



Council Year in Review

hkasprick

City of Kenora



23 November 2012

City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor Canfield & Members of Council

From: Heather Kasprick, Deputy Clerk

Re: Council Term in Review

Recommendation:

That a copy of the report reviewing the achievements for the 2012 year of Council be posted on the City's portal and made available to the media.

Background:

With a full second year coming to a close and therefore marking half way through this Council's term of office, it has been an ever evolving time for Council with numerous decisions and changes.

This report represents the culmination of various decisions made by the current Council. It is not exhaustive, but it does contain the highlights of the last year as seen through the eyes of City administration.

Attendance at AMO & ROMA/OGRA Conferences - Council had good representation at the annual AMO and ROMA/OGRA conferences in 2012. We were successful in receiving the Minister meeting requests in most areas to discuss the various issues outlined in the packages. Mayor Canfield also represented NOMA in meetings with most Ministers on Regional issues such as the Roads and Bridges funding.

Attendance at the FCM Conference – Council had not attended the FCM conference in many years and this year had two members of Council attend. Both Mayor Canfield and Councillor Smith expressed the value of attending this conference and the partnerships that can be formed by attending a conference for Canadian Municipalities rather than just provincial ones.

Adoption of the 2012 Operating & Five Year Capital Plan – Council passed the 2012 operating budget and five year capital plan, a progressive budget with a number of substantial capital projects in the works while addressing some community related concerns on February 13th with only a minimal 1% increase. Major projects approved included municipal paving for \$.8 million, Downtown Revitalization Phase 3 engineering study for \$.5 million. Other projects of interest in the 2012 budget included McLeod Park – Boardwalk & railings, Kenora Recreation Centre – change room floors, Thistle Arena accessibility and the Kenora Public Library parking stalls. Under these budget approvals include financial support to organizations such as the Community Foundation, Doctor Recruitment, Community Clubs, Kenora Safe Grad, Handi Transit, Triple Play, Lake of the Woods Development Commission, Library and Museum.

Appointment of a Youth Council – Council’s goal with the adoption of the Youth Council was to ensure a youth perspective is provided to City Council on applicable issues covered by City Council, as well as issues relating directly to youth and to build young people’s knowledge of City Council processes. In February Council appointed 8 youth from different backgrounds to the Youth Council with a term to expire June 30, 2012. While the trial period for the Youth Council did have some benefits, the Council did not work as effectively as anticipated. Therefore, Council endorsed moving to a Student Councillor Program model whereas one representative from the youth will sit with Council to represent the youth of Kenora. Jarrod McLean was appointed in November and will work with Council for his term.

Community Club Grants – Council approved \$8,000 in grants to Rideout, Central and Evergreen Community Clubs.

Kenora Citizens’ Prosperity Trust Fund –The proceeds from the sale of the KMTS entities of \$40,787,328 were transferred to the Prosperity Trust Fund. The Trust Fund assets are held in two portfolios. The ONE Public Sector Group of Funds accounts for almost one third of the Trust Fund. The market value of this investment is at September 30, 2012 is \$9,122,415, an increase of \$52,522 over the market value at the end of June. All ONE Fund investments are held in a bond fund. The return on ONE fund investments for 2012 to date is 1.78%. This rate reflects the total return including market impact. The market value of the bonds held in the ONE Fund has been recovering over the third three months of 2012. The return on book value at the end of the third quarter of 2012 is 3.20%.

Neighbourhood Watch Program Signage – Council, in partnership with the Kenora Community Policing Committee and the City Roads Department organized the purchase, installation and maintenance of the “Neighbourhood Watch Signs” in support of the Neighbourhood Watch Program. This program was initiated in response to requests by the public as a means to deter neighbourhood crime.

Bicycle Route Signage – City of Kenora Bicycle Routes Committee received a grant from the Trillium Foundation in the amount of \$15,000 for developing bicycle routes within the City. The funds will assist with the purchase of route marking and share-the-road signs and the necessary posts to install them. It will also assist with bicycle stencils for the pavement and trailhead signs with maps showing developed routes. There will be bicycle racks located strategically in the community. The bicycle routes developed have made a significant difference to cycling in Kenora and there has been a noticeable increase in cyclists in the City.

Fall Deer Hunt – After a one year trial Council approved a further amendment to the Discharge of Firearms bylaw to allow bow hunting south of the bypass for the period of October 1 – December 15, 2012. Surveys are being received from hunters who picked up a hunting package and the success of the hunt will once again be reviewed based on the surveys.

Mobile Food Vendors on City Property – Council in partnership with the Lake of the Woods Development Commission issued a RFP for street food vendors to have their mobile food carts on both the Harbourfront as well as at the Lake of the Woods Discovery Centre. This proved to be successful and the Commission will be reviewing and making recommendations for 2013.

Homelessness Task Force – Council established a community strategy to address homelessness and behavioural issues with a task force committee committed to addressing the concerns of the community.

Indoor Soccer and Sports Complex – Council approved a five year lease agreement with the Kenora Soccer Association for the redevelopment and use of the Jaffray Melick Community Centre. This will be a unique opportunity for various user groups and provide opportunities to these groups that would otherwise not have the opportunity to practice their athletics. Numerous partnerships have been formed that will see many user groups have access to the building and a Trillium grant application has been submitted for the cost of the indoor turf to be installed.

Long Term Parking Strategy – Through the branding process it was identified by local businesses that we do not have enough parking available for shoppers in the downtown area. It was identified that the South Harbourfront parking lot would be converted to day use only parking and the long term parking would not be an option in this lot beginning May 1, 2013. The intent of the change is to have the long term parking moved away from the downtown core and located in the Chipman Street lot and the Parkade parking lot rather in the prime south lot on the harbourfront.

Establishment of an Event Centre Committee – Council established an Event Centre Committee to review the viability of a twinned ice surface along with an events centre.

Casino Development – The Province of Ontario is modernizing lottery and gaming in Ontario and the City of Kenora was identified as a potential gaming zone for the development of a gaming facility. Council confirmed interest, in principle, in hosting a gaming facility in Kenora provided that the operator develops a destination entertainment venue with high level accommodations and convention centre capabilities as well as a mutually agreed upon location.

Change in Governance Structure – Council made changes to their governance structure to streamline the business operations of the City. Council members now have portfolio structures rather than chairing a determined committee.

Local Government Week – Council once again participated in Local Government week by attending various live radio and television interviews and contests. The “Mayor for the Day” contest was held with TA student Maya Boivin winning and spending the day with Mayor Canfield and later attending the Committee of the Whole meeting with Council.