

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2021
AT 7:00 PM, BRANDON, MANITOBA**

PRESENT: Mayor Rick Chrest In The Chair, Councillor Shawn Berry, Councillor Ron W. Brown, Councillor Shaun Cameron, Councillor Jan Chaboyer, Councillor Barry Cullen, Councillor Kris Desjarlais, Councillor Jeff Fawcett, Councillor John LoRegio, Councillor Bruce Luebke, Councillor Glen Parker

ABSENT: Nil

It was noted that in accordance with Section 109 of Procedure By-law No. 6634, all members of Council listed as present participated in the meeting electronically.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Chaboyer-Parker
912 That the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of City Council to be held Monday, January 18, 2021 be adopted as presented. CARRIED.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Cameron-Luebke
913 That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council held on January 4, 2021 be taken as read and so adopted, all statutory requirements having been fulfilled. CARRIED.

HEARING OF PRESENTATIONS:

(A) TOM CROOK AND SHAUN CAMERON, WESTERN MANITOBA CENTENNIAL AUDITORIUM - IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Tom Crook and Shaun Cameron appeared before City Council to provide an update on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium (WMCA). Mr. Crook noted that 102 events had been cancelled with a revenue loss of \$220,686. He added that since March 14, 2020 all WMCA staff had been laid off excluding himself (GM) and the Box Office Manager who was on the wage subsidy program. Mr. Crook stated that the WMCA had used \$30,000 of the \$50,000 allocated by the city to complete some capital projects. He noted that the WMCA had a reopening plan for the Auditorium which would consist of smaller scale events, and shared that there would be a survey to the public seeking input if individuals would consider attending an event during the pandemic if the restrictions were lifted.

Councillor Shaun Cameron, on behalf of the Board of Governors, added that the Board was supportive of the direction the WMCA was headed and were confident in their team.

Fawcett-Parker

914 That the presentation by Tom Crook and Shaun Cameron with respect to the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium be received. CARRIED.

(B) GREG CRISANTI, PRESIDENT - UPDATE ON THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION OF MANITOBA AND CANCELLATION OF THE 2021 ROYAL MANITOBA WINTER FAIR

Greg Crisanti, President of the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba appeared before City Council to provide an update on the Provincial Ex's operations. He provided an overview of the events and fundraising efforts held over the last 10 months. He noted the cancellation of the 2021 Royal Manitoba Winter Fair and the revenue loss impacts to the Provincial Exhibition and the City of Brandon businesses. Mr. Crisanti stated that 80% of the staff had been laid off due to the pandemic and was hopeful that the 2021 Summer Fair would take place as planned. Mr. Crisanti also announced the launch of the new "Love A Fair" campaign and encouraged everyone to visit the Exhibition's website www.provincialexhibition.com for more information.

Luebke-Berry

915 That the presentation by Greg Crisanti with respect to an update on the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba and the cancellation of the 2021 Royal Manitoba Winter Fair be received. CARRIED.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS/FEEDBACK:

Nil

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:

(A) JENNIFER MOES AND DREW CALDWELL - PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE BUILDING RENEWAL

Jennifer Moes appeared before City Council on behalf of the Park Community Centre Board, sharing the importance of the Community Centre to the neighbourhood. Ms. Moes provided an overview of events that were held at the centre before the capacity restrictions had been imposed due to the current state of the building. She reviewed the fundraising efforts in place to fix the deficiencies of the centre and save the building.

Drew Caldwell noted the importance of the location of the Park Community Centre for the lower income citizens and noted that demolishing the centre would be a loss to the residents in the area.

Desjarlais-Chaboyer

916 That the presentation by Jennifer Moes and Drew Caldwell regarding the Park Community Centre building renewal be received. CARRIED.

(B) HEATHER REIMER, RECREATION MANAGER - UPDATE ON PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Heather Reimer, Recreation Manager appeared before City Council to provide an update on the community feedback survey and webinar regarding the Park Community Centre. Ms. Reimer noted the structural, electrical, and mechanical/HVAC issues, and condition of the skate shake. She noted the results from the survey and forum were mixed between repairing and demolishing the building. However, results showed the community's desire to have a community centre at the same location. Ms. Reimer presented Council with an option for a new building and potential costs.

Desjarlais-Chaboyer

917 That the presentation by Heather Reimer, Recreation Manager, with respect to an update on the Park Community Centre Public Consultations be received. CARRIED.

(C) GLEN KRUCK, COMMUNITY HEALTH AND HOUSING ASSOCIATION WESTMAN REGION INC. - AFFORDABLE HOUSING GRANT FOR 23 - 12TH STREET

Glen Kruck, on behalf of the Community Health and Housing Association Westman Region Inc. (CHHA) appeared before City Council to provide an overview of the affordable housing project located at 23 - 12th Street. He requested city support in the amount of \$1,000 per unit and an off-setting tax grant to build 10 additional affordable housing units. He noted that the CHHA had applied for the Federal Government's Rapid Housing Initiative and that municipal government support would be required to receive the federal grant. Mr. Kruck noted that the housing project would be located on the east side of the Re-Fit Store with five of the 10 units being on the main floor, with wheelchair accessible bathrooms.

Desjarlais-Luebke

918 That the presentation by Glen Kruck on behalf of CMHA Westman with respect to the request for an Affordable Housing Grant for 23 - 12th Street be received. CARRIED.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Nil

COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:

Nil

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nil

ENQUIRIES:

(183) WATER PRESSURE IN RIVERVIEW WARD

Councillor Parker advised that poor water pressure was an ongoing issue in the Riverview Ward and enquired as to potential short and long-term solutions to this problem.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the water distribution system was continuously monitored at the Water Treatment Facility and Booster Stations, however it was sometimes difficult to diagnose pressure concerns in an entire ward. He advised that temporary pressure gauges would be installed on hydrants in the Riverview Ward to determine areas of low pressure and the potential cause of same. The Acting City Manager encouraged residents with specific concerns to report same to the General Enquiry Line at (204) 729-2186 or the Water Treatment Facility.

(184) SANDING OF WALKING PATHS AND SIDEWALKS

Councillor Berry noted that many walking paths and sidewalks in the City of Brandon were extremely icy and made it nearly impossible for residents to get out for a walk. He enquired if an update on planned sanding efforts for same, inclusive of timelines for different areas of the City, could be provided.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that sanding efforts had started on the P1A Routes with all areas expected to be completed by the end of the week. He invited residents to check the snow clearing map on the website for updated information on the areas in progress and completed.

(185) RECREATION PROGRAMMING IN 2021

Councillor Chaboyer requested an update on the planned recreation programming for 2021 under the newly created Recreation Hubs. She stated that while the current pandemic situation played a major role in planned activities, it would be useful for everyone to have an update on what was proposed. Councillor Chaboyer further stated that community centres were eager to be involved in recreation programming throughout the City of Brandon, and an update on all potential plans would be appreciated.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that due to COVID-19, all recreation programming had essentially halted and staff had been redeployed to other areas. Mr. Hammond advised that the strategic directions and priorities based on the Recreation and Community Facilities Master Plan had not changed. He acknowledged that 2020 had not been an ideal year to begin implementing changes, however, a full report on what had been accomplished in 2020 and what was planned for 2021 would be provided to City Council in the Spring.

(186) UPDATE ON INTERSECTION OF MCDIARMID DRIVE AND VICTORIA AVENUE

Councillor Cameron noted that following an enquiry with respect to the installation of a pedestrian corridor at the intersection of McDiarmid Drive and Victoria Avenue, funds for same had been allocated in the 2020 City of Brandon Budget. Councillor Cameron noted that the work had not been completed as planned in 2020 and requested an update on the status of same, inclusive of whether or not more funds were needed for the project.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the Acting City Manager responded that the Engineering Department was working with Manitoba Infrastructure for the installation of a pedestrian corridor at this intersection however, the project had been delayed due to the pandemic. Mr. Hammond confirmed that the project was to move forward in 2021 and the Engineering Department had requested the funds for same be included in their 2021 Budget Submission to City Council. He noted that sidewalk approach improvements for pedestrians and assistive mobility devices were also planned and budgeted for in 2021.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

APPOINTMENTS AT COVID-19 IMMUNIZATION SUPER-SITE AT KEYSTONE CENTRE

Councillor Luebke announced that the COVID-19 Immunization Super-Site which had opened at the Keystone Centre, was by appointment only and currently appointments were being scheduled for health care workers only.

He reminded everyone that the site was operated by Manitoba Health and not the Keystone Centre and requested that residents not call the Keystone Centre directly as they had no information on the appointment process.

"A PRAIRIE VERNACULAR" VIRTUAL ART EXHIBIT AT ART GALLERY OF SOUTHWEST MANITOBA

Councillor Cameron announced the opening of a virtual art exhibit entitled "A Prairie Vernacular" at the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba. He advised that the Exhibit was an extensive survey of over 100 art works assembled from public and private collections about life on the Prairies and examined historical and contemporary representations of the vernacular in artistic practice on the Canadian prairies. Councillor Cameron encouraged anyone interested to go the Art Gallery's website at www.agsm.ca for further information.

MACLEAN'S MAGAZINE TOP 50 MOST POWERFUL PEOPLE

Councillor Fawcett announced that former Brandonite San Grewal had been named one of Maclean's Magazine's top 50 most powerful people for 2021. Councillor Fawcett advised that Mr. Grewal had attended Neelin High School in the 1980s and now lived in Brampton, Ontario where he had created "The Pointer", a Brampton and Mississauga-focused digital news site.

KIWANIS CLUB OF BRANDON ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND AT LAURENCE CRESCENT AND LOUISE AVENUE EAST

Councillor Parker announced that the Kiwanis Club of Brandon was set to begin the refurbishment of the Laurence and Louise Avenue Park this year. He advised that an accessible playground, including wheelchair accessible equipment, specialized equipment for children with autism and other special needs along with picnic tables and a seniors' area were also planned for the Park. Councillor Parker thanked the Kiwanis Club for all their hard work in bringing this project together.

2021 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

Mayor Chrest announced that City Council would be conducting its 2021 Budget Deliberations on January 29 & 30, 2021 with same to be broadcast live on the City of Brandon YouTube Channel and WCGTV. His Worship advised that due to COVID-19, the Public Budget Forum had been cancelled, however the budget documents and a section for questions/comments was available on the website at www.brandon.ca.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

(A) AFFORDABLE HOUSING GRANT REQUEST - 23 - 12TH STREET (CHHA WESTMAN)

City Council considered a report from the Director of Economic Development dated December 18, 2020 with respect to the above.

Desjarlais-Luebke

919 That the City of Brandon provide to Community Health and Housing Association Westman Region Inc. a capital grant of \$1,000 per bachelor unit created to a maximum of 10 units and an annual tax off-setting grant equal to 50% of the general municipal portion of the annual taxes for the bachelor residential units created at 23 12th Street for years 11-20, once project construction is complete. CARRIED.

(B) AMENDMENT TO FEE SCHEDULE REGULATION FEESCHREG 001 - CEMETERY

Submitted was a report from the Director of Finance dated January 8, 2021 with respect to the above.

Brown-Berry

920 That FEESCHREG-001 be amended by deleting the Interment Casket fee of \$1,210.00 listed on Page 16 of Schedule A to FEESCHREG-001 and substituting therefor the fee of \$1,250.00. CARRIED.

BY-LAWS:

NO. 7294 AFFORDABLE HOUSING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

It was noted that this by-law was read a first time on January 4, 2021.

Cameron-Chaboyer

921 That By-law No. 7294 - to establish an Affordable Housing Financial Assistance Program be read a second time. CARRIED.

Cameron-Chaboyer

922 That the by-law be read a third and final time. CARRIED.

In accordance with Section 137 of The Municipal Act, a recorded vote was taken on the motion to give By-law No. 7294 third reading.

FOR

Mayor Rick Chrest
Councillor Shawn Berry
Councillor Ron W. Brown
Councillor Shaun Cameron
Councillor Jan Chaboyer
Councillor Barry Cullen
Councillor Kris Desjarlais
Councillor Jeff Fawcett
Councillor John LoRegio
Councillor Bruce Luebke
Councillor Glen Parker

AGAINST

Nil

GVING OF NOTICE:

Nil

ADJOURN:

Berry-Chaboyer

That the meeting do now adjourn (9:44 p.m.) CARRIED.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK