

**MINUTES
CITY OF IQALUIT
ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING #04
July 18, 2013 AT 6:00 PM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT FROM COUNCIL

Mayor John Graham
Deputy Mayor Mary Wilman
Councillor Terry Dobbin
Councillor Joanase Akumalik
Councillor Romeyn Stevenson
Councillor Mark Morrissey

ABSENT

Councillor Kenneth Bell
Councillor Simon Nattaq

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION

John Hussey, Chief Administrative Officer
Tracy Cooke, City Clerk
Meagan Leach, Director, Engineering and Sustainability
Robyn Campbell, Sustainability Coordinator
Jeanie Eeseemailee, Senior Interpreter/Translator
Rachel Ootoova, Senior Interpreter/Translator

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion #EPW13-14

Moved by: Mayor Graham
Seconded by: Councillor Morrissey

That the agenda be approved as amended:

Change agenda order to reflect 5(b) to be completed before 5(a)

Unanimously Carried

1. MINUTES

None

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

3. DELEGATIONS

None

4. DEFERRED BUSINESS AND TABLED ITEMS

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

- b) Draft Sustainability Plan
Robyn Campbell, Sustainability Coordinator

Administration stated that the draft Sustainability Plan marks the combination of efforts since 2011; it began with listening and one-on-one meetings, Council workshops and presentations, redefining sustainability for Iqaluit, acting on Iqaluit Qaujimagatugangit and focusing on relationships. They have revisited and shared past consultation documents and data; hundreds of documents and reports have been included in this process.

Community engagement activities were held in 2012; documents were distributed to inform of what had been heard in the past and what was being presented for validation and verification, a four-day community exhibit was held, eight working groups were created that reviewed the contents of documents and data, held a long-term Inuit residents meeting and more. Gathering all the data collected was a very massive and interesting task and has taken approximately one year; other sustainability plans have also been reviewed and considered.

It was very important to provide the community a foundation of information and to fill gaps and knowledge to ensure everyone understands equally, to connect the community so that everyone is aware of what each is doing, to communicate what the city is doing such as what they are planning and what they are achieving, and to also simultaneously release an overview and action plan.

Administration noted that there are two parts to the Sustainability Plan; the overview and the action plan. The draft plan has only been shared with the Director of Engineering and Sustainability, Chief Administrative Officer and now Council; Council's input in the draft plan is required prior to the release of the plan to the public. It was translated and reviewed and edited by local translators. The Economic Development Committee also reviewed the economic section of the plan and provided their comments which have been incorporated.

The City of Iqaluit's directors were asked to select departmental actions they wanted to include in the Sustainable Community Plan. They ensured the actions were within the scope of their existing plans, and that they had the financial, human, and physical resources to successfully accomplish the actions. The detailed work plans are the responsibility of each director. These actions were presented to the Chief Administrative Officer for review.

Actions listed for the Sustainability Coordinator came out of community engagement (2011-2013). These actions are possibilities and options; in this draft, they are still not fixed and determined. They are assessed by a team involving the Sustainability Coordinator, the Director of Engineering and Sustainability and the Chief Administrative Officer. These suggested actions will be taken to City Council to determine priorities; these will be reviewed at a later date. The prioritized Sustainability Coordinator actions (limited in number) would become the Sustainability Coordinator's work plan for the next five years.

As part of the funding agreement from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Funding, Council will be asked to adopt the final plan. A working lunch meeting is suggested to review the plan and provide input which would be incorporated into the plan; the proposed plan would be circulated to the community at the end of July 2013 following with meetings with community groups and organizations throughout August and September to receive their input. A final community meeting will be held during the second week of September and feedback received will then be incorporated. The final plan will be brought to Council for adoption in October or November.

- a) Solid Waste Management Project Presentation
Meagan Leach, Director, Engineering & Sustainability

Administration noted that the presentation was shared with the community last night during the public hearing and believed that it was well received. Through the community consultation, a vision was identified for the new solid waste management program, also included in the newsletter distributed earlier in the year. The City of Iqaluit will be a leader in northern waste management practices by identifying and implementing locally appropriate waste management solutions that maximize waste diversion and minimize environmental impacts. There were a number of goals identified while consulting with the community:

- educate
- reduce
- reuse
- compost
- manage hazardous waste
- recycle where locally appropriate
- dispose of remaining waste in sustainable manner

The site selection criteria included size and regulatory requirements, setbacks from lakes and rivers and site suitability. The airport requirements were that the site be located four kilometres away from airport sites and activities, as per airport zoning regulations. The new facility also needs to be located away from watershed protected areas to protect the Lake Geraldine watershed as well as the Apex River watershed, which could potentially become the city's supplementary water source.

Taking all this into consideration, several areas closer to the city are eliminated as the possible future solid waste management site including the North 40, West 40 and Trail sites.

Three sites remained; Northwest, East and Tarr which were then studied by the consultants. The consultants walked through the sites to get a visual idea of these sites and their access route. It was determined that slopes at the East site were not favorable and the site was visual from existing and possible future subdivisions; the Tarr site also presented similar issues. The Northwest site was found more suitable and no major concerns were identified with the site.

Administration noted that the access road for the future granular supply will also serve as the access road to the site for the solid waste facility; both projects will be developed within the same timeframe. The recommended programs for the new solid waste facility were identified in the newsletter distributed earlier in the year; Option 1 was the recommended program by the consultants which included:

- open window composting
- bulky items recycling
- end of life vehicles program
- hazardous waste management
- reuse centre
- promotion/education program
- landfill

The current program provides eight (8) percent of diverted waste and ninety two (92) percent of landfilled waste; the new program would provide forty four (44) percent of diverted waste and fifty six (56) percent of landfilled waste.

Mr. John Smith noted that several public meetings were held during the process of identifying a future site as well as identifying the best solid waste management program to suit Iqaluit's needs. A workshop was also held to discuss the diversion of waste and landfill site options with interested community members.

Councillor Stevenson thanked Administration for the presentation and noted that significant support was expressed for incineration by Council as well as residents. He believed that perhaps the city could have an incinerator; off-site

from the solid waste facility and sorting of waste could be done in town and then transported the landfill. He asked if the airport regulations would prevent from having an incinerator in town or does it only apply to the actual solid waste facility.

Administration stated that further review of regulations would be required to determine whether or not an incinerator would be permitted in town. Having a depot centre to sort waste prior to it being transported to the solid waste facility would be a good idea but further research would also be required.

Councillor Stevenson believed that the “good track record/appropriate technology” title in the options area on the newsletter should have been separated as incineration is an appropriate technology and would have provided a better scoring for Option 3 but there is no “good track record” as Iqaluit does not have an example program. He believed that the city not only needed to review regulations to determine if an incinerator would be permitted within the city, but that they needed to push for it to be permitted. The city has many unique situations and should be permitted to have an incinerator to provide an even better solid waste program.

Deputy Mayor Wilman thanked Administration for the successful public meeting held on July 17th and believed that it was well received. Residents seem to understand the issues surrounding the project and seem to be very supportive of this new proposed solid waste management facility and the proposed program, other than the location of the site. She expressed her concern with the fact that the project was being rushed and believed that the city should take its time and do this well; additional meetings should be held and more discussions are required with Council and the community. She asked if the Public Works Department has been involved in the project.

Administration confirmed that the Public Works Department has been involved; they are aware of the proposed site and the reasons why it was chosen. The Public Works Department did not have issues with the site or the proposed program.

Mayor Graham believed that airport regulations would not prevent the city from having an incinerator within the airport boundaries; Transport Canada regulations were to prevent fish plants, landfills or sewage lagoons from being operated in the airport boundary. He stated that the existing landfill site is almost full and the city needs to move forward on the new site as soon as possible; he believed that the proposed location would allow the city to develop a proper landfill and provide proper programs that Iqaluit really needs.

Administration stated that the Public Works Department also recognizes that significant maintenance and repairs would be required to the Upper Base Road and the road providing access to the new solid waste management facility;

maintenance and repairs have already begun. The new solid waste facility will not be as the current one is; it will not look as it does and will be a proper facility and will be properly managed.

Councillor Dobbin expressed his support for the incineration program and noted that it would reduce a higher amount of waste; technical training is required and pollution is also an issue. This equipment is very expensive and the city would need to ensure that an incinerator is permitted so that money is not lost by purchasing the equipment and then being advised that they do not have permission to use it.

Administration noted that all research would be completed prior to purchasing an incinerator, but the understanding is that the incineration program would be very expensive for Iqaluit. The capital purchase of the equipment as well as the operation and maintenance of the equipment would be very expensive. A lot of research was done on the incineration program and a lot of information was provided; it was determined that this program may be too complicated and expensive but it is the decision of Council. Staff would need proper training, operations and maintenance would need to be conducted to ensure the equipment is operating properly and the community would need to understand that such a program would cost more and require more attention. Once the proposed program is implemented and the community is comfortable, the city could look into the incineration program.

Councillor Morrissey expressed his support for the education program and believed that it was very important for residents to be properly educated on the new programs that will be implemented. He believed that the city should also consider asking residents to use reusable containers rather than regular coffee cups from the stores that end up on the landfill or all over the community after snow melts; this would also reduce the amount of waste going to the facility.

He believed that the Public Works Department budget will need to increase; maintenance and repairs to the road will need to be done on a regular basis, proper drainage will need to be installed, a fence will need to be installed to prevent waste from blowing off vehicles transporting garbage to the facility and guardrails should also be installed. He expressed his support for a reuse centre and really hoped that it would be developed, used and easily accessible to the public, especially contractors; perhaps the tipping fees could be waived if reusable material is being dropped off. He asked if there was any value to composted material for commercial uses to help recover some of the costs.

Administration believed that there is a value to composted material but was not aware of the exact value; further information would need to be collected. There are different standards for composted materials and some cannot be used for growing goods.

Councillor Stevenson believed that Public Works would have an increase in repairs and maintenance of roads as the city continues to grow and there will be more roads developed in the future; it will cost more money and the department will need to expand due to the city's growth. He asked if the Planning and Development Department had considered expanding the city towards the new gravel source and the new solid waste facility since there will be a serviced road in that area.

He noted that he would like further information on the companies contacted regarding the incineration program as he would also like to do further research on the program. He believed that this could be a request for proposal and that a better price may be provided than what was obtained by the Engineering Department.

He expressed his support for the sorting facility, even if the city chooses option one or option three, and believed that it should be located in the North 40; the waste would be sorted in the North 40 area and then transported to the solid waste facility in the Northwest area. Waste that would be removed and shipped via sealift each year would not need to be transported to the waste facility and would not require that residents drive to the solid waste facility to drop off personal waste. He also asked how the city would cover the costs for a sorting facility.

Councillor Stevenson believed that interested Council members or residents should speak with Mr. Jim Little as he is very knowledgeable on the subject and would be able to explain the process of composting as well as the types of composted material and what the potential uses would be.

Administration noted that the General plan does not identify the Northwest area as future development area; there is an area designated for light industrial uses at the beginning of Upper Base Road and there may be future industrial development in the area in the future.

The sorting facility is a good idea and the city should consider pursuing a sorting facility in the downtown area, rather than at the solid waste facility, and perhaps a proposal could be submitted to Council for the sorting facility to be in the North 40 area or other areas that are available. Further information would need to be obtained prior to the recommendation being presented to Council as the North 40 area ownership is unknown and the airport has expressed interest for land in that area. Council will need to meet with the Engineering Department in the near future to discuss their capital project plan to identify which projects are to be completed first. The Block Funding agreement with the Government of Nunavut and Gas Tax Funding will cover the costs for the Solid Waste Management Project and would include the sorting facility if it is chosen.

Councillor Dobbin stated that other jurisdictions privatize solid waste management and asked if the city should not do that same; it would save the city a lot of money but would result in the loss of employment for some.

Councillor Morrissey believed that the city should consider all options available to them for the solid waste facility and agreed with Councillor Stevenson that a sorting facility would greatly assist the city in its new programs for solid waste.

Chairperson Akumalik asked if traditional knowledge was part of the site selection process and if Inuit owned lands were taken into consideration.

Administration explained that the areas considered for the new solid waste facility were identified as city owned lands within the municipal boundary; a letter of invitation was sent to the elders for the site selection process but no response was received.

Mayor Graham asked for clarification on what the process will be for all sewage sludge.

Administration noted that, currently, waste water is run through a filter, where solids are removed and the remaining waste water is dropped into a container which is then delivered to the landfill. As part of the city's water license, the city needed to provide information as to how waste water is treated; a pilot project was conducted to see if sewage sludge and composting was an effective method to treat waste water and based on the results, composting of waste water was effective. The city is not able to implement the composting of sewage sludge at this time due to space limitations; the composting program will be implemented in the new solid waste management program once the project is complete.

The next step will be Council's approval on an option and site that was presented; the information received from the committee tonight as well as information received from the community will be incorporated into the current solid waste management recommendations. The plan must be submitted by the end of August based on the water license requirements; this plan was to be submitted several years ago when the water license was originally adopted in 2006 but an extension was given to the city.

6. IN CAMERA SESSION

None

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion #EPW13-15

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson

Seconded by: Mayor Graham

That the meeting be adjourned at 7:50pm.

Unanimously Carried

Councillor Akumalik
Chairperson

Meagan Leach
Director, Engineering and
Sustainability

Approved by City Council on this **22nd** day of **October**, 2013, A.D.