

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024 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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Cullen-Parker
644 That the Agenda for the regular meeting of City Council to be held on Monday, January 22, 2024 be adopted as presented. CARRIED.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Tame-Cameron
645 That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council held Monday, January 8, 2024 be taken as read and so adopted, all statutory requirements having been fulfilled. CARRIED.

Splett-Cameron
646 That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of City Council held Monday, January 8, 2024 be taken as read and so adopted, all statutory requirements having been fulfilled. CARRIED.

HEARING OF PRESENTATIONS:

COMMUNITY COMMENTS/FEEDBACK:

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:

(A) STEPHEN HAYTER - COMMONWEALTH AIR TRAINING MUSEUM

Stephen Hayter, Executive Director, appeared before City Council with respect to the Commonwealth Air Training Museum (CATPM). He provided an update on the CATPM, feasibility study, and plans for the 100th Anniversary of the CATPM in 2024.

Mr. Hayter concluded by requesting Council's consideration of \$25,000 to cover operating costs for the 2024 fiscal year.

Karrouze-Cameron

647 That the presentation by Stephen Hayter on behalf of the Commonwealth Air Training Museum with respect to an update on structural issues be received.

And further that \$25,000 in funding for operating costs be referred to the 2024 budget deliberations. CARRIED.

(B) DEAN HAMMOND & TERRY JAENEN - BRANDON RIVERBANK INC.

Dean Hammond, Executive Director of Brandon Riverbank Inc. appeared before City Council to provide an update on Brandon Riverbank Inc. 2023 Annual Report and plans for 2024. He highlighted successes in 2023 which included events held at the Riverbank, visitor statistics, Indigenous programs and partnerships, and the creation of the new winter trails. Mr. Hammond provided information on projects proposed for 2024 and the City's Funding and in-kind contributions for these projects.

Mr. Hammond noted the Riverbank had received correspondence from Heritage Canada, one of the prime funders for Canada Day initiatives regarding their contribution for Canada Day would be cut in half for 2024. He concluded by requesting Council's consideration of \$17,000 to cover the costs of fireworks for 2024 Canada Day celebration.

Karrouze-Cameron

648 That the presentation by Dean Hammond on behalf of Brandon Riverbank Inc. with respect to the annual update be received.

And further that \$17,000 in funding for this year's Canada Day celebrations be referred to 2024 budget deliberations. CARRIED.

(C) LOIS RUSTON - YWCA WESTMAN - WAIVER OF TIPPING FEES

Lois Ruston, Executive Director of YWCA Westman, appeared before City Council with respect to a request for waiving of tipping fees associated with the decommissioning of Meredith Place. She noted that Council had provided a grant of \$12,000 based on the estimated costs of tipping fees to financially assist with the redevelopment of the Meredith House building. The tipping fees total costs for the rubble was \$30,000 and requested Council's consideration of the additional \$18,000 to cover the remaining costs of tipping fees.

Desjarlais-Hildebrand

649 That the presentation by Lois Ruston on behalf of YWCA Brandon with respect to the Meredith Place Decommissioning Project be received.

And further that the funding request for the additional waiver of tipping fees for the decommissioning of the Meredith Place be referred to the 2024 budget deliberations. CARRIED.

(D) JAY BUIZER - BRANDON DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Jay Buizer, Chair Brandon Downtown Development Corporation (BDDC), appeared before City Council with respect to the Brandon Downtown Development Corporation's annual update and funding for 2024. He provided a summary of the redevelopment projects the BDDC has supported in 2023 and noted the redevelopment grants provided to a number of businesses. Mr. Buizer requested \$350,000 funding from the City of Brandon for 2024 and \$400,000 funding for 2025.

Desjarlais-Splett

650 That the presentation by Jay Buizer on behalf of the Brandon Downtown Development Corporation with respect to the annual update be received.

And further that their request for increased funding for 2024 be referred to the 2024 budget deliberations. CARRIED.

(E) WESTMAN MULTI-CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Sandy Donald, Treasurer Westman Multicultural Society, appeared before City Council with respect to the Westman Multicultural Festival. He advised Council that the Memorandum of Understanding between the Westman Multicultural Festival and the City of Brandon to provide services and a financial contribution had expired. Mr. Donald requested Council's consideration to enter into another 5-year Memorandum of Understanding to provide a financial contribution and services.

Tame-Parker

651 That the presentation by Sandy Donald on behalf of Westman Multi-Cultural Festival be received.

And further that their funding request of \$15,000 for their annual multi-cultural community event be referred to the 2024 budget deliberations.

And further that administration be authorized to enter a new Memorandum of Understanding to fund 2025-2029 annual events. CARRIED.

(F) BRIAN DORNN - RECURRING FLOODING ON PARK AVENUE

Brian Dornn appeared before City Council with respect to overland flooding on Park Avenue between 13th and 11th Street. He indicated the timeline for upgrades to Park Avenue which were identified in the 2022 Capital Plan to begin with a detailed design in 2024, and construction to commence in 2025-2026 had now been pushed back to 2030. Mr. Dornn noted that this is a low lying area with inadequate infrastructure to drain water during heavy rain events, indicating flooding in 2020, and 2023. He enquired into why other projects were placed on the 2024 Capital Plan ahead of this project.

Mr. Dornn concluded by indicating that in the opinion of this neighborhood the move of this project to begin in 2030 was unacceptable, and for Council to consider this during budget negotiations.

Luebke-Splett

652 That the presentation by Brian Dornn with respect to recurring flooding on Park Avenue in the area of 11th to 13th Street be received. CARRIED.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:

Parking on Portola Drive

Councillor Tame provided an update to the parking concern on Portola Drive. Administration will provide a report to Council in March.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

(A) WESTERN MANITOBA CENTENNIAL AUDITORIUM VERBAL JANUARY 22, 2024

Councillor Cameron provided a verbal report from the meeting of the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium held on January 17, 2024. He noted the event summary, financial position, and status of capital repairs and improvements underway. The update on the facility assessment being performed to assist with capital and facility needs when working through negotiations with the Province and the City for enhanced funding agreements.

Councillor Cameron concluded by announcing the new Assistant General Manager of the WMCA had been selected and welcomed Trevor Crook to the role.

(B) WESTERN MANITOBA REGIONAL LIBRARY VERBAL JANUARY 22, 2024

Councillor Cameron provided a verbal report from the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Western Manitoba Regional Library held on January 18, 2024. He advised Erica Martin led the board through operational, financial and facility matters, appointments of the auditor & solicitors, as well as the election of leadership at the board level. He noted following the close of the AGM, the regular monthly meeting occurred with discussions on the financial position, security, program outreach, and schedule of regular meetings for the 2024 year.

(C) BRANDON GENERAL MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES VERBAL JANUARY 22, 2024

Councillor Splett provided a verbal report from the recent meeting of the Brandon General Museum & Archives Inc. (BGMA) held on January 11, 2024. He noted they welcomed Doug Adams the new board member, and discussed reports from staff, the new proposed Cultural Centre, procurement of the Brandon Sun Archives, BGMA grants, BJ Hales Collection, and Museum security. He concluded by noting the Show & Tell Series on January 27, 2024 with Aly Wowchuk discussing the history of Pride in the Wheat City.

Cameron-Splett

653 That the verbal reports of the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium, Western Manitoba Regional Library and Brandon General Museum and Archives be received.
CARRIED.

ENQUIRIES:

(121) 2023 OPERATIONAL & UTILITY SURPLUS/DEFICIT - UPDATE

Councillor Luebke enquired if an updated projection on the 2023 operational and utility surpluses or deficits could be provided.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager confirmed that there would be a surplus in both the General and Utilities Fund for 2023. He advised that a plus or minus number would be provided to City Council for the 2024 Budget Deliberations.

(122) CROSSWALK AT 22ND STREET AND RICHMOND AVENUE

Councillor Hildebrand referred to a previous enquiry with respect to the pedestrian crosswalk at 22nd Street and Richmond Avenue whereby he had been advised that upgrades to the crosswalks on Richmond Avenue had been delayed to align with road maintenance on Richmond Avenue.

Councillor Hildebrand noted recent incidents of speeding as well as an accident at this location and requested that a full safety audit of Richmond Avenue from 18th to 26th Streets be conducted, and further, that a full pedestrian crosswalk complete with lights be installed at the 22nd Street and Richmond Avenue Intersection.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, the City Manager responded that the area had been reviewed by the Engineering Department and it had been determined that improvements to the crosswalk at 22nd Street and Richmond Avenue was not warranted at this time. He advised that the area would continue to be monitored and upgrades made as needed.

Councillor Hildebrand responded that, given that Brandon Police Service had raised concerns with speeding along Richmond Avenue and the BPS Cadets had been stationed at the 22nd Street Crosswalk after school in December to assist students from Meadows School crossing Richmond Avenue, this area was definitely a safety concern and should be looked at sooner rather than later.

Councillor Desjarlais noted that he had had the same issue with a crosswalk on Princess Avenue whereby it had been determined by Administration that a pedestrian crosswalk was not warranted. He agreed with Councillor Hildebrand that an overall, more thorough review was needed. Councillor Desjarlais requested that general cost estimates for crosswalk improvements be provided prior to Budget Deliberations to ensure that should any Councillor request improvements to a specific crosswalk they would be aware of the approximate cost of same.

Further to this issue Councillor Berry expressed concerns with respect to the safety of the children from Meadows School who used this crosswalk every day. He spoke about his own experience of seeing a child nearly hit there and noted that a BPS Constable had sent an email expressing concerns with this intersection and recommending a push button stop at this crosswalk. Councillor Berry also noted that having the BPS Cadets covering the crosswalk for the last two weeks of December had definitely helped as a temporary fix; however, this was a serious safety concern that needed to be dealt with before there was a tragedy.

(123) POTHOLES 00 BLOCK OF 27TH STREET

Councillor Cameron advised that the 00 Block of 27th Street had become almost impassable due to potholes and requested that this area be added to the list for the spring maintenance program.

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

(124) SPRUCEWOODS PLACE PEDESTRIAN SIGNAGE AT ENTRANCE

Councillor Cameron advised that residents of Sprucewoods Place were unable to see pedestrians on the sidewalk coming up to the driveway and vice versa pedestrians were not able to see vehicles coming out of the driveway due to poor site lines. He enquired if staff could work with residents of Sprucewoods Place to install signage even on their property advising pedestrians that they needed to watch for cars coming out of the driveway.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

DAKOTA NATION WINTERFEST

Mayor Fawcett announced that the Dakota Nation Winterfest was taking place January 26-28, 2024 at the Keystone Centre and encouraged everyone to attend this important cultural and sporting event.

CONNIE LAWRENCE CEO & GENERAL MANAGER OF KEYSTONE CENTRE

Councillor Luebke announced that Connie Lawrence was promoted to the position of CEO & General Manager of the Keystone Agriculture and Recreational Centre Inc. and wished her well in her new role.

AG DAYS

Councillor Luebke announced that Manitoba Ag Days held January 16 - 18, 2024 at the Keystone Centre had been a huge success with over 35,000 people attending over the 3 days.

2024 INDUCTEES INTO THE MANITOBA SOFTBALL HALL OF FAME

Mayor Fawcett congratulated Kevin Bartley and members of the Brandon Merchants Fastball Club on being inducted into the Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame for 2024.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

(A) AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT - 2630 MCDONALD AVENUE

Considered was a report from the Planning and Buildings Department dated January 15, 2024 with respect to the above.

Cameron-Cullen

654 That an affordable housing incentive be approved for Keller Developments Ltd. to facilitate the development of a 16 multi-unit building, including eight affordable housing units, at 2630 McDonald Avenue whereby the incentive shall be comprised of:

1. That the City owned lands at 2630 McDonald Avenue as shown on Attachment A be sold to Keller Developments Ltd. for \$1 to facilitate the construction of affordable housing on the site.
2. That Keller Developments Ltd. be authorized to receive up to \$420,000 from Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation (MHRC) grant held by the City of Brandon as per the March 24, 2021 funding agreement and \$300,000 from the Affordable Housing Reserve;
3. That an annual tax off-setting grant be provided to the owner or successor of 2630 McDonald Avenue equal to 50% of the municipal portion of property taxes for 20 years once construction is complete.

And further, 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. CARRIED.

(B) HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUND

Considered was a report from the Planning and Buildings Department dated January 17, 2024 with respect to the above.

Parker-Cameron

655 That Council authorize administration to enter into a contribution agreement with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to complete the Housing

Accelerator Fund Action Plan as approved by the CMHC as generally outlined in Attachment A. CARRIED.

BY-LAWS:

NO. 7374 TO ESTABLISH THE FISCAL CONTINGENCY GENERAL RESERVE FUND

Considered was a report from the Finance Department dated January 17, 2024 with respect to the above.

Desjarlais-Parker

656 That By-law No. 7374 to establish the Fiscal Contingency General Reserve Fund for the purpose of providing funds for irregular events, planned or unplanned, which are unable to be accommodated within the operating budget of the City of Brandon, be read a second time. CARRIED AS AMENDED.

AMENDMENT

Luebke-Berry

657 That By-law No. 7374 Section 2 be amended by deleting the amount "\$966,145" and substituting the amount "500,000". LOST.

AMENDMENT

Luebke-Berry

658 That By-law No. 7374 be amended by deleting from the first AND WHEREAS and from Section 1. the words "irregular events, planned or unplanned" and substituting the words "unforeseen events". CARRIED.

Desjarlais-Cullen

659 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. 7374 third 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:

(A) CROSSING ON RICHMOND AVENUE

In accordance with Rule 60 of Procedure By-law No. 6334, Councillor Hildebrand gave notice of his intent to introduce a motion with respect to crossings on Richmond Avenue at McDonalds/Sobeys and at 22nd Street.

(B) BUDGET DELIBERATION TIMELINE

In accordance with Rule 60 of Procedure By-law No. 6334, Councillor Luebke gave notice of his intent to introduce at motion with respect to timeline for budget deliberations.

ADJOURN:

Berry-Luebke

That the meeting do now adjourn. (9:53 p.m.) CARRIED.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK