



**City of Kenora**  
**Committee of the Whole**  
**Minutes**

**Tuesday, December 8, 2020**  
**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 watch the virtual meeting via the Public Live Stream Event at:

<https://video.isilive.ca/kenora/2020-12-08-COTW.html>

**Present:**

Mayor Daniel Reynard  
Councillor Mort Goss  
Councillor Rory McMillan  
Councillor Andrew Poirier  
Councillor Kirsi Ralko  
Councillor Sharon Smith  
Councillor Chris Van Wallegem

**Staff:** Kyle Attanasio, CAO, Heather Pihulak, Manager of Administration/City Clerk, Stace Gander, Manager of Community Services, Adam Smith, Manager of Development Services, Charlotte Edie, Manager of Finance/Treasurer, Roberta Marsh, HR Manager, Kevan Sumner, City Planner, Kylie Hissa, Special Projects Officer, Melissa Shaw, Planning Analyst

**Blessing & Land Acknowledgment**  
***Councillor M. Goss***

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 our 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 December 15, 2020 meeting:-**

- N/A

**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 S. Smith, Seconded by R. McMillan & Carried:**

That the Minutes from the last regular Committee of the Whole Meeting held November 10, 2020, Special Committee of the Whole November 25 & November 26, 2020 be confirmed as written and filed.

## **D. Deputations/Presentations**

### **CIP Program Presentation**

Megan Dokuchie, Economic Development Officer and Melissa Shaw, Planning Analyst presented information to Council regarding the City of Kenora's CIP program. The CIP is a planning tool permitted under Section 28 of the Ontario Planning Act. CIPs provide the planning and economic development framework for municipalities to respond to local needs, priorities and circumstances for CIP areas.

The purpose of our Community Improvement Plans is to establish a program for municipal financial incentives through grants and loans. They stimulate private sector investment in targeted areas, promote revitalization to attract tourism, business investment and economic development opportunities, promotes the use of existing community infrastructure effectively and enhances streetscapes and building facades.

Our current three CIPs represents a critical ingredient for community success.

The City of Kenora has adopted three CIP's in Kenora which include the Harbourtown Centre, the Former Mill site and Keewatin. For a project to be eligible it must be located within one of the three CIP areas.

Each CIP area differs but there are some commonalities with them all as far as eligibility. All of the CIPs were reviewed and amended in 2017 to include additional incentives such as those to support affordable housing and accessibility.

We promote the CIP's through the City's website, partnerships with local realtors, postcards, CIP coffee breaks, video promotion and new business welcome kits. There are many local business success stories who have enhanced their buildings. The business community has responded to this program with millions of dollars in private investment improvements.

In 2020, the City of Kenora received five applications under the CIP programs considering all three project areas. Grants accessed include, but are not limited to: façade improvement, landscaping, signage, and waiving of permit fees. The program was oversubscribed indicating that uptake is strong despite COVID-19.

Looking ahead to 2021, we have identified opportunities to continue to improve the program. We are looking to enhance marketing efforts to include new signage for applicants to display on location to recognize program contributions. We are also hoping to revise reporting requirements for applicants so that we can continue to capture economic indicators through the delivery of this program.

Future candidate areas for Community Improvement Plans include Railway Street (from the CPR to Tenth Avenue South) and Highway 17 East (from Whitehead Road to Second Street).

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With the Comprehensive review of our OP underway, the introduction of new CIPs or the expansion of current CIPs is certainly an opportunity for consideration.

### **OPP Policing Costs Presentation**

Kenora is a unique area in Ontario and there are several challenges when it comes to policing the City.

The costs of policing are very high in our municipality and we have undertaken numerous initiatives with community partners and the local OPP to try to reduce those costs. Protection is the City's highest expenditure in its overall operating budget and it has continued to escalate over the years. In 2019, policing in the City increased by approximately 7% where the provincial average was 1.1% for an increase.

The City of Kenora is one of the top 7 municipalities in Ontario for the highest policing costs. Our calls for service are higher than any other municipality which can be directly related to access to the judicial system, and other social challenges.

The City is requesting a meeting with the Solicitor General to begin negotiations on a contract with the Ministry that will provide a cap or subsidy on OPP billing. We will be requesting a 35% "discount" on OPP policing costs via a Contract with the Ministry of the Solicitor General. In Northwestern Ontario there are two other communities that receive this discount due to similar data and costs.

## **E. Reports:**

### **1. Administration & Finance**

#### **1.1 October Financial Statements**

##### **Recommendation:**

That Council hereby accepts the monthly Financial Statements of the Corporation of the City of Kenora at October 31, 2020.

**Discussion:** The COVID expenses have increased to just over \$58,000 which will all be covered by the Safe Restart Funding and will be able to see a recovery under that. The winter control maintenance is still in a good position with 35.9% remaining. Provincial Offences sees revenue coming in now after being in a deficit position for the majority of the year. For metered parking we will see revenues sitting stagnant with the free parking in December.

The Museum and Art Centre will be broken out for future reporting.

#### **1.2 2018 Write Off's**

##### **Recommendation:**

That Council hereby approves the write off of accounts totalling \$1,803.94 in 2018 including applicable taxes; and further

That City staff be directed to continue collection efforts on these accounts.

**Discussion:** These are the annual write-offs, however, we continue to pursue collections on these accounts.

### **1.3 Amendment to HR Policy #2-7-2 Business Travel, Seminars & Conferences**

#### **Recommendation:**

That Council hereby approves an amendment to Human Resources Policy #HR-2-7-2 Business Travel, Seminars & Conferences Policy which forms part of the City of Kenora Comprehensive Policy Manual; and further

That by-law number 46-2018 be hereby repealed; and further

That three readings be given to a by-law for the purpose.

**Discussion:** Upon review by the Treasurer, the established rate by CRA for simple mileage needs to be amended. This amendment reflects the increase to the mileage allowance. This should be reviewed annually.

### **1.4 2021 Capital Budget Approval**

#### **Recommendation:**

That Council hereby approves the 2021 Municipal Capital Budget, including Unusual Spending, as amended; and further

That Council hereby directs staff to actively proceed with the projects included in that budget in accordance with the provisions of the City procurement bylaw; and further

That in accordance with Notice Bylaw 144-2007, public notice is hereby given that Council intends to adopt its 2021 Municipal Capital and Unusual Spending Budget at its December 15, 2020 Council meeting; and further

That Council hereby gives three readings to a bylaw for this purpose.

**Discussion:** There are a few minor changes following the budget discussion. We have split out the two bridge projects that are in the budget and the annual capital allocation for storm sewers are now coming out of reserves. There are a few unusual spend updates by adding a Library carry forward for 2020, and sidewalk grinding has moved to operating budget. We removed the pay-equity carry forward and compensation review which will be conducted internally now. We increased the storm sewer CCTV work from \$30,000 to \$60,000 and carried forward a climate change project from 2020 to 2021 as it won't be completed in 2020. A photocopier for the second floor was added that is coming from IT Reserves. We added a podcast project for \$30,000 and Kyle provided an update on this project.

## **2. Fire & Emergency Services**

**No Reports**

## **3. Operations & Infrastructure**

**No Reports**

## **4. Community Services**

### **4.1 Norman Park Application Under the Inclusive Community Grant Program**

#### **Recommendation:**

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That Council hereby approves an application to Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility's Inclusive Community Grants Program up to the amount of \$60,000 to make accessibility and age-friendly improvements to Norman Park.

## **5. Development Services**

### **5.1 Submission to Ontario Rebuilding and Recovery Act: Accelerating Infrastructure Initiatives—Municipal Engagement**

#### **Recommendation:**

That Council hereby approves the attached submission to the Government of Ontario's Municipal Engagement on Ontario's Rebuilding and Recovery Initiative.

### **5.2 Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program—COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream Project Submission**

#### **Recommendation:**

That through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program—COVID Stream, municipalities may submit a project application and have 100% of costs covered with a maximum contribution of \$227,771; and further

That Council hereby directs staff to apply for funding under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program—COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream to proceed with the purchase and installation of a dehumidifier at the Kenora Recreation Centre.

**Discussion:** This will also assist with the summer parking at the Keewatin Arena if the arena was not open in the summer. We have been allocated \$227,000 under this funding stream. We are not guaranteed to receive the allocation, we must apply and applications will be reviewed based on projects and funding priorities.

### **5.3 City of Kenora Request for a Reduction in Policing Costs**

#### **Recommendation:**

Whereas the City of Kenora has a history of high policing costs, as the municipality is one of the six communities in all of Ontario where the cost of policing is over \$600 per household; and

Whereas the Municipality has been working with the Kenora OPP Detachment and partner agencies such as the KDSB on programs that reduce the burden of policing costs; and

Whereas the provision of a 35% "discount" on OPP policing costs has been implemented to support those communities with very high costs provided that they enter into a Contract with the Ministry of the Solicitor General; and

Whereas Kenora does not currently meet the threshold for regulatory discounts, but current trends necessitate a cap or subsidy program for billing on calls for service; and

Whereas the City of Kenora cannot continue to fund policing at the escalating current trend which is clearly driven by a systemic failures in provincial and federal policy relating to criminal justice; and

Whereas a 35% discount on the grand total billing that has been applied elsewhere in the province where the burden of policing costs is similar, the City would benefit by saving over \$2.1 million in policing costs which can then be used to reduce the tax burden faced by residents and support critical services provided by the municipality;

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Now Therefore Be it Resolved That the City of Kenora requests a meeting with the Solicitor General to begin negotiations on a contract with the Ministry that will provide a cap or subsidy on OPP billing.

### **Zoning Bylaw Amendment Public Meetings:**

#### **D14-20-02 – River Street, Keewatin**

That the Application for Zoning By-law Amendment, File No. D14-20-03, to change the zoning of the property Plan 18, Block 70, Lots 15 and 16; Townsite of Keewatin, River Drive from "I" Institutional Zone to "R2" Residential – Second Density Zone; should be approved, in lieu of public comments that may yet to be received.

#### **D14-20-03 – 323 Peterson Drive**

That the Application for Zoning By-law Amendment, File No. D14-20-03, to change the zoning of the subject property from "RR" Rural Residential Zone to "RR" Rural Residential Zone, Exception [51] to allow for development of a detached secondary dwelling unit on a lot with water frontage and to permit the height of the accessory building in which the secondary dwelling is located to be a minimum of 0.0 meters less than the principal dwelling; should be approved, in lieu of public comments that may yet to be received.

### **F. Proclamations**

None

### **G. Other**

- Councillor Van Walleghem mentioned James Tkachyk retirement event and wished him well on his retirement.
- Councillor Smith read a prepared statement on behalf of the NWHU Board regarding an editorial prepared by the Kenora Miner and News directly pertaining to the NWHU's response to the pandemic.
- Councillor Smith read the NWHU Board Chairs report to the NWHU staff.
- Councillor Goss referenced the presentation on OPP policing costs and how important this is to the City.

### **H. Next Meeting**

- Tuesday, January 12, 2021

### **I. Adjourn to Closed**

**Resolution #2 - Moved by Councillor R. McMillan, Seconded by M. Goss & Carried:**

That Council now adjourn to a closed session at 10:12 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) Disposition of Land (1 matter-recreation property)
- ii) ~~A position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board (1 matter-planning procedures)~~
- iii) Educating & Training Members of Council (1 matter-Team Kenora update)
- iv) Labour Relations (1 matter – CUPE Negotiations update)

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## **J. Reconvene to Open Meeting**

Council reconvenes to open session at 11:50 a.m. with no reports from its closed session.

## **K. Close Meeting**

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.