

City of Melfort
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
January 21, 2008

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on Monday, January 21, 2008, in the City Hall Meeting Room, Melfort, Saskatchewan, commencing at 6:25 p.m.

PRESENT: **COUNCIL:** Councillor Degelman, Chairman; Mayor Phillips & Councillors MacNaughton, Abbott, Lang and Russin.

STAFF: J. Wade, City Manager; C. Stevenson, City Treasurer; G. Hnatiuk, Director of Works & Utilities; K. Ottenbreit, Director of Planning, Development & Leisure Services; G. Hnatiuk, Director of Works & Utilities and H. Audette, City Clerk.

MELFORT GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Mr. Ken Singer, spokesman for the Melfort Golf & Country Club, referred to their letter dated 3, 2007, and reiterated that the Club is able to meet their operational expenses, but is unable to build a reserve to handle capital improvements and unforeseen expenditures. The two areas of immediate need are the water pipeline replacement and repair of the retaining walls around the water hazard.

The Golf Club management has instituted a number of measures to tighten up expenses. There is tremendous pressure on courses because of the increased options for participants. The Club will aggressively continue fundraising activities, recruitment of corporate sponsors and food/lounge operations to supplement their revenues. Management of the Club will be reevaluated when the pro's contract expires in one year; however, the loss of a pro would affect tournaments, growth of new members and management of the course.

Discussion followed concerning operating grants and the dangerous precedent they set. Mr. Singer questioned whether Council would consider an annual budget allocation for capital improvements based on an approved plan. Councillor Lang would like to see a viable business plan that addresses operating issues such as user fees, fundraising and membership drives. Mayor Phillips left the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Councillor Degelman also suggested initiatives such as sharing the pro with another course and selling debentures. Mr. Singer would like the City to consider any opportunities for sharing of equipment.

Councillor Degelman thanked the Club for their presentation. The matter was referred to the Planning & Development Committee and the budget process. The media and the members of the Golf Course left at 6:58 p.m.

The remainder of the Committee of the Whole meeting was closed to the public due to the fact that the item on the agenda is included in the list of exemptions found in Part III of *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Land Development

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk