

Jack's Recap

August 24, 2015: Welcome to Monday night football!

First play of the night a "lateral pass" from Clearlogic 20/20. Clearlogic has completed its mandate and is now "handing off" the remainder of its projects to the soon to be hired person to complete the tasks. If Mayor and Council had full disclosure about this projected handoff, why the talk about a hiring freeze a few months ago? Clearlogic 20/20 crossed the goal line and said their goodbyes to city council last night stating that it has completed 21 of the 30 projects and this took 10 years. The main project yet to be completed is in their view and one that is very important is the establishment of an English university that should offer high paying and stable jobs which would benefit the city as a whole. We have to remember that 20/20 was set up with the Kidd mine operations closure set to be in 2021. I believe they missed the Kidd mines presentation where they told us that because of new technology the mine could have an increased life span, surpassing the 2021 end of life projection. Another project of great importance and identified early on is the beautification of the city. This project will serve to attract many patrons and give the residents of Timmins great pride in their community. Housing affordability is definitely a growing concern because when the economy is booming housing costs rise leaving those lower income families in peril. They also stated that Timmins should identify their competitive advantage to generate more revenues, such as Kapuskasing did with their green energy strategy. Over 100 local companies participated in this endeavour donating thousands of dollars whether in kind donations or dollar donations. The city paid many thousands of dollars to Clearlogic for their consultation work over the last few years, so here is hoping that these consulting dollars were well spent. The Mayor was clearly displeased when councillor Campbell asked the question as to which company would be billing the city, Clearlogic or Clearlogic 20/20. A fair question I thought if the taxpayers were paying the bill.

To rezone or not to rezone: that was the question last night! A rezoning application for the establishment of a 'school' (day nursery) to house up to 8 children from the ages of 2 1/2 to 6. These children will be mainly taught good manners by the proponent Ms Jennifer Burtch. The school is presently operating under the day nursery guidelines and can legally house up to and not to exceed 5 pupils. This rezoning would allow her to increase the number of students to 8. A few objectors were present and one spokesperson told council that the main fear was lack of parking spots and noise within this quiet maple street south residential area. He went on to say that sidewalks are not cleared in the winter time, presenting a hazard to parents dropping off young children. Of course he also brought up the old diminishing property values argument. Ms Burtch rebuffed all his arguments stating that these were all well behaved children from rather affluent families so noise would never be an issue as well as parking. She stated that there was plenty of parking for all concerned. This application was sent for staff reporting.

Another rezoning application was brought forward to council last night with civil engineer B.H Martin being the main presenter. This application is to build a small subdivision off Ferguson street in porcupine. There would be 38 lots available and the subdivision would be a mix of multi dwelling homes hereby known as affordable housing with a small park in the centre of the subdivision, complete with a small lake. Yes you heard it here: a small lake. Of course there was an objector who was worried about the increase in traffic and of course diminishing home values due to the affordable housing component. Martin was quick to respond stating that today every new subdivision is provincially mandated to offer affordable housing and there is no way to get around that. He also stated that all his studies were completed and that water and

sewer services would not be an issue. This was also set aside awaiting a staff report.

Another rezoning application was presented by Mr. Gilles Leduc who is proposing the construction of a complex that would consist of 8 premium town houses or condos just off Shirley street. This complex would be geared mainly to the retired citizens of Timmins. Mark Jensen, head of planning, assured council that his department is essentially in support of this application and the by-law was passed unanimously.

As is my usual I urge you all to view the meeting for yourself.

That's a rap on this week's recap!