



Ward Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Slovak Legion

801 Atlantic Avenue

1. McKellar Ward Meeting 01-2025

Chair: Councillor Brian Hamilton

2. Resource Persons

Brian Newman, Project Engineer

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.

There were approximately 22 people in attendance.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the McKellar Ward meeting held on November 26, 2024, for information.

5. Simpson Street Rehabilitation

The Chair along with Project Engineer Brian Newman provided the following updates:

- Water-main repairs and sewer improvements.
- 2024 paving completed from Dease Street to 'Cherry Corner'.

- 2025 paving scheduled from Dease Street to Victoria Avenue.
- Emerald ash tress on Simpson Street are being replaced in 2025.
- Approximately 80 street lights are being replaced as well.
- Temporary lighting will be used during construction.

Concerns were expressed relative to the need for improvements at the Bethune/Simpson Streets intersection.

Discussion was held relative to transport truck usage on Dease Street, upcoming traffic light synchronization on Arthur Street as well as general concerns with the improvements to Simpson Street area.

6. Downtown Revitalization

The Chair advised that Victoriaville demolition is scheduled for summer 2025 with Victoria Avenue paving and rehab completed by end of 2026.

Pacific Avenue bridge rehab including widening and better lighting will take place in 2026.

7. Homeless Encampments and Temporary Village

The Chair provided an overview of the following issues and discussion was held:

- Creation of a temporary village would help reduce many of the problems associated with the homeless encampment areas.
- Initially approved for Miles Street, Council later rejected this location along with LCRA lands off Fort William Road as well as lands on Cumberland Street near the Salvation Army.
- New location at Kam River Park is the current Council approved/selected location.
- After the temporary village is built, encampment area can be closed/cleared, but some will still remain active as designated encampment locations.
- Provincial funding of \$2.8 million has been allotted to the project.

- The village areas will be heated, have showers, washrooms, common dining areas, healthcare and social services and rent will be collected.

Concerns were expressed relative to the following:

- Safety and law enforcement in and around the current encampments as well as any new chosen temporary village. Need for a police presence.
- Current McVicar Creek encampment problems including visible drug and alcohol abuse.
- Assurances for neighbourhood safety in the McKellar Ward near Kam River Heritage Park must be made.

8. Ward and City Issues

8.1 Large Storage Bins / Shipping Containers

A resident raised a concern relative to by-law enforcement of illegal/permanent shipping containers used at various properties throughout the City.

The Chair will follow-up with By-law Enforcement and advise the resident.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.