

Council Chambers
City Hall, Saskatoon, Sask.
Monday, June 20, 2011
at 12:45 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, in the Chair;
Councillors Donauer, Dubois, Heidt, Hill, Loewen, Lorje, Neault,
and Penner;
City Manager Totland;
City Solicitor Dust;
General Manager, Corporate Services Bilanski;
A/General Manager, Community Services Grauer;
General Manager, Fire and Protective Services Bentley;
General Manager, Infrastructure Services Gutek;
General Manager, Utility Services Jorgenson; and
City Clerk Mann

Moved by Councillor Penner, Seconded by Councillor Donauer,

THAT Council go into Committee of the Whole to consider the report of the Administration and Committees with His Worship the Mayor in the Chair.

CARRIED.

Council went into Committee of the Whole with His Worship the Mayor in the Chair.

Committee arose.

His Worship the Mayor, Chair of the Committee of the Whole, made the following report:

THAT while in Committee of the Whole, the following matters were considered and dealt with as stated:

“ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT NO. 12-2011

Section F – UTILITY SERVICES

**F1) Proposed Bylaw Amendment
Waterworks Bylaw No. 7567
(File No.: CK. 7900-1 and WT. 185-1)**

RECOMMENDATION: 1) that Waterworks Bylaw No. 7567 be amended as outlined in the report; and

**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2011
PAGE 2**

- 2) that City Council consider Bylaw No. 8953, The Waterworks Amendment Bylaw, 2011.

ADOPTED.

REPORT

Water Treatment Plant – Week of June 13th, 2011

On Monday, June 13th, a clarifier bearing failed at the Water Treatment Plant resulting in the shut-down of the largest of the City's four clarifiers. Clarifiers are used early in the treatment process to chemically and mechanically remove large particles from the raw river water.

At some time over the next 36 hours while the clarifier was being repaired, one of the remaining clarifiers released excessive amounts of fine particles and other matter to the plant's sand filters, which severely reduced plant capacity to between 50% and 60% of normal volumes. Subsequent filter cleaning was much less effective than under typical conditions, and a number of methods were used in an attempt to restore operation of the filters. By mid-day Friday the plant had been restored to approximately 60% of peak capacity and reservoirs were slowly being re-filled, although conditions remained more fragile than normal.

A number of factors contributed to the problems experienced at the Water Treatment Plant. River water flows have resulted in high loading of sand and fine particles, which negatively impact the entire treatment process. The shifting sand in the river bed plugged the effluent line from the clarifiers to the river, which contributed to the clarifier upset conditions that followed the clarifier bearing failure on Monday. Temporary chemical feed systems being used during a construction project complicated efforts to restore clarifier conditions, and additional chemicals used to mitigate the silt loading from the raw water may have contributed to the filter cleaning difficulties.

In 2005, the Water Treatment Plant realized similar problems due to sand loading when river water levels were as high.

There are many redundancies at the Water Treatment Plant, and under normal operating conditions these redundancies are sufficient to satisfy the demand of the City. Peak summer demands can result in the plant operating at or above its rated capacity. There are a number of projects underway at the Water Treatment Plant that will increase the capacity of the plant. The overall plant growth and rehabilitation strategy was approved by Council in 2009, and since that time many projects have begun, designs have been developed, and project tenders will continue to be issued.

Enforcement of Bylaw 7567

On Monday, June 13th, a Public Service Announcement was issued requesting that people voluntarily restrict water usage. Late Wednesday, the City Manager approved a mandatory restriction as requested by the General Manager of Utility Services, following unsuccessful attempts to restore the plant filter system to reasonable operating conditions.

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2011
PAGE 3

The citizens of Saskatoon responded, and their significant reduction in consumption allowed operations staff to repair the filters. Sand and silt loading from the raw water supply is an ongoing challenge, and will be until river water levels subside.

Through this process, the Administration identified a gap in the City's ability to enforce the mandatory restrictions under the bylaw. The City maintains the right to turn off water to properties that do not comply with the order, but this is problematic. The measure is extreme, and curb boxes (valves) to individual properties are prone to failure due to infrequent operation.

Although the Administration is hopeful the plant will be restored to normal operating conditions by the time this report and bylaw is considered, it is prudent to have this bylaw enforcement ability in place prior to a subsequent order. Although the bylaw does deal with a penalty for non compliance, the Administration views this as a positive measure. Those people who choose to comply voluntarily with an order could become frustrated with neighbours who continue to water their lawns.

The amendments are designed to accomplish three things:

1. Section 51 authorizes the General Manager of the Utility Services Department to declare mandatory water use restrictions where these are required to ensure maintenance of an adequate supply of water to meet the health and safety needs of the community. The measures outlined are intended to deal with the current situation only. Further consideration and subsequent amendment may be required to deal with, for example, breakdown of equipment in winter.
2. The old Section 54 (Penalties) is replaced with an up to date general penalty section (54(1) to (4)).
3. Section 54(5) to (7) allows a notice of violation (ticketing) process to be used, with a voluntary payment of \$300.00 to avoid prosecution.

Fire and Protective Services will enforce the bylaw when mandatory restrictions are in effect.

OPTIONS

Leave the enforcement options as-is and shut off water to individual properties if required.

Adjust the fine amount, either higher or lower.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Administration is hopeful that there will be no revenue generated through this bylaw amendment.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice pursuant to Section 3 of Policy No. C01-021, Public Notice Policy, is not required.

ATTACHMENT

1. Bylaw No. 8953, The Waterworks Amendment Bylaw, 2011.”

Moved by Councillor Penner, Seconded by Councillor Heidt,

THAT the report of the Committee of the Whole be adopted.

CARRIED.

INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF BYLAWS

Bylaw 8953

Moved by Councillor Heidt, Seconded by Councillor Neault,

THAT permission be granted to introduce Bylaw No. 8953, being “The Waterworks Amendment Bylaw, 2011” and to give same its first reading.

CARRIED.

The bylaw was then read a first time.

Moved by Councillor Heidt, Seconded by Councillor Lorje,

THAT Bylaw No. 8953 be now read a second time.

CARRIED.

**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2011
PAGE 5**

The bylaw was then read a second time.

Moved by Councillor Heidt, Seconded by Councillor Penner,

THAT Council go into Committee of the Whole to consider Bylaw No. 8953.

CARRIED.

Council went into Committee of the Whole with Councillor Heidt in the Chair.

Committee arose.

Councillor Heidt, Chair of the Committee of the Whole, made the following report:

That while in Committee of the Whole, Bylaw No. 8953 was considered clause by clause and approved.

Moved by Councillor Heidt, Seconded by Councillor Dubois,

THAT the report of the Committee of the Whole be adopted.

CARRIED.

Moved by Councillor Heidt, Seconded by Councillor Donauer,

THAT permission be granted to have Bylaw No. 8953 read a third time at this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Moved by Councillor Heidt, Seconded by Councillor Loewen,

THAT Bylaw No. 8953 now be read a third time, that the bylaw be passed and the Mayor and the City Clerk be authorized to sign same and attach the corporate seal thereto.

CARRIED.

**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2011
PAGE 6**

Moved by Councillor Heidt,

THAT the meeting stand adjourned.

CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk