



CITY OF BROOKS

Council Committee

April 26, 2022

NOTES

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Present:

- Mayor John Petrie
- Councillor Joel Goodnough
- Councillor Mohammed Idriss
- Councillor Ray Juska
- Councillor Jon Nesbitt
- Councillor Bill Prentice
- Councillor Marissa Wardrop

CITY STAFF

Present:

- Amanda Peterson, Deputy CAO
- Amy Rommens, Manager, Administration
- Shelley Thomas, Manager, Finance
- Randi McPhillips, Manager, Recreation
- Don Saari, Manager, Works and Utilities
- Alicia Bartlette, Manager, Planning and Engineering
- Natasha Laviolette, Supervisor, Recreation Services
- Aaron Larson, HR Manager
- Richard Mak, HR/Inclusion Advisor
- Bruce Thiessen, IT Supervisor
- Jenny Wallace, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Others:

- Radette Hailu Girma, Executive Director, Brooks Anti-Racism Society

Mayor Petrie called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Mayor Petrie acknowledged the First Peoples and Traditional Territory.

1. LETTER OF SUPPORT TO THE BROOKS ANTI-RACISM SOCIETY

- R. Mak advised that the Brooks Anti-Racism Society (BARS) is applying for the Canadian Heritage's "Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiatives Events Component" grant. The proposal is for a one-month event in June, and is comprised of four categories and two programs. He noted that BARS will be making a presentation on their initiatives at this meeting, and based on the capacity to move forward with this event and its sustainability to continue with the initiatives past June 30, 2022, a letter of support will be provided to BARS.

CITY OF BROOKS

Council Committee

April 26, 2022

NOTES

✚ Radete Hailu Girma advised that she is the Executive Director for BARS, and is requesting a letter of support for their grant application. She noted that the Society runs programs and initiatives. She spoke about their biggest initiative “Mother’s Village” and that it is about building better connections within the community.

She spoke to the following items in response to questions from Council:

- Applying under the Events Stream versus the Project Stream – the contacts at the Provincial and Federal level recommended that they apply for this funding first. She noted that regardless if they get the funding or not, the project will continue;
- Partnership Connections – making themselves aware of other programs in the community, and trying to fill the gap. No direct connections in partnership terms; but they do in the sense of referrals;
- Sustainability – BARS has a good volunteer program that has been running, and they are working to grow it. They don’t know what is going to happen in the next two years, but the hope is that they can continue to the point where BARS will no longer be needed;
- Meeting Goals – have a survey to be completed by anyone who is involved in the program (completed at start and end of programs);
- Actions to Eliminate Discrimination in the Community – she thinks there is a lack of connection in the community, and by creating these types of programs, where people are feeling like they are part of the community, it breaks down barriers;
- Participation in the Event – hoping to have around 200 people participate, and that the event is promoted through word of mouth; and,
- Newcomers and Challenges with the English Language – she explained that over the past two years they have been talking to people about this challenge and have been working with students from Mount Royal and the University of Calgary with the desire to develop a small project that helps adults to better understand their learning styles.

Mayor Petrie thanked Radete Hailu Girma for her time and wished her success with the grant application.

Radete Hailu Girma left at 4:48 p.m.

Council Committee supported the recommendation that the City of Brooks write a letter of support to BARS for their application to Canadian Heritage’s “Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiatives Events Component” Grant.

CITY OF BROOKS

Council Committee

April 26, 2022

NOTES

2. ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE BOARD GRANT PROGRAM

- ✚ N. Laviolette advised that in December 2021, Council allocated \$10,000 for the 2022 fiscal year to the Arts, Culture & Heritage Board to distribute as grant funding towards local community events, programs and initiatives. As a result, the Board has developed the Arts, Culture & Heritage Board Grant (ACHBG) process to award grant funding to Individual(s)/Group(s) in the City of Brooks who intend to deliver arts, culture and heritage opportunities within the City's municipal boundaries.
- ✚ Councillor Wardrop noted it was found that the matrix used by the Recreation and Parks Board to measure RUGG applications was problematic as there was not a space to deal with applicants that are ineligible. She added that a separate Committee was formed to work on the matrix. A. Peterson advised that she believes these documents will be reviewed annually with any amendments brought forth as needed. N. Laviolette concurred and noted that she had discussed this with R. McPhillips and these documents, like RUGG's, will be revised as needed.
- ✚ R. McPhillips noted that there is a section named "Reason for rejecting (if applicable)" where comments can be added if an application does not meet the criteria. She added that the Board is moving forward with changing the matrix as noted by Councillor Wardrop, and that the process has been, if there was an ineligible application the existing space provided in the matrix was used.

Council Committee directed Administration to bring forward the Arts, Culture & Heritage Board Grant documents to the May 2, 2022 Council meeting.

3. BROOKS AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TRADE SHOW VENUE RENT REDUCTION REQUEST

- ✚ A. Peterson advised that the request for rent reduction was referred to Council Committee during the April 18th Council meeting so that further information could be acquired.
- ✚ A. Peterson noted that the Balance Sheet shows that the Chamber's liquid assets slimly cover their near-term liabilities as long as the outstanding loan payable is not due in the short-term. Their year to date Profit and Loss Statement shows them in a slight deficit position. The Trade Show is their major fundraiser which would improve their financial situation. The Trade Show was not held in 2021 and their 2020 trade show was less successful than previous shows due to COVID restrictions.
- ✚ A. Peterson advised that the rental fee for the Fieldhouse and Flex Hall is \$8,334.26; and that they will not need the Curling Rink from the Curling Club unless their numbers dramatically increase. Given the pandemic, the need to rebound and the benefit of the trade show to the City and local businesses, it would be justifiable to provide assistance.

CITY OF BROOKS

Council Committee

April 26, 2022

NOTES

- ✚ R. McPhillips explained some of the factors related to space that vendors need (i.e. access to electricity).

Council Committee supported the recommendation that the City waive the rental fees for the Fieldhouse and the Flex Hall for the Brooks & District Chamber of Commerce 2022 Trade Show.

4. 2022 TAX RATE BYLAW CONSIDERATIONS

- ✚ S. Thomas advised that Administration is preparing the annual Tax Rate Bylaw pursuant to section 353 of the *Municipal Government Act*, and that typically, the Bylaw is prepared to reflect the budget that was passed for the year and provides for the collection of the revenues required in the budget.
- ✚ S. Thomas then provided an overview of the following areas as noted in her memo:
 - RCMP Contract Issues;
 - Residential vs. Non-Residential Property Tax Splits;
 - Revenues Collected;
 - Assessment Changes; and,
 - Impact Analysis: Residential/Farmland, Other Non-Residential, and Vacant Non-Residential.
- ✚ The following items were brought up and responded to by S. Thomas:
 - The option of using the 2021 ICF revenue in reserves to lower the proposed 3.86% budget increase in 2022; and,
 - The 4% RCMP pay increase that will apply to RCMP members effective April 1, 2022, and how the other increases not related to member salaries are forecasted by the City.

Council Committee directed Administration to bring forward the Tax Rate Bylaw to the May 2, 2022 Council meeting for consideration based on the property tax revenues projected in the 2022 budget.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Petrie declared the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.