



Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 16, 2024

Committee of the Whole – Closed Session in the Martin Room at 4:33 p.m.

Present:

- Mayor Ken Boshcoff
- Councillor Rajni Agarwal
- Councillor Albert Aiello
- Councillor Kasey Etrene
- Councillor Trevor Giertuga
- Councillor Brian Hamilton
- Councillor Greg Johnsen
- Councillor Kristen Oliver
- Councillor Dominic Pasqualino
- Councillor Michael Zussino

Officials:

- Krista Power, Director - Legislative Services & City Clerk
- John Collin, City Manager
- Brendan Hardick, Acting City Solicitor
- Keri Greaves, Commissioner - Corporate Services & City Treasurer

1. Closed Session

Vice-Chair: Councillor Brian Hamilton

2. Disclosures of Interest

3. Reports of Municipal Officers

3.1 Memorandum of Settlement – Unifor Local 229 – Pioneer Ridge

Commissioner-Community Services Kelly Robertson, Director-Human Resources Karie Ortgiese, Senior Employee Relations Consultant Liane MacIntosh, and Administrator-Pioneer Ridge Lee Mesic entered the meeting room.

Report 2024CLS.047 (Human Resources) was distributed separately to Members of Council, City Manager, City Solicitor, and Director-Human Resources on Thursday, December 12, 2024.

Liane MacIntosh provided an overview and responded to questions.

It was the consensus of Committee that Administration proceed as directed.

The City Clerk advised that the resolution relative to the above noted will be presented to Committee of the Whole to be held later in the evening.

Kelly Robertson, Karie Ortgiese, Liane MacIntosh, and Lee Mesic left the meeting room.

3.2 Proposed Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law

Director-Strategy & Engagement Cynthia Olsen, Climate Action Specialist Danielle Thom, Manager-Licensing & Enforcement Doug Vincent, Supervisor - Parks & Open Space Planning Werner Schwar entered the meeting room.

Confidential Memorandum from Solicitor Brendan Hardick, dated December 11, 2024 relative to the proposed Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law was distributed separately to Members of Council, City Manager, City Solicitor, Commissioner-Corporate Services & City Treasurer, Commissioner-Growth, and Director-Strategy & Engagement separately on Thursday, December 12, 2024.

Acting City Solicitor Brendan Hardick provided an overview and responded to questions.

City Manager John Collin, Director-Legislative Services & City Clerk Krista Power, and Danielle Thom responded to questions.

At 5:20 p.m. the Closed Session concluded. It was the consensus of the Committee that Committee of the Whole Open Session reconvene at 6:30 p.m.

Committee of the Whole – Open Session in the S.H. Blake Auditorium at 6:43 p.m.

Present: Mayor Ken Boshcoff
Councillor Rajni Agarwal
Councillor Albert Aiello
Councillor Kasey Etrene
Councillor Trevor Giertuga
Councillor Brian Hamilton
Councillor Greg Johnsen
Councillor Kristen Oliver
Councillor Dominic Pasqualino
Councillor Michael Zussino

Officials: Krista Power, Director - Legislative Services & City Clerk
John Collin, City Manager
Brendan Hardick, Acting City Solicitor
Keri Greaves, Commissioner - Corporate Services & City Treasurer
Kayla Dixon, Commissioner – Infrastructure & Operations
Kelly Robertson, Commissioner - Community Services
Joel DePeuter, Acting Commissioner – Growth
Cynthia Olsen, Director-Strategy & Engagement
Doug Vincent, Manager-Licensing & Enforcement
Danielle Thom, Climate Action Specialist
Crystal DePeuter, Council & Committee Clerk
Katie Piché, Council & Committee Clerk

2. Open Session (Planning Services) in the S.H. Blake Memorial Auditorium at 6:30 p.m.

Vice-Chair: Councillor Brian Hamilton

3. Disclosures of Interest

4. Confirmation of Agenda

MOVED BY: Councillor Michael Zussino
SECONDED BY: Councillor Rajni Agarwal

WITH RESPECT to the December 16, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting, we recommend that the agenda as printed, including any additional information and new business, be confirmed.

CARRIED

5. Presentations

5.1 Christmas Choir

Students from the Ecole Gron Morgan Student Choir led by Alexander Armstrong presented a medley of holiday songs in celebration of the holiday season.

5.2 Presentation of Thunder Bay & Area Food Strategy Annual Report

Memorandum from Director – Strategy & Engagement Growth – Strategy & Engagement Cynthia Olsen requesting that Sarah Siska, Food Strategy Coordinator and Courtney Strutt Emergency Food Plan Coordinator with Thunder Bay & Area Food Strategy to present their Annual Report.

Thunder Bay & Area Food Strategy Coordinator Sarah Siska and Emergency Food Plan Coordinator Courtney Strutt provided a PowerPoint presentation and responded to questions.

6. Items Arising from Closed Session

6.1 Memorandum of Settlement - UNIFOR Local 229 - Pioneer Ridge

Report 2024CLS.047 (Human Resources) was presented at Committee of the Whole - Closed Session held earlier in the evening.

MOVED BY: Mayor Ken Boshcoff

SECONDED BY: Councillor Michael Zussino

WITH RESPECT to Report 2024CLS.047 (Human Resources) we recommend that the Memorandum of Settlement between the Corporation of the City of Thunder Bay (Pioneer Ridge) and UNIFOR, Local 229 be approved;

AND THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute all necessary agreements;

AND THAT the necessary by-law be presented to City Council for ratification.

CARRIED

7. Reports of Municipal Officers

7.1 Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law

At the September 23, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting, Report 349-2024 was presented as a First Report to allow Committee of the Whole and the general public time to consider the implications of the report before its recommendations are considered by Committee of the Whole on October 28, 2024.

At the October 21, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting a resolution was passed deferring the re-presentation of Report 349-2024 to November 25, 2024.

At the November 18, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting a resolution was passed deferring the re-presentation of Report 349-2024 to December 16, 2024.

Report 349-2024 (City Manager's Office - Strategic Initiatives & Engagement) summarizing the proposed Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law (the "By-law") which will authorize the City of Thunder Bay to permit boulevard gardens, re-presented.

Memorandum from Climate Action Specialist Danielle Thom, dated November 25, 2024 relative to Report 349-2024 (Growth - Strategic Initiatives & Engagement) recommending that the proposed Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-Law, as updated and appended to the memorandum as Attachment A, be approved.

Memorandum from Manager-Community Safety & Wellbeing Louisa Costanzo dated December 4, 2024 requesting for Climate Action Specialist Danielle Thom to provide a presentation relative to the Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law.

Correspondence received from Leola Palmer dated October 29, 2024 requesting to make a deputation relative to the Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law.

Correspondence received from Brad Smith dated November 14, 2024 requesting to make a deputation relative to the Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law.

Correspondence received from Cindy Long dated December 8, 2024 requesting to make a deputation relative to the Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law.

Correspondence received from Barbara Kemény dated November 29, 2024 requesting to make a deputation relative to the Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law.

Correspondence received from Diane Scocchia dated December 4, 2024 providing a written deputation relative to the Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law.

Correspondence received from Lucas Morrish dated December 11, 2024 requesting to make a deputation relative to the Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law.

Correspondence received from Clean, Green, and Beautiful Advisory Committee dated December 11, 2024 providing a written deputation relative to the Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law.

Correspondence received from Kyla Moore dated December 12, 2024 requesting to make a deputation relative to the Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law.

Correspondence received from Lois Ann Bender dated December 12, 2024 providing a written deputation relative to the Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law.

Correspondence received from Erin Beagle, Roots Community Food Centre dated December 12, 2024 requesting to make a deputation relative to the Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law.

Correspondence received from Andrew Cameron dated December 12, 2024 requesting to make a deputation relative to the Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law.

Additional information received from Leola Palmer dated December 12, 2024 to support deputation request dated October 29, 2024.

Correspondence received from Lorraine Johnson dated December 12, 2024 requesting to make a deputation relative to the Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law.

Additional information received from Brad Smith dated December 13, 2024 to support deputation request dated November 14, 2024.

Kyla Moore appeared before Committee, provided a PowerPoint presentation and responded to questions.

Andrew Cameron appeared before Committee, provided a deputation and responded to questions.

Erin Beagle, Roots Community Food Centre appeared before Committee and provided a deputation.

Leola Palmer appeared before Committee, provided a deputation and responded to questions.

Cindy Long appeared before Committee and provided a deputation.

Brad Smith appeared before Committee, provided a deputation and responded to questions.

Barbara Kemény appeared before Committee and provided a PowerPoint presentation.

A written deputation dated December 4, 2024 submitted by Diane Scocchia was noted.

A written deputation dated December 11, 2024 submitted by the Clean, Green, and Beautiful Advisory Committee was noted.

Lucas Morrish appeared before Committee, provided a deputation and responded to questions.

A written deputation dated December 12, 2024 submitted by Lois Ann Bender was noted.

Lorraine Johnson appeared before Committee via MS Teams and provided a deputation.

MOVED BY: Councillor Kasey Etreni

SECONDED BY: Councillor Kristen Oliver

WITH RESPECT to the Memorandum from Danielle Thom, Climate Action Specialist, dated November 25, 2024, and Report 349-2024-City Manager's Office-Strategic Initiatives & Engagement, we recommend that the proposed Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-Law, as updated and appended to this memorandum as Attachment A, be approved;

AND THAT By-law 8-2025 be presented to City Council on January 13, 2025.

Referral – Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law

MOVED BY: Councillor Kristen Oliver

SECONDED BY: Councillor Kasey Etreni

WITH RESPECT to the Memorandum from Danielle Thom, Climate Action Specialist, dated November 25, 2024, and Report 349-2024-City Manager's Office-Strategic Initiatives & Engagement, we recommend that the proposed Boulevard

Garden and Maintenance By-Law be referred back to Administration to review the feasibility of adding the following to the proposed by-law:

1. A ban on all herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, and fertilizers;
2. Allowing shrubs within a specified set-back area; and
3. Increasing the acceptable height of plants in planter boxes to 1000 mm above the height of the box.

Amendment 1 - Referral – Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law

MOVED BY: Councillor Kasey Etreni

SECONDED BY: Mayor Ken Boshcoff

WITH RESPECT to the Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law Referral, we recommend that 'Allowing support structures' be added to the list of items that Administration will review.

CARRIED

Amended – Referral – Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law

MOVED BY: Councillor Kristen Oliver

SECONDED BY: Councillor Kasey Etreni

WITH RESPECT to the Memorandum from Danielle Thom, Climate Action Specialist, dated November 25, 2024, and Report 349-2024-Ciyt Manager's Office-Strategic Initiatives & Engagement, we recommend that the proposed Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-Law be referred back to Administration to review the feasibility of adding the following to the proposed by-law:

1. A ban on all herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, and fertilizers;
2. Allowing shrubs within a specified set-back area;
3. Increasing the acceptable height of plants in planter boxes to 1000 mm above the height of the box; and
4. Allowing support structures.

Amendment 2 - Referral – Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law

MOVED BY: Councillor Rajni Agarwal

SECONDED BY: Councillor Trevor Giertuga

WITH RESPECT to the Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law Referral, we recommend that 'Remove softscape height restrictions' be added to the list of items that Administration will review.

LOST

Amended – Referral – Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law

MOVED BY: Councillor Kristen Oliver

SECONDED BY: Councillor Kasey Etrene

WITH RESPECT to the Memorandum from Danielle Thom, Climate Action Specialist, dated November 25, 2024, and Report 349-2024-Ciyt Manager's Office-Strategic Initiatives & Engagement, we recommend that the proposed Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-Law be referred back to Administration to review the feasibility of adding the following to the proposed by-law:

1. A ban on all herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, and fertilizers;
2. Allowing shrubs within a specified set-back area;
3. Increasing the acceptable height of plants in planter boxes to 1000 mm above the height of the box; and
4. Allowing support structures.

CARRIED

8. Outstanding Items List as of December 3, 2024 for Planning Services

Memorandum from Director - Legislative Services & City Clerk Krista Power dated December 3, 2024, providing the Planning Outstanding List, for information.

9. Open Session (Administrative Services)

Councillor Brian Hamilton assumed the chair for the Administrative Services Session.

10. Reports of Committees, Boards and Outside Agencies

10.1 Council Composition Review Committee Minutes

Meetings 10-2024 and 11-2024 of the Council Composition Review Committee, held on November 5, 2024 and November 20, 2024, respectively, for information.

10.2 Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee Minutes

Meeting 05-2024 of the Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee, held on June 4, 2024, for information.

10.3 Thunder Bay District Health Unit - Board of Health Minutes

Meeting of the Thunder Bay District Health Unit Board of Health held on October 16, 2024, for information.

10.4 Clean, Green and Beautiful Committee Minutes

Meetings 04-2024 and 05-2024 of the Clean, Green and Beautiful Committee held on June 27, 2024 and July 26, 2024, respectively, for information.

10.5 Heritage Advisory Committee Minutes

Meetings 05-2024 & 06-2024 of the Heritage Advisory Committee held on September 26, 2024 and October 24, 2024, respectively, for information.

10.6 Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

Meeting 05-2024 of the Accessibility Advisory Committee held on September 11, 2024, for information.

11. Outstanding Items List as of December 3, 2024 for Administrative Services

Memorandum from Director - Legislative Services & City Clerk Krista Power dated December 3, 2024, providing the Administrative Services Outstanding List, for information.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:24 p.m.