

2018 CITY COUNCIL ENQUIRIES

January 22, 2018 City Council Meeting

(283) BACK LANE STRATEGY - UPDATE

Councillor Chaboyer requested an update on the status of the City of Brandon Back Lane Strategy.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that he had received a memo from the Engineering Department with respect to this issue. He confirmed that the Operations and Engineering Departments had been working together to develop a comprehensive Back Lane Strategy for the City of Brandon. Mr. Sage advised that City Council would be updated on the progress of same at a meeting to be held February 5, 2018. He noted that the Engineering and Operations Departments continued to work on improving the current back lane maintenance program with identified problematic areas being targeted for repairs in 2018.

(284) NO PARKING SIGNS - ROSSER AVENUE BETWEEN 13TH & 14TH STREETS

Councillor Brown requested the removal of two no parking signs on Rosser Avenue between 13th and 14th Streets. He noted that these signs were located in front of an empty lot and the removal of same would allow for more parking spots downtown.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the City of Brandon maintains a loading zone on each block of Rosser Avenue; however, as there was a loading zone on the north side of the 1300 Block of Rosser Avenue, the signs referred to by Councillor Brown would be removed. He noted that an Ad Hoc Committee of City Council had been commissioned to address the concerns over perceived insufficient parking in the downtown area. Mr. Sage also reminded everyone that the City of Brandon maintained a free parking lot located at 1201 Pacific Avenue.

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February 20, 2018 City Council Meeting

(285) UPDATE ON DRUG AND ADDICTION STRATEGY

Councillor Patterson noted that funding had been allocated in the 2018 City of Brandon Budget to combat the drug and addictions problems facing residents in the City of Brandon and enquired as to the progress made thus far.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that additional funding had been allocated to the Brandon Police Service to be used for Officers to focus on restricting illegal drugs from entering the community as well as curtailing the exploitation of young people. The City Manager advised that the Brandon Police Service continued to support the Community Mobilization Hub, a group of local agencies whose representatives came together weekly to connect individuals or families in the community with the necessary supports and services before the situations escalated or a tragedy occurred.

Mr. Sage noted that City Council had also included \$25,000 in the 2018 Mayor's Budget for a proposed initiative related to Youth Addiction Prevention. He confirmed that His Worship Mayor Chrest was working with the Brandon School Division Board along with other community organizations to hold a Forum in the Spring directly related to this issue. He agreed to keep City Council apprised of the details as the plans for this event progressed.

The City Manager also noted that the Brandon Police Service and Brandon Fire and Emergency Services were directly involved with numerous initiatives underway in the community and were being very proactive in addressing these emerging issues in the city.

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March 5, 2018 City Council Meeting

(286) UPDATE ON SNOW CLEARING OPERATIONS

His Worship the Mayor requested an update on the status of the snow clearing operations in the City of Brandon.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that snow clearing and sanding operations began at Midnight on Sunday with crews working around the clock to clear the streets as quickly as possible. He advised that crews were currently working on Priority Routes 1, 2 and 3 with routes 4, 5 and 6 to follow immediately thereafter. Mr. Hammond confirmed that Priority 1 routes were expected to be completed by Wednesday morning however, due to the heavy, wet snow, snow clearing operations were taking longer than normal. He advised that a new piece of sidewalk clearing equipment was being given a good test by these conditions. Mr. Hammond stated that sanitation routes were also being cleared and sanitation collection services were not expected to be delayed by this storm. He encouraged residents to consult the snow map on the City of Brandon's website for updated information on which streets had been cleared and where the plows were expected to be next.

(287) SNOW CLEARING ON NORTH HILL PRIOR TO RECENT SNOW STORM

Councillor Fawcett noted that crews had been clearing snow on the North Hill prior to this storm and enquired as to the reasons for same.

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

Following the meeting the Director of Public Works, Mr. Mark Yeomans, responded that although there had been an overall lack of snow this winter, City Streets had accumulated a layer of ice and numerous complaints had been received from residential areas with respect to this issue. He also advised that ice removal from areas around catch basins and a portion of the street in either direction was also important to aid with drainage to the catch basins.

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March 19, 2018 City Council Meeting

(288) 2018 POTHOLE PROGRAM

Councillor LoRegio noted that potholes were once again becoming a problem in the City of Brandon and enquired as to the process for reporting same.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the Streets and Roads Section of Public Works had begun filling potholes and would continue to do so for the foreseeable future. He advised that information on the 2018 pothole program was on the City of Brandon's website and promoted on the social media feeds. He encouraged residents to call the pothole hotline at 204 729-2200 or submit the information online at www.brandon.ca/report-an-issue whereby crews would be dispatched accordingly following receipt of the complaint. The City Manager reminded residents that 1st Street, 18th Street, and portions of Victoria and Richmond Avenues were the responsibility of Manitoba Infrastructure (MI) and encouraged residents to call the provincial department directly to report issues on those streets.

The City Manager further advised that the Sewer and Water Crews were out daily steaming manholes. He encouraged residents to report issues regarding manholes to the Public Works Department at (204) 729-2285 or on the website as noted above.

April 3, 2018 City Council Meeting

(289) LONG TERM SOLUTION FOR POTHoles

Councillor Chaboyer noted that there continued to be perennial potholes in high traffic areas of the City of Brandon. She enquired if a more permanent repaving/rebuilding of the known problem potholes could be considered. At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that, as soon as conditions permit in the spring, potholes were swept to remove loose material and dirt and filled with a cold mix with the patch being at a level slightly higher than the existing asphalt on the street. He advised that as the temperatures warm, the same process was completed using a more permanent hot mix of reclaimed asphalt. Mr. Sage noted that pothole patching continued throughout the summer in the same manner with a commercial supply of hot mix asphalt.

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The City Manager confirmed that 2199 potholes had been filled in March 2018 compared to 2111 in 2017 and 1722 in 2016. He stated that the freeze/thaw cycle of the spring combined with the physical shape of the street, the drainage of water from the road surface and traffic volumes were the main contributor to pothole development. He advised that the pothole filling practices employed by the Public Works crews provided a cost effective solution to potholes until such time as the street could be resurfaced. Mr. Sage confirmed that as part of the City of Brandon Asset Management Program, the Engineering and Public Works Departments worked together to ensure that repairs to problematic potholes and street resurfacing was completed in a timely manner while taking into consideration all infrastructure within the City of Brandon.

(290)

GREEN ORGANIC WASTE BINS AT HUMMINGBIRD COMMUNITY GARDEN

Councillor Brown advised that he had been contacted by the Hummingbird Community Garden Committee who had requested more organic waste bins. Councillor Brown noted that the bins at Westridge Community Centre were not being used to their full potential and enquired if same could be moved over to Hummingbird, making it the depot for the area.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that moving the bins from Westridge Community Centre was not an option; however, other options for the Hummingbird Gardens Site were being considered. He noted that the access road into the gardens was currently a black dirt road and would need significant improvements to accommodate the weight of a sanitation truck and that a pad for the bins/dumpster would also have to be developed at the site. Mr. Sage confirmed that there would be a larger organics bin/dumpster at the Hummingbird Community Gardens Site for the 2018 growing season and Administration continued to look at all options for the placement of larger bins at this site.

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(291) PETITION - SEWER ISSUES ON LAWRENCE AND LLOYD CRESCENTS

Councillor Parker presented a petition from the residents and homeowners of property on Lawrence and Lloyd Crescents with respect to lost sewer insurance coverage, increased insurance rates and decreased values of their homes due to damages from flooding caused by the City of Brandon.

The petitioners requested that the City of Brandon (Sanitation, Sewer and Water):

- ✓ hold a public forum to discuss the needs of a new sewer system in the area;
- ✓ change methods used for removing blockages and cleaning by the pumper trucks to ensure they are safe and adequate;
- ✓ provide employees with additional training on carefully and effectively rectifying any and all current problems;
- ✓ provide homeowners with a minimum 72 hours. notice when work is being done in the area;
- ✓ ensure that the City of Brandon assume the financial responsibility for damages caused and reimburse the residents and/or homeowners accordingly.

Councillor Parker noted that the petition contained 45 signatures and enquired if this matter could be investigated.

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

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April 16, 2018 City Council Meeting

(292) **UPDATE ON THE 2018 STREET SWEEPING**

His Worship Mayor Chrest requested an update on the 2018 street sweeping schedule.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that test runs were currently being conducted to ensure the equipment was ready. He advised that the full street sweeping operations were expected to start next week. The City Manager reminded everyone that funds for the rental of two additional units had been approved in the 2018 Budget and would allow for a much faster completion of street sweeping.

(293) **REPORT ON CRIME STATISTICS FOR THE DOWNTOWN AREA IN COMPARISON WITH CITY-AT-LARGE**

Councillor Cullen requested a report on the crime statistics in the City of Brandon, inclusive of a comparison of the downtown with the city-at-large and the trends from previous years.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that information on this issue was available on the Brandon Police Service website; however, he agreed to have the Chief of Police provide a full report on the crime statistics, inclusive of maps and comparisons to prior years at a City Council meeting in the near future.

(294) **STREET WORK FOR 2018**

Councillor LoRegio enquired if a comprehensive list of proposed street repairs for 2018, inclusive of sewer and water repairs and any potential road closures could be provided.

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

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May 7, 2018 City Council Meeting

(295) **SIGNAGE FOR AREAS WHERE CHILDREN PLAY**

Councillor LoRegio enquired if signage could be placed in areas around the City of Brandon where there were no playgrounds but children played street hockey etc. He cited the vicinity of J.R. Reid School, Memorial Crescent and 22nd to 26th Streets on Van Horne Avenue as examples and noted that the signs could simply read: "Caution, Children Playing".

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

(296) **PETITION FROM RESIDENTS ON LAURENCE AND LLOYD CRESCENTS**

Councillor Parker referred to a previous enquiry whereby he had presented a petition from residents on Laurence and Lloyd Crescents regarding issues with the sewer system and requested an update on the status of the response to same.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that a formal enquiry response had been submitted to City Council and published on the website today. He also advised that further information on this issue would be shared with City Council as it became available.

May 22, 2018 City Council Meeting

(297) **IMPACT OF DOWNTOWN FIRE ON ACCESS TO PARKING LOTS FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES**

Councillor LoRegio noted that many of the businesses in the area of the fire on the weekend were unable to access their parking lots and enquired if adjustments to parking meters could be made for staff to park during the day.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the Brandon Police Service and the Meter Shop were working together to resolve this issue as soon as possible. He advised that possible solutions included bagging the meters or removing meter heads altogether to allow staff from those businesses to park all day without being ticketed. The City Manager confirmed that a full report on how this issue was resolved would be provided in the very near future but assured Councillor LoRegio that the matter would be addressed quickly.

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(298) UPDATE ON DALY OVERPASS REPLACEMENT

Councillor Harwood noted that an Open House had been held in December 2017 with respect to the concept choices for the replacement of the Daly Overpass. He enquired if any further information was available.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the preliminary design process was near completion and Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation was expected to provide an update to Stakeholders in the near future.

(299) COMPLETION OF IMPROVEMENTS AT INTERSECTION OF 34TH STREET AND VICTORIA AVENUE

Councillor Harwood enquired what was left to be completed on the improvements to the intersection of 34th Street and Victoria Avenue and when the work on same was expected to begin.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the main items to be finished up included the installation of lighting, concrete work in the medians, restorations to sidewalks and walking paths as well as landscaping. He confirmed that the Engineering Department had been advised by Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation and the contractor that work was expected to begin May 29, 2018.

(300) REQUEST FOR CROSSWALK AT 24TH STREET AND ROSSER AVENUE

Councillor Harwood noted that increased pedestrian traffic around the 24th Street and Victoria Avenue Intersection was causing safety concerns. He enquired if the installation of a crosswalk at that intersection could be considered.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that, in the interest of safety, crosswalk signs had been ordered and would be installed as soon as possible.

(301) IMPROVEMENTS TO CROSSWALK AT 34TH STREET AND LAKEVIEW DRIVE

Councillor Berry noted that safety concerns with respect to increased pedestrian and vehicle traffic as well as the speed of traffic in the area continued to be an issue at the intersection of 34th Street and Lakeview Drive. He requested that a traffic study be conducted prior to the end of June, the speed limit be reduced from 60 km/h to 50 km/h and the installation of a pedestrian crosswalk complete with lights and signage be considered for this intersection.

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At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that a study of traffic and pedestrian counts will be conducted prior to the end of the 2017/2018 School Year. He advised that the speed data would be collected and assessed by the Engineering Department prior to their submitting an application for a speed reduction to the Highway Traffic Board of Manitoba. The City Manager confirmed that an update to Councillor Berry's enquiry would be provided at the July 16, 2018 City Council Meeting.

(302) COMPLETION OF GREEN SPACE IN BROOKWOOD MEADOW NORTH OF 21 AND 23 SOUTHVIEW DRIVE

Councillor Berry advised that there continued to be drainage issues in the low area north of 21 and 23 Southview Drive in the Brookwood Meadow Subdivision. He enquired if this area could be landscaped as soon as possible.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the landscaping completed following the installation of a French Drain in 2016 had created this low point. He confirmed that a topographic survey of the area would be completed within the next 2 weeks, the results of which would be used by staff to properly landscape the area.

(303) CITY EMPLOYEES WORKING ON STATUTORY HOLIDAYS

Councillor Berry stated that he had observed city staff dropping off green bins in his neighborhood on the Victoria Day Monday. He enquired why staff were brought in and paid overtime to perform these types of jobs that could be done during regular hours.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that, with the summer being the busy season, the Sanitation Section maintained regular hours on Statutory Holidays. He confirmed that the temporary staff scheduled to work at the Landfill were expected to perform other tasks such as delivering and emptying bins when the Landfill was not busy. The City Manager confirmed that these staff were paid their regular wage plus a stat premium for the hours they worked to ensure sanitation services were available during Holidays.

(304) INTERSECTION OF MCDONALD AVENUE AND STICKNEY AVENUE

Councillor Desjarlais advised that the property located at 1645 Stickney Avenue has been damaged numerous times due to vehicles turning north off McDonald and Stickney Avenues. He suggested that a three-way stop may be an effective measure to slow traffic. He enquired if possible solutions to the problem at this intersection could be investigated.

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

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(305) IMPROVEMENTS TO CROSSWALK AT 15TH STREET AND PRINCESS AVENUE

Councillor Desjarlais enquired if improvements to the Crosswalk at 15th Street and Princess Avenue, inclusive of lights and signage could be considered. He also enquired if signage cautioning vehicles to slow down (children playing) in the vicinity of Stanley Park which was also close to this intersection.

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

June 4, 2018 City Council Meeting

(306) STREET SWEEPERS ON GRASS BOULEVARDS

Councillor LoRegio noted that the street sweepers were causing damage to the grass boulevards and enquired if the operators could be instructed to stay on the paved areas.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the grass areas are swept as part of the regular process to clear them of the sand, gravel and debris left over from the winter snow clearing process.

He noted that street sweeping operations are typically completed by the end of May and encouraged residents to delay any boulevard remediation until after that time. The City Manager advised that further information on the street sweeping schedule was available on the website or by calling Public Works at (204) 729-2290.

(307) UPDATE ON WATER TOWER MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

Councillor Parker requested an update on the status of the Water Tower maintenance and repairs.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the Water Tower assessment report completed in 2017 recommended the removal of the piping components and the replacement of the bracing with a timeline for completion of 1-5 years. He confirmed that the work was budgeted for in 2018; however, it may not be completed until 2019.

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(308) SAFETY RISK AT CONSTRUCTION SITE IN 1000 BLOCK OF 7TH STREET

Councillor Patterson advised that at her recent ward meeting residents had raised safety concerns with respect to a construction site in the 1000 Block of 7th Street. She noted that at the ward meeting Administration had agreed to follow-up on these concerns and requested an update on the status of same.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the Building Inspector had attended the site on June 1, 2018 with the photos taken at that time indicating that the site was appropriately fenced. The City Manager confirmed that the Building Inspector had determined that the site overall was clean, the Building Permit was valid until February 2019 and the work is expected to be completed this construction season.

June 18, 2018 City Council Meeting

(309) WINTERKILL AT WHEAT CITY GOLF COURSE AND OTHER RECREATION AREAS IN THE CITY OF BRANDON

Councillor Parker enquired how the Wheat City Golf Course and other recreational areas in the City of Brandon had been affected by Winterkill.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that, while there had been some problems with the greens mix sand as well as a disease called Anthraconose, with replacement sand and aggressive treatment of the disease, the greens were in good condition as of today. He advised that the Golf Course Advisory Committee made up of members of administration, league organizers and community members, had met recently and confirmed that members of the committee and league members were pleased with the condition of the Course. Mr. Sage also noted that the statistics showed an increase in both rounds played and Season Passes sold in 2018. He invited City Council to contact Bryce Wilson to arrange a tour of the Course or book a Tee Time to play. The City Manager confirmed that other recreational areas in the City of Brandon were in good condition and he had received no complaints about the condition of the grass.

(310) UPDATE ON RE-OPENING OF PACIFIC AVENUE

His Worship the Mayor requested an update on the re-opening of Pacific Avenue following the May 19, 2018 fires.

City of Brandon Building Inspector Murray Fisher responded that the removal of the drywall inside Massey Manor was complete, the dumpsters had been removed and the fences were expected to be taken down this week.

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Mr. Fisher noted that the clean-up of the former Nightclub and Beer Store was complete, with the clean-up of the Christies and Collyer's properties expected to begin in the very near future.

The Building Inspector confirmed that all the poles and lines they supported along the north side of Pacific Avenue had been removed and the fencing would be realigned to allow vehicle traffic on the south lane and the parking lane of Pacific Avenue this week.

(311) REVIEW OF POSITIONS BY VACANCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor LoRegio requested an update on the progress of the Vacancy Management Committee. He enquired if a full report, inclusive of the number of positions reviewed, those left vacant or dissolved, positions where funding was shifted elsewhere and a list of all the above, could be provided.

His Worship the Mayor responded that this matter would be referred to the Personnel Committee for a report back to City Council as soon as possible.

July 16, 2018 City Council Meeting

(312) SAFETY ISSUE OF CROSSWALK AT 18TH STREET AND ROSSER AVENUE

Councillor Desjarlais advised that uneven pavement at the southeast corner of the crosswalk located at the intersection of 18th Street and Rosser Avenue was a safety concern for those with mobility issues. He advised that motorized wheelchairs accessing this intersection were at risk of tipping over and enquired if same could be levelled out as soon as possible.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the sidewalk improvements to this area were part of the Daly Overpass replacement project which was expected to take place in the near future; however, he agreed to have Public Works and Parks Staff look over the site to determine possible interim solutions.

Further to the issue of sidewalk safety, Councillor Desjarlais advised that the Brandon Downtown Development Board had met today and the group had been provided with some pictures of other areas in the Downtown where the sidewalk pavement had lifted and was causing tripping hazards. He enquired if these areas could also be looked at.

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At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager requested that the representative from the Brandon Downtown Development Corporation provide him with the locations of these problem areas and crews would be dispatched to see what could be done.

(313) UPDATE ON MCKENZIE SEEDS BUILDING

Councillor Desjarlais requested an update on the status of the repairs to the former McKenzie Seeds Building located at 30-9th Street.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that work began on the east wall cornice on July 9, 2018 and was expected to be completed within two weeks with the adjacent sidewalk and street to be reopened upon completion of the work. Mr. Sage noted that work to the remainder of the building was also underway with the materials to cover the window sills and lintels expected to arrive from the manufacturer by the end of July.

With respect to the payment for the closed parking stalls in the area, Mr. Sage confirmed that, although not able to resolve this issue on behalf of the lessees, the Planning & Building Department Staff continued to work with the lessor, the lessee and the owners of 20-9th Street on an agreement for payment. He noted that the focus of the City of Brandon Planning & Building Department continued to be that of protecting the public and facilitating the building's return to a safe condition.

(314) CONDITION OF TURN-AROUND AT OTTER BAY

Councillor Cullen advised that he had received complaints from residents on Otter Bay with respect to the turn-around at the end of the Bay being in poor condition in need of maintenance. Councillor Cullen noted that he had contacted the Public Works Department regarding this issue and enquired if an update on same could be provided.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Director of Public Works responded that the area had been looked at and it was determined that the area was a combination of public and private property. Mr. Yeomans advised that he had been working with the Planning Department on potential solutions with respect to maintenance and repairs of the end of the round-about on Otter Bay which may include the City of Brandon completing all the work and invoicing the respective property owners. He agreed to keep City Council updated on the progress of this work.