

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee Members:

Councillor J. Fullarton, Chair
Councillor J. Baker
Councillor T. Blanchard
Councillor L. Bursey
Councillor J. Earle
Mayor D. Henderson, Ex-Officio

Others:

Councillor D. LeSueur
Councillor M. McFall

Staff:

Ms. V. Baker, Clerk's Secretary (Recording Secretary)
Mr. B. Casselman, City Manager
Mr. C. Cosgrove, Director of Operations
Mr. D. Dick, Director of Corporate Services
Mr. P. Raabe, Director of Environmental Services
Ms. S. MacDonald, City Clerk

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m.

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil.

The agenda items were re-ordered to accommodate the guests in the gallery.

1. Brockville Rifles 150th Anniversary
Mr. Jeff Shaver, Brockville Rifles

Moved by: Councillor Earle

THAT Council authorize the following actions:

1. A two gun salute on Blockhouse Island with a 1860's cannon and a current artillery gun;
2. The flying of the Brockville Rifles flag at Tunnel Bay for the anniversary year;
3. The 2016 New Year's Levee will be hosted by the Brockville Rifles at the Armouries;
4. That Council will Proclaim 2016 "Year of The Rifles";
5. THAT a "Freedom of the City Parade" will be held on the anniversary weekend (Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2016); and

THAT the City Clerk be directed to initiate the street re-naming process.

CARRIED

Mr. Shaver provided an update to the Committee concerning the Brockville Rifles 150th Reunion being planned for 2016. A request was made to rename Blockhouse Island Parkway to Rifles Way. Ms. MacDonald will contact Mr. Shaver with the process for street naming.

2. 2014-055-05
Feasibility of Twin Pad Arena Facility

Moved by: Councillor Bursey

THAT the Brockville Arena Expansion Feasibility Study reports, Phase I and Phase II, by Queen's Business Consulting, be received; and

WHEREAS the demand for a third ice surface in Brockville has been documented; and

WHEREAS the public support for additional indoor recreation facilities has been expressed;

THEREFORE the Arena Advisory Committee be authorized to examine the options for providing three ice surfaces and indoor recreation facilities; and

THAT Council authorize the expenditure of up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000.) to retain Queen's Business Consulting to refine the costing options and this expenditure be expensed out of fiscal policy reserve.

CARRIED

Mr. Ackerman spoke to the report.

Mayor Henderson asked if the Centennial Youth Arena would be kept for an indoor recreation facility. Mr. Ackerman replied that this is one of many ideas. Mr. Cosgrove clarified the cost of operating the arena.

Councillor Earle asked if artificial ice was considered. Mr. Ackerman said not as yet but could be explored.

Councillor McFall suggested getting partners involved to aid with financing. Mayor Henderson said that he would be interested in knowing what the financial impact would be in not keeping the Centennial Youth Arena in operation.

Mr. Ackerman stated that the committee would like to retain Queen's Business Consulting to further refine the costing options as Phase 3.

3. Busking
(Councillor Bursey)

Moved by: Councillor Bursey

WHEREAS street performers can add a hub of activity and excitement to our downtown corridor during the summer months, offering local artists an opportunity to share their talents, and attract new visitors and patrons, and;

WHEREAS many communities already have busking by-laws in place, as a means to nurture artistic development and create a welcoming atmosphere to songwriters and performers, and;

WHEREAS no proper licensing or by-law is currently in place, despite the fact that this initiative is being supported by many local artists and, if vetted through an audition process and time share, could create a tremendous opportunity for City revenue through licensing, artistic revenue for performers, and a vibrancy in our downtown;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Corporation of the City of Brockville draft and legislate a new street buskers by-law in association with the Clerk's department, the Downtown Business Improvement Association, and the City police, which will include an audition process where warranted, a performer's fee for licensing, and a plan for implementation in 2015.

CARRIED

Councillor Baker asked why it was necessary to institute licensing. Ms. MacDonald stated that busking was not permitted in accordance with the Care and Use of Streets by-law. She also stated that it would be typically applied to add some control. Without parameters, any busker could setup in front of any store front. It would also ensure that the type of busking was appropriate and family friendly.

Mayor Henderson asked if there were a number of requests for busking. Ms. MacDonald said that there have been approximately 2 per year. Callers were advised that they can participate in events, such as the sidewalk sales, but it required permission of the organizers.

Mayor Henderson said that he was hesitant to put a by-law in place. Councillor Bursey stated that when parameters are in place then regulations can be enforced.

Ms. Brenda Clarke of the DBIA stated that there are approximately 20 municipalities considering or recently implementing busking regulations. Ms. Clarke also stated that regulations and guide lines ensure quality and appropriateness and that the DBIA and Tourism would assist with the auditioning etc.

Councillor Earle was concerned that the noise by-law would have to be changed. Ms. Clarke suggested that no amplification would be allowed.

Councillor Bursey stated that the enforcement was not to be "heavy handed" but just to have it in place and use it as a tool.

4. 2014-051-05
Aquarium Operating Agreement

Moved by: Mayor Henderson

THAT Council authorizes the Mayor and the Clerk to execute the Aquarium Operating Agreement as outlined in Schedule 1 attached hereto.

CARRIED

Mr. Casselman spoke to the report. He stated that the City of Brockville must retain ownership of the condo for a minimum of 10 years as a condition of funding. The 2007 partnership agreements set out the terms. Mr. Casselman said that the parking at 45 Water St. and inside the Aquarium would continue to be owned by the City of Brockville but the net proceeds of the operation would go to the Aquarium.

Councillor Fullarton said that she has a concern with Clause 1.6, Survival. She asked for clarification on what would happen to the parking assets if the Aquarium ceased.

Councillor McFall stated that a clause could be inserted into the agreement that if the Aquatarium is sold to a new owner, then all obligations in that section are terminated, including the provision of parking. Mayor Henderson stated that the City could provide options to the Aquatarium on ways to manage the parking and that It will be treated as another City owned parking lot.

Mayor Henderson asked if the parking lot at 45 Water St. was only for Aquatarium use only. Mr. Casselman stated that it is for use by the general public. Councillor Blanchard asked if the lot would be for long term use. Mr. Casselman stated that it is for daily parking only, no monthly permits are permitted.

Councillor Baker exited the meeting at 5:45 pm.

Councillor McFall exited the meeting at 5:48 pm.

5. Provincial Property Tax Relief Program
Downtown Brockville Business Improvement Association

Moved by: Councillor Bursey

THAT the correspondence from Downtown Brockville Business Improvement Association, dated May 1, 2014, concerning the Provincial Property Tax Relief Program be received.

CARRIED

6. Provincial Property Tax Relief Program
(Councillor Bursey)

Moved by: Councillor Bursey

WHEREAS the property tax relief program for vacant commercial and industrial buildings is often provided to property owners through rebates issued by municipalities, in accordance with policies and procedures laid out in section 364 of the Municipal Act and Ontario Regulation 325/01; and

WHEREAS the program is designed to provide support to property owners during economic downturns and unexpected vacancies, and the program can help ease transitions, renovations and re-generations to buildings, but without proper time restrictions put in place to incent growth and restructuring, this policy can act as a disincentive to providing needed growth and seeking long-term infrastructure improvements and foster tenant relationships; and

WHEREAS we as a city have gone to great lengths and spent large sums of money and resource to revitalize our downtown and keep our local economy strong and vibrant, both aesthetically and financially; and

WHEREAS though this provincial program does serve a valuable purpose, the legislation is felt by many to be lacking the proper tax incentives and enough disincentive to adequately reflect the needs of our municipality and others like us

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Corporation of the City of Brockville send a letter to the Ministry of Finance, the Premier of Ontario, and our local Member of Provincial Parliament, asking that the terms of reference for the aforementioned tax relief program be revisited, and a definitive and realistic time restriction be implemented, with the intention of encouraging owners of vacant commercial and industrial properties to fill outstanding vacancies, and/or make the necessary renovations to allure market interest

DEFEATED

7. Stop Sign Apple Street at Water Street
(Councillor Bursey)

Moved by: Councillor Bursey

THAT Council approve the installation of a stop sign on Water Street at Apple Street.

DEFERRED to June FAO

Mr. Cosgrove stated that during a previous review by Council it was noted that the reduction in the maximum permitted speed was reduced to 40 km/hr to help with traffic along this stretch. Mr. Cosgrove would like to review the collision history and report back to the June FAO meeting.

8. Transient Traders
(Councillor Bursey)

Moved by: Councillor Bursey

WHEREAS for a number of years, the Brockville Police Services have been responding to residents and fielding phone calls from concerned citizens who are overwhelmed by aggressive door to door solicitation and sales tactic; and

WHEREAS, many times these citizens feel intimidated, and the validity of the seller's credentials are often in question; and

WHEREAS, we are attempting to find ongoing efficiency with our police services resource management, and this creates unnecessary de-escalation and mediation time due to inappropriate business practices;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Corporation of the City of Brockville update the necessary bylaws to include that any door-to-door commercial vendors obtain clearance from either the Clerk's office or by-law department, and have their business intentions recorded in an effort to provide clarification of credentials. Once on record, the duration of their stay can be extended, updated and rerecorded.

CARRIED

Mr. Mike Grant, Volunteer, Non-profit Housing spoke to the problems encountered by some residents. Some of the residents had difficulty dealing with the behaviors of the door to door sales people. He also indicated that in his capacity as a Constable with the Brockville Police Service, he deals with this type of complaint on a weekly basis. Mr. Grant can provide some call statistics with regard to call volumes received by the Brockville Police Service. He indicated that the majority of the calls are generated from the City's north end. He spoke of his experience with the aggressive nature of some of the door to door sales people.

9. 2014-053-05
Supply/Truck/Stack Winter Sand

Moved by: Councillor Blanchard

THAT the quotation from Steve Polite Sand & Gravel Ltd. in the amount of forty-two thousand, seven hundred twenty-five dollars (\$42,725), excluding HST, for City of Brockville Quotation 11-2014, Supply of Winter Sand, be accepted.

CARRIED

10. 2014-054-05
Water Pollution Control Centre Building Use Proposal

Moved by: Councillor Blanchard

THAT the City of Brockville permit the Brockville & District Chamber of Commerce's Tourism Department to use the former Water Pollution Control Centre Administration building for the remainder of 2014 at no cost and;

THAT the City of Brockville permit the Brockville & District Chamber of Commerce's Tourism Department to place a storage building in the existing asphalt parking at the former Water Pollution Control Centre Administration building.

CARRIED

11. 2014-060-05
Sewer Use By-Law

Moved by: Mayor Henderson

THAT Council authorize the enactment of a by-law to regulate the use of sewers in the City of Brockville, as attached to staff report 2014-060-05; and

THAT By-Law 12-91 be repealed.

CARRIED

12. 2014-047-04
Parking By-law 119-1989
Parking in Front of Residences

Moved by: Councillor Bursey

THAT City of Brockville Parking By-law 119-1989 be amended by deleting Section 81, Governing Parking In Front of Residences, etc., paragraphs (a) and (d) in their entirety and adding the following:

(a) No person shall park a vehicle on any part of a street or highway for a period longer than three (3) hours between the hours of 7:00 am and 11:00 pm, and if such vehicle is removed it shall not be parked within three hundred (300) metres from the point at which it was first parked within one (1) hour from the time of its removal.

(d) Notwithstanding Section (a), when signs are posted to the contrary, parking shall be permitted in accordance with the signs posted.

CARRIED

13. 2014-058-05
2014 Tax Rates and Tax Ratios

Moved by: Mayor Henderson

THAT Council authorize staff to levy \$32,530,951 and impose municipal and education tax rates for the year 2014; and

THAT Council authorize the levy of \$288,479 on behalf of the Downtown Board Improvement Association (DBIA) to impose special purpose rates for the year 2014; and

THAT Council authorize the tax ratios for all property classes per the attached schedule, for the 2014 year; and

THAT the necessary by-laws be enacted.

CARRIED

Councillor Blanchard spoke to his concern regarding the tax rate for parking lots. He stated that if the rate for the parking lots were less than it would encourage property owners of vacant land to create new parking lots.

Mr. Dick was requested to provide additional information about a change to the parking lot tax rate for the May 27th Council meeting.

14. 2014-059-05
2014 Capping and Thresholds Options

Moved by: Mayor Henderson

THAT Council adopts the following measures for the 2014 tax year:

1. THAT the cost of mandatory capping for the multi-residential, commercial and industrial classes be revenue-neutral; self-financing within the property class; and

2. THAT the capping percentage for the multi-residential class remain at 5% of the previous years annualized taxes; and

3. THAT the capping percentage for the industrial class remain at 5% of the previous years annualized taxes; and

4. THAT the capping percentage for the commercial class be set at 10% of the previous years annualized taxes; and

5. THAT the threshold change option be continued at \$150 for multi-residential, commercial and industrial classes; and

6. THAT when a property reaches full current value assessment it is removed from the capping/clawback system; and

THAT Council authorizes the passing of a By-law to adopt the 2014 Capping Options for the Protected Property Classes [Attachment #1 to Report].

CARRIED

15. 2014-057-05
2014 Departmental Work Plans First Quarter Report

Moved by: Mayor Henderson

THAT Council receive the 2014 Departmental Work Plans First Quarter Report.

CARRIED

16. Brock Trail Update
(Councillor Fullarton)

Councillor Fullarton provided an update on the Brock Trail project.

1. The plans are complete for the Cedar St. to St. Lawrence Park section at a cost of \$152,000. They will proceed with this in the spring of 2015.
2. The Perth St. to William St. reconstruction plans are complete costing \$147,000 and will proceed in the Spring/Summer of 2015.
3. Up to \$7,000 will be spent on the Grist Mill Bridge to prepare the necessary drawings and cost estimates. They will continue to contract with Joe McFarlane. \$2,500 will be spent for demolition and removal of the wooden ramp and necessary site preparation. Going forward the plans are to replace the original wooden bridge with a prefab metal bridge and wooden planks, remove and replace the existing wooden ramp with raised armour stone and a finished pathway, and to obtain the necessary permission to cross the Wayfare property with a raised in filled temporary pathway.
4. Plans are to complete the project the Summer of 2014 with total funding to include \$30,000 allocated for this year's capital spending. The initial spending (\$10,000 as

noted above) will utilize existing funds received from the Brockville Community Foundation – Tom Dailey Fund.

The committee will prepare a June update and presentation for the June FAO Committee meeting.

FAO - CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by: Councillor Blanchard

THAT the following items be placed on the Consent Agenda:

1. Mr. Jeff Shaver
(Brockville Rifles)
2. Provincial Property Tax Relief Program
Downtown Brockville Business Improvement Association
3. 2014-053-05
Supply/Truck/Stack Winter Sand
4. 2014-054-05
Water Pollution Control Centre Building Use Proposal
5. 2014-060-05
Sewer Use By-Law
6. 2014-047-04
Parking By-Law 119-1989
Parking in Front of Residences
7. 2014-058-05
2014 Tax Rates and Tax Ratios
8. 2014-059-05
2014 Capping and Thresholds Options
9. 2014-057-05
2014 Departmental Work Plans First Quarter Report

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Councillor Earle

THAT the Finance, Administration and Operations Committee adjourn its meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled for June 17, 2014.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.