

**MINUTES
CITY OF IQALUIT
ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING #02
May 7, 2013 AT 6:00 PM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT FROM COUNCIL

Mayor John Graham
Councillor Terry Dobbin
Councillor Joanasi Akumalik
Councillor Simon Nattaq
Councillor Romeyn Stevenson
Councillor Kenneth Bell
Councillor Mark Morrissey

ABSENT

Deputy Mayor Mary Wilman

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION

John Hussey, Chief Administrative Officer
Tracy Cooke, City Clerk
John Mabberi-Mudonyi, Senior Director, Corporate Services
Keith Couture, Director, Public Works
Valerie Collin, Recorder
Jeanie Eeseemailee, Senior Interpreter/Translator

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion #EPW13-07

Moved by: Councillor Bell
Seconded by: Councillor Stevenson

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Add Item 5 (b) – Rocks and Posts

Unanimously Carried

1. MINUTES

None

2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None

3. **DELEGATIONS**

None

4. **DEFERRED BUSINESS AND Tabled ITEMS**

None

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Discussion Item – Roads and Pedestrian Walkways
Keith Couture, Director, Public Works

Keith Couture, Director of Public Works stated that his first impression upon arrival in Iqaluit was that the city has terrible sidewalks, no drainage, no curbs and no dust control; after ten months of employment with the city, it is obvious that there are several serious issues that need to be addressed. With over thirty years of experience in the public works field, he believes that his observations are valid in all divisions of public works.

He believed that roads were one of the main issues in Iqaluit and is not proud of the current road conditions; a proper road has a sound base made of coarser material, is built up with finer material and is then often paved. The roads in Iqaluit are missing proper drainage to draw water off, do not have a proper base and are low to the ground; this does not allow for runoff to go anywhere other than the road surface. He believed that the roads in Iqaluit were obviously built to a different standard than what he is used to or whatever the road standards were at the time they were developed; there was no quality control. Now that Iqaluit is a city, it deserves good quality roads as any other cities in the north; using the excuse of being in the north and that good roads are not possible is not acceptable. Good roads can be developed but need to be planned properly.

Keith explained that there are two types of pot holes; there are pot holes on gravel roads and pot holes on paved roads and require two different types of technologies to repair them. To repair the pot holes on paved roads you need asphaltic material to fill the hole but without proper base in the paved road, this repair will not work. The gravel pot holes are much harder to address; residents believe that all that is needed to fix a gravel pot hole is a grader. The grader actually needs to cut lower than the deepest pot hole in the area and reapply gravel evenly. The city is not able to grade deep enough as there are rocks and posts and many other things preventing them to do so. He believed that the city

needed to consider doing a major road re-construction project in order to address all issues.

He believed that the newer roads developed, such as the ones in the Plateau Subdivision, are too narrow, do not provide sufficient space for sidewalks and water mains are located in areas where the road would need to be dug if repairs are needed; roads were designed without proper consultation and careful planning with the Public Works Department. The road issue is throughout the community and is very serious; better communication between the Public Works and Engineering Departments need to happen to ensure that roads are developed according to standards.

The city also has issues with local contractors who remove snow and stock pile it; Municipal Enforcement should be assisting with the enforcement of this issue and request that snow be removed and not stock piled. Municipal Enforcement could also assist with the impounding of vehicles that are stuck in snow when roads are closed during a blizzard; the city has difficulties clearing the roads when vehicles are left on or on the side of the road. A fence will be built this summer around the city garage located on Federal Road so that vehicles can be towed and impounded.

Keith believed that there was a lack of inspection during projects; inspections should be conducted during the projects to ensure that warranties are valid, ensure quality control in the material and during the application of the material. He advised that material purchased in Ontario is run through a testing process to ensure it is the proper type of material requested; in Iqaluit, local contractors sell material to others without it being tested to ensure that it is the proper type of material and most often, it is not the material needed. Quality control needs to be done on material used for the development of roads. He also believed that the road design should meet the needs of Iqaluit; it must accommodate all equipment travelling on the roads, meet the needs for walkways and ensure that walkways can be properly cleared when it snows, et cetera. He also believed that often, staff needed to be further trained to understand current technologies and requirements as well as equipment operation.

He stated that he recently received an email from the Engineering Department indicating that the City will be receiving three million one hundred thousand (\$3,100,000.00) dollars over the next five years from the Government of Nunavut; some of this money will be used for roads. He believed that the focal point in redesigning roads is four corners; if the proper elevation is applied at four corners, it will be much easier to address the remaining areas throughout the city. He hopes to see this included in the five year capital plan.

The current walkways in Iqaluit are not the best and there was a lack of planning when they were developed; there are both rocks and posts used to create walkways in some areas and other areas only have one or the other. The

elevation of the walkways needs to be incorporated in the elevation of the roads to create proper walkways and provide proper drainage. Equipment is often damaged when clearing snow due to the lack of space between each post and where there is a mix of both rocks and posts. He understood that the creation of walkways was a recommendation of the Coroner's Report but that they should have been better planned and designed.

Keith stated that the Public Works Department has a few projects identified for 2013; all road signage will be replaced so that they are trilingual, a fence will be built around the city garage, retainers will be installed at the Apex Bridge and gravel will be put down to patch the roads where it is seriously required.

Chairperson Akumalik thanked Keith for his information and believed that Public Works staff needed to be recognized for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

Mayor Graham thanked Keith for his information and believed that these matters were very important. He believed that the recommendation of raising the roads was a good idea and asked how this would affect the existing water and sewer system under ground. He noted that some fire hydrants are deeper into the ground than others and asked how these would also be affected if roads are being raised.

Keith advised that utilidor pipes could be raised as well as the fire hydrants if needed, but did not believe that it would be needed as the roads would most likely only be raised by a foot or two.

Mayor Graham asked if it was Public Works' intention to procure good quality crushed material for roads this year.

Keith noted that there was money allocated in the 2013 budget to acquire crushed material and that it is his intention to acquire good quality crushed material in 2013.

Councillor Nattaq believed that the city was wasting money by replacing the broken posts throughout the community and noted that he was not in favor of the project when it was presented to Council. He believed that the city needed to work towards a plan to address the drainage issues and create better walkways for pedestrians.

Councillor Stevenson expressed his support with Administration's ideas to create a plan and address drainage and walkways issues as they are very important. He believed that it would be very expensive for the city to address the issues and re-develop walkways but would be worth the time and money spent; the new development areas should be properly planned and developed in the future to avoid issues like these. He asked what the interim plan was to address the

serious issue of roads that have pot holes and that are nearly impossible to drive on.

Keith stated that the interim plan is to apply gravel in the pot holes to fill them and try and prevent them from re-occurring. After the worst areas have been addressed and the roads settle, he would like to meet with Engineering Department to identify a future plan to re-develop the roads starting with the four corners.

Councillor Bell thanked Keith for the information and asked what road standards he is familiar with, if the city has road standards policies, and if so, what they are and who is responsible for enforcing them.

Keith noted the responsibility of road standards falls under the Engineering Department and that they should have road standards in place; if there are road standards he has never seen them.

Councillor Morrissey stated that many residents have asked him on a number of occasions when the city anticipates starting another paving program; he believed that paving would not take place until a proper base is applied on the roads where needed.

Keith noted that if roads are paved and do not have a proper base, the pavement will simply break and not last which will require more maintenance and repairs.

Councillor Morrissey noted that the Road to Nowhere has serious runoff and flooding issues in the spring; some vehicles are frozen to the driveways due to the amount of water during the day when it is warmer and the freezing temperatures during the night. He noted that the Public Works Department has been working very hard and quickly on these issues this year and thanked them for their hard work and dedication.

Councillor Dobbin asked if the Public Works Department had an alternate solution to replace the posts and rocks around the community.

Keith believed that guard rails would be a better option; it would be expensive but would provide more space and eliminate breakage. The current rocks and posts need to be reviewed to identify where rocks could be removed in areas where there are also posts.

Councillor Dobbin believed that a significant amount of money was allocated in the 2013 budget for roads and asked what type of work would be completed this year.

Keith stated that the Public Works and Engineering Departments need to meet and discuss what type of work will be done in 2013 as there is a lot of work to be done.

Councillor Bell asked why the city is purchasing material if they have access to material from the Upper Base gravel pit.

Keith noted that the material accessed last summer is almost exhausted and the material is not always the type of material needed; the city often requires good crushed material and does not have the equipment to crush the material themselves. This type of equipment is very expensive and the possibility of purchasing a crusher could be discussed at a later date if Council wishes.

b) Rocks and Posts

Councillor Bell stated that he requested that this matter be added to the agenda for discussion as he does not believe that the rocks and posts serve a purpose and that they should be removed. He believed they were installed after a recommendation made by the Coroner and as part of the beautification project but would like to know the actual reason why they were installed.

Administration noted that they were installed for many different reasons; one was due to the number of deaths that occurred within a short period of time in 2000 and there was belief that the deaths would not have occurred if the rocks and posts were in place.

Councillor Bell noted that the report and recommendations are simply that; reports and recommendations. He believed that a barricade between traffic and pedestrians is not normal as they are not found anywhere else in Canada; rocks and posts are not a barricade as recommended by the Coroner.

Councillor Dobbin noted that some of the rocks get pushed onto the road by children or other individuals and it becomes a very dangerous situation for vehicles on the road.

Councillor Bell asked if they knew the approximate cost to install the posts and how much it costs to repair a broken post.

Administration stated that they are unsure of the total cost to install the posts and that it costs approximately two hundred (\$200.00) dollars to repair a broken post; they repair a post per week on average and the new ones have a flat end rather than a point.

Mayor Graham believed that the intent of the Coroner's report was to protect pedestrians from traffic and that there would be a natural separation between

pedestrians and traffic during the winter months when the snow is removed from the roads and creates a windrow.

Councilor Morrissey asked if the city would be potentially opening the door to liability if the rocks and posts were removed.

Administration noted that they could not answer that and further clarification would be needed.

Councillor Morrissey asked if the Public Works Department was aware of which rocks and/or posts could be immediately removed without decreasing the safeness of pedestrians.

Administration advised that it was reviewed and they believe that approximately forty (40) percent of rocks and posts could be removed without decreasing safeness of pedestrians but noted that this was simply a personal opinion.

Councillor Stevenson believed that the decision to remove the rocks and post would be premature and possibly dangerous; he suggested that the decision wait until such time where more information is received and a replacement plan is identified.

Motion #EPW13-08

Moved by: Councillor Bell
Seconded by: Councillor Nattaq

The committee recommends that Council remove the rocks and posts within the current 5 Year Capital plan contingent upon receiving legal opinion of their removal; and that a plan from Public Works identifying the current forty percent of rocks and posts that can be removed immediately be developed as soon as possible.

**For – Dobbin, Graham, Nattaq, Bell, Morrissey
Against – Stevenson
Carried**

6. IN CAMERA SESSION

Motion #EPW13-09

Moved by: Councillor Bell
Seconded by: Councillor Stevenson

That the committee go In Camera at 7:25pm.

Unanimously Carried

Motion #EPW13-10

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson
Seconded by: Councillor Bell

The committee returns to Regular Session at 8:13pm.

Unanimously Carried

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion #EPW13-11

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson
Seconded by: Councillor Bell

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:15pm.

Unanimously Carried

Councillor Akumalik
Chairperson

Keith Couture
Director, Public Works

Approved by City Council on this **25** day of **June**, 2013, A.D.