all concerned as soon as possible.

(85)

## **DISREPAIR AND/OR ABANDONMENT OF PROPERTIES IN DOWNTOWN AREA**

Councillor Parker noted that several properties in the Downtown area, specifically the corner of 10th Street and Princess Avenue, the corner of 7th Street and Rosser Avenue and the abandoned gas station at 4th Street and Rosser Avenue, continued to be in a state of disrepair. He enquired as to what was being done to have these issues addressed.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, Acting City Manager Dean Hammond responded that the Planning and Buildings Department was in constant contact with property owners to ensure that the status of the buildings complied with the Building Safety & Property Standards By-law as well as the Vacant & Derelict Building By-law. Mr. Hammond stated that the main objective in dealing with these properties was to ensure public safety in a manner which was efficient and fiscally responsible for the citizens of Brandon.

Further to the above, Councillor Desjarlais advised that these properties had also been an ongoing concern for the Brandon Downtown Development Corporation, and requested that a meeting to review the relevant by-laws and foster an understanding of the issue be arranged as soon as possible.

His Worship the Mayor agreed to take this under advisement.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

## December 2, 2019 City Council Meeting

### (86) UPDATE ON TREE PLANTING IN CITY OF BRANODN

---

Councillor Luebke referred to the City of Brandon Corporate Scorecard and noted that the goal of planting 400+ trees in 2019 had fallen short. He enquired as to the reasons for same and whether or not the short fall was expected to be made up in 2019 or 2020.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the goal of planting 400+ trees would not be met due to grant funding not being received from the Toronto Dominion Bank (TD) and Canadian National Railway (CN). Mr. Hammond explained that the funds received from these grants in the past had covered the costs of planting approximately 200 trees, however CN was not offering the program in 2019 and the grant request to TD Bank had been unsuccessful.

Further to this issue, Councillor Desjarlais enquired as to the impacts of Emerald Ash Bore Beetles, Dutch Elm Disease and flooding on Brandon's trees. He requested an update on the impact of the loss of funding dollars on tree planting, and further, that consideration be given to allocating funds for same during the 2020 Budget Deliberations.

His Worship the Mayor agreed to take this matter under advisement.

### (87) CORPORATE SCORECARD

---

Councillor Luebke noted that there appeared to be some discrepancies on the Corporate Scorecard with what appeared on the front page with respect to the target goal differing from the numbers that appeared on the page containing the goal itself. He used the Brandon Transit ridership goal as an example, noting that the front page listed a target of 897,000, however the current progress listed was 943,432 and the target for the year was listed as 1,017,000. He enquired if an explanation for same could be provided.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager explained that the Corporate Scorecard was designed to allow members of the public to track the city's progress as well as to allow city staff to track goals from various departments and services within the city. With respect to Transit, Mr. Hammond explained that the front page showed the current ridership progress (943,432) compared to the estimated target to the end of October (897,000). He advised that the details page for Transit contained the current progress of 943,432 compared with the year-end goal of 1,017,000. He

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

agreed that the system would be reviewed for 2020 and efforts made to show the information in a less confusing way going forward.

**(88) WALKWAY FENCE ON WAVERLY DRIVE**

---

Councillor LoRegio advised that the fence recently installed between 72 Waverly Drive and 76 Waverly Drive to prevent pedestrians from crossing the train tracks had been removed by an area resident within 24 hours of installation. He advised that he had requested a stronger fence be installed and enquired if the Brandon Police Service could be requested to conduct surveillance in this area prior to and right after school as it appeared the removal of the fence was happening during those times.

His Worship the Mayor agreed to take this matter under advisement.

**(89) VANDALISM OF CITY PROPERTY**

---

Councillor LoRegio enquired if statistics were compiled on instances of vandalism to city property and costs associated with same, and further, if charges had ever been laid and costs recouped from the perpetrators.

His Worship the Mayor agreed to take this matter under advisement.

## December 16, 2019 City Council Meeting

**(90) SPEED OF TRAINS AND BLOCKING OF CROSSINGS**

---

Councillor Cameron advised that concerns had been raised from ward residents with respect to the speed of trains through the corridor at 26th Street and Pacific Avenue as well as the length of time trains were allowed to block intersections. He requested clarification on both these issues.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager confirmed that CP Rail had been requested to provide information on both the speed of trains as well as the railway crossing. Mr. Hammond advised that a response would be forwarded to City Council as soon as it became available.

The Acting City Manager further advised that Grade Crossing Regulations from Transport Canada were in place whereby, unless the train was moving, public grade crossings were not to be blocked for more than five minutes, with the crossing to be cleared immediately should emergency vehicles need to cross. He noted that if safety concerns arose with respect to a grade crossing that was blocked, the municipality and CP were expected to work together on an appropriate solution within 90 days.

# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

(91)

## ACCIDENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF 26TH STREET AND PRINCESS AVENUE

Councillor Cameron advised that there had been an increased number of accidents recently at the intersection of 26th Street and Princess Avenue, and further, that it appeared the problems arose from westbound vehicles failing to stop at the four-way stop sign. He enquired if extra traffic enforcement and increased signage could be considered for this intersection.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the four-way stop signs at this intersection were located with adequate sight lines. Mr. Hammond advised that all intersections were routinely monitored for safety, appropriate traffic control based on traffic volume, as well as any reported collisions. The Acting City Manager confirmed that the Engineering Department was following up with the Brandon Police Service and Manitoba Public Insurance on the recent collisions at this intersection and were prepared to make any changes necessary for improved safety.

(92)

## ROAD CONDITION OF BROOKWOOD DRIVE AND AURORA CRESCENT

Councillor Berry advised that portions of Brookwood Drive and Aurora Crescent continued to be in poor condition with the dipping and heaving having gotten progressively worse. He noted that the planned repairs in 2019 had not happened and enquired when same were expected to be completed.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the repairs to the manhole at Brookwood Drive and Aurora Crescent had been completed however, due to weather conditions, the remainder of the repairs had been delayed until Spring 2020. Mr. Hammond confirmed that staff continued to work with the Developer to ensure the revised schedule would be met and agreed to keep City Council updated on this issue.

Councillor Berry further enquired as to whether the repairs were the responsibility of the Developer or the City of Brandon.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the General Manager of Development Services responded that the repairs were the responsibility of the Developer and the warranty remained in effect until such time as the defects had been satisfactorily taken care of. Mr. Pulak clarified that the Developer had provided a deposit which the City of Brandon was prepared to access to complete the repairs should the Developer fail to do so in a timely manner.



# 2019 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

(93)

## **LIGHTS ON 18TH STREET OVERPASS**

---

Councillor Fawcett advised that the lights on the Daly Overpass on 18th Street continued to flicker causing a distraction for drivers. He advised that in spite of many phone calls from residents, the problem persisted. He enquired if the City of Brandon could contact Manitoba Hydro and request the lights be fixed as soon as possible.

His Worship the Mayor agreed to take this matter under advisement.

Following the meeting, the City Engineer contacted Manitoba Hydro advised that the lights would be fixed before the end of December.

(94)

## **SAFETY OF CROSSWALK AT 18TH STREET AND LORNE AVENUE**

---

Councillor Chaboyer advised that the safety of pedestrians using the crosswalk at 18th Street and Lorne Avenue continued to be a concern. She noted that this issue had been brought up a number of times without any real solution and enquired if this crosswalk could once again be looked into before a fatality occurred.

His Worship the Mayor noted that there was a lighted crosswalk one block away at 18th Street and Louise Avenue, however he agreed to take this matter under advisement.



**BRANDON POLICE SERVICE**  
**1020 Victoria Avenue Brandon, Manitoba, Canada R7A 1A9**  
**Telephone: (204) 729-2345**  
[www.brandon.ca](http://www.brandon.ca)

---

January 14, 2020

To: Mayor and Councillors  
City of Brandon

From: Wayne Balcaen, Chief of Police – Brandon Police Service

Subject: Councillor's Enquiry No. 88 Walkway Fence on Waverly Drive

**UPDATE ON ENQUIRY REGARDING WALKWAY FENCE ON WAVERLY DRIVE**

*Councillor LoRegio advised that the fence recently installed between 72 Waverly Drive and 76 Waverly Drive to prevent pedestrians from crossing the train tracks had been removed by an area resident within 24 hours of installation. He advised that he had requested a stronger fence be installed but enquired if the Brandon Police Service could be requested to conduct surveillance in this area prior to and right after school as it appeared the removal of the fence was happening during those times.*

*His Worship the Mayor agreed to take this matter under advisement.*

In order to investigate Councillor LoRegio's enquiry, the following actions were undertaken by the Brandon Police Service (BPS):

The BPS has been in contact with City of Brandon (COB) Operations Division regarding this matter. COB Operations is aware of the damage and is presently in the process of repairing the damage done to the fencing. COB Operations will be constructing the new fencing in such a manner, that it can't be easily damaged and will be designed in such a way that it will be difficult to climb. Operations is also fabricating a much stronger and more fortified gate area so that it is not easily damaged.

In consultation between Operations and BPS it was determined that some signage was required regarding for this property. No trespassing signs will be manufactured by the COB Sign Shop and affixed to the fencing noting that this is private property. Signage indicating no trespassing will be installed at this location when the repairs are completed on the fenced in area.

Damage to this fence has occurred several times in the past months at varying hours of the day. The BPS will be monitoring this area as a prevention initiative and also to attempt to determine who has caused the damage and take enforcement action as required. It is hoped that with additional patrols of the area, the damage will be curtailed. As outlined in a previous council request, should a suspect be identified who has caused the damage, a restitution request will be submitted through the court process. BPS will continue to work with COB Operations on this matter.

Sincerely,

*Wayne Balcaen*

Wayne Balcaen  
Chief of Police