



**REGULAR COUNCIL
3:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JANUARY 26, 2009**

PRESENT: Mayor Bruce Lantz
Councillor Lori Ackerman
Councillor Trevor Bolin
Councillor Bruce Christensen
Councillor Dan Davies
Councillor Larry Evans
Councillor Don Irwin (3:08 p.m.)

ALSO PRESENT: Dianne Hunter, City Manager
Fred Burrows, Fire Chief
Joanne Caldecott, Deputy City Clerk
Don Demers, Director of Public Works
Grace Fika, Manager of Human Resources
Janet Prestley, Director of Legislative and Administrative Services
Jim Rogers, Director of Protective Services
Laura Sanders, Director of Finance
Victor Shopland, Director of Infrastructure and Public Works

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m.

2. Notice of New Business:

None

3. Adoption of Agenda by Consensus:

The January 26, 2009 Regular Council meeting agenda was adopted by consensus

4. Adoption of Minutes:

RESOLUTION NO. 40/09
MOVED/SECONDED

“THAT, minutes of the January 12, 2009 Open Strategic Planning and Finance Committee Meeting be adopted.”

CARRIED

4. Adoption of Minutes (Continued):

RESOLUTION NO. 41/09
MOVED/SECONDED

"THAT, minutes of the January 12, 2009 Regular Council Meeting be adopted."

CARRIED

Councillor Irwin joined the meeting.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

2009 Airshow

Administration Report No. 20/09

RESOLUTION NO. 42/09
MOVED/SECONDED

"THAT, Councillor Davies be appointed as Council's representative to the Airshow Society."

CARRIED

Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Response to Canadian Association of Home and Property Inspectors (BC)

Councillors Ackerman and Christensen indicated that the letter received from Minister van Dongen provided sufficient information and there was no further need to write a letter as requested at the January 12, 2009 meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 43/09
MOVED/SECONDED

"THAT, Resolution 13/09 of January 12, 2009 stating:
THAT a letter be sent to the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, asking for clarification on the level of requirements for home and property inspectors, and requesting that the Province's standards for these inspectors be at a very high level be rescinded."

CARRIED

6. Presentations:

Presentation of 2nd Place in the Mayor's Ice Carving Challenge

Councillors Ackerman, Christensen, Evans, Irwin and Davies

Councillors Ackerman, Christensen, Evans, Irwin and Davies were presented with the Mayor's Challenge 2nd Place Certificate for their ice carving submission "Frozen in Time", at the 2009 High on Ice event.

6. **Presentations:**

Child Development Centre

CDC Month
Crystal Kalas

Ms. Kalas addressed Council and outlined programs and events provided by the Child Development Centre. The annual Talent Show Fundraiser will be held on March 6, 2009.

RESOLUTION NO. 44/09
MOVED/SECONDED

“THAT, February 2009 be proclaimed CDC Month in the City of Fort St. John.”

CARRIED

9. **Correspondence:**

Order of British Columbia

Request for 2009 Nominations

Council welcomed nominations from the public for the 2009 Order of British Columbia and advised that all nominations received by individual Councillors would be forwarded to the Honors and Awards Secretariat via the City. This correspondence item was received for information.

Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC and Yukon

Heart Month

RESOLUTION NO. 45/09
MOVED/SECONDED

“THAT, February 2009 be proclaimed Heart Month in the City of Fort St. John.”

CARRIED

Councillor Irwin left the meeting.

Royal Canadian Legion

Canadian Rangers Patrol Group Exercise (Western Spirit)

Council was requested to confirm their attendance at this event on February 7 and 8, 2009 and received the letter from the Royal Canadian Legion for information.

North Central Municipal Association

Call for Nominations for 2009-2010 NCMA Executive

RESOLUTION NO. 46/09
MOVED/SECONDED

“THAT, Fort St. John City Council nominates Councillor Bruce Christensen for the position of Peace River Regional Representative for the 2009 – 2010 NCMA Executive.”

CARRIED

10. **Correspondence:**

North Central Municipal Association

2009 NCMA Convention

Council was requested to confirm their attendance at this Convention and received the letter from North Central Municipal Association for information.

Councillor Irwin returned to the meeting.

10. **Council Information Package Adoption:**

Administration Report 29/09

Council Information Package – January 26, 2009

RESOLUTION NO. 47/09

MOVED/SECONDED

“THAT, Administration Report 29/09 - Council Information Package for January 26, 2009 be received for information.”

CARRIED

Tourism Industry Conference

Councillor Christensen enquired whether the City would be represented at this Conference and indicated his availability to attend. The City Manager advised that a staff member from the City's Community Services Department was registered to attend.

Bucks, Buy-A-Net, Save a Life

Councillor Davies enquired whether this program would be repeated in 2009. The Manager of Human Resources would be pleased to coordinate staff donations towards this worthwhile project. Council indicated their willingness to participate in this program.

Creating Universally Designed Healthy Sustainable Communities Conference

Measuring Up the North

Councillor Evans would be attending this conference since this related to his Council portfolio. Mayor Lantz indicated that any member of Council could attend this Conference.

11. **Reports by Mayor and Council on Meetings and Liaison Responsibilities:**

For the media's benefit, Mayor Lantz advised that under this section of the Agenda, Council would report selectively regarding meetings where action is required.

Councillor Irwin:

- Expressed appreciation to the 2009 High on Ice Committee for wonderful event.

Councillor Evans:

- Attended a SONS Meeting and was requested to advise the public that the book containing 'Everything Seniors Need to Know in Fort St. John' will be available in February.
- Stated that the 2009 High on Ice had been a very successful event and thanked the organizing committee.

11. Reports by Mayor and Council on Meetings and Liaison Responsibilities:

Councillor Ackerman attended:

- FIT Interview with the Personnel Committee.
- Northern Economic Summit held in Prince George. A report is being compiled and will be submitted to Council when further information has been obtained.

Councillor Bolin

- No report

Councillor Davies attended:

- Economic Development Corporation Meetings where the process of creating the Terms of Reference and Strategic Planning was underway.
- Opening of the Salvation Army Emergency Shelter's additional facilities. The opening evening was bitterly cold with 14 people able to benefit from this welcome addition. Council thanked all concerned for completing this project.
- Extended greetings for the Chinese New Year.

Councillor Christensen:

- Attended the Northern Economic Summit in Prince George.
- Congratulated Fort St. John's own world champion Speed Skater Denny Morrison who just won two gold medals in Russia.

Mayor Lantz

- Attended the Northern Economic Summit in Prince George and indicated that a report will follow.
- Attended a meeting with the Northern Caucus of Mayors and Cabinet members who had attended the Northern Economic Summit in Prince George. Discussion was held on exploration regarding biomass burning to handle garbage, pine beetle debris in the Peace area. This initiative would be a collaborative effort with the Peace River Regional District and the initial discussions were enlightening. More information will follow.

12. Reports from City Manager and Administration:

Administration Report No. 22/09

Cheque Report for December 2008

RESOLUTION NO. 48/09

MOVED / SECONDED

"THAT, Council receive the attached Cheque Listing Report for December 2008."

CARRIED

Administration Report No. 23/09

Proposed Fire/Rescue System Model

Fire Chief Burrows addressed Council to outline the Fire Services Liaison Group and the features of the Fire and Rescue System Model which forms an intrinsic part of emergency response. Previously there has been a lack of guidance and finance at a provincial level.

12. **Reports from City Manager and Administration:**

Administration Report No. 23/09

Proposed Fire/Rescue System Model

Many of the recommendations made will impact on the smaller fire departments throughout the province. The Fire Commissioners Office is the reporting agency but has limited responsibilities interacting with individual Fire Departments. This initiative will unite smaller fire departments and improve functionality.

Council discussed the potential impact of the recommendations on local services in Fort St. John and enquired whether there was a budget implication after the City indicates their support of the new model. Chief Burrows indicated that the City of Fort St. John Fire Department is well placed and is already doing many of the mandated tasks outlined in the model and anticipates little impact on the department.

RESOLUTION NO. 49/09
MOVED / SECONDED

“THAT, the City of Fort St. John supports in principle the 36 recommendations of the Fire Service Liaison Group in efforts to achieve a Fire/Rescue System Model in the Province of British Columbia.”

CARRIED

Mayor Lantz thanked Chief Burrows for providing this information to Council.

Administration Report No. 24/09

Revenue and Expenditure Report

RESOLUTION NO. 50/09
MOVED / SECONDED

“THAT, the attached Revenue and Expenditure Report as at December 31, 2008 be received for information.”

CARRIED

Administration Report No. 25/09

Residential Snow Removal

The City Manager reiterated the high level of service and quality of snow removal in the City and reminded Council that the City had changed from using just graders to incorporating underbody plows which was more efficient resulting in the streets being cleaned in a timely fashion. The information provided required Council's direction. The cost versus benefits needs to be considered. Councillor Irwin congratulated the Director of Public Works for his preparation of the information and thanked him for the details provided. Councillor Evans indicated that although the streets were cleared efficiently, he received many calls from people who were unable to exit their driveways due to the windrow and that this was unsatisfactory. Mayor Lantz gave credit to the Public Works department for their excellent service provided and indicated his overall satisfaction in the fact that the current service provided served the greater good.

12. **Reports from City Manager and Administration:**

Administration Report No. 25/09

Residential Snow Removal

RESOLUTION NO. 51/09

MOVED / SECONDED

“THAT, the City of Fort St. John receive Administration Report No. 25/09 – Residential Snow Removal for information.”

CARRIED

Administration Report No. 26/09

Response from Save Our Northern Seniors Regarding Snow Removal

City Council considered assistance to those senior citizens in Fort St. John that are in need of snow removal services. The City Manager provided information regarding the Snow Angels program and indicated that certain businesses (wishing to remain anonymous) had signed up and sent their employees to assist in this program. Mayor Lantz enquired whether it was possible for the City to provide an incentive to encourage other businesses to step forward. The City Manager advised that letters of thanks should be sent to all volunteers to thank them for their support.

Chief Burrows left the meeting.

Council noted that the request from SONS did not indicate clearly the exact number of seniors affected. Councillor Ackerman suggested that SONS continue to promote the Snow Angels Program to seniors, the program be added to the City's new website, and that volunteers be invited to the City's annual Community Awards night. Mayor Lantz expressed concern that the program has been abused by local residents from time to time. The City Manager indicated that Community Services have worked actively to promote the Snow Angels Program and encouraged the media to interview and photograph residents supporting the program to encourage people to get out and help others.

Chief Burrows returned to the meeting.

Administration Report No. 26/09 - Response from Save Our Northern Seniors Regarding Snow Removal was received for Council's information. Council requested that staff contact SONS to promote use of the Snow Angels Program as a solution to the removal of snow from seniors' driveways, and to provide snow removal contractor contact information.

CARRIED

Administration Report No. 27/09

Hospital Land Subdivision, Sale and Offsite Servicing

RESOLUTION NO. 52/09

MOVED / SECONDED

“THAT, the Administration Report No. 27/09 - Hospital Land Subdivision, Sale and Offsite Servicing be received for information.”

CARRIED

12. **Reports from City Manager and Administration:**

Administration Report No. 28/09

Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors - Request for Donation

Councillor Davies indicated that this Association needs to ensure that their application is received within the timelines indicated per Council policy.

The City Manager requested that Council provide clarification on Council's Conference Hosting Policy to staff as a previous request for sponsorship from the School District had been declined. Councillor Davies indicated that the previous request from the School District for bus transportation had not been declined, but had been referred to the School Board of Trustees who had the option to source transportation from within was a cheaper alternative.

RESOLUTION NO. 53/09
MOVED / SECONDED

"THAT, City Council approves a sponsorship in the amount of \$420.00 for the Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors' annual seminar taking place in Fort St. John on June 24 and 25, 2009,

THAT, this amount be allocated to the Council Contingency Account,
THAT, the Canadian Association of Geophysical contractors be provided a copy of the City's Policy to follow the proper procedure in applying for sponsorship in 2010
AND FURTHER THAT, funding will be put towards a shuttle service rather than the utilization of transit buses."

CARRIED

Administration Report No. 30/09

Proposed Revisions to Council Procedure Bylaw No. 1947, 2007

Councillor Davies indicated his concerns in changing the current start time for Council meetings as this will affect the working public and make it difficult for them to attend. He indicated the necessity to break for a meal when lengthy meetings went through regular supper time. He further indicated that catering was rotated between local restaurants which helped to generate the local economy.

Councillor Ackerman indicated concern regarding the increased loss in productivity from her regular employment should Council meetings start at 1:00 p.m. Mayor Lantz expressed his concern was primarily with the cost of meals which were at the taxpayer's expense, and indicated a preference for splitting the meeting into two segments with Council being accountable for their own meals. Councillor Bolin was in favour of the Mayor's suggestion.

Administration Report No. 30/09

Proposed Revisions to Council Procedure Bylaw No. 1947, 2007

RESOLUTION NO. 54/09
MOVED / SECONDED

"THAT, staff prepare a new Council Procedure Bylaw in accordance with the recommended changes contained within Administration Report No. 30/09 – Proposed Revisions to Council Procedure Bylaw,
AND FURTHER THAT Section 5 subsection C of the proposed changes be removed."

CARRIED

13. Works in Progress:

Councillor Irwin requested clarification as to why items were being removed from this schedule. The City Manager illustrated with Item 1 regarding the fact that the program was fully subscribed, funding was no longer available and the matter was now over three years old and therefore was no longer had any relevancy.

The City Manager verified that the Works In Progress Schedule is meant to be used to reflect ongoing current action items. Items were being added to the schedule on a regular basis, the intent of which is to ensure that projects outside of regular City 'housekeeping' duties are listed. However once these topics are completed, these items should be removed if the priority is no longer valid.

Council sought further clarification regarding:

Item 34: Height of North Peace Overpass

This topic was being addressed on a Regional basis and the City was not directly responsible for this matter.

Item 5: Storm Sewer Bylaw

The Storm Sewer awareness program had been referred to NEAT or another organization. The City Manager highlighted the date of this matter and that ongoing discussion regarding programs and services with NEAT would become a budget item if Council requested NEAT to provide this service. Councillor Ackerman indicated that this item should be referred to Boy Scout who had previously done the Yellow Fish Road Program.

Item 30: Tourism Plan

The City Manager indicated that Council members have been attending NRAHTA and TAC meetings and suggested that Council provide an update and indicate staff's future involvement. Councillor Davies requested that a report be submitted to establish what the TAC is doing for the City's tourism.

RESOLUTION NO. 55/09

MOVED / SECONDED

"THAT, the Council consents to items 1, 5, 6, 9, 10, 14, 18, 23, 29, 30, 34, 42, 43 and 44 being removed from the Works In progress schedule for the February 9, 2009, AND FURTHER THAT the Works in Progress Report is received for information."

CARRIED

Councillor Irwin left the meeting.

14. Bylaws:

Hybrid Bus Loan Authorization Repeal Bylaw No. 1991, 2009

RESOLUTION NO. 56/09

MOVED / SECONDED

"THAT, the Hybrid Bus Loan Authorization Repeal Bylaw No. 1991, 2009 be adopted by title only."

CARRIED

14. **Bylaws:**

Water Regulation Amendment Bylaw No. 1993, 2009

RESOLUTION NO. 57/09
MOVED / SECONDED

“THAT, Water Regulation Amendment Bylaw No. 1993, 2009 be adopted by title only.”

CARRIED

Sanitary Sewer Regulation Amendment Bylaw No. 1994, 2009

RESOLUTION NO. 58/09
MOVED / SECONDED

“THAT, Sanitary Sewer Regulation Amendment Bylaw No. 1994, 2009 be adopted by title only.”

CARRIED

Councillor Irwin left the meeting.

Administration Report No. 31/09

Amendment to Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 1982, 2008
Fees and Charges for Various Municipal Services Amendment Bylaw No. 1995, 2009

RESOLUTION NO. 59/09
MOVED / SECONDED

“THAT, Fees and Charges for Various Municipal Services Amendment Bylaw No. 1995, 2009 be introduced and read for the first three times by title only.”

CARRIED

14. **New Business:**

Enerplex

The Director of Facilities and Protective Services provided an update on the Enerplex.

Council Calendar

The Council Calendar was received for information with the following additions:

- Councillor Ackerman will be away from February 16th to 18th, 2009
- Pool Commission meeting on March 17th at 3pm
- Councillor Christensen should be registered as attending the LGLA Convention in Richmond

16. **Notice of Motion:**

Traffic Calm Zone on 98th Street (Seniors Home)

Councillor Evans submitted a Notice of Motion requesting a report on the feasibility of installing a 30 km speed zone / traffic calming zone in front of the senior citizen's home on 98th Street. Seniors are often loaded into vehicles on this street which is becoming unsafe because of speeding vehicles along 98th Street between 106th to 112th Avenues.

16. **Notice of Motion:**

Traffic Calm Zone on 98th Street (Seniors Home)

The report will include the possibility of speed monitoring signage as part of the traffic calming installed on 98th Street. Currently a speed monitoring sign is in place near Mathews Park which indicates the speed of passing vehicles and has proven very effective in slowing traffic down.

The meeting recessed at 4:46 p.m. and reconvened at 5:30 p.m.

6. **Presentations:**

Long Service Awards

Tom Worton – Captain Fire Department - 30 Years service
Martin Von Borck – Public Works - 5 Years service

Mr. Worton was presented with a Long Service Certificate and a gift certificate from Mayor Lantz who expressed Council's sincere appreciation to Mr. Worton for his many years of service, dedication and leadership at the City's Fire Department.

Mr. Von Borck was not in attendance to receive his award.

7. **Delegations:**

Canadian Utility Construction Corporation

Reagan Pinette

Request for reconsideration their application to rezone Lots 8 to 12, Block 20, Plan 12116

Mr. Pinette addressed Council regarding the Canadian Utility Construction Corporation request to rezone this property which was declined at the November 10, 2008. Regular Council meeting. He outlined the overall development of the property and the reasons the application had originally been requested. Councillor Ackerman enquired whether the use of a Temporary Use Permit was a suitable option. Mr. Pinette advised that Temporary Use Permits were not allowed in this area of the City. Further, these permits are usually limited to six months with maximum of two years in an industrial zone, and therefore the permit would not apply. The City Manager indicated the original discussion related to the lack of the buffer between the two land uses (residential and industrial) and staff need to spend further time to explore the development permit area and approach Council with some alternatives since a zoning change to industrial is not a sensible solution. Mr. Pinette confirmed that the proposed temporary structure to be built on the property was to store pipe as well as a drilling rig which needs to be stored inside during the winter.

Mayor Lantz thanked Mr. Pinette for his presentation and advised that this matter would be considered under the New Business section of the agenda.

RESOLUTION NO. 60/09
MOVED / SECONDED

“THAT, the Regular Council meeting recess until the Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m.”

CARRIED

The meeting recessed at 5:51 p.m. and reconvened at 6:25 p.m.

8. Public and Statutory Hearings and Public Meetings

Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1992, 2009

City Initiative

Proposed Changes in C3, M1 and M2 Zones (Hazardous Materials)

RESOLUTION NO. 61/09

MOVED/SECONDED

"THAT, the public hearing report for Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1992, 2009 be received."

CARRIED

Councillor Davies agreed that the definitions within the Bylaw needed clarification with further thought on benefitting all parties concerned. Councillor Bolin indicated his agreement regarding clarity on the definitions, noting that the outcome would have an impact on the resale price of these properties. Mayor Lantz commented that the goal of the bylaw was primarily to focus on correct containment of hazardous chemicals.

RESOLUTION NO. 62/09

MOVED/SECONDED

"THAT, the report for Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1992, 2009 be tabled to the March 9th Regular Council meeting to allow staff to provide clarification on the definitions for volume, materials for the oilfield services and storage."

CARRIED

15. New Business (continued):

Canadian Utility Construction Corporation

Request for reconsideration their application to rezone Lots 8 to 12, Block 20, Plan 12116

RESOLUTION NO. 61/09

MOVED / SECONDED

"THAT, Canadian Utility Construction Corporation's application to rezone Lots 8 and 12, Block 20, Plan 12116 be referred to City Staff to investigate other options to rezone this property into an appropriate zone rather than light industrial."

CARRIED

Mayor Lantz acknowledged that Council's decision would cause further delay for the applicant; however the City hoped to find an optional solution to the rezoning which would reduce the current hardship on the owner.

17. Resolution to Move to Closed Meeting:

RESOLUTION NO. 62/09

MOVED/SECONDED

"THAT, Council Move to the Closed Council Meeting for the purpose of discussing matters that pertain to:

(c) labour relations or other employee relations."

CARRIED

18. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Confirmed by Council this 9th day of February, 2009

**CERTIFIED CORRECT IN ACCORDANCE
WITH SECTION 124 OF THE COMMUNITY CHARTER**

BRUCE LANTZ, MAYOR

JANET PRESTLEY, DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE
AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES