

MINUTES OF MEETING

GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE TOWN HALL

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD, 2020

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

Prior to the meeting the Mayor read a Proclamation he signed for Veterans' Week starting on November 5th, 2020.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and asked for any errors or omissions to the Minutes of Meeting #533 of October 13th, 2020.

Motion
Feener\Bennett

Be it resolved that the Minutes of Meeting #533 of October 13th, 2020 would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee of the Whole

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Red Shoe Crew Walk for Families Request

The Committee reviewed a request from the Red Shoe Crew for a donation to the Ronald McDonald House. Funds are intended to provide programs and services for sick children and their families when they need it most. In the past, Council has provided in-kind supports for their annual local fundraising event, however, this year it is not possible to organize an event due to the Pandemic.

The Committee recommends a donation of \$500 this year due to their special circumstances.

Gordon Pinsent Drive

The Committee discussed a concern from businesses about the proposed name change of Pinsent Drive to Gordon Pinsent Drive. While businesses are very proud of Gordon Pinsent and supportive of a street name in his honour, they were not supportive of the inconvenience associated with an address change.

The Committee recommends that the street name not be changed at this time and that as an alternative an interpretive sign be developed and installed in this area. The interpretive sign will explain the accomplishments of Gordon Pinsent and will highlight the fact that Pinsent Drive is named in recognition for Gordon Pinsent.

The Director of Community Services will direct this work.

5 Richmond Street

The Committee reviewed a request from a home based business on 5 Richmond Street to operate an eyelash extension service. No objections were received.

The Committee recommends this request be approved.

Tuck's Bee Better Farm

The Committee reviewed a concern expressed from Tuck's Bee Better Farm about the lease rate on land that he intends to lease from the Town for his business operations at 275A Grenfell Heights.

The Committee recommends that staff arrange a meeting with Mr. Tuck and report back to the Committee.

2020 Revised Budget

The Committee reviewed and discussed the 2020 Revised Budget as of October.

The Committee recommends that staff schedule a series of meetings for Council, so they can finalize a Budget for 2021. As well, the Committee recommends that a Resolution for borrowing required in 2020 be drafted by staff.

Stadium Schedule

The Committee reviewed the Stadium Schedule and the COVID-19 Arena Rules. Major Midget has received approval from the Province for competitive play, therefore are looking to be accommodated in the Stadium Schedule.

The Committee recommends that staff facilitate discussions among the user groups to determine if there are any willing solutions.

Conference Equipment and Supplies for Arena

The Committee discussed an application to ACOA for equipment and supplies to enhance our conference and meeting capabilities in the arenas. The application is for a total of \$254,139 with the Town's share of \$22,099.

Civic Holiday – Grand Falls-Windsor Day

The Committee discussed the date that Grand Falls-Windsor Day will be scheduled.

The Committee recommends that Grand Falls-Windsor Day will be on July 19th, 2021.

Farmer's Market Christmas Fair Request

The Farmer's Market group have a request submitted to use the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium for a Christmas Fair on December 12th, 2020.

The Committee recommends that staff communicate with the group whether this event can be accommodated. The Committee recognizes that Honeywell are supposed to be doing some energy improvements in the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium at the same time.

Resident Concern about Electronic Waste

The Committee discussed a concern from a resident about his inability to dispose of electronic waste locally. Staff since carried out inquiries to the Multi-Materials Stewardship Board and the Electronic Products Recycling Association and determined that there was a gap in service. Additionally, staff were able to get a quick commitment that the service would get reinstated and that the Electronic Products Recycling Association would continue to keep us updated on the details.

The Committee recommends that staff continue to work with the Multi-Materials Stewardship Board and Electronic Products Recycling Association to ensure their program is communicated to the public.

Christmas Parade

The Committee held a discussion about the Christmas Parade. The Deputy Mayor reported that the Committee intended to have it on December 5th, 2020. As well, it was reported that the format must change in order to follow the COVID-19 restrictions. The Santa Claus Parade floats will be stationary this year and the public will be invited to drive by. The Committee will soon share other details when their work is finalized.

Community Kitchen Request

The Committee reviewed a request from Mr. Verdon Young on behalf of the Community Kitchen for a donation.

The Committee recommends that \$500 be donated.

Flu Shot Clinics

The Town is partnering with Central Health to help them with traffic controls and volunteers for their drive-thru clinics. These clinics are scheduled for Saturday, October 31st and Sunday, November 1st from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

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 6-0.

Councillor Bennett noted that our Stadium Schedule is very tight and Major Midgets are looking for three (3) Sundays. We have suggested they contact the Sparkling Blades Figure Skating Club and Minor Hockey to see if they can come up with an agreement between themselves. It is not feasible for us to open the other Stadium just for three (3) Sundays, so hopefully they can work something out. He also noted that the Flu Shot Clinics were operating the past Saturday and Sunday and they had over one thousand (1,000) people come to get their flu shots. Because of the high interest they may put off another flu shot week-end in a couple of weeks.

Mayor Manuel advised that Councillor Coady-Davis regrets that she could not attend the Council meeting, but she is in St. John's attending Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador meetings.

Councillor Dwyer advised that they all thought renaming Pinsent Drive to Gordon Pinsent Drive was an excellent suggestion, but there were some businesses not supportive at this time. During COVID-19 businesses have a lot of additional expenses and reduced revenue, so the extra expense of changing their address is not feasible right now and we understand that. However, there is a Theatre Festival that will be happening in 2021 which will be the perfect time to introduce the interpretive sign, because one of Gordon's plays will be done at the Gordon Pinsent Centre for the Arts during the Festival.

Councillor Feener advised that since this Committee of the Whole meeting, the Farmer's Market Christmas Fair request has been finalized and will go ahead on December 12th, 2020 at the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium.

Deputy Mayor Browne advised that the Santa Claus Parade will go ahead on December 5th and it will take place on Main Street, but the floats will be stationary. He encouraged residents to drive by, see Santa, drop off Santa letters and donations to the food bank can also be made. It will take place from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

He would like to recognize and thank the individuals on the Santa Claus Parade Committee for their efforts since 2017. He would also like to acknowledge all the volunteers for the Community Kitchen as there has been a significant increase in the need of their help this year, so “Thank You”.

The following Resolution was presented by Councillor Bennett:-

RESOLUTION – GF-W 2020-305

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 the amount of \$3,468,910 to finance 2020 Capital Projects;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that subject to the approval of the Honourable Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities, Council borrow this amount from the CIBC chartered bank in Grand Falls-Windsor at a fixed rate over a five (5) year term. This amount to be repaid by general revenues over a fifteen (15) year amortization;

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

Bennett\Dwyer

Be it resolved that Resolution – GF-W 2020-305 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

NOTICE OF MOTION

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Bennett advised that the Art Procurement Program is going ahead and all artwork would have to be submitted by 12:00 Noon on Friday, November 27th, 2020. He expressed thanks to the Community Services Department for putting off a Halloween movie at the Classic Theatre last week-end. It was a great day and well attended. He also noted it is very important this time of the year to donate to the Food Bank and would like to encourage residents to pick up a few extra items at the grocery store and drop it off at the Santa Claus Parade to show your support.

Councillor Feener expressed congratulations to all the winners of the Exploits Regional Chamber of Commerce 21st Annual Business Excellence Awards.

Councillor Dwyer advised that the Queen Street Dinner Theatre has announced that they will be having their Christmas Dinner Theatre this year. They will be operating with COVID-19 Guidelines, so there will be a limited number of tickets. It will run from December 8th to 12th and tickets go on sale tomorrow.

Councillor Whiffen expressed congratulations to Kaitlyn Dwyer who is a Pharmacy student at Memorial University and recently received the Legacy Award from the School of Pharmacy and that Award goes to a student that demonstrates professionalism based on Academics. He also congratulated Hannah Sheehan who won the Silver Anniversary Scholarship with the School of Pharmacy at Memorial University. This is Remembrance season, so he would like to encourage residents to make their contributions to the Poppy Campaign. He would also like to remind residents on November 11th to take a few minutes to peacefully remember sacrifices made for our freedoms today.

Deputy Mayor Browne mentioned that the wooded area between Goodyear Avenue and the graveyard has been having some illegal cutting there. That is Crown Land and it is governed by the Department of Forestry, so we ask people not to be cutting there. He noted that the Mill Bridge has had extra wear and tear this year with the two (2) construction sites on Scott Avenue and it has impacted the Bridge. The Provincial Government is responsible for the Bridge and we did get a commitment from them to look into it and repair it.

Mayor Manuel advised that he met with Marathon Gold last week and they gave an update on their project at Valentine Lake. It was a very optimistic and

positive conversation. There are still a lot of things to do before this project becomes a reality, but it looks good. Their Environmental Assessment has now been submitted to Government. Everything depends on the result of the assessment, but once approved it will bring employment here which is very positive news for our area. He noted that he was on Valley Radio this morning talking about issues and answering questions that residents had been asking. One of the things he talked about was the necessity of the renovations to the Town Hall and the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium. The Organizational Review that was done by a Consultant recommended a reorganization of our Departments. We have since hired some new positions and made modifications in our buildings to make them better located, which as a result will provide better management and work flow which will result in being more efficient. We also want to provide better service to the public and now have a dedicated interview room to provide privacy when listening to citizen concerns. The renovations are about ninety percent (90%) complete and most of the work was done by Town staff.

Motion

Whiffen\Bennett

Be it resolved that the meeting of the Grand Falls-Windsor Town Council would be adjourned until the next regular scheduled meeting of November 24th, 2020. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Barry Manuel
Mayor

Darren Finn
Chief Administrative Officer