

**CITY OF IQALUIT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING #10
May 12th, 2015 at 6:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBER**

PRESENT FROM COUNCIL

Mayor Mary Wilman
Deputy Mayor Romeyn Stevenson
Councillor Noah Papatsie
Councillor Joanase Akumalik
Councillor Stephen Mansell
Councillor Kenneth Bell
Councillor Simon Nattaq

ABSENT

Councillor Terry Dobbin

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION

Muhamud Hassan, Chief Administrative Officer
Tracy Cooke, City Clerk
John Mabberi-Mudonyi, Senior Director, Corporate Services
Luc Grandmaison, Fire Chief
Robyn Campbell, Sustainability Coordinator
Joamie Egeesiak, Economic Development Officer
Eva Michael, Communications Officer
Victoria Embree, Executive Assistant
Jeanie Eeseemailee, Senior Interpreter/Translator

PRAYER

Councillor Nattaq opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:00pm.

SWEARING IN

None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion #15-125

Moved by: Councillor Akumalik
Seconded by: Councillor Nattaq

That the agenda be adopted as amended:

Delete Item 3(a) – RCMP

Unanimously Carried

1. **MINUTES**

None

2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None

3. **DELEGATIONS**

- b) Jeannie Arreak-Kullualik
 Citizen at Large

Mrs. Jeannie Arreak-Kullualik thanked Council for the opportunity to express her opinion and explained that Inuit are largely silent, including herself, on politics because they put a lot of trust and respect in their elected leaders. The matter at hand is something that she and many other Inuit feel should be expressed to Council in hopes that they will be heard and understood.

She stated that Council members may see the prayer as a religious practice but it is the philosophy and the technical teachings and practices behind the prayer, made before the adoption of the agenda during Council meetings that is of utmost importance to Inuit and their cultural identity that is significant to them.

In February 2015, the Inuugatta Conference was held in Iqaluit, this being the first time impacts of colonization and healing through decolonization was discussed openly at the grassroots and intergenerational level. Prayer is a form of ancient ritual to recognize, show appreciation for surviving the reality of living in a harsh environment. Through this meditation and practice, Inuit hold themselves accountable to what mother earth provides for them. By paying respect to forces of nature, brings harmony as they humble themselves.

At a workshop in creating a university in Nunavut, Anne Mikijuk Hanson recently shared a proverb passed through generations in her family. In this workshop, attendees indicated their desire to have this dream of a university to have a foundation based on Inuit Culture and Language. In order to do that Inuit must share their knowledge to make themselves accountable to their environment, the seasons and forces of nature that are out of their control. This proverb she shared gives thanks, pays respect and gives recognition. The proverb is:

"We are the sky We are the waters ... we are the land."

This proverb teaches we come from the land and when we die, we will return to it. This allows us to centre ourselves as we face challenges and obstacles when we have to make important decisions. If we do not, we can easily go off balance, get selfish and make the wrong decisions.

There is Inuit wisdom in this practice whether one is religious or not. It also brings comfort in unity, to know one is not alone and together we can handle the most difficult things in life and achieve more. Another reason is, too often outside influence has been imposed on us. Following trends does not always work in the Arctic. With the colonization impacts, the prayer is the closest connection to paying respect to nature, the environment and to forces of nature that humans cannot control. The practice allows harmony and consensus style of governance that Inuit are famous for. Decolonization and reconciliation and healing from intergenerational trauma has finally started for Inuit.

She asked that Council take this into consideration, remembering that Inuit gave recognition, gave thanks and paid respect before a gathering, a meeting or a celebration. The practice, adapted by inserting a word in the beginning and the end is from outside and comes from missionaries, but the philosophy behind it Inuit have an attachment for, that is why Inuit feel, it is their own. Their way of honoring, respecting and seeking wisdom or guidance deeply rooted to their identity. It is one of the only fundamental practices they have not lost.

Council is accountable to them; they represent Inuit and Iqaluit's residents, their family and the community. A Quebec supreme court decision should not influence the reality of living in this part of the northern hemisphere. She recommended that Council vote against the motion to end opening prayer in Council Chambers.

Council members expressed their understanding of Ms. Arreak-Kullualik's concerns and explained that this decision was not for the prayer to be completely removed, but to do so by providing a moment of silence. The intent is not to insult any culture or belief but to replace the prayer with a moment of silence to do the same. Council's intention was not to hurt residents and hopes that the intent of the moment of silence will be understood by residents and respected.

4. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

None

5. STATEMENTS

Councillor Akumalik suggested that the Municipal Enforcement Department visit schools to provide a road safety orientation to children. Young children are often seen crossing the road without looking both ways and often play near the side of the road, making it very dangerous for them as well as motorists. The matter should also be discussed with taxi drivers and members of the public to remind them to be safe when driving and to respect speed limits within Iqaluit boundaries.

Councillor Mansell agreed with Councillor Akumalik. He expressed his appreciation for the hard work and dedication of Iqaluit Fire Department members and others who assisted with the recent fire; he wished the one individual who was injured all the best and hoped he would recover well. He congratulated the volunteer award winners and thanked those who organized the event; it was very inviting, friendly and fun.

Deputy Mayor Stevenson thanked members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Canadian Red Cross and all other individuals who assisted with the recent standoff. He believed that Council needed to move forward with the bicycle trail in the very near future as well as other safety matters that have been expressed by Council members or residents of Iqaluit. The concern expressed by Councillor Akumalik is a perfect example of why Iqaluit needs to improve resident safety as soon as possible.

6. DEFERRED BUSINESS AND TABLED ITEMS

None

7. BYLAWS

a) First Reading of By-law (s)

None

b) Second Reading of By-law (s)

None

c) Third and Final Reading of By-law (s)

i) 2015 Mill Rate By-law No. 785

John Mabberi-Mudonyi, Senior Director, Corporate Services

Administration presented the 2015 Mill Rate By-law No. 785 for Third and Final Reading.

Motion #15-126

Moved by: Councillor Mansell
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Stevenson

That Third and Final Reading of 2015 Mill Rate By-law No. 785 is approved.
For – Papatsie, Akumalik, Nattaq, Stevenson, Mansell
Against - Bell
Carried

8. OLD BUSINESS

None

9. NEW BUSINESS

a) 2015/16 Community Development Fund Agreement

Administration presented the 2015/16 Community Development Fund Agreement for community development related activities.

Motion #15-127

Moved by: Councillor Bell
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Stevenson

That the 2015/16 Community Development Fund Agreement is approved.
Unanimously Carried

b) 2014 Annual Report – Emergency Services
Luc Grandmaison, Director

Administration presented the 2014 Annual Statistical Report for the Iqaluit Fire Department, containing a summary of the activities of the Iqaluit Fire Department.

The dispatch service handled over 50,079 inquiries in 2014, just over 140 different requests per day. The ambulance service responded to 1,694 calls and fire service responded to 380 calls. Full-time firefighters handled 96 percent of these calls. Volunteers responded to 71 emergency call outs and attended 39 training sessions; firefighters also participated in numerous community events and fundraising activities, through the Iqaluit Firefighters Association under the Presidency of Alex Brisco.

The department responded to 45 fires; two firefighters were injured and one citizen lost his life. The fire loss is estimated at \$519,392.00 for 2014, an average

of \$68.00 per capita, and a fire rate of six per thousand of population; 73 percent of fires are arson in nature.

The department thanks its members including dispatchers, firefighters, emergency medical responders and volunteer firefighters, for their hard work and dedication for all services they provide to help others. Their commitment to the well-being of the community is commendable and greatly appreciated.

The department also thanked Council, municipal departments with special thanks to the utilidor division, Municipal Enforcement and Public Works Department, as well as private business organisations that help the department in many ways throughout the year.

c) Discussion Item – Prayer at Council Meetings

Councillor Nattaq stated that many residents have been expressing their concerns with the matter.

Councillor Akumalik noted that a decision was made by the Supreme Court of Canada and many organizations, municipalities, governments, et cetera have acted on the matter immediately. He wondered what would happen to Council if they chose not to remove prayer from the Council Procedures By-law. He suggested that perhaps legal advice be sought on the matter before the decision is made.

Deputy Mayor Stevenson noted that Council has been working on the review of the procedures by-law for some time now and with the Supreme Court's ruling, Council will most definitely need to amend the by-law. The Supreme Court has made a decision and Council must respect that. Approximately 30 municipalities have already removed the prayer from their meetings and believed that even if Council received a legal opinion, the action would be the same in the end.

Councillor Mansell believed that Council should have researched policies and and received legal opinion prior to discussing the matter; this does not change the fact that the Supreme Court has made a decision. He expressed his support for the presentation made by Ms. Arreak-Kullualik and stated that he would not support the motion to remove prayer from the procedures by-law.

Motion #15-128

Moved by: Councillor Bell

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Stevenson

That prayer be removed from Council Procedures By-law and replaced with moment of silence.

For – Bell, Stevenson

**Against - Mansell, Nattaq, Papatsie
Abstained - Akumalik
DEFEATED**

Councillor Akumalik abstained from the motion as he would like to receive a legal opinion on the matter.

Motion #15-129

Moved by: Councillor Bell
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Stevenson

That a legal opinion be provided by City solicitors regarding the prayer remaining part of City Council meetings.

Unanimously Carried

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

11. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) to (g) Archaeology Permit Applications

Motion #15-130

Moved by: Councillor Mansell
Seconded by: Councillor Akumalik

That the following Inuit Heritage Trust applications are approved:

1. Archaeological Investigation of Peregrine Diamonds Chidliak Exploration Claim Block Area; Callum Thomson;
2. Epic 80N: Exploring Greenland, Baffin & Ellesmere Island; Robyn Woodward;
3. Arctic Fibre Submarine Cable System Project-Marine Archaeological Investigations 2015; Ken Keeping;
4. Arctic Fibre Submarine Cable System Project-Terrestrial Archaeological Investigations; Julie Ross;
5. Chert Sourcing and Palaeo-Eskimo Lithic Technology; Dr. Brooke Milne;
6. The Northwest Passage, Iceland and Greenland; Vincent Butler;
7. Northwest Passage Transit-Akademik Ioffe; Boris Wise

Unanimously Carried

h) NRI Application

Motion #15-131

Moved by: Councillor Mansell
Seconded by: Councillor Akumalik

That the NRI application "Evaluating Indigenous Vulnerability and Adaptation Research (EIVAR)"; Mya Sherman, is approved.

Unanimously Carried

12. IN CAMERA SESSION

() as per Section 22 (2) (a) CTV Act and Bylaw 526 Section 67

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion #15-132

Moved by: Councillor Bell
Seconded by: Councillor Mansell

That Council adjourn at 7:30pm.

Unanimously Carried



Mayor

Muhamud Hassan
Chief Administrative Officer

Approved by City Council on the **24** day of **November**, 2015, AD.