



# THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

## **MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023 SWAN LAKE ROOM**

**PRESENT:** VOTING  
Councillor Gares, Acting Chair  
Councillor Fehr

**ABSENT:** Councillor Mund, Chair

**STAFF:** Debra Law, Director, Financial Operations  
Rena Crosson, Manager, Financial Operations  
Kathy Stogneff, Secretary I - Corporate Services

**ORDER** The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

**LAND  
ACKNOWLEDGMENT** *As Councillor of the City of Vernon, and in the spirit of this gathering, I recognize the City of Vernon is located in the traditional territory of the Syilx people of the Okanagan Nation.*

**ADOPTION OF  
AGENDA** Moved by Councillor Fehr, seconded by Councillor Gares;  
THAT the agenda for Thursday, November 16, 2023 meeting of the Finance Committee be adopted.

**CARRIED.**

**ADOPTION OF  
MINUTES** Moved by Councillor Fehr, seconded by Councillor Gares;  
THAT the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held August 30, 2023 be adopted.

**CARRIED.**

**PERMISSIVE TAX  
EXEMPTIONS 2024 -  
UPDATE** **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**  
The Manager, Financial Operations gave the Committee an update on the 2024 Permissive Tax Exemptions, and the following was noted:

- Council approved Bylaw "Tax Exemption Amendment Bylaw number 5967, 2023" on September 11, 2023.
- It was submitted to BC Assessment before the October 31, 2023 deadline.

- After the deadline, an administrative error was discovered.
- Living Word Lutheran Church was removed from the tax exemption as it was sold.
- Missed due to oversight, was that it was sold to St. John's Lutheran Church.
- The Finance Committee would have recommended to Council that a tax exemption be granted.
- The Finance Committee will recommend to Council that Council approve a grant to St. John's Lutheran Church. The amount of the grant will be determined once BC Assessment completes assessments.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**INVESTMENT POLICY** The Manager, Financial Operations presented the Committee with a new Investment Policy and the following was noted:

- A new draft Investment Policy has been created using the standard template for investment policies provided by the Municipal Finance Authority.

Moved by Councillor Fehr, seconded by Councillor Gares;

THAT the Finance Committee recommends to Council to rescind the current "Investment of City Funds policy,

AND FURTHER that the Finance Committee recommend Council to adopt the new "Investment Policy."

**CARRIED.**

### **COUNCIL DISCRETIONARY GRANT – RECIPIENT REPORTING**

The Manager of Financial Operations brought forth the discussion in regards to the Council Discretionary Grants, recipient reporting and the following was noted:

- The Vernon and District Immigrant and Community Services Society were unable to use their October 2021 grant of \$2,030 in the two-year period as their events were postponed. They have repaid their grant funds back to the City.
- The Vernon Elks Lodge received Council Discretionary Grant funds April 2021 and did not spend the entire amount of the grant. They have repaid the remaining grant funds of \$1,800 to the City.
- The grant funds repaid will be allocated to the Council Discretionary Grant October 2023 intake.

Moved by Councillor Fehr, seconded by Councillor Gares;

THAT the Finance Committee receive the recipient reports as provided in the memorandum dated November 9, 2023 from the Manager, Financial Operations.

**CARRIED.**

**COUNCIL  
DISCRETIONARY  
GRANT  
APPLICATIONS –  
OCTOBER 2023  
INTAKE**

The Manager, Financial Operations stated that there is \$29,960 in funds to disburse on Council Discretionary Grants for 2023.

**6<sup>TH</sup> VERNON SCOUT  
GROUP**

Moved by Councillor Gares, seconded by Councillor Fehr;

THAT the Finance Committee recommends that Council approve a Council Discretionary Grant to 6<sup>th</sup> Vernon Scout Group in the amount of \$2,000 for purchase of equipment and supplies to purchase equipment and supplies.

**CARRIED.**

**AURA CHAMBER  
CHOIR SOCIETY**

Moved by Councillor Gares, seconded by Councillor Fehr;

THAT the Finance Committee recommends that Council deny a Council Discretionary Grant to the AURA Chamber Choir Society in the amount of \$23,000 as the City has limited funds for disbursement.

**CARRIED.**

**CANADIAN HOME  
BUILDERS  
ASSOCIATION**

Moved by Councillor Fehr, seconded by Councillor Gares;

THAT the Finance Committee recommends that Council deny a Council Discretionary Grant to the Canadian Home Builders Association in the amount of \$7,500 as the City has limited funds for disbursement.

**CARRIED.**

**FRESH OUTLOOK  
FOUNDATION**

Moved by Councillor Fehr, seconded by Councillor Gares;

THAT the Finance Committee recommends that Council deny a Council Discretionary Grant to the Fresh Outlook Foundation in

the amount of \$20,000 as the organization submitted a grant application in April 2023.

**CARRIED.**

**KINDALE  
DEVELOPMENT  
ASSOCIATION**

Moved by Councillor Fehr, seconded by Councillor Gares;

THAT the Finance Committee recommends that Council deny a Council Discretionary Grant Kindale Development Association in the amount of \$9,121.28 as the City has limited funds for disbursement.

**CARRIED.**

**LITERACY SOCIETY  
OF THE NORTH  
OKANAGAN**

Moved by Councillor Gares, seconded by Councillor Fehr;

THAT the Finance Committee recommends that Council approve a Council Discretionary Grant to Literacy Society of the North Okanagan in the amount of \$4,000 to support the increase of wages and materials for four new facilitators in an 18-week program.

**CARRIED.**

**NORTH OKANAGAN  
CYCLING SOCIETY**

Moved by Councillor Fehr, seconded by Councillor Gares;

THAT the Finance Committee recommends that Council deny a Council Discretionary Grant to the North Okanagan Cycling Society in the amount of \$3,800 as the organization submitted a grant application in April 2023.

**CARRIED.**

**NORTH OKANAGAN  
YOUTH AND FAMILY  
SERVICES SOCIETY**

Moved by Councillor Fehr, seconded by Councillor Gares;

THAT the Finance Committee recommends that Council deny a Council Discretionary Grant to the North Okanagan Youth and Family Services Society in the amount of \$5,000 as the organization submitted a grant application in April 2023

**CARRIED.**

**NORTH VALLEY  
GYMNASTICS  
SOCIETY**

Moved by Councillor Gares, seconded by Councillor Fehr;

THAT the Finance Committee recommends that Council approve a Council Discretionary Grant to North Valley

Gymnastics Society in the amount of \$7,460 of a requested amount of \$202,473.60 towards the replacement of equipment.

**CARRIED.**

**SANTA'S ANONYMOUS SOCIETY**

Moved by Councillor Fehr, seconded by Councillor Gares;

THAT the Finance Committee recommends that Council deny a Council Discretionary Grant to Santa's Anonymous Society in the amount of \$3,000 as the City has limited funds for disbursement.

**CARRIED.**

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS BC: VERNON COMMITTEE**

Moved by Councillor Gares, seconded by Councillor Fehr;

THAT the Finance Committee recommends that Council approve a Council Discretionary Grant to the Special Olympics BC: Vernon Committee in the amount of \$6,000 to expand training programs with additional space, practices, equipment and uniforms.

**CARRIED.**

**VERNON AND DISTRICT FUNTASTIC SPORTS SOCIETY**

Moved by Councillor Gares, seconded by Councillor Fehr;

THAT the Finance Committee recommends that Council approve a Council Discretionary Grant to the Vernon and District Funtastic Sports Society in the amount of \$1,500 to purchase tables and chairs for their events.

**CARRIED.**

**VERNON COMMUNITY BAND SOCIETY**

Moved by Councillor Fehr, seconded by Councillor Gares;

THAT the Finance Committee recommends that Council deny a Council Discretionary Grant to the Vernon Community Band Society in the amount of \$500 as the organization submitted a grant application in April 2023

**CARRIED.**

**VERNON COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL**

Moved by Councillor Fehr, seconded by Councillor Gares;

THAT the Finance Committee recommends that Council deny a Council Discretionary Grant to the Vernon Community Music

School in the amount of \$3,000 as the organization submitted a grant application in April 2023.

**CARRIED.**

**VERNON DISTRICT RIDING CLUB**

Moved by Councillor Fehr, seconded by Councillor Gares;

THAT the Finance Committee recommends that Council approve a Council Discretionary Grant to the Vernon District Riding Club in the amount of \$5,000 to install an irrigation system for sand rings.

**CARRIED.**

**VERNON FIGURE SKATING CLUB**

Moved by Councillor Gares, seconded by Councillor Fehr;

THAT the Finance Committee recommends that Council approve a Council Discretionary Grant to the Vernon Figure Skating Club in the amount of \$1,000 to purchase on and off ice equipment.

**CARRIED.**

**VERNON FOLK-ROOTS MUSIC SOCIETY**

Moved by Councillor Gares, seconded by Councillor Fehr;

THAT the Finance Committee recommends that Council deny a Council Discretionary Grant to the Vernon Folk-Roots Music Society in the amount of \$5,000 as the City has limited funds for disbursement.

**CARRIED.**

**VERNON LAWN BOWLING CLUB**

Moved by Councillor Fehr, seconded by Councillor Gares;

THAT the Finance Committee recommends that Council deny a Council Discretionary Grant to the Vernon Lawn Bowling Club in the amount of \$4,500 as the organization submitted a grant application in April 2023

**CARRIED.**

**VERNON PRIDE SOCIETY**

Moved by Councillor Fehr, seconded by Councillor Gares;

THAT the Finance Committee recommends that Council approve a Council Discretionary Grant to the Vernon Pride

Society in the amount of \$3,000 for the purchase of gender-affirming garments for youth and adults.

**CARRIED.**

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**DATE AND TIME OF  
NEXT MEETING**

The next Finance Committee meeting is to be tentatively scheduled for May 2024.

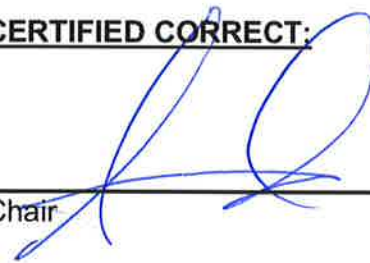
**ADJOURNMENT**

The Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

Chair

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, is written over a solid black horizontal line. The signature is positioned to the right of the word "Chair".