



Ward Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Kinsmen Youth Centre

609 James Street N.

1. Northwood Ward Meeting 01-2023

Chair: Councillor Dominic Pasqualino

2. Resource Persons

Ian Spoljarich, Manager - Roads

Doug Vincent, Manager - Licensing & Enforcement

Tina Larocque, Coordinator - Boards, Committees and Special Projects

3. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chair called the meeting to order, welcomed Administration and those in attendance and provide introductory comments.

4. Attendance

Approximately 45 individuals were in attendance.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the Northwood Ward meeting held on February 2, 2022, for information.

6. Roads Maintenance

Ian Spoljarich, Manager - Roads provided an overview relative to roads, roads maintenance objectives, snow removal and responded to questions.

Snow Removal

Ian Spoljarich presented an overview of the plowing of streets. He advised that plowing of the arterial, collector and bus routes are commenced when 5 cm of snow have accumulated and the trucks usually start at 2 am and takes about 5-7 hours to complete. For the local streets, snow plowing will commence when 10 cm of snow have accumulated and trucks start at 9 am and takes 72 hours to complete.

Ian Spoljarich presented an overview of the plowing of sidewalks. He advised that the plowing of the arterial, collector, bus routes start once 5 cm or more of snow has accumulated, and will begin at 3 am will normally be completed 14 hours after the snow event has stopped or 36 hours after it a blower is required. For the residential sidewalks, he advised that they will normally be completed 72 hours after all sidewalks on the arterial and collector roadways have been cleared. If a blower is required, then it would normally be completed in 125 hours.

Ian Spoljarich responded to questions relative to snow in crescents that are not being plowed out properly and as the blade does not reach the curb. He advised that he will follow up regarding these noted crescents.

Ian Spoljarich responded to questions relative to the potholes and provided an overview of the process of repairing potholes in the spring/summer season.

Street Sweeping

Ian Spoljarich presented an overview of the sweeping of the streets. He advised that the downtown cores, bike lanes and arterial routes are completed first in the early morning before traffic picks up and usually takes 6 to 8 weeks to complete.

He further advised that the residential sweeping follows, and each year the north and south side neighborhood zones are randomly prioritized from 1-10, and are swept in that order. This takes several weeks to complete.

Ian Spoljarich responded to questions relative to painting of lines on the streets. He advised that the winter months are very difficult on the paint due to the traffic, graders, plows, salt and sand on the roads. He further advised that they start repainting the lines again in the spring and they use specified paint for this climate.

Ian Spoljarich responded to questions relative to sidewalks and trip hazards. He advised that they review sidewalk conditions every year and they lift and level to eliminate any trip hazards.

Ian Spoljarich responded to questions relative to the budget for curbing. He advised that they only do minor repairs to curbing as they do not have a budget for curbing, as that is the responsibility of the engineering division.

Ian Spoljarich advised that if you would like to report an issue you can contact City of Thunder Bay Dispatch at 625-2195 or by email at publicworks@thunderbay.ca

7. Licensing and Enforcement

Doug Vincent, Manager - Licensing & Enforcement provided an overview relative to the changes at Licensing and Enforcement Division.

The following information was provided:

Doug Vincent provided an overview of changes in Licensing and Enforcement. They have created a new restructuring plan that will provide more efficient services to the public. He advised that the older outdated By-law positions have been eliminated and new positions have been created, with no change to the budget. These new positions will be able to perform all functions and will be to respond to all calls, which will provide better services. There will be a slight increase this summer with longer hours, evenings and will include weekends. Once they have more officers they hope to have staff available 7 days a week, working 10 hour days. They are different levels of staff and they are recruiting staff with a police foundations background and also staff with a background in security.

Staff will now have uniforms and will be driving marked city vehicles, which will help identify them when they attend calls.

They have updated their by-laws which allows them to provide higher service and be more proactive instead of reactive with enforcement.

Complaints can be directed to dispatch at 577-6536 (MLEO). In the near future, residents will be able to log complaints anytime through an on-line system.

Doug Vincent responded to questions relative to rat control and prevention. He advised information can be found on the City of Thunder Bay website, which also includes a video relative to this issue.

Doug Vincent responded to questions relative to the state of Northwood mall with garbage strewn around the property. He advised that the previous staff had been in contact with the owner to clean up the property. They will be reaching out again to the owner to help resolve the issue.

Doug Vincent responded to questions and concerns relative to the parking app and the difficulties that seniors face when they do not use a cell phone and cannot access the technology. He advised that he would follow up with the resident and look into the properties that the resident had concerns with, as some areas have pay stations that residents can use and do not require a resident to use the parking app.

8. Ward & City Issues

8.1 City of Thunder Bay Digital Strategy

Question was raised in regards to the City of Thunder Bay digital strategy and when it will be implemented. Also concerns were raised if it was going to be like the 15 minute cities that are popping up in Oxford UK and China, using digital ID and currency to track all our movements and control our carbon footprint via our purchases.

The Chair advised he would follow up with Administration.

Jack Avella, Director - Corporate Information Technology provided a response by email after the meeting.

The City of Thunder Bay's Corporate Digital Strategy was a recommendation of the Grant Thornton Program Service Review completed in 2019 & 2020. The development of the strategy included public consultation and was presented to a number of committees and City Council in open session. The Strategy was endorsed by City Council in late 2021. A number of projects are underway as included in the Digital Strategy document.

The City of Thunder Bay's Corporate Digital Strategy aims to improve the City's internal operations and increase digital self-service options for citizens to access City Services.

The City of Thunder Bay's Corporate Digital Strategy is not related to any provincial or federal government Digital ID initiatives and is not linked to the 15 Minute City Residential Urban Planning Concept.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.