



## **Ward Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, April 30, 2025, 7:00 p.m.**

**Kinsmen Youth Centre**

**609 James Street N.**

### **1. Northwood Ward Meeting 01-2025**

Chair: Councillor Dominic Pasqualino

### **2. Resource Persons**

John Collin, City Manager

Lori Wiitala, Committee Clerk & Legislative Specialist

### **3. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The Chair welcomed those in attendance, introduced Administration and provided introductory comments.

There were approximately 11 people in attendance.

### **4. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the 02-2024 ward meeting held on October 10, 2024, were provided, for information.

### **5. Growth Discussion with City Manager**

City Manager John Collin provided an overview on Growth in the city.

The city of Thunder Bay has only grown by 1.3%, compared to the provincial and national averages of 5.8% and 5.2% according to the 2016 and 2021 censuses. Inflation and a lack of growth have reduced the city's purchasing power and as a result tax rates and user fees have raised. The city needs population to grow,

and the existing economy makes it unappealing for people to transfer to Thunder Bay. The city will have to grow at a population rate of 1% and an inflation rate of 3% to keep up with the national average and reduce taxes and user fees.

To help with the plan's development, a diverse group of specialists was assembled to form Task Force Growth.

What have we done?

#### Housing

\$18 million in government funding was received to upgrade underground infrastructure in the prime development location, InterOcean, north and south of Central Ave. 1300 new units were built in the city, Burwood Road development could open up the opportunity for 3000 more units. The city reached the 2024 housing goals, as a result government funding in the amounts of \$5 million and \$850 thousand was received to meet the 2025 goals.

Government funding was received for the Vacant and Dilapidated Buildings Program to repurpose or tear down buildings.

Discussions are happening relative to the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital (LPH) grounds and all city owned properties not being utilized.

Frontier Lithium, Green Tech Metals, and Avalon have all expressed interest in Thunder Bay as the site for their operation. Frontier has purchased the OPG lands on Mission Island. The Ring of Fire was noted to be beneficial to Thunder Bay.

One Stop Development Shop to provide all services related to building process will launch in the coming months.

Discussion for the development of Pool 6 lands is underway; some ideas include condominium, hotel, luxury spa, commercial businesses, and parkland including trail access.

The bridge to the 2 islands was mentioned to be in rough shape; it was noted that its critical infrastructure and privileged discussions are currently happening.

A constituent mentioned that Pool 6 lands are ideal for swimming; it was advised against as the area is a conservation area and there are regulations, it was noted that creating a swimming area is not part of the Pool 6 plan.

Why was the work scheduled for roads in 2024 pushed to 2027?

Administration prioritizes work based on needs assessment.

Why wasn't a plebiscite considered regarding the proposed new ward system?

The work is not a top priority of Council at this time.

A constituent mentioned that 24 full-time employees were included in the 2025 budget.

All but 7 of the positions were funded by other sources, a reduction in staff would reduce services.

It was advised that the location for the Temporary Shelter Village (TSV) is scheduled to be ratified on Monday, April 28th, until then the decision is not final. Housing should be more available to unhoused people after 5 years, the program will end, and the mobile units will be sold and the lands can be repurposed. It was noted that data supports that the TSV will not attract others to Thunder Bay.

The newly implemented recycling program was mentioned, and it was noted that the program will expand, and residents will be receiving food waste bins in the near future.

## **6. Ward & City Issues**

### 2025 Capital Projects

#### Citywide Capital Initiatives

Multi-Use Indoor Turf Facility (pending Council approval)

Victoriaville Revitalization

Marina Festival Area Parking Lot Renewal and Road Realignment

Red River Rd Streetscaping Cumberland Street to Court Street (carry-over project)

Pool 6 Planting and Habitat Enhancement (carry-over project)

#### Northwood Ward

##### Watermain Replacement:

Chapples Park

##### Watermain Cement Mortar Lining:

Frontenac Street ..... Donald Street to Victoria Avenue

Leland Avenue ..... Arthur Street to Riverview Drive

Elmwood Crescent

Donald Street ..... James Street to Edward Street

Marquette Street ..... James Street to Madison Street

Madison Street ..... Arthur Street to Donald Street

Riverview Drive ..... James Street to Glendale Crecent

Pedestrian Crossing

Arthur Street at Leland Avenue – New Pedestrian Traffic Signals

Street Light Rehabilitation

Chapples Drive

Park & Open Spaces Projects

Chapples Park Cricket Pitch Upgrades

Capital Facilities Construction Projects

Conservatory Display Area Renewal (carry over project)

Delaney Arena Rink Surface Renewal

Chapples Park Electrical Upgrades and Washroom Improvements

**Discussion Topics**

Street Sweeping - mid to end of June is the goal for completion, which takes approximately 6-8 weeks

Request for lower speed at Fanshaw St and Edward St.

Roundabout show a cost savings with removal of traffic lights.

Cherry's Corner

Why are lights installed at Cherry's Corner, constituent felt it unnecessary.

The lights flash in the evenings to save funds and time stopped.

Street Light Synchronization

When will the synchronization of street lights happen?

The software has been purchased, Harbour Expressway is on a trial. Costly investment.

Red Light Cameras

The hurdle with this project is that the cameras are in a set location and can't be moved which reduces efficiency as citizens recognize camera locations.

Pedestrian Crossing

It was recommended to install a Pedestrian Crossing at Cumming and Waterloo.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.