



City of Kenora
Committee of the Whole
Minutes
Tuesday, February 8, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Virtual Attendance

Council met electronically as permitted by the City of Kenora Procedural bylaw. Citizens and our Media Partners are encouraged to view the public meeting via the Public Live Stream Event at:
<https://video.isilive.ca/kenora/2022-02-08.html>

Present: Mayor Daniel Reynard
Councillor Graham Chaze
Councillor Mort Goss
Councillor Rory McMillan
Councillor Andrew Poirier
Councillor Sharon Smith
Councillor Chris Van Wallegem

Staff: Kyle Attanasio, CAO, Heather Pihulak, Director of Corporate Services/City Clerk, Adam Smith, Director of Development Services, Kent Readman, Fire Chief, Charlotte Edie, Director of Finance, Kevin Gannon, Director of Engineering & Infrastructure, Roberta Marsh, Director of Human Resources, Stace Gander, Director of Community Services

Blessing & Land Acknowledgment
Councillor Poirier

As we gather, we recognize that we are on Treaty Three Lands which are steeped in rich Indigenous history and home to many First Nations and Metis people today. We continue to be thankful for the partnerships with Indigenous people.

We give thanks for the many blessings we enjoy in the City of Kenora. We seek wisdom in our minds, clearness in our thinking, truth in our speaking and always love in our hearts, so that we may try always to unite the Citizens of Kenora. Let these principles guide us in our decision making.

A. Public Information Notices

As required under Notice By-law #144 -2007, the public is advised of Council's intention to adopt the following at its February 15, 2022 meeting:-

Authorize budget amendments for the following:

- \$260,000 to be funded through the Ontario Trillium Foundation to install an accessible playground at Norman Park
- \$789,437 to be funded through Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) revenues for the

delivery of the 2022 MAT Program

- Authorize an emergency purchase of a 2020 Western Star mounted with a 2021 Vactor 2100i PD body truck in the amount of \$234,000.00+HST to be funded through the Water & Wastewater reserve

B. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest & the General Nature Thereof

- 1) On Today's Agenda
- 2) From a Meeting at which a Member was not in Attendance.

There were none declared.

C. Confirmation of Previous Committee Minutes

Moved by Councillor C. Van Wallegem, Seconded by M. Goss & Carried:

That the Minutes from the last regular Committee of the Whole Meeting held January 11, 2022 be confirmed as written and filed.

D. Deputations/Presentations

Central Community Club Presentation

Gord McCool and Yana Sobiski from Central Community Club attended Council virtually to present to Council the project commitment from the group. The group thanked Council for the City's commitment to the project and the group continues to be deeply committed to the project.

The group outlined the fundraising strategy to achieve the required outstanding project funds of \$153,000. Their strategy includes corporate donors, community partners and events.

Council thanked Mr. McCool and Ms. Sobiski for their presentation and the commitment to this project.

Allyson Pele, Northwest Business Centre – 2021 Highlights

Allyson Pele, Manager of the Northwest Business Centre provided Council with the 2021 highlights of the Northwest Business Centre. They kicked off 2022 with a new logo and look. The NWBC is funded by the Government of Ontario and the City of Kenora. She serves the Kenora Rainy River Districts and First Nation communities. The NWBC is the premier resource for small business and the mandate is to empower entrepreneurs with skills, advice and resources.

The core services provided by the NWBC is free and confidential one-on-one counselling. Information and consulting on all aspects of starting and expanding a business. Assistance with business plan development. Resource for requirements, procedures and connections for financing grants and loans. Easy access to tools and resources, mentoring and networking opportunities and workshops and seminars. She conducted 155 consultations and 40% of those were in Kenora. They have hosted 30 online events and over 1,000 people attended those events. These workshops have allowed outreach to advise them on the services available through the NWBC.

Another program offered through the NWBC is the Summer Company program which is offered to Ontario students aged 15-29 who are returning to school in the fall and have a business plan for a summer company. Students receive an award of \$3,000, hands-on training and mentoring to start their own business.

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Starter Company Plus is another division which provides one-on-one guidance, training to complete a business plan and the opportunity to apply for a \$5,000 grant. Business training can feed into NOHFC, business loans and other funding opportunities (CFDCs, NADF). In 2021, 72 people applied to the program and 60 received business training.

The NWBC was one of two SBECs who were approached by the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade with an opportunity to develop and implement the Starter Company Plus: Indigenous Stream. The program wraps on March 31, 2022 of which we are hoping it does get extended. The NWBC is working with Shooniyaa Wa-Biitong and NADF on showcasing the NWBC business training to support their clients. There were 41 applications received and 37 people are moving forward with the business training.

Since October 2020, the Digital Service Squad has worked with 173 businesses to provide digital support.

Looking forward into 2022, the NWBC is hosting guest speaker Ryan McMahon on February 16 and Allyson has recorded an episode of WAVES on the NWBC and the activities. Planning a Pitch It event for late March; Grant Review Committee meetings for both the Starter Company Plus programs at the end of March; Moving into the Office Hub, with the BDC and Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre; Awarding two additional Starter Company Plus grants through the MAT Tax to support tourism based businesses in Kenora; Working with Head Start in Business to plan a Youth Enterprise Day Camp in Kenora this summer.

Mayor Reynard thanked Allyson for her presentation and information.

E. Reports:

1. Corporate Services & Finance

1.1 December 2021 Financial Statements

Recommendation:

That Council hereby accepts the monthly Financial Statements of the Corporation of the City of Kenora at December 31, 2021.

Discussion: Charlotte Edie, Treasurer, advised Council that the 2021 deadline for invoices is February 18, 2022 and expenses may go up from what is outlined here. There are still lost revenues due to the pandemic and there is a delay in receiving some of the information due to the new system at the Recreation Centre. Seeing the same pinch points throughout the year, any COVID expenses have been allocated to that specific fund and the emergency response this summer has been submitted for receipt of reimbursement. Will update Council in March with where we sit with some of these revenues.

Council questioned if we were confident that the accruals would meet the anticipated budget revenues. Charlotte confirmed she felt it would. The water and sewer bills are a little higher at this time of year because of the additional days for billing and the rate increase that took effect January 1st.

2. Fire & Emergency Services

No Reports

3. Engineering & Infrastructure

3.1 Emergency Vehicle Purchase – Water Wastewater Division

Recommendation:

That Council hereby approves an allocation of \$234,000.00 + HST to be funded through the Water & Wastewater Reserve for the emergency purchase of a 2020 Western Star mounted with a 2021 Vactor 2100i PD body for the Water and Wastewater Division in advance of the 2022 budget approval.

Discussion: This is to replace a tandem truck that was damaged in an accident earlier. The insurance is reimbursing the City for the vehicle purchase, however, we are purchasing a new demo model and will require additional dollars.

4. Community Services

4.1 Central Community Club Project Contract Execution-Solid Construction

Recommendation:

That Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and Clerk to execute a contract agreement between The Corporation of the City of Kenora and Solid Construction in the amount of \$1,302,253 for the purpose of constructing the new club house, outdoor rink and green space to be located at Central Park; and further

That Council accept the modified scope of work for this project, which excludes a slab design, in favour of the piles and grade beam design for the rink; and further

That three readings be given to a bylaw for this purpose.

Discussion: The design includes the new Omni boards and Solid Construction has included a \$70,000 donation towards the project to keep the costs down. Kyle advised that a subsequent report will be coming back to Council on the commitment of carrying the \$153,000 that may be required for the fundraising portion of the project.

4.2 Vending Truck Program

Recommendation:

That Council approves the continuation of the City of Kenora Vending Truck program; and further

That Council directs staff to undertake a competitive Request for Proposals process to engage vending trucks for the 2022 season; and further

That Council hereby delegates authority to the City Clerk to enter into vending truck agreements with selected proponents for the Harbourfront and Lake of the Woods Discovery Centre locations.

Discussion: Council questioned the ability for vendor to be able to come in for only two weeks. What prevents someone for only coming in for the two most profitable weeks of the summer and pay a low fee to reap the benefits of those two very profitable weeks. Stace will get back to Council on statistics on short term vendors and how these are handled.

4.3 Budget Amendment – Norman Park Accessible Playground

Recommendation:

That Council hereby approves a budget amendment in the amount of \$260,000 to be funded through the Ontario Trillium Foundation to install an accessible playground at Norman Park; and further

That in accordance with Notice By-law Number 144-2007, public notice is hereby given that Council intends to amend its 2022 Capital Budget at its February 15, 2022 meeting for this purpose; and further

That Council give three readings to a By-law to amend the 2022 capital budget for this purpose.

5. Development Services

5.1 Application to FedNor - Feasibility Study for By-Pass Corridor Development

Recommendation:

That Council of the City of Kenora hereby approves an application to FedNor in the amount of \$200,000 to undertake a feasibility study to examine opportunities for commercial development along the Highway 17 by-pass corridor; and further

That the City of Kenora confirms its financial contribution of up to \$20,000 to be funded through Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) revenues; and further

That Council hereby approves any cost overruns associated with the project.

Discussion: This is a major opportunity to promote Kenora to people passing through on the bypass.

5.2 Budget Amendment – 2022 Municipal Accommodation Tax Program

Recommendation:

That Council hereby approves an allocation of \$789,437 to be funded through Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) revenues for the delivery of the 2022 MAT Program; and further

That in accordance with Notice By-law Number 144-2007, public notice is hereby given that Council intends to amend its 2022 Capital Budget at its February 15, 2022 meeting to withdraw funds from MAT revenues in the amount of \$789,437; and further

That Council give three readings to a by-law to amend the 2022 Capital Budget for this purpose.

Discussion: Pleased to see the number of projects that Economic Development is presenting to spend in our community. This will allow us to work hard on economic development and tourism in the community. Concerns regarding the NWBC presentation and she mentioned some MAT tax initiatives in support of some tourism operators. Adam confirmed that the Starter Company top up is solely focused on Kenora and Kenora based. Want to confirm that this does not support individual businesses. The report provided in December had individual pages for each program and the information is contained within that report.

F. Proclamations

None

G. Other

- Councillor Goss thanked the Roads department for their fantastic work as we have had an exceptional amount of snow this winter season.
- Councillor McMillan acknowledged the great work on the Central project and the positive community involvement in the project.
- Councillor Smith gave a huge shout out to all the health care workers in our community.

H. Next Meeting

- Tuesday, March 8, 2022

I. Adjourn to Closed

Resolution #2 - Moved by Councillor M. Goss, Seconded by S. Smith & Carried:

That this meeting now be adjourned to a closed session at 10:38 a.m.; and further

That pursuant to Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, authorization is hereby given for Committee to move into a Closed Session to discuss items pertaining to the following:-

- ~~i) Receiving Advice that is Subject to Solicitor-Client Privilege (1 matter) (removed)~~
- ii) Education & Training (2 matters – NWHU Update, Development Services Update)
- iii) Disposition of Land (Railway Street Project – Phase 3)

J. Reconvene to Open Meeting

Council reconvenes to open session at 12:20 p.m. with no reports from its closed session.

K. Close Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.