

MINUTES OF MEETING

GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE TOWN HALL

7:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10TH, 2022

PRESENT: Mayor: Barry Manuel
 Deputy Mayor: Mike Browne
 Councillors: Amy Coady, Holly Dwyer, Bob Hiscock,
 Andrew Little, Dave Noel
 Staff: D. Finn, Chief Administrative Officer
 K. Antle, Director of Community Services
 S. Gosse, Director of Corporate Services\Town
 Clerk

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. and asked for any errors or omissions to the Minutes of Meeting #563 of July 12th, 2022.

Motion
Hiscock\Coady

Be it resolved that the Minutes of Meeting #563 of Tuesday, July 12th, 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 \$1,303,931.69.

Motion

Dwyer\Coady

Be it resolved that the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$1,303,931.69 would be received as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Corporate Services

The following report was presented by Councillor Dwyer.

Labour Report

The Committee reviewed the labour costs as of week thirty-one (31). Total labour was \$2,133,898. This was \$185,067 (8.0%) under budget.

The Committee is pleased with these results and recommends that staff continue to monitor labour costs moving forward.

Disbursement Report

The Committee reviewed the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$1,303,931.69 and recommends this be presented at the next Council meeting.

Taxation Receivables Analysis Report

The Committee reviewed the Taxation Receivables Analysis Report for July 2022. The report analyzes the receivable balances, along with the amounts collected during the month. Total taxation receivables as of July 31st, 2022 was \$4,656,795.47 (\$5,025,948.34 – 2021) a decrease of \$369,152.87 (7.34%) from the previous year. Total amount of taxes collected in July 2022 was \$623,660.

While the Committee is pleased with the July results, they recommend that staff remain vigilant in collecting all outstanding balances. 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.

Collaborative Initiative Fund

The Director of Corporate Services\Town Clerk provided a draft Agreement between the Town and the Municipal Assessment Agency for funding in relation to new aerial imagery as completed by EagleView. The Agreement will allow the Municipal Assessment Agency to access the imagery for purposes of comparing their parcels of lands to what exists in their system. This Agreement will provide both the Agency and the Town with more accurate information.

The Committee recommends staff proceed with this Agreement and to schedule EagleView for spring 2023.

Taxi Regulations

The Committee reviewed an application for a new Taxi License, in addition to correspondence from the operator of a previous taxi operator in relation to the possible transfer of their license.

In a previous meeting, the Council had already recommended that any future vacated taxi license would be filled via an RFP to the public to provide everyone with an opportunity to submit a proposal. Therefore, the Committee recommends that staff prepare an RFP for the public to gauge interest in new taxi license holders.

FCM's Municipal Asset Management Program

The Committee reviewed correspondence from FCM stating that Grand Falls-Windsor's project has qualified for funding and has progressed to the next step in the evaluation process.

While this is great news for the Asset Management Plan, staff also prepared the Committee that there will be more resources required annually in order to keep this information up-to-date and useful.

The Committee recommends staff continue to evaluate options and bring forward during budget 2023 deliberations.

Salt Shed

The Committee reviewed the unofficial tender results for the new salt shed as provided by the Government, and the low bidder is more than \$120,000 over budget.

The Committee recommends deferring this decision to Committee of the Whole when staff will have full information available about the bids.

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 stated in regard to the salt shed that the Town had budgeted \$600,000.00 for this project and that there are unallocated funds from the Multi-Year Capital Works Program. The current salt shed is deteriorated, and it is important that it be replaced.

Community Services

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Figure Skating Club Update

The Director gave the Committee an update on the Figure Skating Clubs situation in obtaining a full-time Coach for the season. They were unable to go ahead with their Summer Skating School and are working hard to get appropriate coaching for their fall and winter season.

The Committee recommends staff assist the Club to find appropriate coaching through Leadership Development and Program Development Grant opportunities.

Arena Boards Sign Advertising

The Committee discussed the Sign Advertising situation for the boards in the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium. As the Cataracts are no longer in operation, the Committee recommends staff look after the processing of this Advertising Program.

Arena Canteen Contracts

The Committee reviewed several proposals to operate the canteens in the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium and Windsor Stadium.

The Committee recommends awarding the proposal to Sweet Tails and Treats and for staff to work with them to ensure they meet all the necessary canteen requirements.

Commemorative Program

The Committee discussed the revised Commemorative Tree, Picnic Table, Park Bench and Memory Wall Program.

The Committee recommends approval of the proposed Program and for staff to promote the Program to our citizens.

Grand Falls House Update

The Director updated the Committee on the progress the Grand Falls House Committee is making on their Business Plan.

The Committee recommends the Manager of Economic Development attend the next Community Services meeting to give a further update on their Business Plan.

Skateboard Park

The Committee discussed concerns of bullying at the Skateboard Park.

The Committee recommends Student Security Staff and the Municipal Police make regular patrols at the Park to monitor the situation.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Browne\Dwyer

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 commented on the Skateboard Park concerns and videos that had been posted on social media, and asked parents to remind their children to behave themselves when they are using the Park.

Committee of the Whole

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Municipalities NL Conference 2022

The Committee reviewed correspondence from Municipalities NL on the 2022 MNL Conference, Tradeshow and Annual General Meetings on November 2nd to 5th, 2022 in Gander.

The Committee recommends that Deputy Mayor Browne and Councillor Hiscock be selected as Voting Delegates at the Annual General Meeting and other Councillors, who may be available to attend, advise staff to get registered.

Qalipu Cultural Foundation Mural

The Committee reviewed correspondence from the Qalipu Cultural Foundation whereby they are gifting an indigenous mural to the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor.

The Committee expressed appreciation for this gift and recommends it be installed at Gorge Park in a suitable location.

King Street\Seventh Avenue Intersection

The Committee discussed citizen concerns about the traffic controls at the King Street and Seventh Avenue intersection.

The Committee recommends that staff gather some information about this intersection and report back to a future Public Works and Development Committee meeting.

Salt Shed Tender

The Committee reviewed the tender results for the construction of a storage salt shed.

The Committee recommends that the tender be awarded to Springdale Forest Resources in the amount of \$690,420.00 plus HST.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

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

Councillor Dwyer commented in respect to the King Street and Seventh Avenue intersection. This intersection has been discussed before, but mostly recently since Jim's Value Grocer opened, as traffic flow has changed. There is now a speed sign monitoring speed in the area that was installed last week. There is a lot of concern about speed on all streets in the community, but this intersection in particular. It would be beneficial to consider a three-way stop.

The following Resolution was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne:-

RESOLUTION GF-W 2022-349

REVISED SCHEDULE "A"

MULTI-YEAR CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

WHEREAS: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor qualifies for funding under the Provincial Multi-Year Capital Works Program;

WHEREAS: all projects and funding allocation under these Agreements must be approved through the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor has available funding remaining in the Multi-Year Capital Works Program and has to re-profile funding;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Schedule "A" be revised and funding be re-profiled as per attached Revised Schedule "A".

Motion

Browne\Little

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2022-349 would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Deputy Mayor Brown commented that the Provincial Government provides millions of dollars in funding to the Town for Capital and Infrastructure Projects. The Town has the ability to reallocate the funds from project to project, but it must be approved through a Resolution with Council for the Provincial Government to agree.

NOTICE OF MOTION

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Noel reminded residents about basketball nets on sidewalks impeding pedestrian\wheelchair access and to ensure they are stored when not in use. He also recognized businesses around Town who have taken time to beautify their business properties and expressed appreciation.

Councillor Hiscock thanked staff and other organizations for their efforts in fighting the forest fires, including the Lion's Club, Red Cross, Community Kitchen, Military Personnel, and our Fire Chief and Chief Municipal Enforcement Officer. The Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer have shown great leadership and there have been long hours punched behind the scenes. Council has been notified right away of any changes in the evolving situation. He also reminded residents to remain calm and trust that municipal staff is addressing their concerns.

Councillor Little reiterated Councillor Hiscock's comments on the work being completed by Town staff in regard to the active forest fires. He also acknowledged the Kitchen Party Theatre Festival that was attended by himself, Councillor Hiscock, Councillor Coady and Councillor Dwyer. It was an amazing event with lots of talent.

Councillor Dwyer echoed Councillor Hiscock's statements about the forest fires and acknowledged Eva Roberts for using her birthday money to buy Timbits and coffee for the Exploits Search and Rescue group. She acknowledged and thanked the Community Kitchen and the many other businesses offering support. She acknowledged Nathan Luscombe for winning a Bronze Medal for the Team NL swimming team. She also acknowledge Holly Russell playing with the Team NL softball team, and Cameron Sanger with the Team NL volleyball team. She also congratulated Jayda Lee from St. John's who played in the Men's Baseball League at Canada Games. She is also throwing the first pitch at the Blue Jays game on Saturday.

Deputy Mayor Browne brought forth respects for late former employees of the Town. He acknowledge and offered sincere condolences to the families of Winfield Higgins and Harvey Beson. He advised he attended both funerals on behalf of Council and the Town. He also offered congratulations to Melvin Hanhams who is the Provincial Special Olympics Golf Champion for 2022. He competed at the Clovelly Golf Course and beat nine (9) other competitors to win the Gold Medal for Grand Falls-Windsor Special Olympics. This was Melvin's first Tournament.

Councillor Coady commented on the eye opening experience she has had serving on the EOC during the forest fires, and engaging with Provincial Authorities, expects, the local team, and volunteer groups. She reminded residents to follow our social media pages to stay up-to-date and seek credible sources for information. She recognized the late Jeffrey Hynes, son of Shirley and Peter Hynes, who passed away tragically, but heroically. Deepest condolences to the entire family, our community is with you during this difficult time.

Mayor Manuel addressed the postponement of the Culinary Food Festival due to threat of the active forest fires. The event will now be on October 1st. Any ticketholder seeking a refund must do so before the deadline of September 7th. He also commented on ongoing efforts to control the forest fires. The Town's EOC has been meeting with the Provincial EOC and other emergency management stakeholders three (3) times a day. He assured residents that there is a lot going on behind the scenes to address risks and possible outcomes, and to keep residents safe. The Mayor reminded residents to continue to be on alert and have a personal Emergency Response Plan in place.

Councillor Hiscock wished resident Bernice Lane a happy 95th Birthday.

Motion

Coady\Noel

Be it resolved that the meeting of the Grand Falls-Windsor Town Council would be adjourned until the next regular scheduled meeting of Tuesday, September 6th, 2022. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 P.M.

Barry Manuel
Mayor

Steve Gosse
Director of Corporate Services\Town
Clerk