

2020 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

January 6, 2020 City Council Meeting

(95) LIGHTING IN BACKLANES - SAFETY ISSUES

Councillor LoRegio requested an update from Administration on a report concerning lighting in two separate back alleys: the laneway between Park Avenue and Southern Avenue in the 900 block of 26th Street; and the North side walkway on Richmond Avenue connecting Richmond Avenue to the laneway on 20th Street. Councillor LoRegio conveyed concerns by residents in regards to safety and possible criminal activity at both locations.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that these locations were still under investigation by the Engineering Department. Mr. Hammond affirmed that once the review was completed a formal report addressing the locations would be presented to Council.

January 20, 2020 City Council Meeting

(96) PEDESTRIAN CORRIDOR LIGHT ACTIVATION BUTTONS

Councillor Chaboyer advised that she had received a complaint from a resident with respect to the pedestrian light activation buttons being located in the middle of the intersections at both 1st Street and Queens Avenue and 3rd Street and Richmond Avenue. She noted that the buttons were difficult to get to in the winter months due to snow build-up and enquired why same were not located on the curbs by the sidewalks only rather than forcing pedestrians to stop in the middle and push the button again.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that push buttons for pedestrian corridors were located in the center medians of arterial streets to allow for each direction of travel to be controlled separately as a pedestrian crossed. He explained that having both directions stopped at the same time may cause an unnecessary delay and the potential for non-compliance from motorists increased. The Acting City Manager advised that the Engineering Department received many reports of impatient motorists who were witnessed not stopping for pedestrians and the buttons in the center median offered a refuge for pedestrians as well as another reminder for vehicles to stop. Mr. Hammond agreed to contact Manitoba Infrastructure who were responsible for maintenance of these streets to ensure the snow was cleared for easy access to the buttons.

(97) OPERATION OF SNOWMOBILES WITHIN CITY LIMITS OF BRANDON

Councillor Berry advised that the operation of snowmobiles within city limits had recently increased and was causing concern. He requested this situation be monitored and a report back, inclusive of the fines and penalties for same, be provided.

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

February 3, 2020 City Council Meeting

(98) WALKWAY LIGHTING ALONG FINLAY DRIVE

Councillor Parker noted that the walkway along Finlay Drive north of Empress Bay was extremely dark and enquired if the installation of lighting in that area could be considered.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the General Manager of Development Services responded that the Engineering Department was aware of the need for lighting in this area. Mr. Pulak confirmed that the Engineering Department would work with Manitoba Hydro to develop a plan for same and agreed to keep updated on this issue.

(99) GROOMING OF THE WHEAT CITY CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAILS

Councillor Desjarlais shared concerns expressed by residents that the Wheat City Gold Course ski trails had not been groomed yet in the 2020 year and enquired as to when maintenance was expected for same.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the General Manager of Development Services responded that ski trails at the Wheat City Golf Course had been groomed in the last two weeks, with staff onsite three times a week to maintain the ski trails. Mr. Pulak advised that, due to insufficient snowfall, staff had only recently started grooming the trails three times per week. He cautioned that the trails were icy and encouraged skiers to take note of these conditions and ski with caution.

Further to this issue, Councillor Desjarlais enquired if any advertising had taken place with respect to the winter activities available on the trails, and further, whether or not increased signage was to be installed.

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

(100) SPORTSPLEX - HOCKEY SCOREBOARD AND PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM

Councillor Brown advised that he had received a complaint from a resident with respect to the scoreboard and public address system at the Sportsplex having malfunctioned at a recent event. He enquired if same could be evaluated and repaired prior to the Tournament of Champions to be held in February.

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

February 18, 2020 City Council Meeting

(101) CHANGING SPEED LIMITS IN THE CITY OF BRANDON

Councillor Berry referred to recent changes to Provincial Legislation whereby municipalities were given jurisdiction to set speed limits within their boundaries. He noted that he had received some requests for speed reductions and enquired when the by-law with respect to same was expected to be completed.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the Engineering Department had been delayed in drafting the by-law due to ongoing research and ensuring accurate data was received. He advised that the by-law was expected to be ready for adoption in March 2020 with assessments of requests for speed reductions to take place immediately after that.

(102) PROMOTION OF WHEAT CITY CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAIL

Councillor Desjarlais enquired how the cross country ski trails at the Wheat City Golf Course were being promoted.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the Parks and Recreation Department continued to use social media and the City of Brandon website to promote all recreation activities. He advised that Public Service Announcements with respect to same were sent out by the Director of Communications and staff continued to work with partners such as the Riverbank Discovery Centre, A & L Cycle and Stream N' Wood to promote the use of the cross-country ski trails and other recreation activities in the City of Brandon.

March 2, 2020 City Council Meeting

(103) UPDATE ON REQUEST FOR SIGNAGE AT INTERSECTION OF 18TH STREET AND ROSSER AVENUE

Councillor Luebke referred to his previous enquiry requesting increased signage at the intersection of 18th Street and Rosser Avenue. Councillor Luebke noted vehicles in the left lane continued to proceed straight through the intersection regardless of the fact that this was a left-turn only lane. He enquired if the Engineering Department had contacted Manitoba Infrastructure to discuss potential solutions to this problem.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the Engineering Department had requested permission from Manitoba Infrastructure to place signs on the Provincially owned traffic signal davits. He advised that if the request was approved, same would be installed this year and if not, funding would be sought for overhead signage in the 2021 Budget.

(104) FROZEN CATCH BASINS

Councillor LoRegio noted that catch basins throughout the City of Brandon were becoming blocked when puddles that formed during the day froze overnight. He enquired how and to whom problem areas could be reported by residents.

His Worship the Mayor responded that the Public Works Department had been out clearing snow on boulevards which was expected to reduce the number of issues with the catch basins, however he agreed to take this matter under advisement.

March 16, 2020 City Council Meeting

(105) METHODS OF PAYMENT FOR CITY SERVICES

Councillor Cameron enquired why the City of Brandon did not accept credit cards as a method of payment for municipal taxes and other services. He further enquired as to the impact on residents should the policy be changed to accept credit card payments.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that it had been a business decision to not accept credit card payments due to the costs that would be incurred to do so. He explained that credit card fees are charged based on a percentage of the transaction value ranging from 1.5% to 2.5% per transaction.

With respect to the potential impact on residents, Mr. Hammond stated that while it was difficult to estimate how many residents or small businesses may take advantage of the credit card payment option, the costs would be absorbed by all residents resulting in increases in taxes and water rates. He added that it was anticipated that an on-line credit card payment would be launched later this year with the fees being incurred by the payee.

The Acting City Manager noted that the current methods of payment included: payments through on-line banking or telephone banking; payments through the mortgage company; pre-authorized payments for water bills; tax installment plan; cheque or money order by mail or in the drop-box located outside City Hall; or in person by debit, cheque, money order or cash.

April 20, 2020 City Council Meeting

(106) GREEN CART PROGRAM

Councillor Chaboyer requested an update on the Green Cart Program, inclusive of the expected start date for 2020 as well as any potential changes. She also enquired if citizens could be informed of what to put in the bins, and further, whether or not the compost collected was accessible to the public.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the program was expected to begin May 5, 2020 and end around the first week of November. Mr. Hammond advised that the bins had been placed at the depots for yard and waste collection for residents unable to wait until the May 5 start date. The Acting City Manager stated that a public notice with respect to the program was expected to be released in the near future, and further, that the Sanitation Department link on the City of Brandon's website was very informative. He also confirmed that the compost was available to citizens now; however, he recommended they call (204) 729-2281 to ensure staff were available to assist them if needed.

(107) ALTERNATIVES TO PROVISION OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Councillor Fawcett, on behalf of Councillor Desjarlais, noted that many municipalities across Canada were moving their Council meetings online using various video conference tools and enquired if the City of Brandon was prepared to do the same.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that The Municipal Act framework established two formats for Council to meet - Council meetings and Public Hearings. Mr. Hammond explained that the Act required council meetings be open to the public to ensure a transparent decision-making process and allow the public to observe council's deliberations. He noted this could be achieved by livestreaming, teleconferences, and/or providing recordings of meetings. With respect to Public Hearings, the Acting City Manager explained the Act required the public be given an opportunity to provide feedback, ask questions or register an objection prior to Council's decisions on certain issues. Mr. Hammond confirmed that these requirements could be met through interactive technology or written submissions.

(108) IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON FINANCIAL PROJECTS

Councillor LoRegio requested an update on the impacts of Covid-19 on financial projects, inclusive of the potential for reduced Provincial Government grants.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the Finance Department was continually reviewing the state of the City's finances and acknowledged that revenue shortfalls were expected. He advised that the 2020 project lists had been reviewed and categorized into those that must proceed, those that may proceed if time and resources allowed, and those that will be cancelled for the year.

The Acting City Manager confirmed that approximately one-quarter of the City of Brandon's revenues came from other levels of government and there had been no indication from the Federal or Provincial Governments that funding dollars would be reduced. Mr. Hammond noted that 170 part-time, temporary or casual employees had been laid off or were not being recalled for the 2020 season with permanent staff being redeployed to fill the gaps in service delivery. He also noted that a hiring freeze had been implemented for any vacant positions.

The Acting City Manager advised that the April budget reviews were being conducted based on the projected duration and impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on financial resources. Mr. Hammond advised that the results of those reviews would be presented to the Audit and Finance Committee following which a report would be provided to City Council.

Councillor LoRegio further enquired as to the financial impact of Brandon Transit operating without collecting fares and if same was expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

His Worship the Mayor responded that various options were being explored to allow for the collection of fares in a manner safe for both drivers and passengers. His Worship advised that personal protection equipment such as masks and shields were just a couple of options being explored.

Councillor Chaboyer stated that the future was expected to look much different after all this was over and suggested perhaps personal protective equipment such as masks and shields should be considered for all employees.

His Worship the Mayor thanked Councillor Chaboyer for her comments and agreed to take this matter under advisement for future discussion.

(109)

SCHOOL ZONE SPEED LIMITS

Councillor Cameron enquired if the speed limits in school zones were still being enforced given that the schools were closed.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that school zones were normally enforced between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday from September to June regardless of whether school was in session. He stated that Covid-19 had not changed these speed restrictions and same were still being enforced by Brandon Police Service.

(110) UPDATE ON MCDONALD AVENUE CONSTRUCTION

Councillor Cameron requested an update on the construction along McDonald Avenue, inclusive of when the interim remediation work was expected to be completed.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that, weather and Covid-19 permitting, the contractor was expected to begin the final repair work the first week of May. Mr. Hammond confirmed that in the interim, the road would be maintained as best as possible during the spring melt and thaw. He further confirmed that the residents would be notified prior to the work resuming in May.

(111) BACK LANE REMEDIATION

Councillor Cameron enquired when the back lane remediation was expected to begin for this year.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the back lane remediation began in the East End on April 15 and equipment was working its way west by sections in coordination with the refuse cycle.

His Worship the Mayor reminded residents that street sweeping along with other regular spring maintenance duties had begun and, for the most part, it was business as usual for city services.

(112) PROPER DISPOSAL OF FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS

Councillor Cameron enquired how fluorescent light bulbs were to be disposed of in the City of Brandon.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that fluorescent tubes/bulbs could be brought to the landfill site during regular hours, currently 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Saturday. He advised residents to report to the scale attendant the type and quantity of bulbs being disposed, with the limit being up to 16 bulbs or tubes at one time for residents and one pallet (750 tubes, 1,200 bulbs or a combination of both) for businesses. Mr. Hammond reminded everyone that at no time should fluorescent bulbs of any kind be placed in the refuse or recycling bins.

(113) SECURITY OF FOOD SOURCES DURING COVID-19 - COMMUNITY GARDENS AND MARKETS

Councillor Chaboyer advised that the Brandon Food Council had raised concerns with respect to the security of food sources during the Covid-19 Pandemic. She noted that the community gardens and markets were an important resource for food security and enquired if an update could be provided regarding the operation of same this year.

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

May 11, 2020 City Council Meeting

(114) WILD TURKEYS IN THE CITY OF BRANDON

Councillor LoRegio noted that wild turkeys were becoming a nuisance in the Argyle Park area of the City of Brandon, inclusive of digging up yards and leaving poop everywhere. He enquired how residents were expected to deal with this issue and who should be contacted for assistance.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that wild turkeys were a Game Bird and fell under the jurisdiction of Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development. He advised that trapping and relocation of these birds typically happened in the winter months, with twenty-two (22) birds having been relocated outside the City of Brandon in 2019/2020. Mr. Hammond encouraged residents with concerns regarding the wild turkeys to contact Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development at 204-726-6441 to ensure the issue could be dealt with appropriately.

(115) AUDIBLE LIGHTS DOWNTOWN

Councillor Desjarlais noted that while the audible lights in the downtown area were welcomed and necessary, the volume of same were causing issues for residents in the overnight hours. He enquired if same could be adjusted to be muted or lowered overnight.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that there had not been any noise complaints received when the beacons were installed at the intersection of 10th Street and Rosser Avenue as part of the pilot project however, the volume levels were adjustable. He noted that the beacons would need to be removed and recalibrated to adjust volume levels and same would be completed as time and resources allowed. Mr. Hammond encouraged residents with concerns at specific intersections to contact Councillor Desjarlais to prioritize the order of needed adjustments.

June 1, 2020 City Council Meeting

(116) COMMUNICATION TO RESIDENTS

Councillor Luebke referred to recent delays in the sanitation and street sweeping schedules and noted that the public had not been made aware of the delays. He enquired as to any policies or guidelines with respect to notification to residents on delayed schedules and suggested improvements to overall communication with residents was needed.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that many methods of communication to residents, inclusive of the website and social media, was used when work is scheduled and planned. He advised that when unexpected breakdowns or delays happened after hours same are communicated to residents through social media. Mr. Hammond conceded that social media was not conducive to informing all residents and agreed to follow up further with departments on ensuring these types of delays are communicated to all residents in a timely manner.

(117) SANITATION PICK-UP OF BULKY ITEMS

Councillor Luebke advised that he had received numerous complaints recently with respect to bulky items being left in the back lanes for sanitation pick-up. He enquired how the Sanitation Department dealt with this issue when residents had not purchased a bulky item tag, and further, if the situation had changed in recent weeks when tags were not available for purchase.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the Sanitation Department provided frequent clean-up of areas where large items were abandoned on City of Brandon property. He advised that should items be left on private property, By-law Enforcement was notified to deal with the situation as staff were not permitted to remove items from private property. Mr. Hammond confirmed that both the Civic Services Complex and City Hall were now reopened and encouraged residents to purchase tags and arrange for pick-up of unwanted items. He advised residents to refer to the website for further information on this service.

(118) ROAD REPAIR AT INTERSECTION OF 26TH STREET AND RICHMOND AVENUE

Councillor Berry advised that a large hole at the southwest corner of the intersection of 26th Street and Richmond Avenue was continually being filled with base and enquired when this hole was expected to be permanently repaired.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that this location was a top priority for repairs and with the local asphalt plant re-opened as of today, the work was expected to be completed by the end of this week.

(119)

DAMAGE TO GREENSPACE ON SOUTH SIDE OF AURORA CRESCENT

Councillor Berry referred to damage to the greenspace on the south side of Aurora Crescent caused by a City of Brandon truck and enquired when same was expected to be repaired.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the ground in this area had remained softer longer than expected, however, same was expected to be dry enough to commence work in the coming weeks. Mr. Hammond confirmed that reduced staffing and budget constraints due to COVID-19 had caused delays in the completion of some spring projects.

(120)

SUMMER GRASS CUTTING

Councillor Berry noted that only the street meridians were being cut in the southwest part of the city, not the city boulevards along walking paths and sidewalks. He enquired as to the reasons for same and whether or not this was expected to be the normal for grass cutting this summer.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that a shortage of experienced staff had caused a delay in the completion of the scheduled work and hence, areas had been prioritized based on grass length and what the machines were able to cut. He assured everyone that, although schedules had been adjusted and services may not be as prompt as in the past, staff remained committed to keeping greenspaces, parks and trees in good condition.

Councillor Berry noted that Administration had been directed to call back some laid off staff in an effort to catch up on this and other seasonal work in the City of Brandon and enquired when this was expected to happen. He further enquired how the issue of grass being too long for the mowers was being addressed.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that some experienced staff had already returned to work and that more were expected to return in the near future. Regarding the issue of the grass being too long to cut with the mowers, the Acting General Manager of Operations responded that adjustments were being made to ensure the mowers were more efficient.

(121) CITY MANAGER COMPETITION

Councillor Berry requested an update from the Personnel Committee with respect to the competition for the hiring of a new City Manager.

His Worship the Mayor responded that many Human Resources competitions, inclusive of the City Manager's replacement, had been delayed due to COVID-19. His Worship confirmed that the Committee would meet in the near future, with a report and recommendation to City Council on this issue to be presented in due course.

(122) BACK LANE DUST CONTROL - ELVISS CRESCENT AND MCDONALD AVENUE

Councillor LoRegio advised that the back lane south of Elviss Crescent as well as along McDonald Avenue was in need of dust control and enquired if same could be sprayed down as soon as possible.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting General Manager of Operations responded that back lane maintenance was continuing on schedule and confirmed that the calcium applications were expected to be completed in the near future.

June 15, 2020 City Council Meeting

(123) DUST CONTROL IN BACK LANES

Councillor LoRegio advised that dust continued to be a problem in back lanes throughout the City of Brandon and enquired when the dust control program was expected to commence.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the application of dust control product was scheduled to begin June 16, 2020 with same expected to be completed within two weeks.

(124) PROPOSED UPGRADE TO PACIFIC AVENUE EAST OF 26TH STREET

Councillor Cameron requested an update on the expected completion of the proposed upgrades to Pacific Avenue east of 26th Street, inclusive of when the parking lot of the apartment complex was expected to be accessible again.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that final paving of Pacific Avenue east of 26th Street was expected to be completed this week and the road reopened within 2 days of the completion of the work.

(125) TRAINS BLOCKING INTERSECTION AT 26TH STREET AND PACIFIC AVENUE

Councillor Cameron advised that trains blocking the intersection at 26th Street and McDonald Avenue were becoming a concern for area residents. He noted that in one such instance, the Canadian Pacific (CP) Rail train idled in the intersection for 26 minutes. He enquired as to the length of time trains were allowed to block an intersection, and further, if this concern could be raised with CP Rail.

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

(126) ROAD REPAIRS TO 26TH STREET WEST OF J. R. REID SCHOOL

Councillor Cameron noted that 26th Street west of J.R. Reid School was in need of some repairs. He advised that an area resident wanting to do repairs to the approach to their property had enquired when the street repairs were expected to take place to ensure the repairs to their own property coincided with same.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the reconstruction of 26th Street between Van Horne and Park Avenues was scheduled for 2022 as part of the City of Brandon's 10-year Capital Plan.

(127) BAN OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS

Councillor Luebke requested an update on the status of a draft City of Brandon by-law banning single-use plastic bags by January 1, 2021 should a province-wide ban not be implemented. Councillor Luebke noted that the COVID-19 Pandemic had caused the Provincial Government to focus on other important issues and requested an update on the potential province-wide ban or the need for a by-law to be created.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the Provincial Government remained committed to the elimination of single-use plastic bags; however, COVID-19 had caused delays in the process. He also noted that the pandemic had forced some larger chain stores to change their policies with respect to reusable bags in stores and single-use plastic bags had been brought back into use. Mr. Hammond confirmed that City Administration continued to navigate the potential for a City of Brandon by-law should a province-wide ban not be implemented. He encouraged City Council to champion the use of reusable bags and advised that recycle bins for plastic bags were located at the Safeway, Sobeys and Co-op Grocery stores.

(128) GOPHERS IN CITY GREENSPACE IN BROOKWOOD AREA

Councillor Berry advised that gophers were becoming a problem in the Brookwood area. He advised that the rodents were coming from the City's Greenspace that backed onto the south side of Chinook Way. He noted that there were a significant number of gophers in the area and enquired if this issue could be investigated and rectified before more excessive damage was done.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the Brandon Police Service Animal Control Officer had been dispatched to the area and began an eradication of gophers on June 12, 2020. He confirmed that the Officer was expected to attend the area daily for the next two weeks to ensure the issue was resolved. Mr. Hammond encouraged area residents to work with local pest control companies to deal with the issues on private property.

(129)

BACK LANE MAINTENANCE

Councillor Berry referred to the ongoing problem of back lane maintenance in the City of Brandon. He enquired if contracting out the back lane maintenance or partnering with the Rural Municipality of Cornwallis on the maintenance of Patricia Avenue could be considered as it had been in the past.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the majority of the back lanes had been graded with problem areas receiving the same amount of maintenance as previous years. He confirmed that the dust suppressant was to be applied this week throughout the City of Brandon, weather permitting.

The Acting City Manager advised that Patricia Avenue was graded at least three times per year with the City of Brandon having taken over maintenance of this roadway from the Rural Municipality of Cornwallis approximately six years ago. He confirmed that this roadway had seen a significant increase in vehicle traffic over the past few years and although a partnership with Cornwallis had not been considered, it had also not been ruled out. Mr. Hammond advised that contracting out back lane maintenance was not possible in this unionized environment, however, he noted that a vacant operator position was expected to be filled in the near future, relieving some of the staffing shortages.

Councillor Berry and Councillor LoRegio referred to recent discussions whereby it had been noted that a Back Lane Strategy was in the works and was expected to be implemented by now. They requested an update on the status of same.

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

(130)

CHANGES TO DIRECT LOCK-UP BY POLICE AND IMPACTS ON OPERATIONS/BUDGET

Councillor Chaboyer referred to recent news reports whereby it had been confirmed that the Brandon Police Service was now responsible for maintaining 24 hour holding cells for those arrested prior to their appearance in court rather than transporting them to Brandon Correctional Centre. She noted that while this was originally a temporary situation due to COVID-19, the Province of Manitoba recently announced that this was to be a permanent measure. Councillor Chaboyer stated that this was going to have significant impacts on the Police Service Budget and enquired if a meeting between the Brandon Police Service, the Brandon Police Board and City Council could be arranged to discuss this matter in detail.

His Worship Mayor Chrest responded that the announcement had taken everyone by surprise and that the Brandon Police Board had discussed it at their meeting held Friday, June 12, 2020. His Worship advised that he had spoken with the Minister of Justice and Attorney General The Honourable Cliff Cullen regarding this issue and been assured that the Province of Manitoba was ready and willing to assist the City of Brandon with this matter. Mayor Chrest advised that a consultant had been appointed to work with the Brandon Police Service and City Council was to be kept updated on this important issue moving forward. His Worship agreed with Councillor Chaboyer that a meeting between the three parties would be beneficial and that same would be arranged in the near future.

(131) SHORTAGE OF SOCCER FIELDS IN THE COMMUNITY

Councillor Chaboyer advised that she had recently met with members of the Latino Soccer League and the Director of Parks and Recreation where they had discussed the shortage of soccer fields in the City of Brandon. She enquired if solutions to this shortage, inclusive of potential community partnerships, could be sought in the near future to ensure space was available once the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted.

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

July 13, 2020 City Council Meeting

(132) MOSQUITO ABATEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Councillor LoRegio advised that he had received numerous complaints from residents with respect to the increased number of mosquitos. He enquired when the traps were last checked and what the numbers had been, he also enquired what the trap numbers had to be before fogging was undertaken.

Councillor Parker advised that he too had received numerous complaints and agreed with his fellow Councillors that this was an important issue that needed to be addressed sooner rather than later. He noted that it was apparent that fogging would be completed in the near future and enquired as to the regulations with respect to buffer zones.

Councillor Cameron echoed his fellow Councillors' comments regarding numerous complaints from ward residents with respect to the number of mosquitos following the recent heavy rainfall. He enquired when fogging was expected to take place.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Manager of Parks responded that, in preparation for tonight's meeting and due to the large mosquito population evident in the City of Brandon, counts had been conducted earlier in the day today.

Mr. Wilson confirmed that there were in excess of 1,000 mosquitos trapped per day per trap on average and that fogging was to begin overnight Wednesday, July 15, 2020, weather permitting.

Regarding Councillor Parker's enquiry with respect to the buffer zone regulations the Manager responded that the provision of a 90-metre buffer zone for residents who wished to be excluded from the fogging program was regulated by the Province of Manitoba and hence, the City of Brandon was unable to circumvent same without permission from the Province of Manitoba. Mr. Wilson confirmed that there were currently 16 properties registered as buffer zones and with the fogging planned for Wednesday evening residents were able to register until Wednesday at 12:00 Noon.

Councillor Cameron enquired as to the product being used and the effectiveness of same.

The Manager responded that the Province of Manitoba had moved to the use of an insecticide called DeltaGard 20EW for wide area mosquito control. He noted that, although the product had not yet been used in Brandon, the City of Winnipeg had found it to be very effective and advised that there was a reduced risk to the environment, other insects and the public compared to malathion.

The Manager of Parks advised that a Public Notice was to be sent out Tuesday morning with the details of the fogging and referred residents to the website for all information regarding mosquito fogging inclusive of an information sheet on DeltaGard 20EW. He confirmed that adultciding, mosquito counts and data collection was to be discussed at weekly meetings and agreed to keep City Council updated on any new developments in this area.

The Acting City Manager reminded City Council that no funds had been allocated in the City of Brandon 2020 Budget for mosquito fogging. He requested that City Council authorize Administration to expend up to \$200,000 for mosquito fogging in the City of Brandon.

(133)

SOCCER LEAGUE UPDATE

Councillor Chaboyer advised that the increased number of games being held at the soccer field in the Green Acres Ward was causing concerns for residents. She noted that she had met with the Director of Parks and Recreation Services recently to discuss the possibility of spreading the games out throughout the City of Brandon and requested an update on the status of those discussions.

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

(134) OVERLAND FLOODING ISSUES IN THE GREEN ACRES WARD - MEETING WITH ENGINEERING TO ADDRESS DRAINAGE PLAN

Councillor Chaboyer advised that the Green Acres Ward had been hit hard by overland flooding following the recent heavy rainfall. She noted that this was a perpetual problem particularly for residences close to the Richmond Avenue and 1st Street Intersection. She enquired if a meeting between area residents and the Engineering Department could be arranged to discuss potential solutions to these drainage issues.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager agreed that a meeting would be arranged as soon as possible.

His Worship the Mayor stated that there were drainage issues in all areas of the City of Brandon, particularly when there was extremely heavy rainfall as was the case recently. His Worship agreed that an overall review of drainage throughout the City of Brandon was necessary, however, it was important to start with known problem areas first.

(135) DRAINAGE ISSUES WILLOWDALE DITCH, 26TH STREET DITCH BEHIND BRANDON AVENUE AND MCDONAD AVENUE AND 30TH STREET

Councillor Berry advised that the Willowdale ditch running west of 34th Street was draining at an extremely slow rate with water remaining at a dangerously high level. He enquired if a portable pump could be installed to move the water across 34th Street towards the 22nd Street Basin.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the water level in the ditch had receded over the last few days. Mr. Hammond confirmed that the possibility of increasing the size of overflow culvert would be considered, in the meantime, as soon as the water level was low enough, any debris or sediment that had settled in the pond would be removed to assist with the flow of water.

Further to this issue, Councillor Berry commented that the water level had gone down since he raised this enquiry, however, regular maintenance was necessary to ensure water flowed freely at all times.

Councillor LoRegio advised that the same issues were occurring in the 26th Street drainage ditch behind Brandon Avenue. He enquired if this area could be regularly maintained as well.

Further to the issue of drainage, Councillor Cameron advised that the area of 30th Street and McDonald Avenue was also a problem area following the recent rains. Councillor Cameron noted that this intersection had essentially become the drainage ditch following the recent heavy rains with many residences north of McDonald Avenue being flooded as a result of same.

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

(136) POTENTIAL SECOND EGRESS FROM HAMILTON HEIGHTS

Councillor Fawcett referred to the recent road washout on Braecrest Drive west of 18th Street and noted this was the only entrance and exit available for residents of Hamilton Heights. He requested an update on the potential for a second egress from Hamilton Heights.

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

(137) CHALLENGES IN THE DOWNTOWN

Councillor Desjarlais advised that there were challenges in the Downtown area with respect to cleanliness, loitering and public safety. He noted that Helping Hands as well as many of the restaurants were only offering takeout and as such many of the containers were being left strewn around causing an eyesore for residents. He enquired if these issues could be addressed in the near future.

Councillor Luebke advised that many of these issues were being experienced in the South Centre Ward as well, specifically in the 700 Block of 10th Street, and enquired if this area could be looked at as well.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that he had received Councillor Desjarlais' email regarding these issues and a meeting was scheduled for next week to discuss these issues. He agreed to report back to City Council with the results of those discussions and provide an update on potential solutions to these challenges.

August 10, 2020 City Council Meeting

(138) MANAGEMENT OF SOCIAL DISTANCING AT THE SPORTSPLEX

Councillor Fawcett advised that he had received complaints from residents with respect to large gatherings outside the City of Brandon Sportsplex prior to scheduled events. Noting that systems were in place inside the facility; he enquired if two meter markings could be placed outside the entrance.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager, Mr. Todd Burton, responded that this weekend marked the first game/tournament play since the venue reopened and agreed that there were noted challenges. Mr. Burton confirmed that there were two meter markings outside as well as signage with respect to social distancing and where to line-up.

The Acting City Manager advised that all individuals who booked the arena were required to sign the Sportsplex Return to Play Policy which outlined all the requirements for ice bookings, inclusive of the limited number of people in the arena (37 on ice and 37 spectators), and in the dressing rooms and players' boxes. He confirmed that teams were not allowed into the building until 15 minutes prior to their booking time with Sportsplex staff screening to ensure only those on the pre-submitted roster were given access. The Acting City Manager conceded that there were issues this past weekend that would be discussed and rectified prior to future tournament play.

(139) REPAIRS TO THE INTERSECTIONS OF 10TH STREET & COLLEGE AVENUE AND 15TH STREET & PARK AVENUE

Councillor Luebke advised that sinkholes had developed at the intersections of 10th Street & College Avenue and 15th Street & Park Avenue and enquired when same were expected to be repaired.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the repairs to the 10th Street & College Avenue were scheduled to be completed August 18, 2020 followed by the 15th Street & Park Avenue location the week of August 24, 2020.

(140) PROVINCE OF MANITOBA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) REVIEW

Councillor Luebke enquired when the Province of Manitoba EMS review was expected to be completed.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the EMS review, inclusive of service delivery models, inter facility transfers, funding and technology as well as many other services was expected to be completed in 2020, however, COVID-19 had seriously impacted the entire health care system, inclusive of the completion of this review. Mr. Burton confirmed that Brandon Fire & Emergency Services continued to participate in meetings regarding the review and agreed to keep City Council apprised of any new developments with respect to same.

(141) BROOKWOOD DRIVE AND AURORA CRESCENT ROAD REPAIRS

Councillor Berry noted that the heaves in the roadway continued to be a problem at the entrances to Brookwood Drive and Aurora Crescent and enquired when same were expected to be repaired.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the warranty work on Brookwood Drive, Plateau Drive and Aurora Crescent had begun. He confirmed that several segments of sidewalk, curb, and gutter had been replaced with asphalt repairs expected to be completed in the fall.

(142) PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK BEACON - LAKEVIEW DRIVE & 34TH STREET INTERSECTION

Councillor Berry enquired if the pedestrian beacon leading up to the crosswalk at the intersection of Lakeview Drive & 34th Street was expected to be installed before school was back in session.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the Request for Proposals for a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon for this location was to be issued this week. He advised that the equipment was anticipated to be received in September 2020 with installation to be completed immediately thereafter.

(143) CLEAN-UP OF WILLOWDALE DITCH BETWEEN 26TH & 34TH STREETS

Councillor Berry referred to previous enquiries with respect to clean-up of the Willowdale Ditch between 26th Street and 34th Streets. He reminded everyone that area residents had provided a presentation to City Council on July 13, 2020 whereby they requested this area be cleaned up and regularly maintained to ensure better water flow. Councillor Berry advised that, to date, nothing had been done to clean up the area. He noted that residents were concerned about a back-up of water in their basements again and enquired when grass cutting, cleaning and clearing debris from culverts was expected to be completed.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the 34th Street culvert had been cleared of debris and silt and confirmed that same was to be inspected monthly with appropriate work to be completed as necessary. He confirmed that the clearing of vegetation from culvert ends and the mowing of ditches was currently underway in that area and same would be inspected immediately should a major rainstorm be expected.

Councillor Berry expressed concern that the culvert at 26th Street had not been cleared out, vegetation had not been removed at the culvert ends and the grass needed to be cut on both sides of Willowdale between 26th & 34th Street. He advised that this had been requested numerous times both by himself and area residents without a response. He further noted that this issue had been raised by two area residents at the July 13, 2020 City Council meeting whereby a meeting to further discuss the issue was yet to be arranged.

(144) PROTECTION OF LADY'S SLIPPER ORCHID

Councillor Chaboyer referred to the endangered Lady's Slipper Orchids located in the southeast corner of the Green Acres ward and enquired how same were being protected with the new development happening in that area.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the Lady's Slipper Orchids had been identified by the Province of Manitoba and, as such, were protected under The Endangered Species and Ecosystems Act. He confirmed that the City of Brandon's Secondary Plan for the Southeast Growth Area was designed to create a framework for development while ensuring compliance with The Act. Mr. Burton encouraged residents with questions to contact the Project Manager Andrew Mok at a.mok@brandon.ca or 204-729-2115.

(145) 300 BLOCK OF ABERDEEN AVENUE REPAIRS TO SIDEWALK

Councillor Chaboyer advised that the sidewalk in the 300 Block of Aberdeen Avenue was broken up to enable repairs to a watermain. She noted that, after three months, the sidewalk remained crumbled up in that area and enquired if same could be repaired as soon as possible.

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

(146) LIGHTING ALONG BIKE PATHS AND WALKWAYS

Councillor Cameron advised that he had received complaints from area residents with respect to the need for lighting along the bike path/walkway from Pacific to Richmond Avenue. He enquired if funds for augmented lighting along this pathway could be added to the 2021 Capital Budget requests.

Councillor Parker echoed Councillor Cameron's comments and noted that he had requested additional lighting along bike paths/walkways throughout the City of Brandon numerous times.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that funds were not available in this year's budget for lighting of pathways, however, same would be added to the list of capital projects considered for 2021.

(147) UPDATE ON POTHOLES

Councillor Cameron noted that potholes continued to be a problem throughout the City of Brandon and requested an update on the status of repairs as well as how problem areas could be reported.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that pothole repairs were ongoing throughout the City of Brandon. He advised that problem areas could be reported on the City of Brandon website or by calling the Pothole Hotline at (204) 729-2200.

(148) COVID-19 BRANDON TRANSIT LOSS OF REVENUE

Councillor LoRegio requested an update on the loss of revenue for Brandon Transit as a result of COVID-19.

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

(149) VEHICLES DRIVING ON THE DIKE

Councillor Luebke advised that vehicles driving on the dike continued to be a safety concern and enquired if this situation could be addressed by signage and enforcement.

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



Perry Roque
Director of Parks & Recreation Services
City of Brandon
p.roque@brandon.ca

July 14, 2020

To: Mayor and Councillors City of Brandon

From: Perry Roque, Director of Parks and Recreation Services

Subject: Councillor's Enquiry No. 133 – Soccer League Update

The Parks and Recreation Staff have met with the Latino League on two occasions. They will now play their games at three locations Kirkcaldy School, Green Acres Greenspace, and in Rivers Manitoba. Please see the schedule for Brandon games.

Kirkcaldy Heights Soccer Field

Sat, Jul 11 2020 9:30A to 6:00P
Sun, Jul 12 2020 11:00A to 8:00P
Sat, Jul 18 2020 9:30A to 6:00P
Sat, Aug 1 2020 9:30A to 6:00P
Sat, Aug 15 2 020 9:30A to 6:00P
Sat, Aug 29 2020 9:30A to 6:00P

Green Acres Soccer Field LOWER

Sat, Jun 27 2020 9:30A to 6:00P
Sat, Jul 25 2020 9:30A to 6:00P
Sat, Aug 8 2020 9:30A to 6:00P
Sat, Aug 22 2020 9:30A to 6:00P
Sat, Sep 5 2020 9:30A to 6:00P

The cost to use the Brandon University field would be approximately \$700.00 a day. Optimist Park is run by Brandon Youth Soccer who requested that the Latino League contact them directly to discuss the use of their facility. Canada Games Park Senior Men's Soccer Field and Optimist Park are both flooded due to the high water event. Green Acres Greenspace was flooded in June and some games had to be moved to Earl Oxford School.

Regards,

Perry Roque

Director of Parks & Recreation Services



Carla Richardson,
Director of Transportation Services
Phone: (204) 729-2594 Fax: (204) 729-2485
E-mail: c.richardson@brandon.ca
City of Brandon, 900 Richmond Avenue East.
Brandon, Manitoba R7A 7M1 www.brandon.ca

August 18, 2020

To: Mayor and Councillors
City of Brandon

From: Carla Richardson, Director of Transportation

Subject: Councillor's Enquiry No. 148 – COVID-19 Brandon Transit Loss of Revenue

Councillor LoRegio requested an update on the loss of revenue for Brandon Transit as a result of COVID-19.

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

As a precautionary measure to protect Transit Operators, many systems across Canada implemented rear door boarding and a no fare collection strategy early in the pandemic. During the early months of the virus response, ridership numbers plummeted, largely because of provincial health messaging to stay at home whenever possible. The estimated lost revenue due to not collecting fares for six weeks in March and April was approximately \$56,000.

In April and May, ridership was down as much as 52%. June and July are showing ridership numbers that are slowly increasing, however still significantly below previous years. By end of 2020, the ridership will still be approximately 34% less than 2019.

Route revenues were 3% higher than the budgeted amount during the first two months of the year. From March to June, these revenues dropped 55% below originally anticipated projections. By year-end, the projection is revenues will be approximately 44% unfavourable.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "CRichardson".

Carla Richardson
Director of Transportation Services



Perry Roque
Director of Parks & Recreation Services
638 Princess Avenue Brandon, MB R7A 0P3
P: 204.729.2170
E: p.roque@brandon.ca

September 9, 2020

To: Mayor and Council
City of Brandon

From: Perry Roque, Director of Parks and Recreation Services

Subject: **Enquiry No. 149 - Vehicles Driving on the Dike - August 10, 2020 City Council Meeting**

(149) VEHICLES DRIVING ON THE DIKE

Councillor Luebke advised that vehicles driving on the dike continued to be a safety concern and enquired if this situation could be addressed by signage and enforcement.

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

Brandon Police Service have received similar concerns. Parks and Recreation Services have investigated and discovered that the public is accessing the dike at a few locations along the south dike. Engineering Services have reviewed the area and provided mapping to the Parks Section. The Parks Section along with Building Maintenance will be putting corrective measures in place to ensure no one is able to access the dike at five locations along the south dike east of 18th Street North. All gates to the dike have been locked and remain secure.

Original Signed By:

Perry Roque
Director of Parks and Recreation Services

September 8, 2020 City Council Meeting

(150) UPDATE OF SNOW ANGEL PROGRAM

Councillor Chaboyer, on behalf of the Age Friendly Committee, requested an update on the Snow Angels Program, inclusive of whether or not the program was expected to run in the 2020-2021 Season.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the program had 10 applicants and 15 volunteers for a combined total of 25 participants in 2019-2020 which was an increase of 3 participants from the previous year. He confirmed that there had been no issues with the program last season and same was expected to operate as usual for 2020-2021.

(151) CONCERNS - WEST SIDE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT 9TH STREET AND MARYLAND AVENUE ROUNDABOUT

Councillor Chaboyer raised concerns with pedestrian safety at the crosswalk located on the west side of the 9th Street and Maryland Avenue Roundabout. She enquired if more signage, flashing lights or moving the crosswalk could be considered.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the current signage was appropriate for the time being; however, the crosswalk was being monitored and additional signage or moving same would be considered when pedestrian traffic in the area increased.

(152) ONLINE WARD ISSUE TRACKING SYSTEM

Councillor Chaboyer requested an update on the proposed online ward issue tracking system that had been previously discussed.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the processes for collecting and tracking citizens' and Councillors' enquiries was currently being reviewed. He advised that the Information Technology Department was working on an enhanced online software to log, track and monitor all enquiries.

Mr. Hammond advised that issues related to the Public Works Department could be reported by calling (204) 729-2285 or accessing the "Report and Issue" webpage at www.brandon.ca/report-an-issue. For all other enquiries he encouraged residents to refer to the white pages of the phone book or call the City of Brandon enquiry line at (204) 729-2186. The Acting City Manager reminded everyone that, should they have an ongoing issue that was not being resolved they were welcome to contact his office for assistance.

(153) UPDATE ON THE BACK LANE STRATEGY

Councillor Parker requested an update on the timeline for completion of the Back Lane Strategy as well as the definition of an "unserviced" back lane.

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

(154) UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED TRAFFIC CIRCLE AT THE INTERSECTION OF BRAECREST DRIVE AND 18TH STREET NORTH

Councillor Fawcett requested an update on the proposed Traffic Circle to be installed at the intersection of Braecrest Drive and 18th Street North.

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

October 1th, 2020

TO: Mayor Rick Chrest and
Members of City Council

FROM: Tyler Phillips
Manager of Projects – Engineering Services Department

SUBJECT: RE: Enquiry No. 153 – Back Lane Maintenance Strategy

This memo is provided in response to Councillor **Parker's** recent enquiry regarding the **Back Lane Maintenance Strategy and definition of an "unserved" back lane**. Residents within Councillor **Parker's ward have contacted him** to raise concerns related to the condition of back lanes. His Worship the Mayor agreed to take this matter under advisement, with administration providing an update at a later date.

Operations continues to collect necessary data and information through the end of the 2020 maintenance season, with the working group continuing to meet through the fall and winter months. The combination of existing and newly collected data from the past maintenance season, will guide the **working group's decision making around the strategy and development of the policy**. An informal meeting with council to update the progress and direction of the strategy is anticipated to be held prior to the end of 2020.

"Un-served" back lanes, also referred to as unimproved or not-constructed are rights-of-way designated as a lane, however never developed to City standards. Lanes with this designation are not accessed by Sanitation and do not typically receive regular maintenance, such as grading or snow clearing, unless deemed necessary by administration. Unimproved lanes are present in many areas within the City and may have received occasional maintenance treatments in the past, as deemed necessary by the administration. As part of the strategy, the working group is looking to complete a review of the lanes identified as unimproved, to verify their use and designation, and update the back lane asset inventory as required.

I trust this response satisfies Councillor **Parker's** enquiry at this time.

Respectfully Submitted,

"Original Signed By"

Tyler Phillips, P.Eng.
MANAGER OF PROJECTS

September 21, 2020 City Council Meeting

(155) DUMPING OF DEBRIS FROM STREET CLEANING NEAR QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK

Councillor Cameron advised that the area near Queen Elizabeth Park was being used as a dump site for debris collected during street cleaning and enquired if a location further away from the Park could be considered.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that a new dump site location would be utilized in the future with the timeliness of the street cleaning program to remain unaffected by the location change.

(156) SIGNAGE AT NORTHERN BACK LANE ON MCDONALD AVENUE EXIT ONTO 26TH STREET

Councillor Cameron enquired if the placement of signage could be considered where the northern back lane along McDonald Avenue exits onto 26th Street.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that, following consultations with the Brandon Police Service, the Engineering Department had deemed it necessary to install pedestrian crosswalk signage at this intersection. Mr. Hammond confirmed that the signs were expected to be installed within the next week.

(157) UPDATE ON SCOPE OF MILLING/PAVING WORK IN 600 BLOCK OF 21ST STREET

Councillor Cameron requested an update on the scope of the milling/paving work underway in the 600 Block of 21st Street, inclusive of potential for curb replacement in the area.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager confirmed that 50 mm of asphalt was being removed and replaced in the 600 Block of 21st Street. He advised that curb replacement was not included in the Engineering Department's 10-Year Capital Plan; however, the area would be reviewed and spot repairs completed as necessary.

(158) NOTICE TO AREA RESIDENTS OF PAVING IN 200-400 BLOCK OF MCDIARMID DRIVE

Councillor Cameron noted that, although signage in the area advised that paving work was to begin Tuesday, September 22, 2020, signs were removed and work began Monday, September 21, 2020 in the 200-400 Block of McDiarmid Drive. He advised that this had left residents unprepared and without access into or out of their driveways. Councillor Cameron enquired how this situation could be addressed with the contractor to ensure it was not permitted to happen in the future and requested a follow-up with the affected residents.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the General Manager of Development Services had been made aware of this unfortunate situation and a written response would be provided in the near future.



Aaron Kaluzniak, P. Eng.
Manager of Infrastructure – Engineering Services Department
City of Brandon
Ph. 204-729-2433
a.kaluzniak@brandon.ca

September 25, 2020

To: Mayor and Councillors
City of Brandon

From: Aaron Kaluzniak, Manager of Infrastructure

Subject: Councillor's Enquiry No. 158 – Notice to Area Residents of Paving in 200-400 Block of McDiarmid Drive – September 21, 2020 City Council Meeting

Councillor Cameron noted that, although signage in the area advised that paving work was to begin Tuesday, September 22, 2020, signs were removed and work began Monday, September 21, 2020 in the 200-400 Block of McDiarmid Drive. He advised that this had left residents unprepared and without access into or out of their driveways. Councillor Cameron enquired how this situation could be addressed with the contractor to ensure it was not permitted to happen in the future and requested a follow-up with the affected residents.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the General Manager of Development Services had been made aware of this unfortunate situation and a written response would be provided in the near future.

I trust the following response satisfies Councillor Cameron's enquiry.

The contractor does their best to predict when they will finish one overlay job and move to the next, but it is just an estimation. Often a job gets delayed and the next doesn't start on time but this case was the opposite and they were able to start early. This late in the year warm weather and paving crews are precious commodities, and delaying progress (by asking them to wait until the next day to start) would have run the risk of weather complications on future work.

At our next meeting we will follow up with the contractor on the importance of staying on schedule and remind them of the disruption that this causes. Should any affected residents wish to have a follow-up please have them call myself at 204-729-2433.

Regards,

Aaron Kaluzniak

Aaron Kaluzniak, P. Eng.,
Manager of Infrastructure,
Engineering Department

October 5, 2020 City Council Meeting

(159) MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR POTHOLES

Councillor Luebke enquired if there was a regular maintenance schedule for pothole repairs in problem areas throughout the City of Brandon and whether or not residents were still able to report problem areas through the usual process.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that a final city-wide pothole repair blitz was currently underway. He confirmed that problem areas could still be reported by calling the Pothole Hotline at (204) 729-2200 or accessing the online "Report an Issue" form.

(160) UPDATE ON SIDEWALKS AND CURB CUTTING

Councillor Luebke noted that a large amount of sidewalk repairs and curb cutting had been completed in the South Centre ward over the summer months. He stated that this work had been much appreciated by residents with accessibility issues and enquired if the remainder of the work was expected to be completed this fall.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that thirty-three accessible ramps had been proposed for 2020 with all concrete work having been completed and only landscaping needing to be finished up. He referred anyone interested in ongoing projects to the Capital Projects Dashboard on the website for further information.

(161) OVERGROWN GRASS & VEGETATION ALONG CN RAIL TRACKS

Councillor Luebke noted an overgrowth of grass and vegetation along the CN Rail tracks between 13th and 18th Streets and enquired if this issue would be addressed prior to winter.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that CN Rail had confirmed the work was expected to be completed as soon as the appropriate equipment became available in 2021.

October 19, 2020 City Council Meeting

(162) PARKING ON ABERDEEN AVENUE FROM 1ST STREET TO 6TH STREET

Councillor Chaboyer noted that no parking signs were in place along Aberdeen Avenue between 6th and 9th Streets and enquired if same could be considered for 1st to 6th Streets along Aberdeen Avenue. She requested clarification on the differences between these stretches of roadway that caused one section to be restricted parking but not the other.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager explained that Aberdeen Avenue was wider between 1st and 6th Streets than 6th to 9th Streets, hence the different parking restrictions. He advised that changes to on-street parking would be considered if local property owners signed a petition requesting same.

(163) TRAFFIC CONCERNS AT INTERSECTION OF 9TH STREET AND ABERDEEN AVENUE

Councillor Chaboyer advised that concerns had been raised with respect to traffic back-ups and bottle necking at the intersection of 9th Street and Aberdeen Avenue. She further advised that the narrow sidewalks in this area caused safety concerns for children accessing same to and from school. She enquired if replacing the four-way stop signs with traffic lights at this intersection as well as widening the sidewalks in this area could be considered.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that a traffic study would be undertaken in this area with the results and recommended changes to be provided by the end of November 2020.

(164) PARKING RESTRICTIONS - FIRE HYDRANT ON HAZELWOOD CRESCENT

Councillor Chaboyer noted that the installation of a fire hydrant on Hazelwood Crescent had caused an issue with the resident due to parking in front of their house now being unavailable. She advised that, due to mobility issues, front street access to their house was more convenient and enquired if the hydrant could be moved to a new location.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the General Manager of Development Services responded that he had met with the resident and agreed to work on special parking accommodations to be made without the removal of the hydrant. Mr. Pulak advised that, with the permission of the Fire & Police Departments, the intent was to provide that resident with a special parking permit allowing them to park closer to the hydrant than was normally permitted.

Councillor Chaboyer expressed concern that this resident was not aware of the installation taking place until after the fact and enquired if notice of same could be provided to residents beforehand.

Mr. Pulak conceded that residents should have been made aware of the proposed installation and agreed to keep Councillor Chaboyer updated on the resolution to this situation.

(165) 2021 BUDGET AND POSSIBLE IMPACT FROM COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Councillor LoRegio enquired if the COVID-19 Pandemic was being taken into consideration as departments prepared their proposed 2021 budgets. He noted that the funding streams such as the accommodation tax were expected to be lower and enquired how funding commitments such as those to the Keystone Centre may be affected by the reduced amounts.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that, while specific areas may be more than others, for the most part budgets were being prepared with the intent that service levels were to remain as normal as possible.

Mr. Hammond noted that many capital projects that had been cancelled or delayed were expected to be caught up on or reprioritized for 2021. The Acting City Manager confirmed that a series of informal meetings were planned for December and January where specific department budgets would be discussed.

His Worship the Mayor stated that the pandemic impacted the overall budget in many different ways and, as such, the 2021 Budget was expected to be different than any other year. He noted that more meetings to discuss specific items such as the Keystone Centre funding were expected as City Council worked through the budget process.

(166) CONDITION OF ROAD - BROOKWOOD DRIVE AND AURORA CRESCENT

Councillor Berry referred to previous enquiries whereby he had advised of the poor road conditions on Brookwood Drive and Aurora Crescent. Councillor Berry stated that he had been previously advised that the work was to be completed by the developer; however, only some curbing had been done and the heaves in the roads remained the same. He enquired if this issue could be resolved as soon as possible as it had been ongoing for three construction seasons.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that, while some curb and sidewalk repairs were completed in 2020, the contractor and subcontractor were unable to complete the road repairs due to scheduling conflicts. He assured Councillor Berry that the remaining work would be completed as soon as possible in 2021.

Councillor Berry stated that the same response had been received for a number of years and enquired if a further, more detailed, explanation could be provided.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the General Manager of Development Services responded that excavation work was required to be done prior to the resurfacing of the road and the subcontractors had been unable to complete that work in time. Mr. Pulak expressed his frustration as well that this issue was still ongoing and confirmed that the developer was advised the work needed to be completed by June 2021 or the work would be done by the City's contractors at the expense of the developer.

(167)

CITY JOB POSTINGS - MANAGER OF UTILITIES AND MANAGER OF MAINTENANCE

Councillor Berry referred to the recent job postings for Manager of Utilities and Manager of Maintenance and requested an update on same. He noted that both positions were in the \$80,000+ salary range and expressed concern that City Council had not been made aware of any new positions having been created.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the previous Manager of Public Works position was being replaced by one of these positions; however, the second position was new and had been created as a larger part of the overall Public Works Department reorganization. Mr. Hammond confirmed that City Council was to be fully updated on the Public Works Department reorganization at the upcoming meeting regarding the 2021 City of Brandon Labour Budget.

(168)

PATCH WORK AT INTERSECTIONS

Councillor Cameron noted that patch work completed at some intersections, particularly the intersections of 18th & 26th Streets at Brandon Avenue, had created bumps in the road and enquired if same were expected to be smoothed out prior to winter.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the 26th Street location was expected to be smoothed out within the next few weeks. He advised that more intrusive efforts such as asphalt milling were required at the 18th Street location which may leave the road structure compromised and cause more damage than it fixed. Mr. Hammond advised that this intersection would continue to be monitored and should the conditions not improve over time solutions to the problems would be sought.

November 2, 2020 City Council Meeting

(169) CP RAIL LINE LIGHTS

Councillor Desjarlais advised that new lights installed in the CP Rail Yard at 9th Street and Pacific Avenue were causing problems for area residents. He enquired if CP Rail could be requested to adjust the angle or reduce the wattage of same to ensure area residents were not being affected by light pollution.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the lights had been installed to address safety concerns for CP employees working in the area; however, every effort was being made to ensure area residents were not adversely affected by same. He advised that, while progress had been made, efforts were ongoing to ensure this matter could be resolved to the satisfaction of all involved. He agreed to keep City Council updated on this issue.

(170) SPEEDING ALONG PATRICIA AVENUE

Councillor Brown advised that speeding along Patricia Avenue between 1st and 18th Streets continued to be a problem. He noted that increased police patrols had not resolved the problem and suggested the installation of a stop sign at 9th Street and Patricia Avenue as a potential solution. He requested that this issue be investigated further and rectified as soon as possible.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that a speed data collector had been posted on Patricia Avenue with the results of same to be analyzed and appropriate action taken in the near future. He agreed to keep City Council updated on the resolution to this important safety concern.

(171) UPDATE ON MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR DUTCH ELM DISEASE

Councillor Cameron requested an update on the mitigation strategies for trees affected by Dutch Elm Disease, inclusive of trees in the 500-600 Blocks of 26th Street tagged for removal.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the removal of the 600 tagged trees was currently underway with the removal of the above noted trees expected to be completed by November 9, 2020 and the remaining city-owned trees removed by the end of 2020. The Acting City Manager advised that removal of Dutch Elm Diseased trees on private property was expected to begin early in the New Year.

(172)

WATER MAIN BREAK ISSUES IN THE 400 BLOCK OF 21ST STREET

Councillor Cameron referred to recent water main breaks in the 400 Block of 21st Street (three in the past six months) and enquired if water main replacement for that area was being considered in the near future.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that, although this area was not listed as part of the 10-Year Capital Plan, should breaks continue to happen at this frequency, this area would be moved up on the priority list.

Councillor Cameron advised that the street had been milled and paved in 2018; however, same was now patchwork due to the required water main repairs, and further, the back lane had deteriorated due to the increased traffic and was in need of grading. He enquired if both these issues could be addressed as soon as possible.

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

November 16, 2020 City Council Meeting

(173)

SNOW CLEARING OF MAJOR WALKWAYS, SIDEWALKS AND TRAILS

Councillor Chaboyer noted that, during this COVID hindered winter and being stuck at home, being able to get outside and go for walk was more important than ever. She enquired if extra efforts could be made to ensure snow was cleared on major walkways, sidewalks and trails in all areas of the City of Brandon.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that staff were committed to a heightened level of service this winter with respect to clearing of walkways, sidewalks and trails. He confirmed that designated pathways would be continually monitored and maintained, and further, that a full report on the proposed plan was to be presented to City Council on November 30, 2020.

(174)

INCLUSION OF DOG PARKS IN CLOSURE OF INDOOR AND OUTDOOR CITY FACILITIES UNDER COVID RESTRICTIONS

Councillor Cameron referred to the recent closure of dog parks within the City of Brandon as part of the overall closure of indoor and outdoor city facilities under the Code Red COVID restrictions. He noted that the closure of dog parks was not part of the Provincial Public Health Order and the City of Winnipeg dog parks remained open. He enquired as to the reasoning behind out door dog parks being closed in the City of Brandon.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that, while dog parks were not specifically mentioned in the current health orders, the directive from the Provincial Public Health Inspector was that outdoor dog parks should be closed.

(175) PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT - CHANGES TO RESIDENTIAL REFUSE AND RECYCLING PICK-UP SCHEDULE

Councillor Berry enquired if public engagement was planned with respect to the potential proposed changes to bi-weekly pick-up for residential refuse and recycling.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the potential changes to the Sanitation collection cycles were to be discussed with City Council at an upcoming Informal Session. Mr. Hammond confirmed that public input would be sought prior to any potential proposed changes being given serious consideration.

(176) IMPACT OF COVID-19 RED RESTRICTIONS ON CITY STAFFING LEVELS

Councillor Luebke enquired how COVID-19 Code Red Restrictions had impacted City of Brandon staffing levels, and further, the expected impact of same on the 2020 City of Brandon Budget.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the suspension of programmed recreational activities at the Youth Centre, Sportsplex and Recreational Hubs had resulted in the immediate layoffs of 19 temporary employees with 5 permanent staff being redeployed to other areas. Mr. Hammond advised that the exact budget impacts were dependent on how long the Restrictions were in place.



Pam Richardson
Director of Public Works
City of Brandon
Ph. 204-729-2524
p.richardson@brandon.ca

November 26, 2020

To: Mayor and Councillors
City of Brandon

From: Pam Richardson, Director of Public Works

Subject: Councillor's Enquiry No. 172 - Water Main Break Issues in the 400 Block of 21st Street - November 2, 2020 City Council Meeting

Councillor Cameron referred to recent water main breaks in the 400 Block of 21st Street (three in the past six months) and enquired if water main replacement for that area was being considered in the near future.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that, although this area was not listed as part of the 10-Year Capital Plan, should breaks continue to happen at this frequency, this area would be moved up on the priority list.

Councillor Cameron advised that the street had been milled and paved in 2018; however, same was now patchwork due to the required water main repairs, and further, the back lane had deteriorated due to the increased traffic and was in need of grading. He enquired if both these issues could be addressed as soon as possible.

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

The Streets and Roads department provides maintenance to backlanes, such as the one on the 400 block of 21st street, as part of the regular maintenance program in the City. In events such as the water break that occurred last month, where normal road traffic must be diverted to the use of a backlane, the department Chargehands worked together to communicate where additional maintenance may be required. In response to this specific water break, an operator did provide maintenance to the affected lane.

Regards,

Pam Richardson

Pam Richardson
Director of Public Works

(177) UPDATE ON INSTALLATION OF SHARPS CONTAINERS

Councillor Luebke requested an update on the installation of sharps containers at various public locations throughout the City of Brandon. He enquired if the installation of same had an effect on the number of improperly disposed of needles.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the installation of the sharps containers had been delayed until Fall 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, hence, the assessment of the effectiveness of the program would be looked at in 2021. Mr. Hammond advised that, in addition to the originally planned locations, sharps containers had also been installed at the Brandon Public Library and the Sexuality Education Resource Centre with no further expansions to locations planned at this time.

(178) REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC REFUSE AND RECYCLE BINS

Councillor Luebke advised that there was an increased amount of litter on streets and backlanes in the 600-700 Blocks of 8th, 9th and 10th Streets. He noted that this was a potential problem for other areas of the City of Brandon as well and enquired if more refuse and recycle bins in problem areas could be considered.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that a clean-up of the area noted above was planned to take place in the near future and the area would be more closely monitored for debris in the future. He confirmed that possible solutions to address waste accumulating in all areas of the City of Brandon would be looked into.

(179) CONDITION OF PROPERTY AT 7TH STREET AND ROSSER AVENUE AND FORMER BUS DEPOT

Councillor Chaboyer referred to the poor condition of the property located at 7th Street and Rosser Avenue as well as the former Greyhound Bus Depot. With respect to the 7th Street property she advised that there had been offensive graffiti sprayed on the walls of the building which should be covered up at the very least. She enquired what could be done in the immediate future to ensure both these unsightly properties were cleaned up.

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