GENERAL COMMITTEE REPORT 2011-7

Report of the General Committee of Council Meeting held Monday, September 12, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Office Council Chambers.

Present: Chair, Deputy Mayor S. Kramp,
Vice-Chair, Mayor Gordon McKay,
Councillors J. Attwood, Z. Pendlebury, J. Charlebois, B. Jeffery, M. Ross*, P. File and G. Canning

Also Present: Chief Administrative Officer, T. Walker
Director of Parks and Recreation, B. Peter
Director of Public Works, S. Berriault
Police Inspector, R. Wheeldon
Director of Fire Services (Fire Chief) and Emergency Mgmt., K. Foster
Finance Management Intern, Paul Creamer
Acting Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary, K. Desroches

*Arrived at 7:55 p.m.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

a) Deputy Mayor Kramp declared a pecuniary interest with respect to Section A, Item 1, Information Report regarding the matter pertaining to the Party on the Dock, by reason that he is a member of the Huronia Foundation for the Arts which may be a partner in the initiative.

SECTION A – COMMUNITY SERVICES MATTERS
(Referred to the Chair, Councillor Z. Pendlebury)

1. Information Report

Having previously declared a pecuniary interest, Deputy Mayor Kramp vacated his seat.

Your Committee reviewed a report dated September 2, 2011, from B. Peter, Director of Parks and Recreation, providing an update on research being undertaken for a proposed splash pad, advising that the County of Simcoe is seeking comments on a draft Trails Strategy Report, and highlighting upcoming events. The report also provided information regarding preliminary discussions held with Rotary Club representatives regarding the Party on the Dock event and a proposal to expand the one day special event to encompass the entire weekend.

As Council's feedback was requested with respect to the proposal, a lengthy discussion ensued. Your Committee expressed support of expanding the special event through the addition of a Saturday and Sunday festival and instructed the Director of Parks and Recreation to continue to investigate options. A complete report highlighting findings will be forwarded to a future meeting.

Deputy Mayor Kramp returned to his seat.

2. Pettersen Park Options for Roadway / Parking Lot Capital Improvements

Your Committee reviewed a report dated August 29, 2011, from B. Peter, Director of Parks and Recreation, recommending that Council provide staff with direction concerning the preferred option with respect to roadway/parking lot capital improvements to enable staff to further develop a plan for the capital budget process.

A lengthy discussion ensued. While it was concurred that parking lot improvements were necessary, your Committee was divided on the options presented, as well as whether or not a fee should be implemented for parking. It was the general consensus that boat launching remain free to both residents and non-residents.

Following further discussion, the matter was referred to 2012 budget deliberations for consideration. Staff was directed to obtain additional information regarding options related to the possible implementation of a fee for parking for consideration at that time.

3. User Fees for Parks and Recreation Department

Your Committee reviewed a report dated September 1, 2011, from B. Peter, Director of Parks and Recreation, recommending that Council approve, in principle, the Draft User Fees Report for the Parks And Recreation Department and authorize staff to distribute the Draft User Fees Report to user groups and to conduct a public meeting for input and comments prior to bringing a final report to Council.

A discussion ensued regarding a suggestion to impose increased fees for outsiders since Midland residents currently pay a surcharge through the tax base. A request to refer the proposed implementation of a two-tiered fee structure to the Strategy Briefing Session for further discussion was put to a straw vote and defeated.

Your Committee supported the proposed user fees and directed staff to proceed with the obtaining of input from user groups and residents and the holding of a public meeting.

4. Disposal of 1990 Pumper

Your Committee reviewed a report dated August 31, 2011, from K. Foster, Director of Fire Services (Fire Chief) and Emergency Management, recommending that the 1990 Pumper be declared surplus and disposed of by donating to Georgian College for use in the Pre-service Firefighter Education and Training Program.

Your Committee supported the recommendation and directed that the appropriate motion be forwarded to the September Council meeting.

5. Fire Department Activity Report

Your Committee reviewed and received as information the Fire Department Activity Report for the month of August 2011 providing an update on suppression, training, fire prevention and public education.

6. High School Cross-Country Race

Your Committee reviewed a letter dated September 8, 2011, from Mr. M. MacDonald, St. Theresa's High School, requesting permission to use Little Lake Park to host a High School Cross-Country race from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 6, 2011, closure of Little Lake Park Road from Yonge Street to the YMCA entrance, as well as use of the washrooms located by the Volleyball Courts.

Your Committee supported the request and recommended the appropriate motion be forwarded to the September Council meeting.

SECTION B – PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS
(Referred to the Chair, Councillor B. Jeffery)

1. Transportation Master Plan Public Information Centre Review

Your Committee reviewed a report dated September 8, 2011, from S. Berriault, Director of Public Works, providing an update on the Transportation Master Plan and proposing three possible dates for a public review through a Public Information Centre.

Your Committee expressed support of October 27, 2011, as the date for the public review.

2. Town of Midland Water System Water Operating Licence

Your Committee reviewed and received as information a report dated September 8, 2011, from S. Berriault, Director of Public Works, providing information with respect to the above.

3. Proposed Amendment to Traffic By-Law 4-Way Stop Condition at Sixth & Ontario

Your Committee reviewed a report dated September 8, 2011, from S. Berriault, Director of Public Works, recommending that the current 2-way stop condition on Sixth Street at Ontario Street be converted to a 4-way stop condition.

Your Committee supported the proposed 4-way stop condition and recommended a motion amending Schedule III, Stop Signs of By-law 98-21 be forwarded to the September Council meeting.

SECTION C – ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(Referred to the Chair, Mayor G. McKay)

1. Municipal Law Enforcement Officer's Investigative Report – August 2011

Your Committee reviewed and received as information a report dated September 8, 2011, from J. Reichheld, Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, providing details with respect to the above.

2. 2012 Budget Information

Your Committee reviewed a report dated August 26, 2011, from T. Leonard, Acting Senior Executive Assistant, advising that, for cost saving purposes, the 2012 budget information would be provided electronically as a pdf document.

Councillor File noted that the screen can be difficult to see and inquired as to a paper copy.

CAO Walker noted that in addition to being projected on the screen, staff and Council would be able to view the budget information on their individual laptops. Following further discussion, CAO Walker invited Council members to contact T. Leonard if a paper copy was preferred.

3. Municipal Capital Facilities Agreement – Royal Canadian Legion

Councillor M. Ross declared a pecuniary interest as he is a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 80 and vacated his seat.

Your Committee reviewed a report dated September 6, 2011, from K. Desroches, A/Deputy Clerk, recommending that the Town enter into a Municipal Capital Facilities Agreement, deeming the Legion Museum and parking lot as a Municipal Capital Facility pursuant to Subsection 110(1) of the Municipal Act and Ontario Regulation 603/06 clause(1) (b).

Your Committee supported the proposed designation of each the Legion Museum and Parking Lot as a Municipal Capital Facility and recommended the appropriate by-laws and related agreements be forwarded to the September Council meeting.
Councillor Ross returned to his seat.

4. Accessibility Plan 2011-2012

Your Committee reviewed a report dated September 6, 2011, from K. Desroches, A/Deputy Clerk, together with a copy of the Accessibility Plan for 2011-2012 for Council's consideration.

Your Committee recommended the appropriate by-law authorizing adoption of the 2011-2012 Accessibility Plan for the Town of Midland be forwarded to the September Council meeting.

5. County of Simcoe – Options for Waste Collection Services

Mayor McKay provided a powerpoint presentation highlighting the various options being considered by County Council with respect to waste collection services. Mayor McKay advised that County Council will be meeting on September 14, 2011, to consider the options.

Following the presentation, Mayor McKay invited members of Council to speak to the options presented with a view to identifying the preferred waste collection structure for Midland. A brief discussion ensued whereby your Committee expressed support in expanding the types of items that can be recycled and composted, as well as extending the compost program to accommodate businesses.

Mayor McKay advised that he would bring forward the recommendations on behalf of Council at the meeting.

6. Council Strategy Session Meeting Date

CAO Walker noted that since the Council Strategy Session, Department Heads have met to review the eight items identified as top priority. In order to move forward, it is now necessary for the established Ad Hoc Steering Committee to meet with the Council Strategy Committee Chair, Vice-Chair as well as Mayor McKay to review the items in an effort to develop an implementation plan. CAO

Walker presented several possible dates with September 19, 2011, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. selected as the preferred date.

7. Council Re-orientation Session

CAO Walker noted that the initial date proposed for the Council re-orientation session was not suitable for all members of Council. Accordingly, a half day session on Saturday, September 24, 2011, was proposed.

A discussion ensued concerning the necessity of a re-orientation session. CAO Walker noted that the session would not be a complete review of the one conducted when members assumed office but would instead provide for an opportunity to review the processes and provide for questions and answers. CAO Walker also advised that 100% participation is recommended.

Following further discussion, Council members were requested to forward issues that they would like discussed to Mayor McKay. CAO Walker would also instruct Department Heads to forward their items to his attention, following which a draft agenda comprised of all the topics would be compiled. A date to conduct the session would then be determined.

8. Verbal Updates

a) Economic Action Initiative

Mayor McKay advised that in January representatives from the four North Simcoe Municipalities met to discuss the possibility of pooling resources as part of the Economic Action Initiative. Mayor McKay noted that a follow-up meeting that was to have occurred was deferred but is now being planned.

b) Joint Efficiency Task Force

CAO Walker advised that the Joint Efficiency Task Force has had its first meeting. Staff have also met to review issues raised at the meeting due to timeline and deadline concerns. As part of the joint efficiency initiative, a joint tender for employee health insurance is being considered.

Department Heads from each municipality will be meeting to review recommendations and suggested initiatives. A joint Department Head meeting will then be convened to formulate an implementation plan which will be reviewed by the Joint Efficiency Task Force and then forwarded to each Council for consideration.

c) Penetanguishene Police Services RFP

Mayor McKay provided an update on the Town of Penetanguishene's Request for Proposals for policing services. Mayor McKay noted that the proposals submitted by the Midland Police Service and the OPP have been presented to the Penetanguishene Police Services Board. Penetanguishene's Corporate Committee has met and there has been some communication regarding the results. Penetanguishene will be proceeding with a public meeting to receive input from residents and then will gather as Council where a decision will be made. Should Penetanguishene Council vote in favour of a joint service, they will then approach the Midland Police Services Board to discuss the matter further.

9. 4th Annual Student Vote and Local Government Week

Your Committee reviewed a letter dated August 29, 2011, from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, AMCTO and AMO, encouraging participation in celebrating Local Government Week on October 16-22, 2011, and encouraging schools to participate in the Student Vote 2011 Municipal Election Program.

K. Desroches advised that various initiatives are being investigated by the Town's Finance Management Intern that could be undertaken in conjunction with the local schools to promote Local Government Week. Staff will be discussing this further at tomorrow's Department Head Meeting and will bring suggested ideas to Council. Depending on the initiative recommended and due to the fact that Local Government week is only one month away, CAO Walker may consult with Council via email.

Deputy Mayor Kramp extended an invitation to Council members to attend Midland Secondary School individually to speak to his grade ten class.

SECTION D – OTHER BUSINESS

1. Midland Power Utility Corporation (MPUC) Dividend

CAO Walker advised that the amount of the dividend from MPUC was increased in 2010. The dividend has been an issue for several years in terms of what is an appropriate amount. CAO Walker advised that he along with the Town's Treasurer will be meeting with the MPUC President/CEO and Chief Financial Officer to discuss the pros and cons of retaining a consultant to establish an appropriate dividend amount and will report back to the Board and Council once they have had an opportunity to investigate the matter further.

CAO Walker noted that consultants have been retained by other municipalities to examine the dividend from a financial point of view. The consultant would then suggest an amount to be paid annually for a three year period and would also

review the dividend amount periodically to determine whether it should be increased or decreased.

2. CarFree Day

Councillor File advised that September 24, 2011, is being recognized as Carfree Day throughout Ontario and encouraged everyone to show their support by walking and biking on that day.

3. Style at Home Magazine

Councillor Ross advised that Downtown Midland has been featured in the most recent edition of the Style at Home Magazine. A copy of the article highlighting Midland will be forwarded to Council members.

The meeting adjourned at 10.08 p.m.

K. Desroches, A/Deputy Clerk

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