

THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE PRIORITIES COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY

Council Chamber
Tom Davies Square

Wednesday, December 5, 2007
Commencement: 5:30 p.m.

Chair

COUNCILLOR GASPARINI, IN THE CHAIR

Present

Councillors Cimino; Barbeau; Berthiaume; Dupuis; Rivest; Callaghan; Craig; Caldarelli; Landry-Altmann; Mayor Rodriguez

City Officials

M. Mieto, Chief Administrative Officer; R. Hotta, Acting General Manager of Community Development; D. Nadorozny, General Manager of Growth & Development; G. Clausen, General Manager of Infrastructure Services; T. Beadman, Chief of Emergency Services; C. Hallsworth, Executive Director of Administrative Services; L. Hayes, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer; C. Dawe, Assistant City Solicitor; G. Mazza, Director of Building Services/Chief Building Official; C. Gore, Manager of Community Partnerships; B. Gutjahr, Manager of Compliance and Enforcement Services; Carmen Ouellette, Manager of Children Services; D. Brouse, By-law Enforcement Officer; J. McKechnie, Executive Assistant to the Mayor; A. Haché, City Clerk; K. Bowschar-Lische, Law Clerk; F. Bortolussi, Council Secretary

News Media

Sudbury Star; MCTV; CIGM; Channel 10 News; Le Voyageur; Northern Life

Declarations of
Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

PART I

POLICY DISCUSSION PAPERS - PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION

Item 3
Blasting Activities of
the City of Greater
Sudbury

Report dated 2007-11-09 was received from the General Manager of Growth & Development regarding Blasting Activities of the City of Greater Sudbury.

Guido Mazza, Director of Building Services/Chief Building Official, made an electronic presentation regarding Blasting Activities in the City of Greater Sudbury. He provided some historical information and referred to the letter from the Ministry of the Environment dated June 21, 2007 encouraging the City of Greater Sudbury consider the creation of a by-law to deal with blasting activities. He presented the three options.

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The first option (Status Quo) is that the Ministries of Labour and Environment currently have legislative power and should be lobbied to not change their policy.

The second option (Windsor Model) is that Council instruct staff to develop a draft by-law similar to Windsor. He indicated this is a stringent by-law which is not currently enforced. He further indicated such a by-law attracts major liability and responsibility and will have an impact on the industry and City of Greater Sudbury in terms of costs and time.

The third option (Victoria Model) is that Council instruct staff to develop a draft by-law similar to Victoria which is less stringent and controlled through current development approvals. He indicated this option models on the 'best practice' approach which is currently used by reputable contractors. He indicated that all options would involve public input sessions and development industry consultation and well as legal input.

Councillor Gasparini asked when the province decided that municipalities should be responsible for regulating blasting activities and questioned why the City should take any action based on only one letter from the local office.

Councillor Callaghan indicated that other municipalities should be canvassed to see how they are handling this matter.

With the consensus of the Committee, this matter was deferred for further information.

Item 4
Clearing of Debris
from Lands By-law

Report dated 2007-10-10 was received from the General Manager of Growth & Development regarding Clearing of Debris from Lands By-law.

Bryan Gutjahr, Manager of Compliance and Enforcement Services, made an electronic presentation regarding Clearing of Debris from Lands By-law. He outlined the procedure under the Maintenance and Occupancy Standards By-law 2001-200 (Property Standards) from the initial complaint to compliance including the appeal process stressing the timelines. He then outlined the procedure under the proposed Clearing of Debris from Lands By-law. He indicated staff's recommendation is that a by-law be drafted and that the Maintenance and Occupancy Standards By-law be amended to reflect the changes.

Mr. Gutjahr explained the Compliance & Enforcement initiatives and efficiencies. He indicated approximately 5,000 complaints are received annually with 60% of the calls being Property Standards issues. He indicated the proposed by-law would allow officers to deal with issues quickly and effectively. He indicated that officers

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Clearing of Debris
from Lands By-law
(continued)

will help educate citizens about upcoming and ongoing City programs and will work in conjunction with other City departments and outside agencies. He advised that Compliance & Enforcement vehicles are now clearly marked and officers will be dressed in uniform which provide high visibility and public awareness. He also advised of the new technology which will improve efficiency and compliance timelines.

Dave Brouse, By-law Enforcement Officer, modelled the new uniform which includes a shirt, black pants, shoulder flashes and tie.

The Committee agreed that staff be requested to come back with options for a fair appeal process and also prepared a report to take into account the discussions regarding vacant lands, absentee landlords, the size of the property; complaints that are not from neighbours, the possibility of a private contractor to perform any work required in cleanup, etc., and that all areas of the City be treated equally.

The following recommendation was presented:

THAT Council direct staff within the Legal Department to draft a by-law for the Clearing of Debris from Lands and also that the Maintenance and Occupancy Standards By-law be amended.

The Chair advised that this item is for preliminary discussion only and will be voted on at the next meeting of the Priorities Committee.

Item 5
Community Action
Networks - Terms of
Reference

Report dated 2007-11-28 was received from the General Manager of Community Development regarding Community Action Networks - Terms of Reference.

Marc Tasse, Valley East Community Action Network, and Chris Gore, Manager of Community Partnerships, made an electronic presentation regarding Community Action Networks - Terms of Reference.

Chris Gore provided a history of the Community Action Networks (CANs) beginning with adoption of recommendations from the Mayor's Task Force on Community Involvement and Volunteerism which included a recommendation to initiate CANs. He listed the existing CANs.

Marc Tasse listed the benefits of CANs and indicated that they provide residents with input on what is happening in their community. He advised of the success stories of various CANs. He indicated that Terms of Reference (TOR) are being prepared in order that all CANs can have the same guidelines. He named the individuals in the working group and their responsibilities including the

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Reference

consideration of the needs of existing CANs, development of TOR with input from CANs and the presentation of the TOR to City Council. He outlined the purpose of the TOR and the responsibilities of the CANs and the City of Greater Sudbury.

The following recommendation was presented:

THAT Council approve the adoption of the Terms of Reference for Community Action Networks (to be reviewed annually) attached to the report dated November 28th, 2007 from the General Manager of Community Development and that in recognition of recommendations made by the community within the Constellation City Report that budget options be prepared to:

1. Allocate annual funds to address the administrative costs of all active Community Action Networks in the City of Greater Sudbury
2. Approve the recruitment and hiring of 2 additional Community Development Co-ordinators within the Community Development Department.

Councillor Callaghan indicated he is concerned Terms of Reference are too involved and the amount of funding requested.

The Committee agreed that this item will be brought forwarded to the Council retreat (January 11 & 12, 2008) for further discussion and noted that the budget option had already been included in the voting package.

POLICY DISCUSSION PAPERS - DECISION REQUESTED

Item 6
Adoption of Policies

Report dated 2007-11-26 was received from the Executive Director, Administrative Services regarding Adoption of Policies: 1) Accountability and Transparency Policy; and 2) Delegation of Powers and Duties Policy.

The following recommendation was presented:

RECOMMENDATION 2007-65: Moved by Councillor Berthiaume:

THAT Council consider the draft Policies (Accountability & Transparency and Delegation of Powers & Duties) attached to the report dated November 26th, 2007 from the Executive Director, Administrative Services, adopt them, and that the necessary By-laws be passed at the December 12th, 2007 meeting of Council.

CARRIED

Item 7
For-profit Child Care
in Greater Sudbury

Report dated 2007-10-31 was received from the General Manager of Community Development regarding For-profit Child Care in Greater Sudbury.

Report dated 2007-11-30 was received from the General Manager of Community Development regarding Additional Information - For-profit Child Care in Greater Sudbury was distributed to Committee Members.

The following recommendation was presented:

RECOMMENDATION 2007-66: Moved by Councillor Dupuis:

WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury works with local child care agencies to provide high quality licensed child care to thousands of children, including some of Greater Sudbury's most vulnerable children;

AND WHEREAS Canadian and international studies have shown that overall quality in child care centres is higher in not-for-profit child care programs and in centres where parents have input into programs;

AND WHEREAS interest from a well known multinational corporation in purchasing for-profit child care centres in Greater Sudbury and throughout Ontario has raised concerns about the impact of corporate, for profit child care on the development of a high quality, accessible system of early learning and care in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the City's Children Services Purchase of Service Policy allows the City to set criteria which operators must meet in order to access start-up, operating and fee subsidies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Greater Sudbury amend its Purchase of Service policy so that new public funding in the form of start-up, operating and fee subsidies, is only available to public and/or non-profit child care operations located in Greater Sudbury;

AND THAT the five for-profit owner-operators who have current Purchase of Service agreements with the City of Greater Sudbury and have demonstrated their willingness to work with the City and other partners to provide responsive, quality programs, will continue to be given equal consideration for funding and subsidies, as long as they remain under their current ownership and continue to meet the conditions of their legal agreements;

AND THAT Children Services be directed to amend its "Purchase of Service" policy to reflect this resolution.

CARRIED

PART II

Change of Chair

At 7:57 p.m., Councillor Gasparini vacated the chair.

COUNCILLOR BARBEAU, IN THE CHAIR

CITIZEN DELEGATIONS

Item 8
Draft Community
Strategy to Reduce
Poverty in the City of
Greater Sudbury

Councillor Janet Gasparini, Executive Director, and Bob Jeffrey, Chair, Social Planning Council of Sudbury made an electronic presentation regarding Draft Community Strategy to Reduce Poverty in the City of Greater Sudbury.

Bob Jeffrey advised the Committee of the work performed by the Greater Sudbury Social Planning Council indicating it is the envy of Social Planning Council's across the Province.

Councillor Janet Gasparini advised of the role of the Social Planning Council (SPC) in poverty reduction. She indicated there are more children in poverty in Ontario than anywhere else in Canada. She indicated this draft Community Strategy was presented to the Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club and is supported by the Sudbury & District Health Unit. She indicated that ending poverty will improve the health outcome, build better learning environments and reduce the work of the criminal justice system. She also indicated that keeping people poor costs more than getting them out of poverty. She stated that the first step is to believe that reducing poverty is possible, the second step is to give poverty reduction the same importance as economic development and the third step is to keep believing and monitor, evaluate and report on the progress.

With the consensus of the Committee, Councillor Gasparini requested that staff review the report as to how Council can endorse it and, by endorsing the report, how can Recommendation #3 come into fruition.

Adjournment

RECOMMENDATION 2007-67: Moved by Councillor Dupuis:

THAT this meeting does now adjourn. Time: 8:30 p.m.

CARRIED

Councillor J. Gasparini, Chair

Angie Haché, City Clerk