



GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, May 25, 2004
7:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

Meeting Number G.C. 2004 - 07

Members present: Mayor Damian Goulbourne

Councillors:

D. Alexander
D. Beaudoin
P. Chiocchio
M. Dzugan
P. Grenier

M.A. Grimaldi
J. Larouche
S. O'Dell
J. Spadafora

Members of the Staff and Others Present:

City Clerk C.A. Stirtzinger
City Solicitor G. Banks
General Manager Engineering, Public Works and Transportation Services D. Shantz
and Acting City Manager
Acting General Manager, Parks & Recreation R. Morwald
General Manager Financial and Corporate Services / Treasurer B. Silvestri
General Manager, Planning & Development Services D. Thorpe
Recording Secretary, Games Licensing Clerk S. Stirling

Others Present:

04-19

Claire Gerencser, Executive Director, Welland Multicultural Centre
Re: Welland Multicultural Centre – Request for Waiving of Fees.
(P&R-2004-15)

04-96

Bert Bural, 22 Promenade Richelieu, Welland L3B 6B2
Re: Disposal of Surplus / Obsolete City Computers
(CM-2004-21)



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Mayor Goulbourne called the General Committee Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

Resolution to endorse the nomination of Councillor Alexander to the position of Provincial Board Director – Ontario for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (F.C.M.).

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:

Councillor Dzugan disclosed an interest in the matter of Item 04-19 and did not take part in the consideration and discussion of same; and refrained from voting thereon as he sits on the Board of Directors for the Multicultural Centre.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 11th, 2004

Moved by Councillor Dzugan that the Minutes of the General Committee Meeting of May 11th, 2004 be and the same are hereby approved and adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

(A) COMMUNITY SERVICES

Parks & Recreation Department

01-155 - Use of Pesticides in the City of Welland. (P&R-2004-09)

Mr. Morwald explained to Council how some municipalities educate and involve the public by way of policies, by-laws and programs in order to minimize use of pesticides. Councillor O'Dell stressed that a total ban has been proven not to work and that the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association does not support a total ban of pesticides. He indicated that he would support an education program for the people of Welland and cautioned that a total ban of the use of pesticides and herbicides in the City will fail. Mr. Morwald informed Council that this report suggests minimizing the use of pesticides and not banning them totally. Mr. Morwald stated that it is in the public's interest to reduce the use of pesticides and stressed that, after public consultations, the results and recommendations will be brought back to Council for approval. Councillor Alexander stated that this is an opportunity for the City of Welland to lead by example and it would be beneficial to obtain input from the various stakeholders in public consultations. He referred to page ten of the report that indicates to educate municipal councillors and he agreed that that would be a great place to start this process. He pointed out that this is an opportunity for the City to do something of benefit to the environment and save money on grass cutting expenses. Councillor Alexander specified that the City must find a way to get the most input from the public and suggested that it might be better to have something mailed to each household instead of just an ad in the newspaper. Councillor Spadafora cautioned that the City should



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not take the role of educators on this matter and set up educational programs when it is not educated on this subject. He stressed that the provincial and federal experts should set up the educational programs and if they indicate that something is safe it is not up to Council to say the public cannot use it. Councillor Dzugan stated that, in his opinion, the public consultations would not draw many people and that the gardeners and people who are spraying their lawn will not attend these meetings. Mr. Banks warned Council that it would be difficult to enforce a By-law banning pesticides and asked Council to consider how the City would establish that someone has violated the By-law, exactly what chemicals were used and who put it there. He stressed that this would result in neighbour disputes. He suggested that the upper tier levels of government should decide what is appropriate and the role of the municipalities should only be encouraging public input and the awareness of the public.

Moved by Councillor Alexander

1. That Council receive for information Report P&R-2004-09, concerning the Use of Pesticides in the City of Welland.
2. That Council direct staff to facilitate two public consultation sessions to involve citizens in the development of a program that will minimize the use of pesticides.
3. That Council direct staff to recommend policies and programs to minimize the use of pesticides within the City of Welland through innovative turf management, responsible pest management approaches and principles of integrated pest management including:
 - ↳ Pest resistant and alternative landscape design;
 - ↳ Building codes to deter pests;
 - ↳ A hierarchal use of preventative practices through least environmentally harmful control solutions;
 - ↳ Public education on prevention, alternatives, and benefits and risks;
 - ↳ Employee training and certification;
 - ↳ Reward/recognition of good practices;
 - ↳ Petitioning the provincial government to enact appropriate legislation and provide funding to assist municipalities with pesticide reduction programs.

CARRIED

(Councillor Spadafora requested to be recorded as opposed)

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: NIL

6. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

04-19 - Claire Gerencser, Executive Director, Welland Multicultural Centre addressed Council regarding the use of the Market Square for the International Luncheons and its request to waive the rental fees.

Claire Gerencser informed Council that this event started over 25 years ago to create awareness of



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the diversity in this City. She explained that some of the groups involved in this event do not have cultural halls in the City and this is a great opportunity for them to make the public aware of their cultural organization. She requested that Council waive the \$100 fee for the use of the Market Square facility. Councillor Spadafora stated that the Multicultural Centre has been providing a much needed service to the City of Welland for many years. He inquired as to whether Frank Delle Monache has been approached to waive the fee he charges the City of \$100 per event to open and close the facility. Mr. Morwald responded that Mr. Delle Monache has agreed to waive 50% of his fee for this event this year without prejudice or precedent. He added that Mr. Delle Monache was not approached until after the report was written so this information was absent from Report P&R2004-15. Mr. Morward indicated that a review of the City's fee structure will be undertaken this summer. Councillor O'Dell inquired as to who would have to pay the rental fee and Ms. Gerencser indicated that each group would be responsible for the fee. Councillor Spadafora suggested that \$400 be given to the Heritage Council to apply towards the rental fees this year.

Moved by Councillor Chiocchio

That the presentation to General Committee on May 25th, 2004 by Claire Gerencser, Executive Director, Welland Multicultural Centre requesting the waiving of rental fees for use of the Market Square Facility during the International Luncheons held June 16 to 25, 2004 be received for information.

CARRIED

7. STAFF REPORTS:

(A) COMMUNITY SERVICES - Councillor S. O'Dell, Chair

Parks & Recreation Department

03-75 - 2006 World Dragon Boat Championships. (P&R-2004-14)

Councillor Alexander informed Council that the Federal Government has awarded the City of Toronto \$125 million in its bid to host this delegation. Mr. Morwald mentioned that the WRCC recognizes the enormous challenge in front of them and stressed that Welland has an excellent course and that Toronto is only talking about its course. He indicated that the committee will be viewing Welland's course this weekend so they can obtain a visual on what Welland has to offer. Councillor Alexander suggested that the provincial delegation should also be shown the virtual reality tour of Welland. He stated that the Canal Corporation, Mayor and Regional Chair should contact Prime Minister Martin's office to advise them that the City of Welland is attempting to secure this bid and request financial assistance just as the City of Toronto has. Councillor Spadafora indicated that the Federal government cannot support one city and not assist another city in this competition and stressed that the City of Welland should indicate to them that it will accept a much lower financial assistance than the \$125 million offered to the City of Toronto. Councillor O'Dell mentioned that the Dragon Boat committee did indicate that the City of Welland had an advantage because they did not think the City of Toronto would obtain the money for its course. He stated that now that the City of Toronto has been awarded the money they will secure the bid to host this event and the City of Welland must act immediately and let its feelings be known to the Prime Minister.



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Moved by Councillor Alexander

That Council receives for information Report P&R-2004-14, concerning the 2006 World Dragon Boat Championships.

CARRIED

04-19 - Welland Multicultural Centre – Request for Waiving of Fees. (P&R-2004-15)

Moved by Councillor O'Dell

That Council grant \$400 plus G.S.T. to the Welland Multicultural Centre to apply towards the rental fees for use of the Market Square Facility during the International Luncheons held June 16 to 25, 2004.

CARRIED

(B) CORPORATE SERVICES

Mayor Goulbourne chaired this portion of the meeting in the absence of Corporate Services Chair, Councillor M. Belcastro.

City Manager's Office

04-96 - Disposal of Surplus / Obsolete City Computers. (CM-2004-21)

Councillor Beaudoin inquired as to whether there is a policy currently in place in regards to the disposing of obsolete computers. Mr. Silvestri responded that there is a general Policy which addresses obsolete equipment that outlines the City can auction off or advertise for sale any obsolete equipment but this would not preclude Council's wishes. Councillor Alexander stated that this disposal of obsolete computers would develop a partnership with other organizations and municipalities in other countries. He also mentioned that City should investigate offering the phone system that is being replaced to other organizations. He requested that staff come back to Council with a process on how to dispose of this equipment. Councillor Beaudoin asked Mr. Bural if there would be any cost to the City if Council supported this recommendation. Mr. Bural responded that this matter is not time sensitive and the university in Cuba will accept the equipment at any time and that the Canadian – Cuban Friendship Alliance will be responsible for packing up and all shipping costs to Cuba. Councillor O'Dell added that this organization is very upstanding and trustworthy and he assured Council that there is no doubt the computers will get into the right hands.



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Moved by Councillor Beaudoin

1. That Council approve the disposal of surplus / obsolete City computers as follows:
 - ↳ Eight (8) computers to the Welland and District Humane Society; and
 - ↳ The remainder of surplus / obsolete computers to Formatur School in Holguin, Cuba

CARRIED

**04-18 - March and April 2004 Departmental Reports.
(CM-2004-22)**

Moved by Councillor Grenier

That Report CM-2004-22, March and April 2004 Departmental Reports be received for information.

CARRIED

(C) OPERATIONAL SERVICES - Councillor M. Dzugan, Chair

Engineering, Public Works and Transportation Services

Traffic Division

**04-22 - Administrative Update – Traffic and Parking Operations.
(TRAF-2004-14)**

Moved by Councillor Grenier

- 1) That the City Solicitor be directed to prepare a By-law to amend Parking Prohibitions, Schedule “C” of By-law 89-2000 by:
 - i) ADDING the following:

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3		COLUMN 4
HIGHWAY	SIDE	FROM	TO	PERIOD
				(TIMES/ DAY)
Walnut Street	West	Locust Street	Elmview Street	AT NO TIME
Canal Bank Street	Both	A point 100 meters north of Forks Road	Ontario Road	AT NO TIME

- 2) That the City Solicitor be directed to prepare a By-law to amend Reduced Load Restrictions, between March and April, Schedule “Y” of By-law 89-2000 by:
 - i) ADDING the following:

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	
HIGHWAY	FROM	TO
Rice Road	Woodlawn Road	north city limits

- 3) That the City Solicitor be directed to prepare a By-law to amend the Fire Route By-law 10011 by:



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i) DELETING the following:

SCHEDULE NO.	STREET ADDRESS	COMMON NAME	SKETCH
A-7	800 Niagara Street	Seaway Mall	22 - May - 97

ii) ADDING the following:

SCHEDULE NO.	STREET ADDRESS	COMMON NAME	SKETCH
A-7	800 Niagara Street	Seaway Mall	6 - May - 04

CARRIED

04-22 - Parking Operations Concerns – First Avenue. (TRAF-2004-15)

Moved by Councillor Grenier

- 1) That the City Solicitor be directed to prepare a By-law to amend Parking Prohibitions, Schedule "C" of By-law 89-2000 by:

i) ADDING the following:

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3		COLUMN 4
HIGHWAY	SIDE			PERIOD
		FROM	TO	(TIMES/ DAY)
First Avenue	East	Page Drive	North limit of City	AT NO TIME

CARRIED

04-22 - Parking Operations Concerns – Northgate Drive. (TRAF-2004-16)

Moved by Councillor Grenier

- 1) That the City Solicitor be directed to prepare a By-law to amend Parking Prohibitions, Schedule "C" of By-law 89-2000 by:

i) ADDING the following:

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3		COLUMN 4
HIGHWAY	SIDE			PERIOD
		FROM	TO	(TIMES/ DAY)
Northgate Drive	West/South	Cabot Street	A point 160 meters north west	AT NO TIME

CARRIED

8. NEW BUSINESS:

(A) COMMUNITY SERVICES



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04-100 - Community Request for By-law Enforcement.

Councillor Chiocchio updated Council and staff on three recent meetings with residents in Ward 1. He indicated that the major concern is the noise, language and parties occurring near Niagara College and he stressed that the public wants to see action taken on these concerns. He suggested that the students and landlords in the area be educated on the City's noise by-law. He requested that a report from Mr. Thorpe be prepared regarding a working cooperation between the City, the Niagara Regional Police and Niagara College. He asked that this report be brought back to Council as soon as possible and definitely before the next school term begins in September. Mr. Thorpe informed Council that the City has conducted an open house at the college to educate the students on the concerns of the area residents. He indicated that the By-law will be enforced the first weeks of school to educate the students and its effect on the residents and students will be brought back to Council in October. Councillor Chiocchio stressed that the residents are asking that the warnings to students be stopped and that the by-law be enforced. Councillor Alexander suggested that the fine be raised from \$55 to \$300. Mr. Thorpe indicated that Council will be notified when the approval is received regarding the fine increase under the Provincial Offences By-law. Mr. Banks stated that any disturbance is a police issue and not the responsibility of the City of Welland By-law Enforcement Officers. Councillor Dzugan suggested that the problem is absentee landlords who are not taking any responsibility for the actions occurring on their property. The Mayor indicated that he would contact the Niagara Regional Police on this matter.

(B) CORPORATE SERVICES

04-103

That Welland City Council endorse the nomination bid of Councillor David Alexander for the position of Provincial Board Director – Ontario for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (F.C.M.).

CARRIED

04-101 - External Committee Reports.

The Mayor indicated that Council never receives reports back from external committees and he would like to have an item added to the General Committee agenda for any external committee reports so that anyone with information has an opportunity to share it with Council. Councillor O'Dell stressed that lately there have been several meetings with unfinished business because of excessive delegations and sports awards taking up too much time. He indicated that Councillors want to report on their activities at Council meetings so the public can hear the information. After a short discussion it was agreed that no action would be taken at this time to change the meeting format but better time management of delegations and debates at Council should be undertaken with further review in the fall.



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9. OUTSTANDING ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE:

Mayor and Council reviewed with staff the status of the outstanding items.

10. The General Committee Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.