



## Ward Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 7:03 p.m.**  
**Jumbo Gardens Recreation Centre,**  
**330 Toivo Street**

### **1. McIntyre Ward Meeting 01-2023**

Chair: Councillor Albert Aiello

### **2. Resource Persons**

Ian Spoljarich, Manager - Roads

Acting Sergeant Thomas Armstrong, Traffic Unit - Thunder Bay Police Service

Flo-Ann Track, Council & Committee Clerk

### **3. Attendance**

There were approximately 36 individuals in attendance, as follows:

Colleen Laughton, Jan Bachanek, Lorene Shymko, Amy Stephens-Doyle, Bill Horde, Lori Lafontaine, Frank Badoldto, Nick Badoldto, Lucas Badoldto, Barry Kucher, Ken Langen, Donna Langen, Eugene Marozzo, Andre Gagne, Natalie Pohjolainen, Chris Pyn, Darlene Pyn, Pat Curran, Jim Zappitelli, Rod Bosch, Dave Ball, Bob DePiero, Darlene Pavletic, Tony Pavletic, Anne Martinkus, Lydia Stam, Bill, Rick Breukelman, Mary Duncan, Richard Togman, Chris Krumpholz, Lisa Osmulski, Kasey Etreni, Dominic Pasqualino

#### **4. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The Chair to provide introductory comments.

The Chair, Councillor Albert Aiello welcomed Administration and those in attendance.

#### **5. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the McIntyre Ward meeting held on June 2, 2022, for information.

#### **6. Snow Removal**

Ian Spoljarich, Manager - Roads provided an overview relative to the above noted and responded to questions.

Discussion was held relative to the above noted. Some items discussed were as follows:

- Snow removal, priority routes, timelines, and service standards
  - Service levels for sidewalks, main and side streets is 5 cm
  - Removal begins with main streets, then side streets and sidewalks
    - priority routes are cleared and sanded first
    - in warmer temperatures roads are scraped to clear ice and mitigate ruts
  - 72 hours to complete all snow removal – 500km
  - Snow removal in cul de sacs is done with a loader, sometimes taking a bit longer than 72 hours to complete as the Operators cross over from plough trucks and graders, once priority routes are completed
  - a software program maps the route for efficiencies
  - Staff recruitment is ongoing
  - Contact Dispatch to report areas of concern or where sightlines are compromised by snowbanks
    - Sightlines at Valley and Pioneer are obstructed by snow

- Dispatch has been advised
- Driveway snow removal is the responsibility of the homeowner
  - there are programs and private contractors that will assist/can be hired to clear snow on private property
- Residents noted the plowing in and around the Jumbo Gardens Community Centre is inconsistent
  - The road leading into the Centre is maintained by Roads; the Parking Lot is maintained by Parks; and the stairs are maintained by Community Services. Coordination is difficult because all areas have their priorities

## 7. Ditch Maintenance

Ian Spoljarich, Manager - Roads provided an overview relative to the above noted and responded to questions.

Discussion was held relative to the above noted. Some items discussed were as follows:

- No budget dollars are set aside specifically for ditch maintenance, it is part of the overall budget
- Maintenance is prioritized and undertaken to mitigate overflow and flooding
- Contact Dispatch to report problem areas, Administration will assess work with property owners to prioritize on an individual basis
- Homeowners are responsible for maintaining and clearing ditches along property
- By-law Enforcement is complaint driven
- 2022 Spring thaw was faster than normal causing damage to driveways and closing 25 roads
  - entire summer 2022 was spent making repairs/improvements to mitigate future problems
- A Resident on Government Road noted that they have experienced property flooding every spring

- Administration has been in contact with the property owner. The homeowner will set up a site visit in the spring, to determine what needs to be done

The following question was submitted by a Resident prior to the meeting via email:

Can the city find a way to clean the ditches, so the stagnant water does not remain?

- Ditch maintenance is ongoing and prioritized to maintain water movement
- If the water is not causing an issue to infrastructure, no ditching is usually required
- Ditches are meant to take water away from the roads and properties
- Contact Dispatch with concerns relating to ditches or culverts, a work order will be created and reviewed by a Supervisor
  - Can the city provide tools to the public to help maintain ditches?
    - No, that would create liability issues

## **8. Traffic Enforcement**

Acting Sergeant Thomas Armstrong, Traffic Unit - Thunder Bay Police Service provided an update relative to the above noted and responded to questions.

Discussion was held relative to the above noted. Some of the items discussed were as follows:

- Thunder Bay Police are most visible on Dawson Road, as traffic data supports the probability that a fatal accident will occur in the area, but routine monitoring and patrolling of the connecting arterials and the area has helped to mitigate/reduce traffic offences
- Due to the volume of traffic in the area, enforcement patrols are routine/frequent. There is no specific schedule for enforcement presence in the area, patrols are present as resources permit
- Recruitment is ongoing
- New technology is being utilized to assist enforcement

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- Signage in the area is poor creating bottle necks where transports are not meant to travel
  - MTO has been contacted, no action is expected as traffic volume does not warrant per/standards
- Can flashing light standards, in advance of each intersection along the highway, be installed?
  - MTO has been contacted, no action is expected as traffic volume does not warrant per/standards

The Chair provided an overview relative to the above noted and responded to questions.

Discussion was held relative to the above noted. Some of the items discussed were as follows:

- The truck route has been approved, but a By-law is required to enforce it. Council will be revisiting the By-law
- Diesel fumes effect residential fresh air intake when trucks are left running at the mall, and garbage continues to be left
  - Administration continues to work with the Mall Owners to remediate
  - Driver's entering the mall to make deliveries cannot be ticketed
- Concerns have been raised that the implementation of a designated truck route would only move problems from one area to another
  - The designated truck route would direct heavy load traffic onto highway surfaces designed for that purpose and reduce the volume of heavy load traffic in the area
  - will reduce maintenance cost on roadways maintained by the city
- Red light cameras
  - the minimum number of cameras the City would have to purchase is ten, the cameras are static once installed, and can not be relocated to service multiple areas of the city. The cost to implement the cameras would not be recovered through ticketing

## 9. 2023 Budget Overview

The Chair provided an overview relative to the above noted and responded to questions.

Discussion was held relative to the above noted. Some of the items discussed were as follows:

- 2023 Budget ratified February 6, 2023
- 68% increase in operation costs since 2012
  - Inflation
  - Aging infrastructure
  - Emergency Services
  - Covid 19
- low tax rates will not sustain operations, 0% increase is not realistic
- tax base has not changed, no growth
- loss of commercial tax revenue due to reassessments
- approximately 2/3 of the 2023 Budget is allocated to services legislated by Government
  - legislated services can not be cut
    - Emergency Services
    - Police
      - the city has no influence with respect to Police wages
    - Transit, Conventional and Specialized
    - Infrastructure
- Work continues towards additional 2.1 million in savings
  - Facilities and services must generate enough revenue to maintain that facility or service
  - facilities and services that are underutilized will be closed/discontinued
    - will come before Council for decision
  - what services are being underutilized

- deeper dive into revenues, maintenance, and operation costs
- how can the city promote use
  - CEDC
  - social media
- rental agreements/lease agreements
  - closure of Jumbo Gardens Community Centre has been deferred to end of December 2023
    - current user group has requested a breakdown of maintenance and operational costs from Administration to determine if long term lease agreement is affordable, allowing the Centre to remain open longer

## **10. Ward & City Issues**

### **10.1 Pedestrian Traffic - John Street and Valley Street**

A Resident asked if a sidewalk will be installed along Valley Street? Pedestrians are having to walk on the roadway, due to snow build up on the shoulder during winter months.

The Chair provided the following response:

No, the City does not own the land beyond the shoulder of the roadway. There is not enough of an easement between the shoulder of the road and private property for a sidewalk to be placed.

## **11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.