

MEETING #558

MINUTES OF MEETING

GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

HELD VIA TEAMS

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, APRIL 19TH, 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
Nelson Chatman, Director of Public Works and
Development
Robyn Hannaford, Communications Officer
Kara Hutchinson, Deputy Town Clerk

Prior to the meeting the Mayor signed a Proclamation for National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week April 24th to 30th, 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 #557 of March 29th, 2022.

Motion
Coady\Dwyer

Be it resolved that the Minutes of Meeting #557 of March 29th, 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 \$1,016,726.62.

Motion

Dwyer\Little

Be it resolved that the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$1,016,726.62 would be received as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Services

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Salmon Festival

The Director updated the Committee on the plans for the 2022 Kelly Ford Exploits Valley Salmon Festival including the beer sponsorship RFP and the details for the Festival line-up announcement.

The Committee recommends approving Molson's as the beer sponsor for the Festival. The Committee also want to thank the Provincial Government for "Come Home Year" funding. The Festival line-up will be announced through social media and the Town's website on Monday, April 11th.

Civic Awards

The Committee discussed the plans for the 2022 Civic Awards.

The Committee recommends extending the date for nominations to Thursday, April 14th. The Committee also recommends staff and Council continue with the promotion of the extension date to give ample time for citizens to complete nomination forms.

Score Clock Sponsorship for Arenas

The Director presented the Committee with the results of the Score Clock Sponsorship RFP for both arenas.

The Committee recommends awarding a Five (5) Year Lease Agreement for both arenas to Browning Harvey.

Dolly Parton Imagination Library

The Director presented the Committee with details of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program which would give all children aged 0-5 in Grand Falls Windsor a free book every month until their 5th birthday.

The Committee recommends staff reach out to other community groups who might want to partner with the Town on this program and report back to the Committee.

Kitten Yoga

The Director informed the Committee of a program that will be starting later this month called Kitten Yoga. It is a Yoga Program for adults, children, and families with kittens from the SPCA. All proceeds from the registration will be donated to the Grand Falls-Windsor SPCA.

Fill It Up with Food

The Director informed the Committee of the plans for the “Fill It Up with Food” Food Drive scheduled for this month.

The Committee recommends all citizens take part in the activities for this event which is in aid of the Grand Falls-Windsor Community Food Bank. Details can be found on the Town’s Facebook page.

Allied Youth Correspondence

The Committee discussed correspondence from the Grand Falls-Windsor Allied Youth Leadership Group requesting sponsorship to attend an Allied Youth Leadership Conference from April 28th to May 1st.

The Committee recommends a \$1,000.00 donation as per the Town’s Leadership Development Grant.

Town Promotional Merchandise

The Director presented the Committee with a list of Town promotional items for discussion.

The Committee recommends staff finalized the list and order as soon as possible.

Rediscover Main Streets Funding Program

The Director presented the Committee with the details of a new Federal Government ACOA Funding Program called “Rediscover Main Streets”.

The Committee recommends staff review the grant criteria and submit an application before the deadline on April 29th, 2022.

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.

Deputy Mayor Browne commended the Department of Community Services for the line-up of entertainment for the Salmon Festival, which was released last week to the general public, and he has heard very positive responses for the entire Festival running from Thursday to the following Monday. There is something for everybody in the community that everyone is looking forward to.

Mayor Manuel extended a big “Thank You” to the Kelly-Brinston family and anyone else that was involved with the “Fill It Up with Food”, that was a huge success. They had a skating party at the Windsor Stadium, a movie at the Classic Theater and large amounts of food were placed in the lobby of the Town Hall for donation. This has been the biggest and best food drive ever, and he also wanted to thank the local food bank for all that they do.

Councillor Little advised that he had a lot of people reach out to him because the Kitten Yoga Program filled up so quickly so an extra night was added to accommodate which is great to see. He also advised that he too has been receiving positive feedback about the Salmon Festival, and he also commended the staff for all the work that has been done on this and all programs.

Councillor Coady also expressed congratulations to the Kelly-Brinston family and participants on the success of the “Fill It Up with Food” event.

Public Works and Development

The following report was presented by Councillor Coady.

66 Goodyear Avenue

The Committee reviewed correspondence from the resident at 66 Goodyear Avenue. The letter was in relation to a sewer back-up that occurred at the residence earlier in the year. The original claim for compensation was forwarded to the Town's insurance provider, and the claim was denied as the insurance adjuster found no evidence of negligence on part of the Town. The resident is now asking Council to identify the sewer line near their residence as an area that requires monitoring moving forward.

The Committee recommends the Director of Public Works and Development reply in writing to the resident acknowledging receipt of the letter and that it was discussed at the Committee meeting.

Crown Lands Referral – Toulett Drive

The Committee reviewed a Crown Lands Referral from A & A Realty on a piece of property at the rear of Town land along Toulett Drive. The land is located behind 7 Queensway and was originally intended to be in the original application for Crown Lands that was approved.

68 High Street – Land

The Committee discussed the land at 68 High Street that was previously identified by Council to be advertised for sale for a commercial building. The Director of Public Works and Development noted that there is underground infrastructure across the property in multiple locations which would restrict the construction of a new building. This infrastructure will need to be relocated before any construction.

The Committee recommends staff validate if the infrastructure can be moved to facilitate construction on a new building and if so, to advertise for an expression of interest for a development. The Committee also recommends any changes to the infrastructure to be the Developer's and not the Town's cost.

Queen Street - One-Way

The Committee reviewed some recent correspondence from residents in the Queen Street, Peronne Road, and Junction Road area concerning the earlier decision of Council to change Queen Street and Peronne Road to a one-way street.

The Committee recommends the previous decision of Council be upheld, however, change the direction of traffic on the street to go from Junction Road towards Bank Road. The Committee also recommends staff notify the residents of the change and to implement on May 16th, 2022.

Removal of Vehicles

The Committee reviewed correspondence from the South & Central Health Foundation regarding a program called “Donate-a-Car Canada”. The program accepts vehicle donations, which they will recycle and sell, and the Foundation will receive the proceeds. These could be old vehicles within the Town that residents are trying to dispose of.

The Committee supports this program and recommends the Town staff help promote it through social media.

Proposed New Subdivision

The Committee reviewed a preliminary drawing of a proposed new subdivision off Grenfell Heights. The developer is W. Reid Construction Ltd., and they are hoping to commence construction in 2022.

The Committee recommends this proposal be approved in principle. Final approval will depend on the design meeting, all requirements of the Development Regulations, and the Residential Subdivision Standards. In addition, a Subdivision Agreement must be signed, and conditions met before any construction commences.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Coady\Browne

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

Councillor Coady advised that they received quite a bit of correspondence from residents in the Junction Road area who were concerned about the traffic and how the direction of the one-way on Peronne Road would increase traffic in the Junction Road area. We took that into consideration while looking at the mapping again, and we decided that the one-way street still needs to happen, but to change the direction would lessen the traffic in the Junction Road area while increasing it in the Queen Street, but that other direction area that has several other exists to diffuse the traffic. She was happy to say that the residents did reach out to them and expressed their concerns, and happy that the residents of Queen Street and Peronne Road are more satisfied with the street changing to one-way.

Corporate Services

The following report was presented by Councillor Dwyer.

Labour Report

The Committee reviewed the labour costs as of week fourteen (14). Total labour was \$821,107. This was \$59,823 (6.8%) 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 \$1,016,726.62 and recommends this be presented at the next Council meeting.

Taxation Receivable Analysis Report

The Committee reviewed the taxation analysis for March 2022. The report analyses the receivable balances, along with the amounts collected during the month. Total taxation receivable as of March 31st, 2022 was \$8,373,449.91 (\$9,213,874.85 – 2021 a decrease of \$840,424.94 (9.12%) from the previous year. Total amount of taxes collected in March 2022 was \$8,107,406.

The Committee is pleased with the March results and recommends that staff remain vigilant in collecting all outstanding balances.

2020 Audited Financial Statements

The Director of Corporate Services presented the 2022 Audited Financial Statements. Total revenue, including funding for Capital Projects was \$29,895,971. Total expenses were \$22,965,407.

The Committee recommends these Financial Statements be approved.

Youth Advisory Committee

The Committee reviewed the Youth Advisory Committee “Terms of Reference” and recommends that staff incorporate changes and bring back to a future Corporate Services meeting.

Claims Policy

The Committee reviewed a draft Claims Policy as prepared by staff. The policy is required to clarify the current practice in dealing with claims from residents related to property and personal damages.

The Committee recommends that all of Council review the policy and provide input to staff for discussion at a future Corporate Services meeting.

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.

The following Resolution was presented by Councillor Dwyer:-

RESOLUTION GF-W 2022-341

2020 Audited Financial Statements

WHEREAS: Section 92(1) of the Municipalities Act, 1999 requires presentation and acceptance of the annual Audited Financial Statements;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor accepts the December 31st, 2020 Audited Financial Statements and submission to the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Motion

Dwyer\Noel

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2022-341 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Committee of the Whole

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Correspondence from the Department of Environment and Climate Change

The Committee reviewed correspondence from the Department of Environment and Climate Change about an undertaking for the removal of a seventy (70) kilometer section of transmission line between Grand Falls-Windsor and Glenwood. The Department invites the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor to provide comments.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity, but have no comments.

Correspondence from the Department of Justice and Public Safety

The Committee reviewed correspondence from the Department of Justice and Public Safety approving the reassignment of the Town's surplus firefighting vehicle to the Town of Avondale.

The Committee recommends that Council also approve this reassignment for the cost of \$1.00.

Y2C and YMCA Event

Council received an invitation from the Youth 2000 Centre\YMCA to participate in a nature walk at the Corduroy Brook Nature Centre.

The Committee thanks these valued organizations for the invitation and encourages Councillor's to participate.

EXCITE Corporation

Councillor Dwyer provided an update on recent meetings organized with senior leadership from MUN, ACOA, the School of Medicine, Miawpukek First Nation, and Central Health whereby they discussed projects involving expanded research, new training, and projects that could generally lead to better health improvements.

The Committee thanked Councillor Dwyer for the update and recommended staff continue with its collaborative efforts.

Welcoming Newcomers

The Committee discussed an interest in developing a program around welcoming newcomers and supporting efforts by local employers to attract new employees.

The Committee recommends that staff explore options for establishing such supports.

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 Hiscock advised that he had the pleasure of attending the YMCA and Y2C event that was held at Corduroy Brook Trail on behalf of the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor. He said it was a great event that was well attended and well organized, and he thanked the Organizing Committee for the invitation to a job well done.

Councillor Dwyer advised that she attended a Rural Health Innovation Partnership meeting in St. John's, she claimed the meeting was excellent with some presentations from physicians such as Des Whalen who talked about the Rural Health Simulation Lab that is well underway here in Grand Falls-Windsor, Dr. Terrilynn Young who talked about the balance project and genomics, and also an exceptional presentation from Dr. Lesley Turner. When we talk about physician's recruitment and retention, a lot of these partnerships and collaborations that are ongoing are certainly going to help and remove some of the barriers to practicing in rural and remote locations. She thanked our Business Development

Officer for arranging the meeting of which the President of MUN made it a priority to attend.

Deputy Mayor Browne wanted to speak about the Welcoming Newcomers Program and what a fantastic idea it is, and he looks forward to the Department coming up with a Program that would welcome newcomers to our Town and provide some support for healthcare local employers in attracting new employees in our community.

NOTICE OF MOTION

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Dwyer stated that the Grand Falls-Windsor Health Accord Community Coalition group met this past week and continue to meet regularly. One of the main areas of focus for the Coalition is around recruitment and retention of physicians, and that is something we have heard a lot about lately on the news with our local physicians speaking out looking for community support because they are frustrated and tired and need the Government to support some necessary changes to what they are referring to as a crisis situation. When we talk about making programs such as Welcoming Newcomers Program it is a way of being innovative as a community, so we will be looking for ways to not only welcome physicians, but everyone to the region. She announced that Central Health will be holding a series of virtual Town Hall sessions within the next couple of weeks, with the first one on April 28th. To clarify, because they are called Town Hall meetings they are not just for Municipal Government, but they are for anyone to attend. One of the things they will be talking about is the virtual emergency care and what that means when services are diverted, which is happening in some of the surrounding communities because they do not have the physicians there. And although that might seem like an issue for those communities, it is actually an issue for us too because the physicians here are not able to continue their practices the way they would like to because they are being diverted as well. They will also be talking about the recruitment and retention of healthcare workers, so she encourages everyone to go onto the Central Health website and register to get informed about what the important and urgent issues are because the more you are informed the better you are able to support them. Lastly, she wished all the Post-

Secondary students writing exams this week, the best of luck and for all of those students travelling home, to please be safe.

Mayor Manuel stated that he has been following Dr. Lynette Powell on Twitter who has been tweeting daily showing what is a very desperate situation for not only physicians, but nurses and emergency personnel. Our healthcare is in a bad state of affairs, and we need some big changes coming down the tube. We know that the Provincial Government is going to one Health Authority for the entire Province, we know that the Health Accord is going to start implementation some time in the next twelve (12) months, and we know that recruitment and retention is at all time low levels. We are losing many more physicians than we are able to retain or gain and when you look at Grand Falls-Windsor, we are one of the better ones because there are places around rural Newfoundland who have no physicians and have to drive 2.5 hours to Grand Falls-Windsor for emergency care. This situation is not going to go away unless we take action, and I have learned in my ten (10) years on Council that many voices is what make action come about. Everyone needs to look at these virtual Town Halls to stay engaged, because if a scary situation has not happened to you or a loved one needing medical attention yet, you could be next. If we are not in front of these changes and being loud or proactive, we will get the short end of the stick with things getting worse.

Deputy Mayor Browne wished the Minor Hockey players from Grand Falls-Windsor the best of luck as they participate in their Easter Tournaments. He stated that it is that time of year again for clean-up, so he encourages everyone to clean up your own residential and commercial property. He advised that the By-Laws were changed so that fines can be levied against residents and business owners who do not comply with the Regulations of Grand Falls-Windsor with respect to clean-up.

Councillor Coady reminded residents that they have received a pamphlet about the new Garbage Regulations, talking about the Saturday Drop-Off, what goes in the blue bags and what goes in the clear bag, and the importance of garbage and recyclables in a covered container for collection. She encourages residents to read it as it contains a lot of important information, and phone numbers should you need additional information. She advised that the weather is improving, so she asked motorists to drive with extra caution as more people are out and about enjoying the outdoors.

Councillor Noel reminded people that there is a Blood Donation Clinic tomorrow at the United Church from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. and encourages everyone to give. He expressed congratulations to Alyssa Manuel, who was recipient of a large Scholarship for Mount Allison University in the amount of \$56,000. There was a lot of effort on her behalf to meet the criteria and I know she will represent both Exploits Valley High and the Town of Grand

Falls-Windsor very well in her future endeavors. It is great to see more and more people out walking now that the weather is getting nicer, he reminded people to put on reflectors at night and that there are some at the Town Hall if you need some. He also reminded people about the upcoming Civic Awards and encourages everyone to get involved and to nominate those that they believe are deserving. Lastly, he congratulated those that managed to pull off a great Easter Hunt at Corduroy Brook last week that was well attended and a great success.

Mayor Manuel advised tonight we mourn the passing of one of our good employees Mr. Wayne Fudge, who will be sorely missed. He was a very skilled employee also known as a jack of all trades, that is gone way too soon. He passed condolences to Wayne's family on behalf of Council and Staff.

Motion

Dwyer\Coady

Be it resolved that the meeting of the Grand Falls-Windsor Town Council would be adjourned until the next regular scheduled meeting of May 10th, 2022. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 P.M.

Barry Manuel
Mayor

Darren Finn
Chief Administrative Officer