



City of Kenora
Committee of the Whole
Minutes

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

9:00 a.m.

City Hall Council Chambers

Live Stream Link: <https://kenora.civicweb.net/Portal/>

Present: Mayor Andrew Poirier
Councillor Robert Bernie
Councillor Graham Chaze
Councillor Lindsay Koch
Councillor Lisa Moncrief
Councillor Kelsie Van Belleghem

Regrets: Councillor Barbara Manson

Staff: Kyle Attanasio, CAO, Heather Pihulak, Director of Corporate Services/City Clerk, Stace Gander, Director of Economic Growth and Recovery, David Pratt, Director of Fire & Emergency Services, Greg Breen, Director of Engineering & Infrastructure, Ryan Marsh, Director of Finance, Roberta Marsh, Director of Human Resources, Risk & Insurance, Janis Pochailo, Director of Planning & Building Services

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was held to honour former Chief of Kenora Fire & Emergency Services, Warren Brinkman who passed away this week.

Land Acknowledgment – Councillor Chaze

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 #160-2022 the public is advised of Council's intention to adopt the following at its March 22, 2023 meeting:-

- Amend the Procedural Bylaw to reflect meeting days and other procedural items
 - Establish the 2024 Council meeting calendar
- Adopt the 2024 Solid Waste and Water & Wastewater Utility Operating and Capital Budgets

- Amend the Tariff of Fees & Charges bylaw to ~~adopt a new corporate membership rate at the Moncrief Construction Sports Centre (deferred)~~, implement the new 2024 utility rates

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

Resolution #1 - Moved by Councillor R. Bernie, Seconded by G. Chaze & Carried:

That the Minutes from the last regular Committee of the Whole Meeting held September 13, 2023 and Special Committee of the Whole meeting held September 14, 2023 be confirmed as written and filed.

D. Deputations/Presentations

Mary Bawden, Kenora Age Friendly Committee - Snow Moles Program

Would like to see a program developed in Kenora called the Snow Moles Program. It is modelled after a program in Ottawa and would be in partnership with our Roads Department. Snow Moles is a walking program which encourages safe walking in the City.

Ms. Bawden provided Council a copy of the instructions for age-friendly snow moles and her presentation.

E. Reports:

1. Corporate Services / Finance / Human Resources

1.1 Council Committee Work

Councillor Moncrief – Noted that this past month has been very busy and Council has been active in the community touring various facilities, attending numerous ribbon cutting ceremonies, events and activities in the community. The KDSB located next to City Hall grand opening was highlighted. Congratulations to Ogichidaa Francis Kavanaugh on his re-election as Grand Chief. Also congratulated the Lake of the Woods Lions Club on their 75th Anniversary on their work in the community over the years. Science at the market was a huge success and a fun event to attend. Sultens of Strings latest act and album was born in an effort to action call #83 under the Truth & Reconciliation Calls to Action asks for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous artists to work together in the spirit of reconciliation. The result Walking through the Fire features collaborations between non-Indigenous bands and Indigenous artists from across Turtle Island. Lake of the Woods Concert group will be hosting this performance on October 18th at 7:30 pm.

Councillor Bernie – The NWHU Board held an in-person meeting last week which was beneficial to be face to face. There will be decisions coming forward as a Board and public health in general which will impact our Region. Regarding the Crime Prevention Committee, they will be meeting again next Friday, but have been in discussion with the consultant retained to work on our

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Community Safety and Well Being plan. There is a conference in Regina the week of October 23rd with the theme Community Safety Together, Uniting Change. This will be an excellent conference where our Community Safety Coordinator will be attending. The BIZ has not met. Councillor Bernie is advocating for a Hennepen Lane beautification project.

Councillor Koch – The Muse Board is working on a new strategic plan, and there is a vacancy on the Muse Board. The new Curator has arrived and is energetic to get started. Volunteered to join the boating safety committee on behalf of Council and there have been a lot of discussion around boating safety. This is a local research project to see what is happening related to drowning and boating safety in the area. Continue to work with the women of Ontario say no in their efforts to have the Province implement policies on workplace harassment for elected officials.

Mayor Poirier – Echoed the positive event at the new KDSB building on Matheson Street. It is a very positive development for housing in the community. The Lions Club 75th anniversary event will be this weekend. The Mayor will be attending the KDMA Board meeting in Dryden and will join the budget meeting Thursday once he returns. They will be discussing an AGM which may be held in Kenora.

1.2 NOMA Board Meeting Summary & Request for Support for NOSM funding Recommendation:

Whereas that the City of Kenora recognizes the urgent need for physicians in Northern Ontario as it is experiencing a shortage of trained physicians and specialist physicians; and

Whereas life expectancy of Northern residents is more than two years lower than the Ontario average, and that mental health and addictions are at four times higher rate; and

Whereas one in eight Northern residents does not have access to a family doctor and many must travel long distances to access health-care services representing the failure of health care in Northern Ontario; and

Whereas communities in Northern Ontario require access to equitable health care, especially underserved rural, Indigenous, and Francophone communities; and

Whereas the Northern Ontario School of Medicine University's current base funding rates have not been increased sufficiently to accommodate growth and expansion;

Therefore Be it Resolved That with the announcement of unprecedented medical expansion for NOSM University's medical programs, the City of Kenora strongly requests that the Provincial government grant NOSM University's request for a permanent increase in annual base funding of \$4.0 million before the end of this fiscal year so it can continue to deliver on the mandate that was originally established by the Conservative Government in response to the needs of Northern municipalities; and further

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier Sylvia Jones, Minister of Colleges and Universities Jill Dunlop, MPPs Greg Rickford, Vic Fedeli, George Pirie, Ross Romano, Kevin Holland, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Northern Ontario School of Medicine University, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, Northern Ontario Academic Medicine Association and the leaders of the opposition parties of Ontario.

Discussion: The NOMA Board meeting summary was provided to Council but there was an extensive discussion around the NOSM funding and the health care in the north.

1.3 2024 Solid Waste and Water & Wastewater Utility Operating and Capital Budgets – Tariff of Fees & Charges new Rates

Recommendation:

That Council hereby approves the City of Kenora’s 2024-2026 Solid Waste and Water & Wastewater Utility Operating and Capital Budget as reviewed and amended; and further

That in accordance with Notice By-law Number 160-2022, public notice is hereby given that Council intends to formally adopt the 2024 Solid Waste and Water & Wastewater Utility Operating and Capital Budget including updating the Tariff of Fees and Charges bylaw to reflect the new utility rates at its October 18th Council Meeting; and further

That Council authorizes City Administration to proceed with the implementation of all budget-related decisions in accordance with those reflected within the amended budgets; and further

That Council give three readings to a By-law to adopt the 2024 Solid Waste and Water & Wastewater Utility Operating and Capital Budget; and further

That bylaw number 55-2022 be hereby repealed; and further

That three readings are given to a bylaw to adopt a new Tariff of Fees and Charges bylaw to reflect the new utility rates effective January 1, 2024.

Discussion: The draft budgets were reviewed on September 14th and the following amendments were made to those drafts:

1. Increase Solid Waste Fees and Charges for 2024 (excluding bag tags), increasing revenue by \$265,000.
2. Increase Solid Waste Fees and Charges for 2025, increasing revenue by \$375,000; bag tags will increase by \$0.10 from \$2.50 - \$2.60.

The following amendments were made to the original water and wastewater draft budgets:

1. Increase Water and Wastewater Fees and Charges for 2024, increasing revenue by \$115,000.

The fees were increased as they are based on cost recovery. These rates are specific to service requests and the cost recovery lens was taken into account throughout the cost recovery analysis.

The water rate review RFP is currently being drafted and we will award in early part of 2024. We should have the review completed within a six-month timeframe. As part of the scope of that work, the long-range financial plan for the utility will be included. The capital needs assessment is going to be a longer project and we will expect that to take a greater portion of 2024.

Council expressed appreciation for having these budgets passed in October and thanked staff for the work that has gone into getting these budgets completed.

1.4 2024 Council Meeting Calendar/Conference Attendance/Procedural Bylaw Recommendation:

That Council hereby accepts the 2024 Council meeting calendar as presented; and further

That Council hereby adopts an amended Procedural Bylaw for Council reflecting Council and Committee of the Whole meeting days; and further

That in accordance with By-law Number 160-2022, public notice is hereby given that Council intends to establish their 2024 meeting calendar and amend the Procedural bylaw; and further

That bylaw number 157-2022 be hereby repealed; and further

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

Discussion: Council was supportive of changing the meeting days back to Tuesdays.

Council considered changes to the closed meeting timing but will try working within the new closed meeting protocol policy first before considering further changes. Including a time restriction on the length of the closed sessions would be helpful. Council could consider capping the time on the Council meeting as a whole, or just the closed session.

Council is interested in a reporting mechanism to report back on conference attendance. This would be useful information for the public and for other members of Council who may not have attended that conference. Council could prepare the report on the highlights of the conference and information that would be beneficial to share. Having an ability to show the public what it means to go to these meetings. Heather will draft a template for Council to use for reporting that can be included with other Council reports.

Council discussed the first conference in 2024, ROMA, and Councillor Chaze, Van Belleghem and Mayor Poirier will attend. Administration will book accommodations for this conference for these members as the room blocks have opened.

It was suggested that Council consider a strategy regarding delegations to Ministers in 2024 which would consider other issues that are not directly under the mandate of the municipality but affects our community as a whole, such as health care.

There are two months where there will be a one week break between meetings. March to avoid the March break period, and June to allow for both Clerk's to attend the annual AMCTO professional conference.

2. Fire & Emergency Services

No Reports

3. Engineering & Infrastructure

3.1 Traffic Bylaw Amendment–No Parking First West Bay Rd & Rate of Speed-Coker Road

Recommendation:

That Council hereby approves an amendment to the Traffic Regulation By-law Number 180-2015, Schedule "B" – No Parking Tow Away Zones for First West Bay Road and Schedule "T" – Rate of Speed for Coker Road; and further

That three readings be given to an amending by-law for this purpose.

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Discussion: Transport Canada delivered a letter of non-compliance to the City regarding the north-west visibility of the rail signals on First West Bay Road due to vegetation and a parked vehicle blocking the view of the signals. Administration proposed the implementation of a 'no parking' area and a reduced speed limit to comply. This proposal was accepted by Transport Canada.

Secondly, to re-open the Coker Road the speed was reduced to 30km/h to minimize traffic impact and help preserve the road condition.

4. Recreation & Culture

4.1 Cancellation and Refund Policy #CS-1-5

Recommendation:

That Council hereby adopts a new Recreation Cancellation and Refund Policy, CS-1-5, to support a fair and equitable process for refunds and cancellations for staff and facility users; and further

That Recreation Cancellation and Refund Policy #CS-1-5 form part of the City's Comprehensive Policy Manual; and further

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

Discussion: This is to formalize the existing process that is being used to manage cancellations and refunds.

Under the section of unplanned disruptions administration will reconsider the wording of less time than 14 days for credit. Council would like to ensure that this policy is readily accessible to the public and included in the contracts when they are provided to patrons.

4.2 Tariff of Fees & Charges Amendment - Corporate Memberships

Recommendation:

That Council hereby approves an amendment to the Tariff of Fees and Charges bylaw, Schedule B, Community Services to add a *Local Youth Sports Team* option to a Corporate Membership Plan; and further

That bylaw number 55-2022 be hereby repealed; and further

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

Discussion: Council had concerns about this report and would like to see further review and considerations around who qualifies for the discounted membership and the definition of youth.

This item is referred back to Administration for further review and will not appear on the Council Agenda.

4.3 LiveBarn Streaming Services Agreement

Recommendation:

That Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and Clerk to execute an agreement between the Corporation of the City of Kenora and LiveBarn Inc. for streaming services for both Bowman Electric Keewatin Memorial Arena and Thistle Arena at the Moncrief Construction Sports Centre; and further

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

Discussion: Ice users have approached Administration to install live streaming options at the Bowman Electric Keewatin Memorial Arena and Thistle Arena in the Moncrief Construction Sports Centre, with a recommendation of LiveBarn Inc. to provide the service.

There is a cost associated for users who wish to subscribe, which was communicated with user groups. It was suggested that we highlight this is something all groups worked together on to support.

5. Planning & Building Services

No Reports

6. Economic Development & Tourism

No Reports

F. Proclamations

Mayor Poirier then read the following proclamations:

- Kenora Lake of the Woods Lions Club 75 Years
- Local Government Week – October 15-21
- Annual Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day – October 17

G. Other

H. Next Meeting

- Wednesday, November 8, 2023

I. Adjourn to Closed

Resolution #2 - Moved by Councillor L. Koch, Seconded by R. Bernie & Carried:

Pursuant to Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, authorization is given for Committee to move into a Closed Session at 10:49 a.m. to discuss items pertaining to the following:-

- i) A trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the municipality (1 matter-development contribution application)
- ii) Educating & Training Members of Council (1 matter – Mayor update)
- iii) Receiving advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege (1 matter-Science North partnership agreement)
- iv) Personal Matters About an Identifiable Individual (2 matters-Planning Advisory Committee appointment and Police Services Board Appointment)

Council will be verbally reporting out in a general sense on all items considered in the closed session once we return from the closed session and move back to open session.

J. Reconvene to Open Meeting

Council reconvenes to open session at 12:34 p.m. Council/Committee met in Closed Session to consider matters it is permitted to do so under the Municipal Act, 2001, and as listed on today's Council/Committee agenda. The following items were considered during the Closed Session:

- Council adopted the Minutes from Previous Closed Session held September 20, 2023
- Council received solicitor advice regarding a partnership agreement with Science North.
- Council received Confidential Report #1-2023 for information by Council and a public report will be presented at the November 8, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting regarding a development contribution under the Development bylaw.
- The Mayor updated Council on the following items:
 - Barrie Delegation–Justice Centre Tour
 - Fixing Long Term Care Amendment
- That the recommendations contained in Confidential Report #2-2023 be adopted as follows:
That Council hereby appoints Christopher Price to the Planning Advisory Committee for a term at the pleasure of Council no later than November 14, 2026.
- That the recommendations contained in Confidential Report #3-2023 be adopted as follows:
That Council hereby appoints Joel McGrath to the Kenora Police Services Board for a term at the pleasure of Council no later than November 14, 2026.

K. Close Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 12:36 p.m.