

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF MORDEN
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING
March 12, 2024 9:00 A.M.**

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the City of Morden held at the Council Chambers of the Civic Center in Morden in the Province of Manitoba this 12th day of March, A.D. 2024 at 9:00 A.M.

Present: Mayor Nancy Penner (Chair), Deputy Mayor Gord Maddock, Doug Frost, Sheldon Friesen, Tracey Krause, City Manager Nicole Reidle, Director of Community Service Chris Moffatt, Economic Development Officer Jason Dyck, Director of Finance Edwin Barnuevo, and Executive Assistant Ruziel Relatores.

Absent with regrets: Deputy City Manager for Operations Santokh Randhawa and Director of Operations Tim Reimer

1.0 ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

2.0 PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

2.1 9:00 AM - Gracie Keeling - Maple Leaf Home & School (Children's Business Market)

Gracie Keeling, a newcomer to Morden, expressed her love for the town and her eagerness to collaborate with various community organizations, particularly focusing on children's initiatives. She is involved in the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and the children's business market project. Motivated by an invitation from the Western School Division for an innovation grant, she embarked on a journey to create a children's business market aimed at inspiring innovation among kids. The marketplace event where children aged 5 to 17 can showcase their entrepreneurial skills and products is dated to take place on June 23, 2024 at MLES. Mrs. Keeling outlined her plans for the children's business market, emphasizing its educational value and community impact. She highlighted the importance of breaking barriers by including children from diverse backgrounds and providing workshops to teach them about business and entrepreneurship. She also discussed plans for tracking progress and measuring success through surveys and award ceremonies. She discussed partnerships with community organizations and seeks support from the Council for marketing expertise. She expressed a vision for expanding the program in the future and emphasized the importance of involving high school students as well in mentoring roles. She seeks collaboration and support from Council to ensure the project's success and sustainability.

2.29:30 AM - Morden Chamber of Commerce

The delegation consisted of Tyler Schroeder, Chairperson of the Morden Chamber of Commerce, accompanied by Executive Director Clare Agnew, and board members Susan Lee and Derek Wiebe. Their primary agenda was to enhance collaboration and partnership with the City of Morden. Mr. Schroeder started with an advocacy update, highlighting the formation of the Advocacy and Governance Committee, reviewing governance policies, and developing advocacy processes to support the business community. They also met with the Manitoba Finance Minister to advocate for infrastructure funding.

Ms. Lee provided details on the recent member survey, focusing on its design and outcomes. The survey aimed to gather feedback on various aspects of membership and engagement, guiding future actions and website updates.

Ms. Agnew offered an event and membership update, highlighting successful events like the International Women's Day luncheon and upcoming events such as an Agriculture and Food Industry tour. Membership renewals (256 renewals) and new business additions were also discussed.

The discussion shifted to budgetary matters, with the City of Morden proposing a 10% increase in funding for the Chamber of Commerce. They discussed the budget timeline, funding availability, and the Chamber's commitment to financial stewardship and revenue generation. Various topics were raised during the meeting, Mr. Wiebe discussed the upcoming AGM, collaboration opportunities, communication strategies, and feedback on the city's strategic plan. The Chamber expressed willingness to support initiatives like a children's business market and the Sun Catch project. The delegation emphasized ongoing collaboration, communication, and support for the Chamber's initiatives and community events and expressed interest in aligning their efforts with the City's strategic objectives.

3.0 BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4. FIRE & POLICE

4.0 Fire Chief Report

4.0.1 Call Hours

- Concerns about water accumulation around the rink due to snow weight are raised.
- Difficulty in obtaining addresses of vehicle owners for accident claims was highlighted.
- Interest from a Fire Department in purchasing a ladder truck is mentioned, with negotiations underway. Details about the ladder truck, its condition, and potential buyers are discussed.

- Plans for rescue training and limitations on the number of participants are mentioned.

4.1 Police Chief Report

4.1.1 By-law Enforcement Officer Report – Received as information

- Discussion about crime trends, particularly thefts from vehicles occurring in waves. Emphasis on the importance of securing vehicles to prevent thefts of opportunity. Strategies to educate the community on crime prevention and the importance of vigilance.
- Discussion of scams involving fraudulent checks and gift card purchases, targeting vulnerable individuals, particularly seniors. Details about how scams operate and the challenges in apprehending perpetrators and recovering funds.
- Efforts to educate the public about common scam tactics and encourage skepticism toward unsolicited requests for personal information or payments.
- Positive outcomes observed from the partnership between law enforcement and social services, including improved access to resources and support for vulnerable individuals.
- Mention of ongoing efforts to finalize a strategic plan for the police department, informed by community input and focusing on priorities such as drug enforcement, mental health, traffic safety, and community engagement.

5. OPERATIONS

5.1 Deputy City Manager of Operations Report – Received as information

5.2 Director of Operations Report – Received as information

6.0 COMMUNITY SERVICES

6.1 Director of Community Services Report

- Planning and preparation for spring seasonal activities, including coordination of events and interviews.
- Challenges with obtaining equipment, particularly coffee machines, for canteen services.
- Exploration of options for providing coffee and food services, including considering different vending machines and menu offerings.
- Comparison to experiences in other locations, including volunteer-run facilities and different pricing models for services.
- Reflection on the importance of volunteerism and community involvement in recreational activities.

7.0 PARKS & URBAN FORESTRY

7.1 Director of Parks & Urban Forestry Report

- Lakeside Cemetery Bookings - One booking has been sold, and there are inquiries about wholesale and family plots.
- Corridor Trail Meeting - Progress is being made on finalizing the trail
- Trees Program - Delivery dates and species availability are uncertain, making planning difficult. A planting plan has been developed for the campground.
- Bank Stabilization - Progress is being made, and funding from the watershed district is available. Projects may include wetland restoration and construction.
- Community Gardens - Plans for redesign and improvements are being considered, including drainage issues and tree groves.
- Grant Applications - The possibility of applying for grants for equipment was discussed, with potential funding from FCM.
- Lake Minnewasta Trail - The trail may become part of the Trans Canada Trail, with potential benefits including funding for maintenance and recognition.

8.0 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Strategic Plan Feedback - Survey still open; staff interviews scheduled. Interviews expected to be completed within a couple of weeks.
- Formal Land Titles RFP - Closing on April 23rd. Posted on websites and emailed to relevant parties. Comprehensive list prepared with Santokh and Jose's assistance.
- Nurse Recruitment and Bridging Program - Interest in recruiting nurses from other countries. Clarification on language and licensing requirements. Excitement about potential bridging program with Minister Marcelino's support.
- Appreciation expressed to Shawn Dias and Mike Breiter for their support and phenomenal work acknowledged in the past month with regards to PrairiesCan.

9.0 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

9.1.2 February 29, 2024- GOF - Balance Sheet & Statement of Operations

9.1.3 February 29, 2024- Utility - Balance Sheet & Statement of Operations

- Audit and Budget - Busy with Audit; rescheduled for end of March. Deadline for audited financial statements set for June 30th. Budget almost complete; Council consensus on 3% increase.
- Water Loss and Meter Audits - High water loss rate detected. Efforts to identify sources of loss, including software errors and leaks. Individual meter audits planned; target acceptable water usage to be determined.

9.2 Director of IT Report – N/A

9.3 City Manager Report – Verbal Report

- Pathway and Water Needs Projection - Discussion with Shawn about the pathway.
- Working with Pembina Valley Water Co-op on projecting water needs for the next 10 years.
- HandiVan Parking – Councillor Sheldon Friesen to connect with HandiVan.
- Rural Strategic Infrastructure Funding - Meeting held with Santokh Randhawa, Ed Barnuevo, Tim Reimer, and Shawn Dias to discuss utilization of funding. Plans outlined for asset management plan, climate adaptation plan, transit master plan, active transportation plan, and recreation master plan.
- Tri-Council Meeting and Boundary Roads Agreement - Planning Tri-Council meeting for April 4th. Updating Boundary Roads agreement with RM of Stanley. Meeting held with RM of Stanley for agreement updates.

9.4 Mayor Report – Verbal Report

- I Love to Read Events - Participated in the I Love to Read program three times, enjoying reading with kids.
- Climate Adaptation Workshop - Attended a climate adaptation workshop with other Councillors to discuss climate-related issues.
- Meeting with Climate Action Group - Met with a new climate action group in the area to discuss environmental initiatives.
- Participated in a U15 Puck Drop
- Council Meetings and Media Coverage - Participated in Council meetings. CBC covered the issue of nurse shortages in the area.
- Meeting with Jane Curtis from Southern Health - discussed positive messages about nurse shortages and discussed the possibility of quarterly meetings with Southern Health.
- Airport Funding and Emergency Preparedness - Discussed the possibility of seeking funding from Southern Health or the province for airport improvements.

10.0 COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE

10.1 Back 40 Folk Festival (June 2, 2024)

- Approved for resolution next Council Meeting for in-kind donation.

10.2 Head start to A Home Agreement

- Tabled for the next CoW meeting

10.3 2024 BTHC Board Citizen Representatives Applicants

Mayor Nancy Penner (Stepped out at 12:00 p.m. due to Conflict of Interest)

- The discussion touched on various candidates' backgrounds and potential interview processes. Three Council members - Councillors Doug Frost, Brenda Klassen, and Sheldon Friesen were tasked with leading the interview process.

11.0 OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Morden Handi-Van 2023 Audited Financial Statements

11.2 Conditional Use (451 Jefferson Street)

- Scheduled for Public Hearing in the next Council Meeting

11.3 Conditional Use (426 Jefferson Street)

- Scheduled for Public Hearing in the next Council Meeting

12.0 EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

12.1 South Central Regional Library

12.2 SWAMP

- During a recent meeting, province has agreed to permit the removal and burial of sludge from the lagoons at Winker to a swamp area. The estimated fee for this service is \$62.50 per ton. It was emphasized that the sludge must be covered at night to mitigate odor issues. Additionally, roads will need to be constructed to facilitate transportation of vehicles to and from the swamp for sludge disposal.

12.3 MSTW Planning District

12.4 Central Manitoba Tourism

12.5 Menzies Medical Centre

12.6 Community Futures Heartland

12.7 Pembina Valley Child Care Centre

12.8 Tabor Home

12.9 Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership

12.10 Explore Morden-Winkler

- Working on improving the website

12.11 Morden Stanley Fire Service

12.12 Morden Veterinary District

12.13 Pembina Valley Water Cooperative

- AGM last week, 4 non-members to be assigned to the RMs

12.14 Pembina Valley Watershed District

12.15 Western School Division

12.16 Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation

13.0 IN-CAMERA

MOVED BY Councillor Gord Maddock

SECONDED BY Councillor Brenda Klassen

That the Committee now moves in camera.

(Carried)

13.1 Land

MOVED BY Councillor Sheldon Friesen

SECONDED BY Councillor Brenda Klassen

That Council now moves out of in camera and back to Committee of the Whole.

(Carried)

ADJOURN

MOVED BY Councillor Sheldon Friesen

SECONDED BY Councillor Brenda Klassen

Resolved that the Committee-of-the-Whole does now adjourn.

(Carried)

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM