

Council Chamber
City Hall, Saskatoon, Sask.
Monday, April 18, 1994,
at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

PRESENT: His Worship Mayor Dayday in the Chair;
Councillors Cherneskey, Penner, McCann, Hawthorne, Dyck,
Mostoway, Thompson, Birkmaier and Mann;
A/City Commissioner Gustafson;
Director of Planning and Development Pontikes;
Director of Finance Richards;
City Solicitor Dust;
City Clerk Mann;
City Councillors' Assistant Kanak

Moved by Councillor Penner, Seconded by Councillor Birkmaier,

THAT Council go into Committee of the Whole with the His Worship Mayor Dayday in the Chair.

CARRIED.

REPORT OF CITY CLERK:

"A Special Meeting of City Council has been scheduled for Monday, April 18, 1994 at 7:00 p.m. in order to hear from the community regarding the proposed downtown project known as The Landing.

The following two questions have been posed to City Council by the Provincial Government:

- 1) Does City Council want a major casino developed within the City of Saskatoon?
- 2) If yes, is it the wish of Council that this casino be developed in the project mix proposed for the South Downtown?

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1994
PAGE 2**

City Council, at this meeting, will hear from the community and make a decision on the above issues.

Submissions have been received from the following:

- 1) His Worship Mayor Dayday
- 2) Randall M. Williams, CHA, President
Saskatoon Hotels Association
(Requesting to speak)
- 3) Doreen Wilson
44 Hoeschen Crescent
- 4) John and Kathy Arthur
17 Stephenson Crescent
- 5) Terry Scadden, Chair
Downtown Merchants Association
(Referred from April 11th Council meeting)
(Requesting to speak)
- 6) J. A. Carter
2522 Cairns Avenue
- 7) W. J. DeCoursey
801 Colony Street
(Requesting to speak)
(Also letter referred from April 11th Council meeting)
- 8) Jill Postlethwaite
317 Mount Allison Court
(Requesting to speak)
- 9) Kent Smith-Windsor, Executive Director
The Partnership
(Requesting to speak)
(Also letter referred from April 11th Council meeting)

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1994
PAGE 3**

- 10) J. M. Whelan
424 Spadina Crescent East
- 11) Fred Heal
409 Hilliard Street East
(Requesting to speak)
- 12) Merv Brand, President
Saskatoon Prairieland Exhibition Corporation
- 13) Dwight Percy, Executive Director
Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce
(Requesting to speak)
(Also letter referred from April 11th Council meeting)
- 14) Tom Molloy
209 Poplar Crescent
- 15) Norman Stevenson, Special Projects Coordinator
FSIN
(Requesting permission for Helen Quewezance to speak)
- 16) Rusty Chartier
1245 Avenue O South
(Requesting to speak)
- 17) Edward M. Wesolowski
11 Brown Crescent
(Requesting to speak)
- 18) John and Samantha Kelley
2006 Pembina Avenue
- 19) H. F. Feldkamp
427 Lakeshore Bay
(Referred from April 11th Council meeting)
- 20) Stephan Dershko, Chair
Riversdale Business Improvement District

(Referred from April 11th Council meeting)

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1994
PAGE 4**

- 21) Richard Smith, President
Saskatchewan Restaurant & Foodservices Association
(Referred from April 11th Council meeting)
- 22) Judy Harwood, Vice President
North Saskatoon Business Association
(Referred from April 11th Council meeting)
- 23) Edward B. Hudson
402 Skeena Court
- 24) Allisen R. Rothery
Woloshyn Mattison
(Requesting to speak)
- 25) Cornelius Peters
1121 Avenue L South
- 26) Nancy Wilkinson
518 Garrison Crescent
- 27) R. G. Webb
1540 Avenue I North
- 28) James Yuel, Chair
Saskatoon Economic Development Authority
- 29) Jim Spinney
1104 Main Street East
(Requesting to speak)
- 30) Vern and Gail Afseth
170 A. E. Adams Crescent
- 31) Ed Cowley, President
Saskatchewan Provincial Building & Construction Trades Council
- 32) Dennis Galandy

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1994
PAGE 5**

His Worship the Mayor reviewed his letter dated April 15, 1994 and highlighted the resolutions to be considered after the presentations.

Moved by Councillor Dyck,

THAT the letter be received as information.

CARRIED.

His Worship the Mayor advised that the first speaker would be Chief Roland Crowe.

Chief Roland Crowe indicated that FSIN is interested in a partnership with the Province which will lead to a model for sharing casino development. He advised Council of the benefits of having a casino in the City and addressed the concerns raised regarding social problems. He stressed the importance of new employment and economic opportunities for First Nations people and urged Council to work with the Aboriginal community to share in this opportunity.

Mr. Randall M. Williams, President, Saskatoon Hotels Association, expressed opposition on behalf of the Saskatoon Hotels Association to a trade and convention centre in the south downtown location. He suggested that a feasibility study should be done looking at several locations for a trade and convention centre.

Letters from Doreen Wilson and John and Kathy Arthur

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the information be received.

Mr. Terry Scadden, Chair, Downtown Merchants Association, expressed support for the south downtown project known as The Landing and urged Council to support the project.

Letter from Mr. J. A. Carter

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the information be received.

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1994
PAGE 6**

Mr. W. J. DeCoursey, resident, expressed the opinion that a major casino should not be developed in the City and that the undesirable social effects far outweigh any financial gain.

Ms. Jill Postlethwaite, resident, provided Council with an alternative to the proposed project. She stated that parks and residences should be developed in the downtown and expressed the need to attract more permanent people to the downtown. She suggested that the downtown area should be made more attractive, with parks, recreation facilities, walkways and farmers markets, emphasizing the beauty of the riverbank.

Mr. Dick Batten, Chair, The Partnership, reviewed his submitted brief and additional information circulated to Council regarding the south downtown project. He noted the importance of all components of the project and urged Council to support the project if it is found to be viable.

Letter from Mr. J. M. Whelan

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the information be received.

Mr. Fred Heal, resident, expressed opposition to a major casino in the south downtown and indicated his concern regarding the lack of information available on the casino project. He urged Council to make sure there is ample time for meaningful public consultation before a decision is made and suggested that a referendum be held as part of the October civic election. He submitted information on infrastructure projects.

Letter from Mr. Merv Brand

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the information be received.

Mr. Fred Smith, Vice-President, Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce, expressed support for the project known as The Landing, noting the importance of the project to enhance the viability of the downtown core and spur additional private sector development. He urged Council to support the recommendations contained in the April 15 letter of His Worship the Mayor.

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1994
PAGE 7**

Letter from Mr. Tom Molloy

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the information be received.

Ms. Helen Quewezance, resident, indicated support for the casino and expressed the need for employment opportunities for Aboriginal people.

Mr. Rusty Chartier, resident, expressed support for a farmers market on the riverbank and suggested that winter be promoted more positively in the City. He expressed opposition for the project as a whole.

Mr. Edward Wesolowski, resident, expressed the view that a City-initiated plebiscite should be held concurrent with the fall civic elections allowing taxpayers to express their views about the south downtown development project. He stated that there must be careful consideration of current and future costs to the taxpayer.

Letters from John and Samantha Kelley, Mr. H. F. Feldkamp, Mr. Stephan Dershko, Mr. Richard Smith, Ms. Judy Harwood and Mr. Edward Hudson

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the information be received.

Ms. Allisen Rothery, Member, Board of Management, Downtown Business Improvement District, advised that she is in favour of the downtown proposal and expressed the opinion that feasibility studies will show the viability of the project. She indicated the importance of each component as part of the whole project. Ms. Rothery noted that she is against a plebiscite.

Letters from Mr. Cornelius Peters, Ms. Nancy Wilkinson, Mr. R. G. Webb and Mr. James Yuel

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the information be received.

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1994
PAGE 8**

Mr. Jim Spinney, resident, reviewed his submitted brief providing comments regarding the casino and trade and convention centre and indicating that the issue of the impact of the proposed development on the City's annual operating budget must be looked at carefully. He expressed the opinion that any development must make economic sense.

Letters from Vern and Gail Afseth, Mr. Ed Cowley and Mr. Dennis Galandy

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the information be received.

Pursuant to motion of Councillor Birkmaier, and carried by a majority of members of Council, the hour of the meeting was extended beyond 10:30 p.m.

Mr. John Beckman, representing the Muskeg Lake Indian Band, indicated support for the project currently before Council if Council thinks it is appropriate for the City of Saskatoon. He noted that the Muskeg Lake Indian Band intends to construct and operate a casino on Indian lands in the Sutherland area when the legal hurdles have been overcome and is content in that situation to compete with any project which may be developed in the south downtown area and will operate the casino independent of Council's decision. Mr. Beckman advised Council that the project in Sutherland already has private funding in place and will not be looking to the City of Saskatoon or the taxpayers for any funding with respect to that project.

Mr. Arnie Shaw, President, Saskatoon Centennial Auditorium Foundation, expressed the view that Council requires more information to make the right decision and noted the importance of a feasibility study to determine the economic viability of the project. He indicated that it must be determined what effect the project would have on the existing convention facilities and whether existing facilities are maximizing Saskatoon's potential. Mr. Shaw urged Council to go through a due diligence process and direct the process to ensure that taxpayers of Saskatoon are getting what they should be getting.

Mr. Rik Steernberg, resident, expressed support for the project and urged Council to support a casino in the south downtown.

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1994
PAGE 9**

Mr. Henry Feldkamp, resident, indicated support for a major casino based on economic considerations. He expressed the view that a casino should not be developed in the project mix proposed for the South Downtown because of the location. Mr. Feldkamp indicated that a casino must be easily accessible to hotels.

Mr. Andrew Dziadyk, resident, indicated opposition to the project as proposed and expressed the opinion that a casino will not do anything positive for the downtown.

Ms. Eileen MacKenzie, resident, expressed concern regarding who will pay for the project if it fails and wondered if the City really needs this project, making reference to the Centennial Auditorium and the Field House.

Mr. Wally Taylor, resident, expressed concern regarding the project, indicating that the money isn't free since it comes from the taxpayers' pockets. He indicated he does not support a casino, but supports a farmers market and possibly a trade and convention centre.

Mr. Cliff Brown, resident, expressed concerns about the casino and trade and convention centre. He wondered how viable it will be to have two major casinos in the City if the project goes ahead and if the Muskeg Lake Indian Band casino goes ahead. He indicated concern regarding the social costs of gambling. He questioned what effect the convention centre would have on the existing facilities such as the Centennial Auditorium.

Moved by Councillor Penner,

THAT the hearing be closed.

CARRIED.

Councillor Thompson tabled a copy of the document entitled "The Landing" containing recommended development initiatives for South Downtown, Saskatoon, prepared by Derek Murray Consulting Associates and Peat Marwick Stevenson & Kellogg.

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1994
PAGE 10**

Councillor Hawthorne requested that it be noted in the minutes that he did not understand the intent of the "Notice" for this Special Meeting as it pertained to "The Landing".

Moved by Councillor Thompson,

- 1) THAT the City of Saskatoon adopt in principle the project consisting of a farmers market, casino and trade and convention centre to be located on the south downtown project block bordered by 19th Street, First Avenue, Second Avenue and 20th Street, and that this adoption be subject to a due diligence report and subsequent analysis by the City substantiating the viability of the proposed project;*
- 2) THAT the Trade and Convention Centre be designated as a top priority under the National Infrastructure Program on the condition that this designation in no way impact on the \$13.4 M funding already committed to the City, nor affect the timing or scheduling of the list of projects already approved;*
- 3) THAT the Province be advised that the City of Saskatoon is not prepared to underwrite any operating deficit for a trade and convention centre; and*
- 4) THAT City Council answer "yes" to the following questions which have been put by the Provincial government:*
 - a) Does City Council want a major casino developed within the City of Saskatoon?*
 - b) If yes, is it the wish of Council that this casino be developed in the project mix proposed for the South Downtown?*

*YEAS: His Worship Mayor Dayday, Councillors Dyck,
Cherneskey, Thompson, Penner, Mann, Mostoway and
McCann*

8

NAYS: Councillors Hawthorne and Birkmaier

2

NOTE: Councillor Waygood was not present at the meeting.

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1994
PAGE 11**

Moved by Councillor Hawthorne,

THAT the City of Saskatoon cause to be put before the electorate at the October 1994 civic election all questions pertaining to a casino and trade centre downtown.

YEAS: Councillor Hawthorne

1

*NAYS: His Worship Mayor Dayday, Councillors Birkmaier, McCann,
Mostoway, Mann, Penner, Thompson, Cherneskey and Dyck 9*

NOTE: Councillor Waygood was not present at the meeting.

Committee arose.

Moved by Councillor Cherneskey, Seconded by Councillor Mann,

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

CARRIED.

Moved by Councillor Penner, Seconded by Councillor Hawthorne,

THAT the meeting stand adjourned.

CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 a.m.

Mayor

City Clerk