



**COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FORT SMITH
SPECIAL MEETING SP-02-20
THE SECOND SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL FOR
THE YEAR 2020**

PRESENT: Mayor L. Napier D/M K. Smith
 Cr. J. Cox Cr. L. Beaulieu
 Cr. B. McArthur Cr. A. Pischinger
 Cr. M. Couvrette Cr. C. Westwell

REGRETS: Cr. K. Campbell

STAFF: K. Morrison, Senior Administrative Officer
 C. White, Director of Community Services
 R. Nawaz, Executive Secretary

GALLERY:

Special Meeting SP-02-20
February 24th, 2020

5:30 PM
Council Chambers

The purpose of the Special Meeting is to have Third Reading of Bylaw 1002 2020 Consolidated Rates and Fees Bylaw, and to discuss Community Engagement and Road Closure.

A. CALL TO ORDER & CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Mayor Napier called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm and confirmed quorum of Council was present.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

20-052 Moved by: Cr. Couvrette
 Seconded by: Cr. Cox

 That the agenda be adopted as presented.

 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. DISCUSSION

- a. Bylaw 1002 2020 Consolidated Rates and Fees Bylaw – Administration highlighted that it is as amended to correct certain housekeeping errors and nothing substantive. D/M Smith inquired regarding revenues and how much revenue various users bring. He highlighted that Administration had noted that RAB will make an effort regarding this and that they will be providing them with information to further assess the different recreation fees.

20-053 Moved by: Cr. Couvrette
 Seconded by: Cr. Cox

 That Bylaw 1002 2020 Consolidated Rates and Fees Bylaw as amended be given third reading by title only.

 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Community Engagement – Administration highlighted that this item was added to the agenda due to dialogue heard from Council regarding feedback received regarding RCC renovations potential impacts on tenants and relocation of the Library. He noted that he needs confirmation regarding how to proceed with this initiative, as the funding used to finance this project is time sensitive and the construction season is imminent. He added that as per Cr. Campbell there are no major projects in Fort Smith this summer, and if the

Town does not advance RCC renovations this summer it may have economic impact on certain trades in the community. Cr. Westwell noted that wishes to provide admin clear direction for moving forward. He noted that he understood that partial direction was given via the approval of the TAG report. He noted that the Library's move to the RCC was a necessarily component, but community consolation was required. He noted that this does not mean the Library has to be in the RCC permanently. He noted that he support the moving of the Library to the RCC. He noted that Administration has provided great reasoning and justification regarding this. He acknowledged that it is important that they are also engaging the public regarding why this is happening. He noted the order to move forward regarding the renovations was given by Council, and noted that he does not believe they are ignoring public opinion regarding this. He noted that there are some very valid concerns in the community, and noted that those may pertain to an overall loss of services and lack of multiple safe spaces in the community. He added that ultimately the Town of Fort Smith cannot be the sole provider of safe spaces in the community due to financial restrictions. He noted that he feels comfortable informing the public that this will improve the facility and bring in more users, and noted that people have to see it happen and experience it as currently it is only a drastic change. He also highlighted by moving from an oil fire building to a pellet powered building they will be meeting an energy target that has yet to be set. He noted that he has received a lot of positive feedback regarding this idea from community orders, and noted that he is willing to give the Town directions to move forward with this.

Cr. Couvrette noted that part of the justifications include the ability for the Town to improve programming and expand the efficiency of delivering programs to the community. He noted that by extended Library hours they will be able to provide a safe space in the community for longer periods of time. He acknowledged that it would also allow the utilization of Town HR resources effectively. He noted that they sooner they receive the concept and determine what this will look like they may begin engaging with the public further regarding this. He noted that it is the responsibility of Council to manage resource effectively. Cr. Cox spoke in favour of the motion, and acknowledged that they had accepted the TAG report as a space analysis for Town facilities and highlighted the need for further consultation as required. She noted that they had begun consultations by engaging the Friends of the Library, the Curling Club and the Seniors Society. She noted that based on the discussion with the Friends of the Library she believes there to be enough support moving forward with the decision to relocate the Library. She highlighted that further consultation is required with other user groups. She noted that she hopes the previous weeks consultations regarding the Community Services Master Plan will provide further direction as well. Cr. Cox noted that Council should consider options for the development of the downtown core afterwards.

Cr. Westwell noted that individuals will ask regarding what services will be disrupted, and noted that this will trigger consultation process. He noted that he is already receiving questions regarding how the work will occur. He noted that this may cause additional disruption in the community as this project move forward. D/M Smith noted that he is supportive of some of the recommendations in the TAG report specific to the RCC and the opportunity to have a better childcare center space. He noted that having a user's committee was helpful during the Arena renovations process, and noted that Council may have to be creative in their consultations with RCC user groups. Administration noted that intent is to do the consultation exactly as they did with the Arena. He noted that as Cr. Westwell alluded the hardest decision with the Arena was the decision to renovate instead of building a new facility. He noted that once the project was initiated there was friction that showed up with user groups that was resolved between Council and the user groups. He noted that he anticipates this for this project, and noted that he was hoping for concrete direction from Council to advance this move. He noted that this project is not only fiscal, but also has operational and programming benefits that cannot be achieved with a stand-alone Library. He noted that there will be a design build request for proposals which will be expedited to be out immediately. He added that there may be three weeks for proposal development and another week for evaluations. He noted that they may have an individual hired by April. He noted that when using a design build, you work with a developer that works with Architects and Contractors, and thus design and building may happen concurrently and thus build faster. He noted that they are hoping to complete the work in the summer so they may relocate RCC programming to the Arena and to minimize disruption to programs and residents. He noted that this can be addressed with scheduling and engineering. He noted that when Council approved the TAG report, they approved the space planning but not how it would be complete. He noted that they

have learned a lot in the year since the TAG report was approved such as changes to the daycare. He noted that the increase and change in use of the spaces has evolved the Town's understanding of the needs and this is driving a lot for the move of the Library.

Mayor Napier highlighted that Council does not need to approve all changes that will happen in the space, such as the concerns regarding the Senior's Room. Administration noted that he needs to know fundamental space blocking, and beyond that decisions regarding how space is allocated will be decided during the process. Cr. McArthur referred to the Arena renovations and noted that initially he was not in favor of the renovation, but changed his opinion once the designs came out that showcased what it would like. He inquired if such designs will be available for the RCC renovations to gather support from the community regarding the renovations. Administration noted that they anticipate sketches and developers' tools to support Council. He noted that they tried to do this, but it appeared as moving ahead without consultation, but it was to facilitate consultation. Cr. Westwell noted that he looks forward to solutions to arise regarding certain concerns as the process continues. Mayor Napier inquired if the two rooms near the entrance of the RCC will be covered off when the renovations are made to move the Library. Administration noted that possibility for more space may include adding sealings to those rooms, but noted that they are hoping to move those walls to create a more open entry space with communal seating areas and Wi-Fi as a meeting space. He added that they will need to accommodate space needed for daycare use. Cr. Couvrette inquired if they see the established of a committee to run these ideas by instead of waiting for Council meetings. Mayor Napier inquired what this committee would consist of. Cr. Couvrette noted it could Councilors or members of the public. Cr. Westwell noted that it may be beneficial to have someone lead the consultations and lead the charge. D/M Smith noted that this may not be appropriate as the Area had a more homogenous group of users whereas the RCC has a broader user group base. He noted that Advisory Boards are in place that may perform advocacy roles. Cr. Pischinger inquired if there is enough time being given to consult with user groups, as the timeline being set is for end of March to have this done and present them with something. She highlighted the daycare being in the RCC, and inquired if this will be the permanent home for the daycare. She noted that she is unsure if user groups have been consulted adequately and wondered if they are rushing the process due to the funding use deadline. Administration noted that the design build process will allow designing and building to happen at the same time and expects consultations to occur all summer. He added that they are advancing some aspects of the design such as renovation of the basement and relocation of Pete's Gym, putting in cooling systems, exterior work and upgrading the skate park. She noted that some aspects may begin while other will may happen after further design and consultation. She noted that having a contract means hiring a designer that will facilitate the consultation by designing sketching. He noted that the only real decision being made tonight is whether the Library will be on the second floor. He noted that they need to design a twenty-year building, but cannot predict the future and things may change. He noted that they are hoping to create a building that is versatile enough to address future needs and be as multipurpose as possible.

Cr. Pischinger noted that the other questions that come with the move of the Library include concerns regarding the downtown core. She inquired if anyone had consulted the gym users regarding the move of the Pete's Gym, and highlighted that facilities in the south have windows in their gyms and they will be moving theirs into the basement. She noted that there are still unanswered questions. Cr. Westwell noted that they are rushing as there is a certain urgency, but noted that they will need to address the concerns highlighted. He noted that moving the Library into the RCC is the best use they have right now, and doing so puts the project in motion. He noted that there are recommendations as well to improve the basement, so it is a nicer space. He noted that it will be up to Council to ensure use groups understand why this move is happening. He added that a lot of the infrastructure was built in the sixties and seventies that is being maintained now. D/M Smith noted that the only decisions required currently is the decision to move the Library and move ahead with the RFP. He noted that there are concerns regarding the functionality of some spaces, and noted that it is important to add more functional spaces so it may be used by individuals of all ages. He highlighted the importance of air flow being fixed and natural light improved. He added that it should be a technological building with Wi-Fi hotspots. Cr. Couvrette noted that it is important to keep in mind while considering consultations that the funding is finite and construction during the Winter would have higher costs. D/M Smith inquired if the funding includes exterior landscaping as well. Administration noted that it is broad enough to include it.

He added that eventually there will be decisions made on funds willing to be spent. He noted that the funding expires in 2022 and they have a couple of seasons, but need to complete work in the summer and begin it now.

20-054 Moved by: Cr. Westwell
Seconded by: Cr. Couvrette

That the Town of Fort Smith moves forward with the renovation of the Recreation and Community Center as recommended in the TAG report to relocate Mary Kaeser Library to the top floor.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- c. Briefing Note Big Fun Road Closure – The briefing note was reviewed. Cr. Cox noted that she looks forward to the event happening. The Director of Community Services noted that they may have a videographer present to prepare a video. She added that a small bunny hill has also been developed.

20-055 Moved by: Cr. Cox
Seconded by: Cr. McArthur

That Marine Drive adjacent to Riverside Park from Mills Street to Wapiti Street be closed to traffic from 12:00pm to 5:00pm on Friday February 28, 9:00am to 9:00pm on Saturday February 29 and 9:00 to 6:00 on Sunday March 1.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. ABSENCE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

20-056 Moved by: Cr. Cox
Seconded by: Cr. Couvrette

That Cr. Campbell and Cr. Beaulieu be excused from the Special Meeting of Council on February 24th, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. ADJOURNMENT

20-057 Moved by: Cr. Couvrette
Seconded by: Cr. Cox

That this meeting be adjourned at 6:39 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes adopted this 31st day of March, 2020.



Mayor Lynn Napier

Certified Correct by Keith Morrison
Senior Administrative Officer

F. QUESTION PERIOD