

MEETING #555

MINUTES OF MEETING

GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE TOWN HALL

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH, 2022

PRESENT: Mayor: Barry Manuel
Deputy Mayor: Mike Browne
Councillors: Amy Coady, Holly Dwyer, Bob Hiscock,
Andrew Little, Dave Noel
Staff: Darren Finn, Chief Administrative Officer
Keith Antle, Director of Community Services
Steve Gosse, Director of Corporate Services\Town
Clerk
Robyn Hannaford, Communications Officer

Prior to the meeting the Mayor signed a Proclamation for Heritage Day\Week 2022.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and asked for any errors or omissions to the Minutes of Meeting #554 of January 25th, 2022.

Motion

Coady\Dwyer

Be it resolved that the Minutes of Meeting #554 of January 25th, 2022 would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

Councillor Dwyer presented the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$842,293.35.

Motion

Dwyer\Browne

Be it resolved that the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$842,293.35 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Services

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Impact Hockey Correspondence

The Committee discussed correspondence from Impact Hockey requesting to keep a stadium open for four (4) weeks in May.

The Committee recommends the Director check with other ice rental groups to see if they would also be interested in keeping the ice down in May to ensure there would be enough rentals to make it a viable option. The Committee will discuss again at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Relay For Life

The Committee discussed correspondence for the Canadian Cancer Society requesting the Town partner with them to host a Relay For Life at Centennial Field this summer.

The Committee recommends the Director meet with the Cancer Society to get more details on the request and report back at the next Committee meeting.

Joe Byrne Memorial Trophy Cases

The Director informed the Committee on the progress being made on the recognition of the Trophy Cases in the Joe Byrne Hospitality Room. Deputy

Mayor Browne and Bruce Andrews have several sections completed and are now focusing on the different hockey groups and sporting eras.

The Committee recommends staff assist with the completion of the Trophy Cases to ensure all cases are filled and the history of all our sporting individuals and groups are preserved.

Civic Awards

The Director informed the Committee of the plans so far for the 2022 Grand Falls-Windsor Civic Awards. The Committee was presented with a copy of the nomination form as well as the plans for the event which is scheduled for May 2022.

The Committee recommends the Director give the Committee a further update at its next meeting.

Youth Advisory Committee

The Committee discussed plans and a Terms of Reference for development of a Youth Advisory Committee.

The Committee recommends staff formulate the Terms of Reference and report back to the Committee for final approval.

Kitchen Party Theatre Festival

Nicole Smith and Berni Stapleton of the Kitchen Party Theatre Festival were welcomed to the meeting at 5:30 P.M. and gave the Committee a report of how the Festival went last summer. Though COVID presented lots of obstacles for the Festival last summer the organizers were very glad about the feedback from all attendees.

The Committee are very excited about the future of the Festival and recommends staff work with their Organizing Committee to support the Festival in Grand Falls-Windsor this summer.

Nicole and Berni were excused from the meeting at 6:15 P.M.

Health Accord Committee Update

The Director gave a brief update of the first meeting of the newly formed Health Accord Committee and the process the Committee will take in the coming months.

The Committee recommends the Director give an update on the Health Accord Committee developments at each Community Services meeting.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Browne\Little

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

Councillor Little expressed that he was very impressed with the report on the Kitchen Party Theatre Festival last year, and the presentation signaled an indicator that we are going to return to some sense of normalcy. Hopefully, this will happen this summer and add to some of the offerings in this Town and make it the best summer we have had in some time.

Mayor Manuel agreed that hopefully the Kitchen Party is full speed ahead this year, and advised that they do have a website and information online. He stated that the acts that he was able to watch last year were fantastic and he encouraged everybody to get out and support the Festival.

Councillor Dwyer stated that attending the Kitchen Party last year was the closest feeling to normal she had all year and watching them perform was excellent. We have agreed to extend the hockey season to May 24th, which is great for children who take part in hockey camps not only from Grand Falls-Windsor, but also from surrounding areas which in turn is great for local business and she is glad that they agreed to extend it. She also publicly thanked the rink staff as she has been informed that they have been excellent to work with.

Public Works and Development (1 of 2)

The following report was presented by Councillor Coady.

Queen Street Parking

The Committee discussed the parking concerns on Queen Street and Peronne Road. This has been an ongoing issue during events at the Royal Canadian Legion and Council has made improvements over the last few years. Although the improvements have been positive, there are still some safety concerns that have not fully dissipated. It is still difficult at times for two-way traffic to maneuver the street which may be a hindrance for emergency vehicles in an urgent situation.

The Committee recommends that Queen Street and Peronne Road be changed to a one-way street due to the safety concerns. The Committee also recommends all residents on the street be advised of this change in writing and this be implemented by the end of May 2022.

Clean-Up Order – 10 Eighth Avenue

The Committee reviewed the recent inspections for the property at 10 Eighth Avenue. This property has significant debris that needs to be discarded and is a potential cause for the recent mice infestation in the area. Several attempts have been made to have the owner address these issues, but were unsuccessful.

The Committee recommends staff prepare a Property Status Report for the Chief Administrative Officer and an Order be issued to address the violations.

74 Grenfell Heights – Land Request

The Committee reviewed a request for land from a resident of 74 Grenfell Heights for an additional 0.49ha. This would be an extension of 161m from their current boundary. The resident notes the request for land is for a workshop\shed and greenhouse and vegetable garden.

The Committee recommends staff provide additional information of the properties along this section of Grenfell Heights and it be discussed further at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

8 Riverview Road – Land Request

The Committee reviewed a request from the resident at 8 Riverview Road for 0.003ha of backland. This land is former Abitibi land, and the Town would have to be the applicant to Crown Lands.

The Committee recommends that this be approved and for staff to make the application to Crown Lands and sell as per the Town's Land Sale Policy once obtained.

Permit Summary

The Director of Public Works and Development presented the Committee with the permit summary for 2021. There was a total of one hundred and fifty-nine (159) permits issued of which seven (7) were for new single family dwelling development and three (3) new commercial buildings. A total of \$16,008.67 was collect in fees.

Land Request – 260 Grenfell Heights

The Committee reviewed a request for land adjacent to 260 Grenfell Heights. The resident is interested in a narrow strip of Town land on the east side of their property and has suggested an even swap for the same size on the west side. The land in question was once reserved for an access to the backland, but the width is not suitable and there are other reservation nearby.

The Committee recommends this request be denied for an even land transfer. The Committee also recommends staff reach out to both property owners at 260 and 262 Grenfell Heights to inquire if each one would be interested in purchasing half of the Town land. If both are interested, the Committee recommends selling it as per the Town's Land Sales Policy.

Crown Lands Referral – Whitmore Street

The Committee reviewed a Crown Lands Referral for Bennett's Excavating for 0.1858ha of land at the back of their property at 67 Whitmore Street. The additional land is for more equipment storage.

The Committee recommends this be approved.

Zip Line Building

The Committee reviewed a preliminary drawing for a proposed zip line building along Taylor Drive. The Developer is seeking approval in principle to continue with design as they prepare for operation of the zip line soon.

The Committee recommends the Developer provide additional details on their proposed location, the parking arrangements, and the design to have similar architectural features as other buildings in the downtown and Gorge Park areas.

Grand Falls House

The Committee discussed the latest proposal from the Provincial Government to take control of the Grand Falls House and nearby property as is. This parcel of land is 3.97ha and is separate from other mill properties. This property has undergone a Phase I Environmental Assessment and it is believed to be little to no possible contamination in this area, thereby making any risk manageable.

After a long discussion, the Committee felt that it is extremely important that the Town take control of this property and recommends proceeding with this transfer of land.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Coady\Hiscock

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

Councillor Coady stated that back in 2016 they surveyed residents in the Queen Street area regarding the parking issues, and they preferred to leave the road as a two-way street with parking on one side of the street only. We, at that time put ample signage on the street, but the problem has persisted. We feel that the only option to resolve the problem is to make it a one-way street, with traffic coming down Queen Street and exiting on Peronne Road. This will take effect in May so we will have plenty of notifications and signage of the change. We understand it is not the solution residents wanted, but it is the only option to mitigate any future disasters. Letters were delivered to residents on the street to make them aware before it went to a public meeting.

Mayor Manuel agreed that the Queen Street issue has been an issue for a long time, the Legion has a lot of patrons and a lot of events. They have large crowds and that road is not equipped for that kind of traffic congestion. Ultimately, we realize that this is not a popular decision with residents in that area, but safety has to trump all and that is the case with this decision.

Public Works and Development (2 of 2)

Councillor Noel was excused from the meeting at this time due to a perceived conflict of interest.

Councillor Coady clarified the reason that Councillor Noel was excused from this meeting is because of a conflict of interest with respect to other land he owns on Toulett Drive. This particular Council decision was about selling Town owned land, but Councillor Noel also has land available in the same area that is for sale, so Council aired on the side of caution.

The following report was also presented by Councillor Coady.

Toulett Drive Land

The Committee discussed the parcel of land along Toulett Drive north of the intersection on Queensway. This piece of land is within the developed area; however, it has yet to be serviced thereby it does not fit within the current Land Sales Policy.

The Committee recommends selling this land at a cost of \$350 per foot frontage with the condition that the properties be connected to the Town's water and sewer network at the purchaser's expense. Furthermore, the proposed connection must be approved by the Department of Public Works and Development.

I move the recommendation and report of this Committee.

Motion

Coady\Browne

Be it resolved that this recommendation and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Mayor Manuel discussed that there is new legislation for "Code of Conduct" for Municipal Council, and reiterated that it is always best to air on side of caution because that practice will likely be reinforced in the new Provincial Code of Conduct.

Councillor Noel rejoined the meeting at this time.

Corporate Services

The following report was presented by Councillor Dwyer.

Labour Report

The Committee reviewed the labour costs as of week five (5). Total labour was \$289,760. This was \$30,666 (9.6%) under budget.

The Committee is pleased with the early results of the labour budget and recommends that staff continue to monitor labour costs moving forward.

Disbursement Report

The Committee reviewed the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$842,293.35 and recommends this be presented at the next Council meeting.

Taxation Receivables Analysis Report

The Committee reviewed the taxation analysis for January 2022. The Report analyzes the receivable balances, along with the amounts collected during the month. Total taxation receivables as of January 31st, 2022 was \$18,006,416 (January 31st, 2021 - \$18,190,080) – a decrease of \$183,664 or 1.01% from the previous year. Total amount of taxes collected in January 2022 was \$548,355.

The Committee recommends that staff continue to exhaust all avenues of collecting outstanding taxes. In addition, residents are reminded to contact the Corporate Services Department at 709-489-0402 to discuss payment options, or to set up a payment plan.

Land Sales Policy

The Committee reviewed correspondence from a business that is in the process of moving to Grand Falls-Windsor. The correspondence asks if there are any tax breaks or incentives for new businesses. While there are currently no such incentives available, staff are working on a revised Land Sale Policy that may provide incentives to businesses for purchasing land.

The Committee recommends staff finish this work and bring back to the Committee as soon as possible.

Lionel Kelland Hospice

The Committee reviewed correspondence from the Lionel Kelland Hospice thanking them for their commitment to donate \$75,000 over three (3) years. The Committee hopes their donation can help them reach their goal of opening their doors in 2023.

E-Bills Promotion and Contest

The Committee are excited to be offering eServices to the residents and businesses. Everyone will receive a unique code on their 2022 tax invoice with instructions on how to sign up. Sign up before June 30th, 2022 for your chance to win one of ten (10) gift cards from local businesses.

Municipal Assessment Agency Board Update

The Committee reviewed correspondence from the Municipal Assessment Agency regarding the recent run-off election for the Urban Director position on their Board. Councillor Little finished in 2nd place. The Committee looks forward to updates from the Municipal Assessment Agency in the future.

Job Competition Update

The Director of Corporate Services\Town Clerk provided an update on all the job competitions currently in progress or recently completed. There are two (2) positions that have offers that have been accepted, and another nine (9) competitions in progress.

The Committee is pleased with the progress on these competitions and thanked the staff for their efforts so far.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Dwyer\Little

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

Councillor Dwyer noted that e-billing was mentioned in the Minutes, and residents should be receiving information in the mail about that soon, also information can be found on the Town's Facebook page and website. She also advised that the Town Hall is now open to the public for payments from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. on Monday to Friday.

The following three (3) Resolution were presented by Councillor Dwyer:-

Resolution GF-W 2022-334

WHEREAS: under Section 94 of the Municipalities Act of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, subject to the approval of the Minister, Council may borrow monies and issue securities for the repayment of monies borrowed; and

WHEREAS: it is deemed necessary to borrow in addition to existing Credit Facilities the amount of \$1,185,560 in relation to 2020 Capital Projects as per the attached Schedule.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that subject to the approval of the Honourable Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs, Council borrow this amount from the CIBC chartered bank in Grand Falls-Windsor, and that this amount be borrowed over a five (5) year term with a fifteen (15) year amortization period.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Director of Corporate Services be authorized to negotiate said loan and to sign promissory notes and execute all documents pertaining to this Resolution.

Motion

Dwyer\Browne

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2022-334 would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Resolution GF-W 2022-335

WHEREAS: under Section of the Municipalities Act of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, subject to the approval of the Minister, Council may borrow monies and issue securities for the repayment of monies borrowed;

WHEREAS: it is deemed necessary to borrow in addition to existing Credit Facilities the amount of \$997,236 in relation to an Energy Performance Project. Total costs of the project are \$1,449,400 as per the attached Schedule.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that subject to the approval of the Honourable Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs, Council borrow this amount from the CIBC chartered bank in Grand Falls-Windsor, and that this amount be borrowed over a five (5) year term with an eleven (11) year amortization period.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Director of Corporate Services be authorized to negotiate said loan and to sign promissory notes and execute all documents pertaining to this Resolution.

Motion

Dwyer\Coady

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2022-335 would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Resolution GF-W 2022-336

WHEREAS: under Section 94 of the Municipalities Act of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, subject to the approval of the Minister, Council may borrow monies and issue securities for the repayment of monies borrowed; and

WHEREAS: it is deemed necessary to borrow in addition to existing Credit Facilities the amount of \$1,089,922 in relation to 2020 Town Capital Purchases as per the attached Schedule.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that subject to the approval of the Honourable Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs, Council borrow this amount from the CIBC chartered bank in Grand Falls-Windsor, and that this amount be borrowed over a five (5) year term with a fifteen (15) year amortization period.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Director of Corporate Services be authorized to negotiate said loan and to sign promissory notes and execute all documents pertaining to this Resolution.

Motion

Dwyer\Little

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2022-336 would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mayor Manuel announced that these Resolutions are not new borrowings. They are already approved, but Government just wanted Resolutions re-submitted for the New Year.

Committee of the Whole

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Municipalities NL Course – Leadership Essentials: A Guide to Good Governance

Municipalities NL has developed a new training course aimed to foster empowered leadership in the municipal sector. The course is called “Municipal Leadership Essential: A Guide to Good Governance” and is designed to provide participants with skills and knowledge Municipal Council Members and Administrators need for informed decision-making and empowered leadership.

The Committee recommends that Councillors and Seniors Management enroll in one of these future course offerings.

Mary March Museum

Council received correspondence from the Acting Director of The Rooms Corporation about the process for renaming the Mary March Museum. The Acting Director wanted to inform Council that the online consultation process had ended and that a new name would likely be released in the next couple of weeks.

Health Accord NL Virtual Town Halls

Council received communication from Health Accord NL about planned virtual Town Halls set for February that will include “Calls to Action – Directions that will Transform Healthcare in NL”. As well, an implementation plan will be delivered in early March.

The Committee recommends that all members of Council participate in one of the Town Halls and to encourage the general public to participate as well.

74 Grenfell Heights – Land Purchase Request

The Committee reviewed a request from the homeowner at 74 Grenfell Heights to purchase back land. Staff reported that selling back land in this area

was not necessary for any developments related to the homeowner and selling land could encumber future residential subdivision land developments.

The Committee recommends that this land request to be denied.

Salmon Festival

The Committee reviewed a tentative Exploits Valley Salmon Festival\Come Home Year Schedule of Events.

The Committee was pleased with the tentative plans presented and recommends that the schedule be discussed in future Community Services Committee meetings as more planning is undertaken. The Committee also recommends that Salmon Festival planning proceed as normal and be ready to become adaptive to whatever may be the COVID restrictions at the time of events.

Stadium Schedule

The Committee discussed the Stadium Schedule and a request from user groups to extend the season up to May 24th, 2022.

The Committee recommends the season be extended as requested.

Sliding Hill

The Committee discussed the sliding hill construction and whether it was ready to open. Staff reported that construction was complete, but signage was needed. Some of the signage was safety related.

The Committee recommended that the hill could open to the public once signage was installed. The Committee also recommended that staff co-ordinate a Grand Opening with the Rotary organization some day this winter season.

Council Meetings

The Committee discussed whether it was acceptable to return to the Council Chambers for in-person meetings given Government has lowered the Alert Level to Modified Level Three.

The Committee recommends that Council return to in-person meetings, beginning with the next public meeting.

Millcrest School

Staff reported that some proponents have been investigating options for buying Millcrest School and one has asked the Town whether it has an interest in leasing the gymnasium in the future. Staff have replied that the Town is interested in leasing space subject to agreeable terms and conditions.

The Committee recommends that staff report back to the Committee before any final commitments are approved.

Snow Clearing

The Committee discussed a concern with respect to snow clearing from the Toulett Drive and Main Street West intersection to Beothuck Park.

The Committee recommends that snow be pushed back on the shoulder to allow more space for walkers and parking.

Transport Truck Access Concern

The Committee discussed a concern with respect to tractor trailers using the Main Street West access and travelling on Main Street to get to the Armour Transport facility.

The Committee recommends that staff contact Armour Transport and ask them to remind their drivers about taking the correct Trans Canada Highway exit.

Snow Clearing – Sidewalks

The Committee discussed a concern about residents shoveling snow on sidewalks that have been cleared by Town equipment. Blocking cleared sidewalks is not permitted.

The Committee recommends that staff remind the general public about the importance of keeping sidewalks accessible.

Snow Clearing – Private Property

The Committee discussed a citizen concern about leaving a wing roll of snow at the entrance of retirement homes.

The Committee recognizes that snow clearing on private property is the responsibility of the property owner, but the Committee wants staff to follow up with the property owner to relay the specific resident concern. As well, the

Committee recognizes that it would provide snow clearing assistance to any ambulance or emergency vehicles that needed to travel through Town during a snowstorm, if requested.

Community Events

The Committee discussed whether staff are working on any other events for this year. Staff are tentatively making plans on many of the same events as previous years and will be presented these plans in future Committee meeting.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Browne\Hiscock

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

Councillor Little expressed that when you hear “Salmon Festival” it again presents a similar feeling of relief that there is a sense of normalcy and these events are a return to something fantastic.

Mayor Manuel said that the last Salmon Festival was a couple of years ago. It was scaled back, but it was fantastic with local artists and partnership from Music NL. We want to get back to gaining momentum and to have events for all ages as soon as possible.

Councillor Dwyer wanted to let residents know that there is a Community Coalition in place that is being led by Mr. Cyril Farrell and members of that group include: Allan Bradley, Margaret Power, Ruth Down-Robinson, Reg Hamilton, Dr. Donald Hodder, herself as Council representative, Mayor Manuel, our Chief Administrative Officer Darren Finn and Business\Economic Development Officer Stan Singh. We have had several meetings, and our last one was last Thursday. She stated that they are trying to get their heads wrapped around what the proposed changes could mean for our community by trying to find out as much information as they can. They have been talking to stakeholders and physicians, and on Friday they met with two (2) Co-Chairs Sister Elizabeth Davis and Dr. Patrick Parfrey who were helpful in providing more information about what the proposed changes could mean for us. The calls for action and the change that will transform healthcare in NL were cancelled for February, so they are still waiting for the final report and this Coalition hopes to advocate for the residents of Grand Falls-Windsor. They have reached out to the Town of Gander who also have a similar

group, so they are hoping to meet with them to hopefully find some common ground.

Mayor Manuel advised that they are hoping to be pro-active instead of re-active in regards to any changes here in Grand Falls-Windsor and he stated that Sister Davis and Dr. Parfrey have been very accommodating, and informative. The Coalition has a great collection of people with unique backgrounds who are excited to learn more about this and get a good understanding of what is going on. There is a fear that there will be only one hospital in Central, and what has happened is the Committee is treating Central NL differently and that there will be a Regional Hospital at two (2) different sites. They are recognizing that neither Grand Falls-Windsor nor Gander can afford to have a hospital downgraded to where it provides minimal services and impacting the community from an economic standpoint as well as health. Of course, these are all just recommendations, but he has brought up several times in the meeting that he is concerned about the implementation of this Report, and the fate of our community. Everybody knows as a Province that we cannot afford to continue down the path that we have been and at the same time we have some of the worst health outcomes in Canada. The changes are necessary, we made sure to let them know that we want to be co-operating partners in helping this unfold and ensure that Grand Falls-Windsor has its place in this plan and healthcare going forward, but also that we can play a part in its implementation. Once you talk about implementation and the report being done and passed along to Government, the fear becomes what is going to happen with the decision making as we have been disappointed in the past with decisions made, we felt that they were not based on facts when it comes to our hospital and we do not want that to happen again. He stated that he is glad to hear that one of the things that the Committee is looking at is having some sort of Government Oversight Committee that will continue to be involved beyond this point in helping Government and ensuring that things stay in line because from what he has seen of the plans it is as if one thing hinges on another so the Report cannot be just cherry picked and expected to be a success. Looking forward to seeing some positive changes in our healthcare and most importantly protecting our Central NL Regional Healthcare Centre and the jobs and health of our community residents and all in the Region that are served by that facility.

Councillor Hiscock stated with regards to the transport truck access on Main Street West, he was talking to residents in that area and our Municipal Enforcement Officers. He also stated that there is some signage being printed and it will be erected soon regarding the use of jake breaks. The use of these breaks are loud for the area, so our Municipal Enforcement Officers will be having a meeting with the Manager of Armour Transport to discuss controls in the area.

Councillor Coady advised the sliding hill is now open and people are enjoying it to the fullest. We just want to keep users safe, and we encourage a helmet is worn for their safety. We also ask that no alterations be made to the hill, that will hinder our ability to groom it. She reminded users that once you slide down, you must come up the side to get to the top and not to walk up the middle of the hill and possibly get struck by someone coming down. We also do not want animals running around the hill, as we do not want them to get hurt either. The hill closes at dusk and opens at dawn, as we encourage people to get out when they can and enjoy the fresh air. Thanks to Rotary for being a contributing partner on this sliding hill that is being enjoyed to the fullest. We will have a Grand Opening sometime in March and we are looking forward to that and the surprises planned. We have not had many snow events, but the few we have had brought a lot of snow at once. Staff are doing a great job of cleaning the roads and sidewalks within twenty-four (24) hours, and we ask residents not to shovel snow onto the sidewalks, try to keep it clear for walkers and the safety of children getting to bus stops. A crosswalk blockage forces people to walk around it often in the road which is dangerous. Same goes for pushing snow into the road, as cars often will swerve to avoid it making for a dangerous situation.

Mayor Manuel advised there is a lot of information on our website about snow clearing routes and priority and how streets are done. Staff are doing a great job and obviously we have priority areas in Town, school areas, healthcare centre, senior homes, and main roads to get the loop around Town. As soon as snow stops, sidewalks are cleaned right away, as we do recognize residents love to walk in this community. There are times you may be waiting a little longer because of that, but please have patience. Please also co-operate clearing fire hydrants and storm drains, it would be appreciated and would help in our efforts. The sliding hill is to be used with respect, and used responsibly. We do not want to see any mishaps, and we look forward to a good sliding opening party in March.

NOTICE OF MOTION

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Coady mentioned a post on our Facebook page that Marathon Gold are hosting a virtual employment information session tomorrow February 16th. There are two (2) sessions, one in the afternoon from 2:00 to 3:30 P.M. and

one in the evening from 6:00 to 7:30 P.M. You do not have to pre-register, you can just click on the link and enter into the session of your choice. They will have all kinds of information on what is happening with Marathon Gold, the Valentine Lake Project, estimated timelines, upcoming opportunities and the hiring process as well. There is a lot of great news happening with Marathon Gold, and she encouraged residents that have an interest to participate in those sessions.

Councillor Noel asked for clarification about grooming at the Ski Trail, and asked the Director if we groom early enough to avail the sliding hill at 8:00 A.M. He also asked if the sliding hill users are able to use our ski chalet facility for purchasing hot chocolate, etc...

The Director of Community Services stated that grooming is looked after by the Ski Club Association, and they groom when weather conditions allows. We have asked them to post on their website all the times that they plan to groom, so users should follow Exploits Nordic Ski Trail web page to find out the grooming schedule. He also stated that use of the building has yet to be determined, but they are meeting with the Ski Club tomorrow to talk about that. There are concerns with the parking in that area, so they will discuss making it a bigger parking area should that need be verified.

Councillor Hiscock stated that hydrants and catch basins are very important to keep clear, as we are having a lot of rain later this week that could cause flooding. He expressed how nice it is to hear about instances when our young residents leave our Town to pursue careers and later prosper. He cited the example of Steven Waugh who joined the military and was promoted through the ranks in his career. Councillor Hiscock stated this success makes him feel very proud of the Town's youth.

Councillor Little stated that the Stadiums re-opening and being open longer is great news, and we are reaching capacity for general skating which shows people are ready to get out and participate. He also stated that he is also receiving positive feedback regarding snow clearing, and that is a testament to the skill of our operators for clearing the roads, our mechanics for keeping equipment on the roads and the Managers organizing the routes to keep our streets clear.

Councillor Dwyer acknowledged February 2nd was "World Read Aloud Day" and she wanted to publicly thank one of our Volunteer Firefighters Nathan Sullivan who helped execute a story at Woodland Primary. This week is "Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week", and she took this opportunity to thank teachers and staff for the work that they do and the important role that they play and to recognize the contributions that they make for the children.

Mayor Manuel stated that Councillor Dwyer actually wrote a story for the students at Woodland Primary and read it aloud virtually to the children. The illustrations for the story were done by a local artist, and it was called "A Very

Popular Science Project". The children enjoyed the story, and the ending was Volunteer Firefighter delivering popcorn to all the children which was a nice treat for all.

Deputy Mayor Browne sent sincerest condolences to the Power family on the recent passing of Ruth Power. Ruth was one hundred and one (101) years old, and he wanted to acknowledge her long remarkable life. Tomorrow is a Blood Donor Clinic at Memorial United Church from 11:15 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. and from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M., and there is an urgent need for blood, so he encouraged residents to go and give the gift of life. Finally, he expressed that it is good to be back in the Council Chambers. He also stated that it is great to have the Community Services Department pursuing some events again, but we cannot forget that COVID is still among us, and we should follow the Chief Medical Officer Guidelines as much as possible.

Mayor Manuel agreed it is great to be back in the Council Chambers, and thanked Rogers for providing this service for residents.

Motion

Dwyer\Little

Be it resolved that the meeting of the Grand Falls-Windsor Town Council would be adjourned until the next regular scheduled meeting of March 8th, 2022. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 P.M.



Barry Manuel
Mayor



Darren Finn
Chief Administrative Officer