

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023 AT 7:00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, BRANDON, MANITOBA

PRESENT: Mayor Jeff Fawcett In The Chair, Councillor Shawn Berry, Councillor Shaun Cameron, Councillor Barry Cullen, Councillor Kris Desjarlais, Councillor Greg Hildebrand, Councillor Heather Karrouze, Councillor Bruce Luebke, Councillor Glen Parker, Councillor Jason Splett, Councillor Tyson Tame

ABSENT: Nil

It was noted that in accordance with Section 109 of Procedure By-law No. 6634, Councillor Karrouze participated in the meeting electronically.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

226 Desjarlais-Cullen
That the Agenda for the regular meeting of City Council to be held on Monday, March 6, 2023 be adopted as presented. CARRIED.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

227 Luebke-Parker
That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of City Council held Saturday, January 28, 2023 be taken as read and so adopted, all statutory requirements having been fulfilled. CARRIED.

228 Cameron-Tame
That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council held Tuesday, February 21, 2023 be taken as read and so adopted, all statutory requirements having been fulfilled. CARRIED.

229 Splett-Cameron
That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of City Council held Thursday, February 23, 2023 be taken as read and so adopted, all statutory requirements having been fulfilled. CARRIED.

HEARING OF PRESENTATIONS:

Nil

COMMUNITY COMMENTS/FEEDBACK:

(A) PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

Christopher Hunt, area resident, addressed Council with respect to the Park Community Centre. He stated that to not rebuild the community centre would be a mistake not to invest in community-based infrastructure that would encourage the movement of young families into the area.

James Epp, Ward 5 Resident, spoke in opposition to rebuilding the Park Community Centre. He noted the costs associated with the proposal and that a minority of residents would benefit. Further, that low fundraising efforts reveal that there is little interest in the project by the majority of residents.

Wanda-Leigh Rains, area resident, spoke before Council in response to the Park Community Centre item. She discussed needs within the community that the community centre fulfilled and requested Council reconsider demolition without rebuilding. She asked Council to invest in revitalizing the building in the interest of the downtown community and Brandon as a whole.

Doug Ramsey, area resident, addressed Council with respect to the Park Community Centre. He advised Council that losing the Park Community Centre would be a loss to the community and implored Council work with community groups to ensure its continuation. He noted that a demand for the centre was present and needed by both current residents as well as growing needs of new residents immigrating into the community.

Alf Kennedy, area resident, in reference to the Park Community Centre spoke of the need to conduct an evaluation of the local community's actual needs before making decisions. He raised concerns with rebuilding the community centre only to have the same issues of viability. Mr. Kennedy recommended redeveloping the property as a whole into a multi-story complex capable of providing rental space to the community as well as senior housing.

Chris Kemp, area resident, raised concerns related to the Park Community Centre. He stated that money was available for the project and questioned why Council was not moving forward with rebuilding the community centre. Further to this, he asked why it had been, and remained, an issue after five years of discussion around the project and why a decision had not yet been reached.

Chris Hees addressed Council with respect to the Park Community Centre, noting experience volunteering with other community centres in Brandon. He spoke to the repercussions that a delayed decision on rebuilding the Park Community Centre would have on other community centres. Mr. Hees asked that Council consider distributing the funds to other community centres rather than spending a large sum on a single centre.

Brent White, area resident, addressed Council on the Park Community Centre matter. He requested that Council reconsider the demolition of the centre, referring to the costs required to demolish the building and how money would be spent to not preserve a community asset. He questioned that if money were to be spent regardless then it would be better used towards a redeveloped property. Mr. White requested that Council consider giving the community an opportunity to fundraise to make up the shortfall in available funding.

Deveryn Ross spoke to the funding opportunities available with respect to the Park Community Centre. He stated that there were several funding programs available from the Federal Government, some of which were focused on servicing core area community centres. He questioned why funding opportunities were not pursued in making up the shortfall.

Desjarlais-Tame

230

Extended Community Feedback to 20 minutes. CARRIED.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:

(A) ELDON SCHMITZ - PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

Eldon Schmitz, on behalf of the Park Community Centre Board, appeared before Council to present a proposal by the community centre with respect to the use of a new building. He spoke to the importance and use that the community centre has to the surrounding neighborhoods and community, as well as the self-sufficiency of the centre with an average of fifteen bookings a month.

Mr. Schmitz outlined a proposal for the use of a new building as part of a two-phase project where further additions to the building could be used as a childcare facility. He advised that in this proposed plan there would be funding opportunities with the provincial and federal governments due to the childcare component. Mr. Schmitz concluded by urging Council not to demolish another community centre and instead to approve funds necessary to rebuild the Park Community Centre.

Luebke-Desjarlais

231 That the presentation by Eldon Schmitz on behalf of the Park Community Centre be received. CARRIED.

(B) DREW CALDWELL - PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

Drew Caldwell, area resident, appeared before Council with respect to the Park Community Centre, requesting that Council not demolish the centre and instead replace the current facility. He commended Council for the efforts made in encouraging public engagement and inclusion in the decision-making process on this matter but noted that the prolonged nature of discussion was an issue. Mr. Caldwell discussed how the downtown area and its residents were in crisis and that to demolish the community centre would be further abandonment of the area and damaging to local stability. He encouraged Council to rebuild the community centre as an opportunity to revitalize the effort and support vulnerable residents within the community.

Luebke-Desjarlais

232 That the presentation by Drew Caldwell with respect to the Park Community Centre be received. CARRIED.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

(A) PUBLIC HEARING - BY-LAW NO. 7345 TO CLOSE A PORTION OF SCARTH STREET

City Council sat to hear representation with respect to By-law No. 7345 to close a portion of Scarth Street.

Tame-Splett

233 That the Public Hearing for By-law No. 7345 to close a portion of Scarth Street be concluded. CARRIED.

(B) PUBLIC HEARING - BY-LAW NO. 7349 - TO CLOSE AND CONVEY A PUBLIC LANE BLOCK 8, PLAN 228

City Council sat to hear representation with respect to By-law No. 7349 to close and convey a public lane Block 8, Plan 228.

Desjarlais-Cameron

234 That the Public Hearing for By-law No. 7349 to close and convey a public lane lying in Block 8, Plan 228 located south of McGregor Avenue and north of Parker Boulevard be concluded. CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:

Nil

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

(A) WESTERN MANITOBA CENTENNIAL AUDITORIUM VERBAL MARCH 6, 2023

Councillor Cameron provided a verbal report from the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium Committee meeting held on February 22, 2023. He noted that the venue had hosted several successful events in the previous two weeks, including the Brandon Festival of the Arts. Discussion focused on the next phases of the sound system project upgrade which was expected to begin by fall 2023.

(B) BRANDON URBAN ABORIGINAL PEOPLES' COUNCIL VERBAL MARCH 6, 2023

Councillor Luebke provided a verbal report from the Brandon Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Council meeting that occurred on February 23, 2023. He advised that Ross Robinson from the John Howard Society had attended the meeting to receive input from BUAPC on the inclusion of Indigenous teachings and culture in a transitional housing project. Further, that Mayor Fawcett had presented on the connection between the City of Brandon and various Indigenous programs and partnerships. He had announced that the Strategic Plan has identified the need for an Indigenous cultural centre as well as Indigenous healing centre in the community.

Councillor Luebke advised that further topics of discussion related to an Indigenous Naming Group update and the 2023 Work Plan. He concluded by announcing that BUAPC passed a motion financially supporting a Community Round Dance, which was to occur on Friday, March 10, 2023 at 205 College Avenue. The event was to begin at 5:00 p.m. with a feast and games occurring through the evening.

(C) KEYSTONE CENTRE VERBAL MARCH 6, 2023

Councillor Luebke provided a verbal report from the Keystone Centre Board meeting held on February 23, 2023. He advised that the board had received a demonstration of RETScreen International Software, a tool that Keystone Centre staff were using the tool in preparing a grant application. He advised that the grant would enable the Keystone Centre to upgrade of all remaining interior lighting systems to LED lighting, along with the means of measuring consumption by space, therefore reducing the overall energy consumption. Councillor Luebke also noted that a summary of capital investments for

the 2022-2023 fiscal year was a topic of discussion. He outlined the anticipated capital projects for the centre and noted the various grant applications pursued.

Councillor Luebke concluded by reminding residents that the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair was to take place from March 27 - April 1, 2023 at the Keystone Centre.

Luebke-Cameron

- 235 That the verbal reports from the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium, Brandon Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Council and Keystone Centre be received. CARRIED.

ENQUIRIES:

(37) TRAFFIC CONCERNS - 25TH STREET AND VAN HORNE AVENUE

Councillor Hildebrand advised that traffic has been an issue along Van Horne Avenue and 25th Street where there is currently a traffic monitoring device. Formerly there was a 4-way stop at this particular location and in recent times discussion of a traffic circle being installed. Other areas close by have yield signs rather than stop signs, with 22nd Street having no signs of any sort to slow down traffic for people travelling in that area. He enquired if changes to traffic devices or intersections would be considered for this area.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that engineering has been tracking traffic volumes and speed on Van Horne Avenue between 18th Street and 26th Street since December 2022 in response to previous enquiries. Engineering is anticipating that a report summarizing their findings and recommendations, including any necessary traffic calming measures will be shared in the March 2023 Council Bulletin.

(38) MANITOBA GOVERNEMENT MUNICIPAL FUNDING INCREASE BREAKDOWN REQUEST

Councillor Berry noted the recent announcement from the Provincial Government regarding funding to the City of Brandon in the amount of \$2.3M, and enquired into the breakdown of where these funds would be used in either reserves or projects throughout the year.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the additional \$2.3M transfer payment from the Provincial Government is an increase to the City's unconditional municipal operating funding. This unconditional funding is unbudgeted and, at this time, has not been allocated to a specific reserve or project, although it is within the purview of Council to do so. There is no requirement to

specifically allocate this funding and the incremental revenue would generate a 2023 general operating surplus and be transferred to reserves.

(39) UPDATE ON 1ST STREET LIFT-STATION

Councillor Splett requested an update on the completion timeline for the 1st Street Lift Station.

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

(40) UPDATE ON CEMETERY RETENTION POND

Councillor Splett requested an update on the expected completion date for the Cemetery retention pond.

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

(41) 9TH STREET & PORTOLA PARKING

Councillor Tame advised that he had received a concern from an area resident with respect to turning east onto Portola Drive when driving south-bound on 9th Street as there are parked vehicles near this intersection. He enquired if this issue could be addressed.

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

(42) UPDATE ON HIRING OF FIREFIGHTERS & PARAMEDICS

Councillor Luebke referred to the 2023 Budget Deliberations motion to hire four additional firefighter/paramedics with the Fire Department to report back to Council by March 6, 2023 on improved ambulance service in Brandon, and enquired if an update could be provided.

His Worship the Mayor responded that The City of Brandon and the Brandon Professional Firefighter and Paramedic Association Local 803 have agreed to a Letter of Understanding until December 21, 2023 to provide fire and emergency services with the ability to hire an additional four (4) firefighter/paramedic positions in order to improve ambulance service in Brandon.

(43) UPDATE - PARKING BANS FOR EVENTS

Councillor Desjarlais referred to a previous enquiry whereby he had raised regarding notification of downtown businesses when parking bans were put in place for events, which would be incorporated with the updates to the Traffic By-law. He enquired if a timeline could be provided to Council for when the Traffic By-law was to be updated.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

POLICE BOARD MEETING

Councillor Berry announced that a Brandon Police Board meeting was to be held March 10, 2023 at noon in the Council Chambers at City Hall. He noted that the meeting was open to the public and encouraged residents to attend.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

(A) PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

City Council considered a report from the General Manager of Development Services dated February 1, 2023 with respect to the above.

Luebke-Desjarlais

236 That Council not award the Design-Build RFP for the Park Community Centre due to insufficient funds available within the Parks Reserve. CARRIED AS AMENDED.

AMENDMENT

Desjarlais-Cameron

237 That the above motion be amended by adding the following:

"And further that Council explore a design-bid-build and that the Park Community Centre not be demolished at this time until the design-bid-build comes back to Council."
CARRIED.

(B) RAPID HOUSING INITIATIVE APPLICATION - PROJECT SELECTION

Council considered a report from Shannon Saltarelli, Community Housing and Wellness Coordinator with respect to the above.

Desjarlais-Splett

238 That the City owned lands at 353 16th Street North as shown on Attachment A be sold to the John Howard Society of Brandon Inc. for \$1 to facilitate the construction of transitional housing, subject to the proponent confirming full project financing.

That the proposal by the John Howard Society of Brandon Inc. to receive up to \$5,000,000 in funding through the Rapid Housing Initiative Cities Stream for the construction of transitional housing be selected and submitted to the Canadian Housing and Mortgage Corporation (CMHC) for review and approval.

And further, that upon approval from the CMHC, and confirmation of full project financing, that Administration be authorized to execute the associated agreements required to protect the City's interests in accordance with any procedures, policies, by-laws and Acts.

That Administration prepare a tax credit by-law for the lands at 353 16th Street North as shown on Attachment A and submit to Council for consideration following confirmation of project financing by the CMHC. CARRIED.

(C) 2023 CITIZEN APPOINTMENTS TO THE BRANDON DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Considered was a report from the Legislative Services Department dated February 21, 2023 with respect to the above.

Desjarlais-Splett

239 That the following citizens be appointed to the Brandon Downtown Development Corporation for three-year terms of office to begin April 1, 2023 and end March 31, 2026:

James Chambers
Ron Shaluk
Stephen Branigan

And further, that the following citizen be appointed to the Brandon Downtown Development Corporation for a two-year term of office to begin April 1, 2023 and end March 31, 2025:

Brent Campbell CARRIED.

BY-LAWS:

NO. 7345 TO CLOSE AND CONVEY A PORTION OF SCARTH STREET
2ND & 3RD READING

City Council considered a report from the Legislative Services Department dated February 9, 2023 with respect to the above.

Tame-Parker

240 That By-law No. 7345 to close and convey all that portion of the northerly 510ft of Scarth Street lying between Block 2 & 3, Plan 285 be read a second time. CARRIED.

Tame-Parker

241 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. 7345 final reading.

FOR

AGAINST

Mayor Jeff Fawcett
Councillor Shawn Berry
Councillor Shaun Cameron
Councillor Barry Cullen
Councillor Kris Desjarlais
Councillor Greg Hildebrand
Councillor Heather Karrouze
Councillor Bruce Luebke
Councillor Glen Parker
Councillor Jason Splett
Councillor Tyson Tame

NO. 7349 TO CLOSE AND CONVEY A PORTION OF PUBLIC LANE IN BLOCK 8, PLAN 228 BLTO
2ND & 3RD READING

Submitted for consideration was a report from the Legislative Services Department dated February 9, 2023 with respect to the above.

Desjarlais-Luebke

242 That By-law No. 7349 to close and convey a portion of public lane lying in Block 8, Plan 228 located south of McGregor Avenue and north of Parker Boulevard be read a second time. CARRIED.

Desjarlais-Luebke

243 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. 7349 final reading.

FOR

AGAINST

Mayor Jeff Fawcett
Councillor Shawn Berry
Councillor Shaun Cameron
Councillor Barry Cullen
Councillor Kris Desjarlais
Councillor Greg Hildebrand
Councillor Heather Karrouze
Councillor Bruce Luebke
Councillor Glen Parker
Councillor Jason Splett
Councillor Tyson Tame

GIVING OF NOTICE:

Nil

ADJOURN:

Berry-Luebke

That the meeting do now adjourn. (9:33 p.m.) CARRIED.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK