

### **March 3, 2022 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MEETING MINUTES**

5:00 PM Meeting at Ladysmith City Hall Council Chambers. Members present: Marty Reynolds, James West. Others present: Admin-Alan Christianson, DPW-Kurt Gorsegner, ADPW-Doug Parker, Attorney Allen Kenyon, Bill Morgan, Marty Carlson

#### **Call to Order:**

Chair Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

#### **Approval of January 13, 2022 Minutes:**

*Motion by West, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Reynolds to approve January 13, 2022 Minutes. Carried by voice vote.*

#### **Discussion and recommendation to Council on holiday decoration budget:**

Mr. Reynolds noted that the lanterns purchased for the downtown last year received numerous compliments. He went on to add that aging decorations in both the downtown and park were getting to the point of needing additional maintenance or replacement. This would likely need to occur over multiple years a little at a time. Mr. Reynolds and Mr. West noted that the holiday decorations are a nice thing for locals and encourage visitors to visit Ladysmith, stopping to shop and eat while they are here taking in the displays.

*Motion by Reynolds, 2<sup>nd</sup> by West to recommend to Council to allocate \$15,000 from TIF 8 or 11 for the purchase of holiday decorations for Memorial Park and Downtown. Carried by voice vote.*

#### **Discussion and recommendation to Council on Mardi Gras sponsorship:**

Mr. Reynolds noted that he had asked for this item to be moved from the Council agenda to Community Development when the original proposed contribution was \$3,000. He noted that the cost of many things seems to be going up and fireworks are no exception. Both he and Mr. West expressed concern that \$3,000 wouldn't buy much for a fireworks show that is typically enjoyed by many. Discussion also included the possibility of additional funding if needed depending on fundraising efforts by the Northland Community Club.

*Motion by West, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Reynolds to recommend to Council to allocate \$6,000 from Council Grants & Aids for Mardi Gras fireworks. Carried by voice vote.*

#### **Discussion and possible recommendation on railroad crossing ordinance:**

Mr. Reynolds noted that he had hoped to have an ordinance and other information from Weyauwega, WI relating to railroad crossing issues their community has faced, but hadn't received it yet. An ordinance was located and passed out to those in attendance, but it was not certain if that ordinance was the most up-to-date version. Discussion included that a meeting was held with representatives of CN, LPD and City of Ladysmith officials to try to get the ball rolling on reducing the number of train stoppages in the City. It was noted that in order to have a successful ordinance that would be enforceable, the City would need to make a case that it is in a unique situation and that the issues with railroad stoppages pose an "essentially local safety hazard". Those present viewed a map prepared by ADPW Parker identifying all railroad crossings in the City along with the locations of schools, nursing homes and emergency services. The City is essentially divided into quarters so that up to ¾ of the City could be cut off from emergency services at any given time relative to a train stoppage. Additional work will need to be done in drafting an ordinance and continuing discussions with CN officials on a solution.

*No action.*

#### **Discussion of business renovation assistance program:**

Initial discussion was held in regard to the possibility of creating a business renovation assistance program. The program might be modeled after either the Main Street Façade program or the 2020 BERF program. It was noted that in order to continue to encourage businesses to locate, expand and thrive in the City, such a program should be considered. While the BERF program was essentially city-wide, the current Façade program is limited to the downtown area. Mr. Reynolds noted that the Façade program was tweaked a number of times over the years and it may make sense to draft new guidelines for this possible new program. Additional work will need to be done, likely over the course of a few meetings.

*No action.*

#### **Adjourn:**

Meeting adjourned 6:45PM by Chair Reynolds