

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Council held at City Hall in the City of Portage la Prairie on Monday, February 23, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Ken Brennan, Councillors: Ferris, Shindle, Keryluk, Quinn and Wagner

ABSENT: Councillor Bereza

ADOPTION OF MINUTES 48/09 Moved by: Councillor Wagner
Seconded by: Councillor Quinn
RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held at City Hall on February 9, 2009 and the Special Meeting of Council held at City Hall on February 20, 2009 be approved as circulated.
Carried.

DELEGATIONS: None

HEARINGS: None

COMMITTEES:

Finance, Legislative & Property Committee The Finance, Legislative and Property Committee respectfully submits the following reports:

Cancellation of June 8, 2009 Council Meeting The 2009 Schedule of Council Meeting was approved at the December 8, 2008 Council Meeting. Since that meeting Council Members have expressed an interest in attending the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference being held from June 5 to 8, 2009 in British Columbia. As June 8 falls on a regular Council date there is a necessity to cancel it.

We are required through our City of Portage la Prairie Procedure By-law to advertise any cancellations of Council Meetings.

49/09 Moved by: Councillor Quinn
Seconded by: Councillor Shindle
RESOLVED THAT Council of the City of Portage la Prairie approve the cancellation of the June 8, 2009 Council Meeting and further that this cancellation be advertised.
Carried

By-Law 09-8418 – Water, Sewer An Solid Waste Added To Taxes For January 2nd And 3rd Reading This is part of the normal monthly procedure to allow unpaid water, sewer and solid waste accounts to be added to property taxes.

50/09 Moved by: Councillor Quinn
Seconded by: Councillor Shindle
RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 09-8418 being a by-law to authorize unpaid water, sewer and solid waste charges be added to taxes, be read a second time.
Carried

51/09 Moved by: Councillor Quinn
Seconded by: Councillor Shindle
RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 09-8418 be read a third time, finally passed, signed and sealed.
Carried.
In Favour: Councillors Ferris, Keryluk, Quinn, Shindle, Wagner and Mayor Brennan.

Tax Cancellation – 307 Portage Avenue Mr. John Wojcichowsky owns the property at 307 Portage Avenue, Roll No 0279800.000. Under the City's Compliance Order No. BLC 21-05 the building on this property was demolished in February 2006.

Unfortunately the Assessment Branch was not informed of the demolition until recently. Therefore the assessment of the building remained on the tax rolls past the demolition date of February 2006. The taxes applicable to the building demolished amounts to \$1,354.92 from 2006 to 2008 including penalties to date. The 2009 taxes are yet to be determined pending the School levy for 2009.

Council may cancel any taxes, debt or monies owing to the City. Council's practice has been to cancel taxes for buildings removed from property. Since this property is subject to the 2009 Tax Sale for taxes in arrears, it is recommended to cancel the taxes on the building at this time so that correct balances on the outstanding amounts can be issued.

52/09 Moved by: Councillor Quinn

Seconded by: Councillor Shindle

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie authorize the deletion of the building on the assessment roll for the building on Roll No. 0297800.000 and cancel the taxes applicable to the building removed.

Carried.

Monthly Activity
Reports

Council reviewed the monthly activity reports.

**City Planning &
Economic
Development**

The City Planning & Economic Development Committee respectfully submits the following reports:

Councillor Bereza reviewed a letter from the Downtown Business Association regarding the success of the 2008 Hometown Manitoba Program.

Monthly Activity
Reports

Council reviewed the monthly activity reports.

**Public Safety
Committee**

The Public Safety Committee respectfully submits the following reports:

P.A.W.S. Issues
With Animal
Control

On December 22, 2009, the City of Portage la Prairie received a letter from P.A.W.S. regarding concerns they have with Animal Control. In their letter they state specific issues as follows:

1. Foster homes do not require licensing of foster pets as they are not the owner of animals.

The Animal Control By-Law requires animals to be licensed. Waiving the responsibility for Foster-Care animals would create concerns with identification of any animals that may escape custody and run at large. A solution would be to provide/designate a certain number of licenses/year to P.A.W.S..

2. Foster homes that have already met the City's by-law of three animals be granted an exception to (1) foster animal above the by-law amount.

It appears reasonable to allow 1 more animal than the Animal Control By-Law allows. This would require an amendment to Section 17, Clause 4 of the Animal Control By-law.

3. P.A.W.S. will have impoundment fees waived by Animal Control when taking custody of animals that are "timing-out". P.A.W.S. recognizes that there may be times when foster pets "escape", which is usually why they end up in the City Pound to begin with, and will be responsible for impoundment fees in these situations.

City Council had previously waived impoundment fees for animals that are taken in to custody by P.A.W.S. for timing out.

4. P.A.W.S. be granted permission to operate its T-N-R Program (Trapping,

Neutering, Release) in the City of Portage la Prairie. If we require some type of licensing to operate the humane traps, please advise and we will follow-up.

The City of Portage la Prairie does not have a program in place for TNR, however traps used by P.A.W.S. should indicate they are the owners. The City of Portage la Prairie takes no responsibility or liability in the use of these traps. All costs associated with the TNR program would be the responsibility of P.A.W.S.

53/09 Moved by: Councillor Ferris
Seconded by: Councillor Keryluk

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Portage la Prairie recommend the following with respect to the requests made by the Portage Animal Welfare Society (P.A.W.S.):

1. That P.A.W.S. be provided up to 20 pet licenses/year free of charge, however it would be the responsibility of the foster home to come into City Hall to register the animal.
2. To give first reading to a by-law to amend Section 17 Clause 4 of the Animal Control By-Law. The new by-Law will refer to P.A.W.S. or such other animal welfare organization recognized by the City of Portage la Prairie.
3. That the City continue to waive impoundment fees picked up for timing out and that P.A.W.S. will be responsible for any costs associated with the animal in their custody running at large and impounded.
4. That P.A.W.S. must indicate that any traps for their TNR (Trapping, Neutering, Release) program be clearly marked as their own. The City of Portage la Prairie takes no responsibility or liability in the use of these traps. All costs associated with the TNR program would be the responsibility of P.A.W.S..

Carried.

Councillor Ferris announced that Crime Stoppers has released a video regarding the Amber McFarland missing persons case.

Monthly Activity
Reports

Council reviewed the monthly activity reports.

**Waterworks
Committee**

The Waterworks Committee respectfully submits the following reports:

Monthly Activity
Reports

Council reviewed the monthly activity reports.

**Transportation
Committee**

The Transportation Committee respectfully submits the following reports:

By-Law No. 09-
8430 - Solid Waste
Management Fees
– 2nd and 3rd
Reading

The Solid Waste Management Program operates as a user pay utility. It provides solid waste collection, composting and recycling services for residents of the City of Portage la Prairie. These operating costs have increased significantly. There is also a need to purchase capital items such as a compost screener for the composting site.

The current user fee is \$64 per year for solid waste collection and \$21 per year for recycling collection, for a total amount of \$85 per year per residential unit. At these current rates, the 2009 Solid Waste would run an operating deficit of \$39,495.

Increasing the user fees from \$85 to \$100 per residential unit per year is necessary to cover the current and upcoming annual operating costs of the program and allow for future capital purchases. The 2009 budget includes an increase of \$15 per residential unit per year, for solid waste collection and recycling collection.

The total annual fee per resident would be \$100, broken down to \$75 for solid waste

collection services per year and \$25 for solid waste recycling collection services per year.

The recommendation sets the increase to take effect March 1, 2009 which will result in approximately \$68,500 more in revenues for 2009.

The revenue from the increase is to go firstly to cover operating costs with any balance left to be transferred to the Environmental Reserve.

First Reading of this by-Law was given on February 9, 2009.

54/09 Moved by: Councillor Wagner
Seconded by: Councillor Ferris
RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 09-8430 being a by-law to amend the Fees & Charge By-Law No. 08-8412 be read a second time.
Carried.

55/09 Moved by: Councillor Wagner
Seconded by: Councillor Ferris
RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 09-8430 be read a 3rd time, finally passed, signed and sealed.
Carried.
In Favour: Councillors Ferris, Keryluk, Quinn, Shindle, Wagner and Mayor Brennan.

Councillor Wagner reviewed a memo from the Operations Department regarding recommendations from the Highway Traffic Board for speed limits in school zones.

Monthly Activity Reports

Council reviewed the monthly activity reports.

Community Services Committee

The Community Services Committee respectfully submits the following reports.

Monthly Activity Reports

Council reviewed the monthly activity reports.

DEFERRED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

By-Law No. 09-8435 - Debenture Authorization – PCU Centre Construction – First Reading

The Debenture by-law for the design and construction of the PCU Centre allows for borrowing up to a maximum of \$10,000,000 for the project.

The project was estimated at a cost of \$35.7 million funded as follows.

<u>Capital Costs (in Millions)</u>	<u>Phase 1</u>
City	\$16.00
RM	\$8.00
Province of Manitoba	\$5.00
Canada	\$3.30
Public Contributions	\$3.43
	<u>\$35.73</u>

As noted above the City's share is for \$16 million with \$6 million from the Reserves, \$2,000,000 from the Recreation Reserve, and \$10 million from borrowing. The debt term for \$10 million is for 15 years. Borrowing was authorized under by-law 07-8371 and approved by the Municipal Board.

Project costs to date amount to \$5.2 million at this time with the bulk of the remaining costs to occur over the spring and summer months.

A request for bids on the borrowing was sent to the various financial institutions to

obtain the most favourable interest rate. While the current borrowing interest rate with the Province is 6%, the City was offered a rate of 5.5% for the 15 year term, a savings of \$500,000 in interest over the course of the 15 year term for the \$10,000,000 debenture.

The Series "A" Debenture issue for \$7,000,000 will be from the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC Life Insurance Co.) and the Series "B" Debenture is for \$3,000,000 from the Mutual Life Assurance Company. This by-law is ready for 1st reading. This will be sent to the Municipal Board for approval before 2nd & 3rd reading takes place.

56/09 Moved by: Councillor Quinn

Seconded by: Councillor Shindle

RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 09-8435 authorizing debentures Series A in the amount of \$7,000,000.00 and Series B in the amount of \$3,000,000.00 for partial costs for the design and construction of the PCU Centre be given 1st Reading; and

THAT By-Law No. 09-8435 be sent to the Municipal Board for approval.

Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None

Councillor Wagner read a letter sent by the Mayor to the Minister of Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation addressing concerns regarding the surface of the Tupper Street Bridge.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Council adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Mayor

Manager of Administration