



## Ward Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, February 29, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Thunder Bay 55 Plus Centre**  
**700 River Street**

**1. McIntyre Ward Meeting 01-2024**

Chair: Councillor Albert Aiello

**2. Resource Persons**

Lisa Parent, Project Engineer

Richard Togman, CEO - Thunder Bay Public Library

Gordon Stover, Committee & Meeting Management System Coordinator

**3. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The Chair welcomed those in attendance, introduced the resource persons and provided introductory remarks.

**4. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the McIntyre Ward meeting held on November 8, 2023, for information.

**5. Thunder Bay Public Library**

Richard Togman, CEO - Thunder Bay Public Library provided a presentation relative to the Thunder Bay Public Library (TBPL) Strategic Plan.

The TBPL Strategic Plan was developed over the last two years and approved in principle by City Council in June 2023. Community surveys and information sessions were conducted during the process. One main focal point of the Plan was for the TBPL to explore options for a rental location/library branch in Intercity

Mall. Architectural firm Brook McIlroy has been hired to develop and design the Intercity Mall plans. Further community consultation and public engagement on the details of the proposed project will be occurring over the next several months.

The location was selected to allow for more space/area for the library to focus on more children and youth programming and activities that the current branches do not have the capacity to perform. The larger location will also allow for more meeting rooms, indigenous acknowledgement areas and greater public space in general. Intercity Mall was also selected as a more centralized location for Thunder Bay as it is accessible directly by City Transit as well as having free parking instead of the current metered on-street parking at some of the local branches.

Discussion was held and concerns were raised relative to overall costs of the new location as well as the future use of the existing library branches.

## **6. 2024 Upcoming Infrastructure Projects**

Lisa Parent, Project Engineer provided an overview of the handout entitled 2024 Capital Projects - McIntyre Ward.

The projects brought forward by the Engineering & Operations Division for the 2024 Capital budget have been chosen based on the City's Asset Management Plan, previous Council direction, strategic corporate priorities and funding availability. Some general, larger value, reoccurring budget items, such as the annual capital asphalt patching item, are included under General/Multiple Wards. Individual project locations under these items are reviewed throughout the City and will be scheduled based on performance priorities. The McIntyre Ward list is of proposed major capital projects in the ward.

### General/All Wards

Miscellaneous Asphalt Patching, Crack Sealing and Residential Paving

Hollow Sidewalk replacement

Cement Mortar Watermain Lining

Cathodic Protection of Watermains

Roundabout Education Campaign

Arterial and Collector roads streetlight replacement with LED

Low Impact Developments

Boulevard Tree Planting

Emerald Ash Borer Response (treatment, removal and replacement)

Accessible Playground Swing Seats and Picnic Tables

Park Identification Signage  
Parkette lighting replacement with LED

### McIntyre Ward

Asphalt Rehabilitation – Streetlighting, Drainage & Sidewalk Removal  
Wasco Dr

### Asphalt Rehabilitation

Mapleward Rd - Landfill to Oliver Rd  
Onion Lake Rd - North 1.3 km Section

### Sidewalk Replacement

County Blvd - House #241 to Perth Cres  
Valleywood Cres - Fassina St to House #536

### Pedestrian Crossover

Valley St at Hutton Park Dr

### Hot-In-Place Resurfacing

John St Rd - #1820 to Community Hall Rd

### Residential Resurfacing

Oxford Street - Oliver Rd to Dead End

### Surface Treatment

Alice Avenue - Melbourne Rd to Wilen Rd

Following the presentation, the Chair responded to questions and concerns relative to the following:

- Government Road still needs to be paved.
- Residents want to ensure that there is appropriate amount of funding for roads in the McIntyre Ward when compared to other areas of the City.
- Dawson, Government, Community Hall, Belton and Melbourne Roads all need various repairs including culvert, gravel and asphalt re-surfacing.

Discussion was held relative to the merge lane from Expressway onto Highway 102/Dawson Road. Safety concerns were raised for the outside merge lane on the Expressway. Yield signs need to be more prevalent. The Chair advised that concerns with the Expressway are for the Ministry of Transportation.

## **7. Northwest Arterial**

Chair and Lisa Parent provided an overview of the proposed Northwest Arterial road project.

Under the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario's (MTO) plan to divide Highway 11/17 between Red River Road and Arthur Street, both John Street Road and Oliver Road will be flyovers without direct access to Highway 11/17, thus creating a significant gap in access that would impact the northwest transportation network. The Northwest Arterial is the proposed solution to alleviate this issue.

There will be opportunities for public feedback and input on this project as it moves ahead. Residents in the area will be notified by mailings and the City will issue notices using the local media outlets. In addition, there will be an open house session to present up to date information on the project and gather feedback.

A map of the proposed Northwest Arterial Road connecting Golf Links Road with Dawson Road that follows a hydro corridor artery within the City was provided for information. It is still unknown when the project will happen and may still be years away as the divided highway project needs to be completed first.

Concerns were expressed relative to neighbourhood safety and traffic flow, noise and the associated costs of the proposed northwest arterial road.

## **8. 2024 Budget Overview**

The Chair provided an overview of the 2024 City of Thunder Bay Budget.

Total approved budget is \$538.3 million and is composed of taxation revenues, grants, user fees and other revenues, Tbaytel dividend, debentures and loans, and reserve contributions all resulting in a 5.47% tax levy increase for 2024.

Additional information was provided on favourable and unfavourable budget impacts as well as comparatives to other Ontario municipalities.

Discussion was held relative to rising costs for emergency services including the EMS and police services budgets. There is a need for further mental health funding in the community.

Concerns were raised regarding the rising infrastructure gap and the need for affordable housing. The Chair advised that on-going provincial and federal government initiatives will be aimed at alleviating the shortage.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.