

MINUTES OF MEETING

GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE TOWN HALL

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor: Barry Manuel
 Deputy Mayor: Mike Browne
 Councillors: Rod Bennett, Amy Coady-Davis, Holly Dwyer,
 Shawn Feener, Mark Whiffen
 Staff: D. Finn, Chief Administrative Officer
 K. Antle, Director of Community Services
 N. Chatman, Director of Public Works and
 Development
 S. Gosse, Director of Corporate Services\Clerk
 R. Hannaford, Communications Officer
 K. Hutchinson, Deputy Town Clerk

Prior to the meeting the Mayor signed a Proclamation for Allied Youth Week – February 7th to 13th, 2021.

He also presented the Christmas Contest prizes:-

- Best Decorated House – Brenda Bouzane
- Best Decorated Tree – Shellie Jewer
- Best Decorated Business – Department of Immigration, Skills & Labour

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and asked for any errors or omissions to the Minutes of Meeting #536 of December 15th, 2020.

Motion
Bennett\Browne

Be it resolved that the Minutes of Meeting #536 of December 15th, 2020 would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

Councillor Bennett presented the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$2,786,937.92.

Motion

Bennett\Feener

Be it resolved that the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$2,786,937.92 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Services (1 of 2)

The following report was presented by Councillor Coady-Davis.

Gymnastics Parents Presentation

Parents and staff of the Perfectly Centered Gymnastics Club were welcomed to the meeting at 5:30 P.M. They gave a presentation of how the program has grown over the past four (4) years and the need for a permanent facility for the program. They were inquiring if Council have been successful in finding a permanent home for the program.

The Committee thanked the group for their presentation. As the availability of the arena is unknown beyond next summer, the Committee recommends working with the program to come up with an immediate temporary solution and work on a permanent location for the program going forward.

The group were excused from the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Exploits Nordic Ski Club Presentation

Members of the Ski Club Executive were welcomed to the meeting at 7:00 P.M. They gave a presentation to the Committee outlining the plans for their Club this winter highlighting their COVID-19 plan as well as a request for a permanent groomer operator to ensure more consistent grooming of the trails this winter.

The Committee thanked the Club for their presentation and recommends staff work with the Club to keep the trails operational and safe by following all the COVID-19 guidelines. The Committee also recommends staff review our groomer operator procedure to see if we can meet the needs of the Club's request for more consistent grooming.

The Ski Club Executive Members were excused from the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Coady-Davis\Dwyer

Be it resolved that these recommendations and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mayor Manuel expressed congratulations to the Perfectly Centered Gymnastics Club program and the Exploits Nordic Ski Club, two (2) very fast growing programs in our community.

Community Services (2 of 2)

The following report was also presented by Councillor Coady-Davis.

Civic Awards

The Committee discussed the plans for the 2021 Grand Falls-Windsor Civic Awards.

Due to COVID-19, the Committee recommends cancelling the Awards for this year and to resume the Awards in 2022.

Winter Carnival

The Committee discussed the plans for Winterlude Winter Carnival for 2021.

Due to the COVID-19 Regulations requiring not to have large gathering events, the Committee recommends changing the format of this year's event and host it over two (2) months during February and March and only include small scale events. Citizens can follow the Town's Facebook page for more details in the coming weeks.

Arena Hygiene Policy

The Director presented the Committee with a proposed Arena Hygiene Policy which outlines procedures to ensure users refrain from spreading any biohazardous materials, such as mucus, while in our arenas.

The Committee agrees with the proposed Policy and recommends referring it to the Corporate Services Committee for final approval.

Tournament Host Grant Application

The Director presented the Committee with a proposed Grant Application and the eligibility criteria to help provide funding to organizations in Grand Falls-Windsor who plan to host Provincial, Atlantic or National Competitions, Tournaments or Events. The goal is to have more recreational events in Grand Falls-Windsor and to help the local economy with more visitors coming to our Town.

The Committee had great discussion on the criteria for the Grant and recommends staff revise the criteria and bring it back to a future Community Services Committee meeting for approval.

Director's Report

The Director presented a report of the events, programs and activities that have been happening in the Community Services Department over the last couple of months.

The Committee recommends staff continue to work on these activities and report back to the Committee at the next Community Services Committee meeting.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Coady-Davis\Browne

Be it resolved that these recommendations and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Corporate Services

The following report was presented by Councillor Bennett.

Labour Report

The Committee reviewed the labour costs as of week fifty-one (51). Total labour was \$3,630,146. This was \$109,916 (2.9%) under Budget.

The Committee recommends that staff continue to monitor labour costs and ensure work being completed is necessary.

Cash Collections

The Committee reviewed taxation collection for December 31st, 2020. Total taxation receivable as of that date was \$1,950,775 (\$1,818,953 – 2019) an increase of \$131,822 (7.25%) from the previous year.

The Committee recommends that staff continue its efforts to collect all outstanding taxes.

Disbursement Report

The Committee reviewed the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$2,786,937.92 and recommends this be presented at the next Council Meeting.

Funding Requests

The Committee reviewed a request from the Grand Falls-Windsor Fire Department and Muscular Dystrophy Canada to enter a team in the 25th Annual Curling for Charity Funspiel.

Due to COVID-19, the Committee recommends not sponsoring a team this year. However, the Committee recommends providing a donation of \$150.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Bennett\Feener

Be it resolved that these recommendations and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Committee of the Whole

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Questions to Central Health about Vaccine Management Plans

The Committee reviewed correspondence from Central Health about their intentions for managing the Coronavirus vaccine distribution in Central Newfoundland.

The Committee was satisfied that Central Health will undertake its best efforts to make the vaccine available to all residents in an efficient, fair and equitable manner.

The Committee recommends that staff remain in contact with Central Health's senior leadership and maintain the most up-to-date information.

Fireworks Complaint

The Committee members welcomed Grand Falls-Windsor resident Terry O'Neill who gave a presentation on fireworks concerns. Mr. O'Neill, although not opposed to fireworks, is very concerned about the negative impact that they have on animals and pets. He is advocating for the community to implement some controls and education on fireworks use.

Mr. O'Neill was excused from the meeting at 6:00 P.M.

The Committee is interested in investigating options for controlling the use of fireworks and will engage with other large communities to figure out a common approach.

The Committee recommends that staff engage with Municipalities NL and other large communities and report back to Council in the summer.

UV Disinfection Building

The Committee received a presentation from staff about awarding the design and construction management of the new UV disinfection building to SNC-Lavalin.

The Committee recommends that staff prepare a Resolution for Council to be voted on in the next public meeting.

Gorge Park Phase II

Staff gave a presentation to the Committee on the contents of the Gorge Park Phase II Request for Proposals for design services.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) asks for design services that will include a pedestrian suspension bridge across the Exploits River, a park building and amphitheater, trail connections on the North and South sides of the river, directional and interpretational signage recommendations and conceptual trail planning beyond the Salmonid Interpretation Centre.

The Committee recommends that staff continue with the RFP process and recommend an appropriate consulting team. Further, the Committee recommends that staff incorporate public consultation into the design process.

Correspondence Minister Stoodley – Excessive Noise from Vehicles due to Modified or Faulty Mufflers

The Committee reviewed correspondence from Minister Stoodley that was in response to a letter written from Council about their concerns for excessive noise from vehicles with modified or faulty mufflers.

The correspondence reply from the Minister offered training for our MEO's to enable them to identify faulty mufflers, however, there was no commitment that the Province would address this concern. The correspondence was disappointing.

The Committee recommends that staff follow up with Municipalities NL and work with Councillor Coady-Davis to advance this concern through Municipalities NL.

7 Queensway

The Committee reviewed a request from A & A Realty to purchase back land at 7 Queensway.

The Committee recommends that staff sell this land as per policy.

Gander Airport

The Committee discussed the recent decision by Air Canada to withdraw services from Gander Airport. The Committee is very concerned by this decision because of its impacts on the social and economic future of the Central Region.

The Committee recommends that Council issue a statement to the media expressing the Town's displeasure.

Lionel Kelland Hospice Correspondence

The Committee reviewed a funding request from the Lionel Kelland Hospice Committee for \$350,000 towards their Capital Campaign which has a target of raising \$1.3 million.

The Committee recommends that the request be referred to the Corporate Services Committee for more discussion.

Municipal Elections

The Committee discussed the Municipal Election that will occur on September 28th, 2021.

The Committee recognizes that the Pandemic will likely remain an issue throughout this year, therefore recommends that staff factor the need for social distancing into its planning for Polling Stations. The Committee also recommends that staff contact the Provincial Government to check whether the polling list has been updated.

Other Business

The Committee received a request from a citizen about his concern that Canadian Tire has a Policy to allow dogs in their store, but do not have a set time where children who are afraid of dogs can shop.

The Committee recommends that staff assist the resident where possible.

Strategic Plan

The Committee discussed the need to develop an overall Strategic Plan. The Committee recommends that staff start the process of developing a Strategic Plan as soon as possible.

Mid Winter Bivver

The Committee discussed the Mid Winter Bivver that is hosted by the Town annually. Given that the Pandemic is still ongoing, staff have not undertaken its normal planning. As well, the Snowmobile Association has expressed an interest in taking over the event.

The Committee recommends that staff explore the options of the Snowmobile Association organizing the event this year.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Browne\Whiffen

Be it resolved that these recommendations and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mayor Manuel said the idea of the Strategic Plan is to combine all our plans and strategies for the future and make an overall plan to be able to set priorities and make sure we are looking ahead ten (10) to fifteen (15) years so that the Town can prosper at that time as well. He also wanted to remind everybody that Gorge Park Phase II is not yet a done deal as we have a long way to go before these plans would happen. We have a vision as a Council for Riverfront Development that would include tourism activities that will help bring visitors to our area to help boost our economy. There is a process to go through and before any of this goes through there will be consultations with stakeholders and residents within the community.

The following Resolution was presented by Councillor Dwyer:-

RESOLUTION GF-W 2021-306

Agreement to Enter into PCA with SNC Lavalin for Design of UV Building

WHEREAS: the Minister and Council have agreed to enter into an Investing In Canada Infrastructure Program Agreement for the financing of the construction of a UV Disinfection Building for the Wastewater Treatment Facility No. 17-GI-21-00061 and have agreed cost not in excess \$2,543,700 which amounts to \$2,306,716 after the GST\HST rebate calculation;

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor wishes to appoint SNC Lavalin (SNCL) Inc. to complete the engineering design work associated with the UV Disinfection Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Project #17-GI-21-00061. The scope of work and lump sum pricing associated with this work have been negotiated between the Town and SNCL over a four-month period resulting in four (4) separate fee proposals being presented to the Town. Formal commitment with SNCL Lavalin Inc. through a Prime Consultant Agreement can now be signed as Council has determined the pricing obtained for this service is considered fair and reasonable. Council will provide required documentation to PPA representatives in the future.

Motion

Dwyer\Bennett

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2021-306 Agreement to Enter into PCA with SNC Lavalin for Design of UV Building would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

NOTICE OF MOTION

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Coady-Davis reminded the public that the Provincial Election will be happening on February 13th, 2021. There are various ways to vote and you can visit the website <http://www.election.gov.nl.ca> and it will give you all the information on the different ways you can vote.

Councillor Feener advised Perfectly Centered Gymnastics started on January 23rd of this year and had 270 athletes with 50 new members. If anyone is interested in joining, they can email perfectlycenteredgymnastics@gmail.com.

Deputy Mayor Browne advised the next Saturday Drop-Off is scheduled for February 6th and tomorrow January 27th they will be flushing the main water line down on Harmsworth Drive and discoloration in the water can be expected because of this.

Mayor Manuel wanted to give clarification from our last meeting, where we discussed our efforts of getting the Millcrest Academy gymnasium. He had mentioned incorrectly that it was the Presentation Sisters that we were dealing with, but it is the Roman Catholic Diocese. The School Board are currently working with Government to be able to give the gymnasium to the Roman Catholic Diocese, who we are hoping will help us acquire the gymnasium which we have been trying to do for three (3) or four (4) years now. There are needs in our community for additional gym space, so we would love to have the opportunity to have this gymnasium to suit those needs. He said tomorrow morning, he has an interview with Valley Radio at 10:30 A.M., so please tune in and listen to some discussion on different topics. He also advised we had a Proclamation earlier this month for Crime Stoppers Month, but due to COVID-19 our Proclamation signings and flag raisings look a lot different now. Hopefully, with vaccine distributions underway, sometime in 2021 we can get back to normal. He received “thank you” letters from Special Education students of Exploits Valley Intermediate, and they came to visit us outside the Town Hall last week. It was a pleasure to talk to these young people who were very excited to meet Council. Thank-you to them and we hope to see them again in the future.

Motion

Bennett\Coady-Davis

Be it resolved that the meeting of the Grand Falls-Windsor Town Council would be adjourned until the next regular scheduled meeting of February 16th, 2021. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 P.M.

Barry Manuel
Mayor

Darren Finn
Chief Administrative Officer