



Neebing Ward Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 20, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
West Arthur Community Centre
1914 Arthur Street West

1. Neebing Ward Meeting 02-2024

Chair: Councillor Greg Johnsen

2. Resource Persons

Police Chief Darcy Fleury
Deputy Police Chief Ryan Hughes
Gordon Stover, Committee & Meeting Management System Coordinator

3. Welcome and Opening Remarks

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

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the Neebing Ward meeting held on March 14, 2024, for information.

5. Crime and Community Safety

Discussion was held with Police Chief Darcy Fleury and Deputy Police Chief Ryan Hughes.

Deputy Police Chief Ryan Hughes provided an overview of City wide statistics for number of drug houses, police raids, and seized arms in the first half of 2024. Neebing Ward has 0 incidents for all 3 categories. There have been 12 drug overdoses recorded in the Neebing Ward.

An external consultant has been hired to study and provide recommendations regarding police staffing levels as well as identify efficiencies and areas for improvement in service delivery.

Police Chief Darcy Fleury identified the four main priority areas for Police Services including drugs and gangs, awareness/prevention of domestic violence, offences against children and building community trust in Police.

Resident raised concerns relative to the need for speed limit enforcement/patrol at the following locations in the Neebing Ward:

- Speed transition zone from 50km/h to 80km/h on West Arthur Street.
- Speeding Parkdale Boulevard.
- Mapleward Road heading towards landfill. This includes trucks carrying unsafe loads.

Residents were advised that additional traffic concerns can be submitted to Police for future area assessments and targeted enforcement by the traffic unit at 684-1200.

A resident asked about the possibility of bringing back neighbourhood policing units. Community oriented policing will be reviewed in the future as the current focus is on the four main priority areas.

A resident expressed concerns relative to small motorbikes and ATVs using residential roadways as well as snowmobiles in the winter months. Complaints can be made to police to investigate, however the vehicles have usually returned to the trails prior to police arriving on scene, making them difficult to locate.

Discussion was held relative to the following issues:

- Thunder Bay Police receiving higher call volumes per capita than most Ontario municipalities.
- Thunder Bay Police may often work along side OPP and NAPS in issues relating to drugs and gangs.
- Young Offenders Act
- Plans for new Police headquarters.
- Social issues and homeless encampments.

6. Ward and City Issues

6.1 Parkettes and Surplus Land

The Chair provided an overview of Administration's current direction of identifying potential City lands that can be deemed surplus and sold. Properties include neighbourhood parkettes that can be used for housing developments. Deputations have been heard by Council recently against the sale of certain parkettes and Administration will return to Council with more information.

6.2 North Neebing Community Centre Grounds - Rosslyn Road

Funding has been put in place to remove the current playground and replace it with a brand new one by early fall.

6.3 Hillcourt Estates Mobile Home Park Update

The Chair advised that the decision on the potential sale of Hillcourt Estates has been deferred to March 2025.

6.4 Unsheltered Homelessness

Discussion was held relative to the on-going issue and designated encampments sites. A resident suggested that the potential use of temporary mini-homes may help with the housing shortage.

6.5 Infrastructure Updates

The Chair provided a brief overview of the following:

- The Designated Truck Route is scheduled to come back to Council in late fall 2024
- Traffic Light synchronizing on main arterial roads will begin late 2024
- Pot holes repair requests can be made on the City's website or by calling 625-2195
- At the June 3, 2024 City Council meeting, Council approved a report directing Administration to prepare a Design-Build Request for Proposal for an Indoor Turf Facility with a mandatory bid cap of

\$42.7 million.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.