



Ward Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 28, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Slovak Legion

801 Atlantic Avenue

1. McKellar Ward Meeting 02-2024

Chair: Councillor Brian Hamilton

2. Resource Persons

Lori Wiitala, Council & Committee Clerk

3. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed those in attendance and provided introductory comments and a land acknowledgement.

There were approximately 18 people in attendance.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the McKellar Ward meeting(s) held on October 18, 2023 and January 31, 2024, respectively, for information.

5. Multi-Use Indoor Sport Facility

The following discussion was held relative to Multi-Use Indoor Sport Facility.

The Chair was supportive of the final decision and agrees it is a suitable location with the Port Arthur Stadium and the Canada Games Complex in close proximity. The decision is scheduled for ratification at the June 3, 2024 City Council meeting.

6. Large Capital Projects

The Chair provided the following information relative to large capital projects in the McKellar Ward.

VictoriaVille:

- Contract 1 – Building Renovations (making adjacent building weather ready) start February 2024
- Contract 2 – Demolition: anticipated start July 2024
- Contract 3 – Redevelopment of Victoria Avenue: start date to be determined

The reconstruction of Victoria Ave. has been delayed slightly as some buildings require more work than anticipated. The project is not fully funded and upgrades for each business are considered case-by-case. The Chair noted that there will no longer be a food court.

Maintenance of properties in the McKellar Ward:

100-200 block of Bethune St. is on the list of properties to be demolished.

360 Simpson St. has fire damage, the city is looking at a potential housing development opportunity.

600 block of Simpson St. requires underground infrastructure upgrades; the City is awaiting a response from one owner regarding renovations.

Ten derelict properties in the ward were demolished and the residents are concerned with the length of time taken to clear the debris.

Constituents expressed concern regarding a home on Cameron St. at Brodie St.; the alley is blocked, and visibility is reduced which is a safety hazard.

Constituents expressed a safety concern regarding 539 McLaughlin St. at the corner of Christie St.; the property roof is gone, the walls are leaning, and the sidewalk is not blocked off.

The Chair advised to call dispatch to report safety concerns - 807-625-2195.

Simpson St. upgrades:

Dease St. to Roland St. will be completed this year.

A water main on Southern Ave. was repaired approximately 3 years ago and has not been repaired yet; residents advised that the street shakes as a result and is a safety concern.

The Chair advised that the Asset Management Plan directs 5% annually to infrastructure.

The City Roads department is responsible for potholes and sidewalk repair services; Sewer & Water division is responsible for pavement rehabilitation.

The Chair advised that Dease park proper upgrades were funded; Phase II of the project, the proposed skate park at the former Dease pool, is not funded. A report back from Administration is expected.

The Chair mentioned the East End bridge requires replacement.

7. Community Safety

The Chair provided the following information relative to community safety.

It is recorded that Thunder Bay has overdose rates 4 times greater than the provincial average; in 2023 Council supported a recommendation on decriminalization of small amounts of illicit drugs. The rationale is to destigmatize so that people are more apt to seek treatment.

The city's emergency services will launch the STAR (Superior North Specialized Treatment and Alternative Responders) program in 2024. The program is being funded by a \$2.7 million investment over three years through the province's Addictions Recovery Fund.

The city has taken a human rights based approach to unsheltered homelessness and encampments; Horseshoe Park and Freedom Park are recommended encampment sites

The Chair encouraged constituents to educate themselves on the above-mentioned items.

8. Ward and City Issues

The Chair provided a high-level overview of Licensing & Enforcement department including the labour shortage within the Corporation, especially enforcement

positions. There is a requirement for a Level 3 by-law enforcement officer, and the city currently employs 1 staff with the required qualifications.

Regarding 'drug homes', it is recommended to report all action to Thunder Bay Police Service and Licensing & Enforcement.

For concerns regarding vacant buildings, report to Municipal Enforcement Services: 807-625-6536 or <https://www.thunderbay.ca/en/city-services/by-law-complaints.aspx>

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.