

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

2006 02 06

5:00 P.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PRESENT: Mayor J. Rowswell, Councillors J. Caicco, P. Mick, L. Turco, D. Celetti, J. Collins, T. Sheehan, S. Butland, B. Hayes, F. Manzo, N. DelBianco, D. Amaroso

ABSENT: Councillor J. Curran

OFFICIALS: J. Fratesi, D. Irving, L. Bottos, N. Apostle, B. Freiburger, J. Dolcetti, D. McConnell, P. McAuley, J. Luszka, K. Steich-Poser

1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan

Seconded by Councillor D. Amaroso

Resolved that the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of 2006 01 23 be approved. CARRIED.

2. **QUESTIONS AND INFORMATION ARISING OUT OF MINUTES AND NOT OTHERWISE ON AGENDA**

4. **DELEGATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

- (a) Mike Barker, Chair Vincent Place and Jim Paddon, President St. Vincent de Paul Society were in attendance concerning Proclamation - Toque Day.
- (b) Mike O'Neill, Co-Chair, Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma District Northern Ontario School of Medicine Bursary Fund Committee was in attendance concerning agenda item 5.(w).
- (c) Helen Ross, ARCH Project Coordinator; and Brendan Cullin, Algoma Residential Community Hospice were in attendance concerning agenda item 5.(b).
- (d) Alvin Olar, Chair, Sault Youth Council and Linda Ryan, Youth Opportunities Council were in attendance concerning agenda item 5.(c).

4. (e) Blake Golder, EMR, North Region Coordinator, Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation; and Mike Gaudette, Sault Ste. Marie Safe Communities Partnership were in attendance concerning agenda item 5.(l)(ii).
- (f) Brian Curran, President and C.E.O., PUC Inc. was in attendance concerning Operation of City Water System.
- (g) Rhonda Bateman, Source Protection Planning Coordinator and Linda Whalen, General Manager, Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority were in attendance with a presentation concerning Source Protection Planning.
- (h) Ken Lajambe, Chair, Fundraising Subcommittee; and Walter Wallace were in attendance concerning agenda item 5.(n).

PART ONE – CONSENT AGENDA

5. **COMMUNICATIONS AND ROUTINE REPORTS OF CITY DEPARTMENTS; BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan

Seconded by Councillor D. Celetti

Resolved that all the items listed under date 2006 02 06 - Part One - Consent Agenda, save and except 5.(l)(i) OFFICIALLY READ NOT DEALT WITH, be approved as recommended. CARRIED.

- (a) Correspondence from AMO was received by Council.
- (b) The letter from the Algoma Residential Community Hospice concerning plans for a residential hospice in Sault Ste. Marie and the letter from Mayor Rowswell to the Algoma Residential Community Hospice were received by Council.
- (c) Correspondence from the Sault Youth Council dated 2006 01 31 concerning a proposal to Council for the creation of a municipal Youth Strategy Officer and funding for a youth strategy was received by Council.

Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan

Seconded by Councillor N. DelBianco

Whereas City Council receives and endorses the letters and the report of the Sault Youth Council dated 2006 01 31 concerning a Proposal to City Council that the City create a municipal position of Youth Strategy Officer and that the City provide the resources to fund the position and implement a youth strategy BE REFERRED to the Finance Committee and to Council for consideration during the 2006 Budget Deliberations; and

5. (c) Further BE REFERRED to appropriate staff with a request from Council that staff meet with both Provincial and Federal government representatives for sources of funding and report back to City Council. CARRIED.
- (d) The Press Release from Algoma University College concerning the first Masters Level Degree in Computer Games Technology in Canada and First Master of Science Degree in this field offered at Algoma University was received by Council.
- (e) Correspondence from the County of Brant (concerning the report of the Water Strategy Expert Panel); the City of Greater Sudbury (concerning support for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Mining Innovation at Laurentian University); and the Niagara Region (concerning minimum capital program funding) was received by Council.

Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan

Seconded by Councillor D. Celetti

Whereas Laurentian University has created the Mining Leadership Team to establish Greater Sudbury as a Centre of Mining Research Excellence; and
Whereas the City of Greater Sudbury in a resolution dated 2006 01 11 has supported the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Mining Innovation at Laurentian University;

Now therefore be it resolved that Sault Ste. Marie City Council supports the City of Greater Sudbury and Laurentian University in their efforts toward the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Mining Innovation at Laurentian University. CARRIED.

- (f) The letter from the Director, Special Ombudsman Response Team (SORT) in response to a recent Council resolution was received by Council.
- (g) Correspondence from the Ontario Municipal Human Resources Association and a Toronto Star article concerning Bill 206 An Act to Review the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System was received by Council.

Councillor L. Turco declared a pecuniary interest - spouse employed by Police Services.

(h) **Staff Travel Requests**

The report of the Chief Administrative Officer was accepted by Council.

Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan

Seconded by Councillor D. Amaroso

Resolved that the Staff Travel Requests contained in the report of the Chief Administrative Officer dated 2006 02 06 be approved as requested. CARRIED.

5. (i) **RFP - Ergonomic Furniture - Social Housing Services Relocation**

The report of the Manager of Purchasing was accepted by Council.

Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan

Seconded by Councillor D. Celetti

Resolved that the report of the Manager of Purchasing dated 2006 02 06 be endorsed and that the proposal pertaining to the supply and installation of Ergonomic Office Furniture, required by the Social Services Department, be awarded as recommended. CARRIED.

(j) **2006 Allocation for the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF)**

The report of the Commissioner of Finance and Treasurer was accepted by Council.

Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan

Seconded by Councillor D. Amaroso

Resolved that the report of the Commissioner of Finance and Treasurer dated 2006 02 06 concerning 2006 Allocation for the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) be accepted as information; and

Further resolved that Sault Ste. Marie City Council request that the Province review and eliminate, or at the very least accelerate, the Phase-In Adjustment increase program for Northern Ontario municipalities be approved. CARRIED.

(k) **Requests for Financial Assistance for 2006**

The report of the Manager of Finance and Audits was accepted by Council.

Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan

Seconded by Councillor D. Celetti

Resolved that the report of the Manager of Finance and Audits dated 2006 02 06 concerning Requests for Financial Assistance for 2006 be accepted and the recommendations contained therein be approved. CARRIED.

(l)(i) **External Defibrillators - Supplementary Budgetary Request**

The report of the Commissioner of Human Resources was received by Council.

Moved by Councillor S. Butland

Seconded by Councillor J. Caicco

Resolved that the report of the Commissioner of Human Resources dated 2006 01 23 concerning External Defibrillators Supplementary Budgetary Request be accepted and the recommendation that Council approve the immediate installation of defibrillator units at Memorial Gardens, John Rhodes, McMeeken Centre, Civic Centre, Seniors Drop-In Centre and Seniors Steelton Centre at an estimated cost of \$35,000.00 with funds to come from the OMERS Premium Reduction Reserve be approved. OFFICIALLY READ NOT DEALT WITH.

5. (l)(i) Councillor L. Turco declared a pecuniary interest - spouse employed by Police Services.

(ii) **Community Public Access Defibrillator Program**

The report of Councillor Steve Butland was accepted by Council.

Moved by Councillor S. Butland

Seconded by Councillor J. Caicco

Resolved that the report of Councillor Steve Butland dated 2006 02 06 concerning Community Public Access Defibrillator Program be accepted and the recommendation that City Council DEFER the acquisition of defibrillators for city-owned facilities until a community strategy is developed at which time the city would proceed in an appropriate and timely manner and further that the Sault Ste. Marie Safe Communities Partnership be asked to convene such a meeting of interested community stakeholders and further that Councillor Steve Butland along with appropriate staff be authorized to represent the city at such a meeting. CARRIED.

(m) **Renewal of Employee Assistance Program (E.A.P.) Contract With Group Health Centre**

The report of the Commissioner of Human Resources was accepted by Council. The relevant By-law 2006-30 is listed under item 10 of the Minutes.

(n) **Memorial Tower**

The report of the Commissioner of Community Services was accepted by Council. The copy of the Letter to the Editor appearing in Sault Star on Thursday, February 2, 2006 from Dr. Bob Ewing, Chair of Sault Ste. Marie Municipal Heritage Committee was received by Council.

Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan

Seconded by Councillor D. Amaroso

Resolved that the report of the Commissioner of Community Services dated 2006 02 06 concerning Memorial Tower be accepted as information. CARRIED.

(o) **Landfill Site - Second Weigh Scale Revised Budget Estimate**

The report of the Manager of Construction and Environmental Engineering was accepted by Council.

Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan

Seconded by Councillor D. Celetti

Resolved that the report of the Manager of Construction and Environmental Engineering dated 2006 01 23 concerning Landfill Site - Second Weigh Scale Revised Budget Estimate be accepted and the recommendation that Council approve the revised budget estimate of \$600,000.00 with funds to come from the Waste Disposal Site Reserve be approved. CARRIED.

5. (p) **Engineering Services - Pentagon Boulevard Reconstruction**
The report of the Director of Engineering Design and Buildings was accepted by Council. The relevant By-law 2006-24 is listed under item 10 of the Minutes.
- (q) **Community Improvement Plan**
The report of the Planning Division was accepted by Council. The relevant By-law 2006-32 is listed under item 10 of the Minutes.
- Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan
Seconded by Councillor D. Amaroso
Resolved that the report of the Planning Division dated 2006 02 06 concerning Community Improvement Plan be accepted and the Planning Director's recommendation that City Council approve a By-law to designate the entire municipality as a Community Improvement Project Area as per Section 28(2) of the Planning Act be endorsed. CARRIED.
- (r) **Amendment to Spring Half-Load Restrictions on Maki Road**
The report of the City Solicitor was accepted by Council. The relevant By-law 2006-25 is listed under item 10 of the Minutes.
- (s) **Safer Communities - 1,000 Officers Partnership Program**
The report of the City Solicitor was accepted by Council. The relevant By-law 2006-29 is listed under item 10 of the Minutes.
- Councillor L. Turco declared a pecuniary interest - spouse employed by Police Services.
- (t) **Ontario Municipal Board Hearing - 626 Fifth Line East and 32 Powley Road - Martin's Trailers**
The reports of the Assistant City Solicitor were accepted by Council.
- Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan
Seconded by Councillor D. Celetti
Resolved that the reports of the Assistant City Solicitor dated 2006 02 06 concerning Ontario Municipal Board Hearing - 626 Fifth Line East and 32 Powley Road - Martin's Trailers be accepted as information. CARRIED.
- (u) **Canadian Union of Public Employees (C.U.P.E.) Area Strike Vote Meetings - Bill 206 - O.M.E.R.S.**
The report of the Commissioner of Human Resources was accepted by Council.

5. (u) Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan
Seconded by Councillor D. Amaroso
Resolved that the report of the Commissioner of Human Resources dated 2006 02 06 concerning Canadian Union of Public Employees (C.U.P.E.) Area Strike Vote Meetings - Bill 206 - O.M.E.R.S. be accepted as information. CARRIED.

Councillor L. Turco declared a pecuniary interest - spouse employed by Police Services.

- (v) **Application A-25-05-T - Sam Rainone - 99 Gibb Street**
The report of the City Solicitor was accepted by Council. The relevant By-law 2006-34 is listed under item 10 of the Minutes.
- (w) The February 3rd Media Release concerning the Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma District NOSM Bursary Fund Committee announcement of funds raised to financially support students from Northern Ontario attending NOSM was received by Council.

PART TWO – REGULAR AGENDA

6. REPORTS OF CITY DEPARTMENTS; BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

6. (6) PLANNING

- (a) **Application No. A-01-06-OP - 755 Airport Road - 553304 Ontario Limited - Request to Rezone in Order to Permit the Creation of One New Rural Residential Lot**

The report of the Planning Division was received by Council.

Moved by Councillor F. Manzo
Seconded by Councillor S. Butland

Resolved that Planning Application No. A-01-06-OP - 755 Airport Road BE DEFERRED to the April 10, 2006 Council Meeting at the request of the property owner. CARRIED.

Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan
Seconded by Councillor D. Amaroso

Resolved that the report of the Planning Division dated 2006 02 06 concerning Application No. A-1-06-OP - 553304 Ontario Limited be accepted and the Planning Director's recommendation that City Council approve Official Plan Amendment No. 109 be endorsed. OFFICIALLY READ NOT DEALT WITH.

7.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS, NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS
PLACED ON AGENDA BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

- (a) Moved by Councillor B. Hayes
Seconded by Councillor S. Butland
Whereas the Provincial Government has introduced legislation to pass Bill 206;
and
Whereas the passage of this bill may have significant ramifications on the finances of the City of Sault Ste. Marie; and
Whereas the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has ignored the request of AMO in June of 2005 to provide an assessment of the potential cost impacts of Bill 206 on municipalities;
Now therefore be it resolved that City Council invite our M.P.P. David Oraziotti to Council so that he might articulate to us the specifics of Bill 206 in relation to additional costs that will be imposed upon this community as a result of Bill 206.
CARRIED.

- (b) Moved by Councillor J. Caicco
Seconded by Councillor S. Butland
Whereas the City's current interest rate charged on unpaid taxes is 15%; and
Whereas some members of the community have expressed serious concern about this rate being punitive and excessive; and
Whereas it is acknowledged that it is important to the City's operations and fiscal capability, that all taxes are paid on time and that the City should not find itself financing or "carrying" taxes which may be outstanding and therefore must charge a rate which encourages timely payment to the City;
Now therefore be it resolved that the City Treasurer be asked to review the current rate as well as rates charged by other communities and report back to Council on the rationale for the current rate and any changes which he may consider appropriate. CARRIED.

The letter from the President, Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce was received by Council.

Moved by Councillor B. Hayes
Seconded by Councillor T. Sheehan
Whereas the Municipal Act allows municipalities to charge an interest rate of 1 ¼% per month on overdue taxes; and
Whereas the City of Sault Ste. Marie's current policy has established a rate of 1 ¼% per month non-compounding payable only on the principal amount outstanding; and
Whereas lending institutions exist for the purpose of assisting businesses and homeowners with low-interest loans; and
Whereas other organizations such as the Enterprise Centre and the Economic Development Corporation also exist to assist business owners in several ways;
and

7. (b) Whereas the interest rate charged by the City of Sault Ste. Marie on overdue taxes is in line with all other municipalities; and
Whereas the purpose of an interest rate of 1 ¼% per month is to encourage timely payment of taxes for the cash flow needs of the city; and
Whereas the city has established several payment options to assist ratepayers in timely payment of taxes to avoid unnecessary interest charges; and
Whereas lowering the interest rate may in fact cause more businesses and individuals to be in tax arrears causing additional burden on staff resources; and
Whereas a reduction in taxes to accommodate the minority of businesses and homeowners who pay late will result in a reduction in interest revenue that will have to be compensated for through increases in property taxes for the majority of residents and businesses who pay taxes on time;
Now therefore be it resolved that the city leave the interest rate charged on overdue taxes at the rate of 1 ¼% per month.
TABLED.
- (c) Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan
Seconded by Councillor L. Turco
Whereas the recent Federal Election held on January 23, 2006 has resulted in a new minority government with Stephen Harper as Prime Minister being elected by the people of Canada; and
Whereas Tony Martin has been successfully re-elected as the M.P. for Sault Ste. Marie;
Now therefore be it resolved that Sault Ste. Marie City Council offers its congratulations and best wishes to The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, M.P. Tony Martin and all parliamentarians elected in this minority Government with our sincerest hopes that all will work together to move our Country and our Community forward; and
Further that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to The Right Honourable Stephen Harper and to M.P. Tony Martin. CARRIED.
- (d) Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan
Seconded by Councillor B. Hayes
Whereas Sault Ste. Marie will be well represented at the Olympic Winter Games in Torino, Italy when the Games begin on February 10th, 2006;
Be it resolved that Sault Ste. Marie City Council expresses its best wishes to all competitors during these Games; and
Further that Council offers its special thoughts for success to Marty Turco (Team Canada Hockey), Bridget Acton (Canadian Alpine Skier), Paul DiPietro (Team Switzerland Hockey), and John Porco (Team Italy Hockey); and
Further that the C.A.O. be requested to have appropriate City staff organize a civic ceremony after the Games are completed in honour of these four athletes.
CARRIED.

7. (e) Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan
Seconded by Councillor D. Amaroso
Resolved that Councillor Steve Butland be authorized to attend the Competitive Cities Conference in Toronto on March 8, 9 and 10, 2006 at an approximate cost of \$2,500.00. CARRIED.

8. **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUCH MATTERS AS ARE REFERRED TO IT BY THE COUNCIL BY RESOLUTION**

9. **ADOPTION OF REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

10. **CONSIDERATION AND PASSING OF BY-LAWS**

Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan
Seconded by Councillor D. Amaroso
Resolved that all the By-laws listed under Item 10 of the Agenda under date 2006 02 06 be approved. CARRIED.

- (a) Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan
Seconded by Councillor D. Amaroso
Resolved that By-law 2006-21 being a by-law to appoint Municipal Law Enforcement Officers to enforce the by-laws on various properties and to amend Schedule "A" to By-law 90-305 be read three times and passed in Open Council this 6th day of February, 2006. CARRIED.

- (b) Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan
Seconded by Councillor D. Amaroso
Resolved that By-law 2006-22 being a by-law to appoint Don Elliott as Director of Engineering Services be read three times and passed in Open Council this 6th day of February, 2006. CARRIED.

- (c) Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan
Seconded by Councillor D. Amaroso
Resolved that By-law 2006-23 being a by-law to amend Cemeteries By-law 99-208 be read three times and passed in Open Council this 6th day of February, 2006. CARRIED.

- (d) Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan
Seconded by Councillor D. Amaroso
Resolved that By-law 2006-24 being a by-law to authorize an agreement with the City and Kresin Engineering to provide engineering services for the reconstruction of Pentagon Boulevard between McNabb Street and Pleasant Drive be read three times and passed in Open Council this 6th day of February, 2006. CARRIED.

10. (e) Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan
Seconded by Councillor D. Amaroso
Resolved that By-law 2006-25 being a by-law to amend Schedule "M" to Traffic By-law 77-200 be read three times and passed in Open Council this 6th day of February, 2006. CARRIED.
- (f) Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan
Seconded by Councillor D. Amaroso
Resolved that By-law 2006-26 being a by-law to authorize a collective agreement between the City and the United Steel Workers of America - Local 2251 (Transit) for the period February 1, 2005 to January 31, 2008 be read three times and passed in Open Council this 6th day of February, 2006. CARRIED.
- (g) Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan
Seconded by Councillor D. Amaroso
Resolved that By-law 2006-27 being a by-law to authorize the disposal of surplus City property at 140 Gore Street be read three times and passed in Open Council this 6th day of February, 2006. CARRIED.
- (h) Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan
Seconded by Councillor D. Amaroso
Resolved that By-law 2006-29 being a by-law to authorize an agreement between the City, the Province and The Sault Ste. Marie Police Services Board for provincial funding for the hiring of new police officers under the Safer Communities - 1,000 Officers Partnership Program be read three times and passed in Open Council this 6th day of February, 2006. CARRIED.
- (i) Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan
Seconded by Councillor D. Amaroso
Resolved that By-law 2006-30 being a by-law to authorize an agreement between the City and the Sault Ste. Marie and District Group Health Association for the provision of Employee Assistance Services be read three times and passed in Open Council this 6th day of February, 2006. CARRIED.
- (j) Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan
Seconded by Councillor D. Amaroso
Resolved that By-law 2006-32 being a by-law to designate the City of Sault Ste. Marie as a Community Improvement Project area be read three times and passed in Open Council this 6th day of February, 2006. CARRIED.
- (k) Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan
Seconded by Councillor D. Amaroso
Resolved that By-law 2006-34 being a by-law to permit an automobile repair garage at 99 Gibb Street be read three times and passed in Open Council this 6th day of February, 2006. (Sam Rainone) CARRIED.

11. **QUESTIONS BY, NEW BUSINESS FROM, OR ADDRESSES BY MEMBERS
OF COUNCIL CONCERNING MATTERS NOT OTHERWISE ON AGENDA**

- (a) Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan
Seconded by Councillor D. Celetti
Resolved that this Council shall now go into Caucus to discuss one labour relations item and one personal matter about identifiable individuals; and
Further be it resolved that should the said Caucus meeting be adjourned, Council may reconvene in Caucus prior to the next meeting of Council to discuss the same matter(s). CARRIED.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councillor T. Sheehan
Seconded by Councillor D. Amaroso
Resolved that this Council shall now adjourn. CARRIED.

"John Rowswell"

MAYOR

"Donna P. Irving"

CLERK