

MINUTES OF MEETING

GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE TOWN HALL

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor: Barry Manuel
Deputy Mayor: Mike Browne
Councillor: Amy Coady, Holly Dwyer, Bob Hiscock,
Andrew Little, Dave Noel
Staff: D. Finn, Chief Administrative Officer
N. Chatman, Director of Public Works and
Development
S. Gosse, Director of Corporate Services\Town
Clerk
R. Hannaford, Communications Officer

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and asked for any errors or omissions to the Minutes of Meeting #550 of October 26th, 2021.

Motion
Hiscock\Little

Be it resolved that the Minutes of Meeting #550 of October 26th, 2021 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 \$662,161.41.

Motion

Dwyer\Browne

Be it resolved that the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$662,161.41 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 Mike Browne.

Economic Development Update

The Manager of Economic Development gave the Committee an overview of the goals and objectives the Community Services Department are working on for Economic Development including Tourism, Immigration Strategy, Aquaculture, Mining, IT Sector, Forestry, Healthcare and Agriculture.

The Committee recommends staff continue to work on these initiatives and keep the Committee updated on any new developments.

Rural Health Simulation

The Business Development Officer gave the Committee an update on the plans to start a Rural Health Simulation Centre here in Grand Falls-Windsor. Members from the Faculty of Medicine of Memorial University and Doctors from Central Health will be giving the Committee a presentation on the benefits of such a program on Thursday, November 4th in the Council Chambers. He also gave the Committee an update on several of the initiatives he has been working on including Seniors and Mental Health Conference, Genomics Research, Health Innovation and Technology related opportunities.

Mr. Ducey and Mr. Singh were excused from the meeting at 6:30 P.M.

Arenas Schedules

The Director presented the Committee with a proposed Arena Ice Time Schedule for the two (2) arenas to address the concerns that many of the users had regarding the lack of available ice time with only one arena open.

The Committee recommends the Director finalize the schedule and make the arrangements to open the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium before Christmas. All user groups will be contacted by arena office staff when the arena is ready to open in the next few weeks.

Exploits Blades Correspondence

The Committee discussed correspondence from the Exploits Blades Hockey Team requesting a subsidy to operate their Team this season.

As the Team represents Grand Falls-Windsor and the Cataracts are not in operation this season, the Committee recommends an ice time subsidy for their ice time this season.

Santa Claus Parade

The Committee discussed the plans for this year's Santa Claus Parade, which is scheduled for Saturday, December 4th.

As some volunteer members of the Committee are not available this year, the Committee recommends staff from the Community Services Department assist the Parade Committee with organization and planning.

Civic Awards

The Committee discussed plans for next year's Civic Awards. This year's Awards Ceremony was cancelled due to COVID.

The Committee recommends the Community Services Department staff begin planning for the 2022 Awards and report back to the Committee with further details early in the New Year.

Social Committee

The Director presented the Committee with the idea of establishing a Social Committee for our Town staff to help create a better work atmosphere throughout all Departments.

Especially after such as long COVID disruption and labour dispute, the Committee recommends Management develop such a Committee.

Special Events

The Director informed the Committee, the Community Services staff are eager to begin plans for some larger recreational events. COVID has made a huge effect on many of our programs and events.

As many of the COVID Guidelines now allow formal gatherings, the Committee recommends staff continue with events and activities provided they meet the current COVID Guidelines. Events such as the Bonfire, Christmas Tree Lighting at Church Road Park, the Santa Claus Parade, the Christmas Countdown Challenge and Trivia Night will all take place before the end of this year.

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.

Councillor Dwyer advised that there is a lot of information on the Town's Facebook page with respect to some of the events that were in the Minutes. There are a lot of great ideas that will bring the community together very soon.

Mayor Manuel encouraged residents to take part and prepare for a busy season, with the Santa Claus Parade and all the other events planned, it is nice to get back to some normalcy this Christmas and put off some events that we have not been able to do in the past few years.

Councillor Little commented on the fact that both Stadiums are going to be open now and wanted to acknowledge the hard work of staff in preparation for that. He also wanted to acknowledge that the gymnastics group have their own facility, and that it is nice that moving forward everyone will have more opportunity to do things that they need and want to do within the community.

Public Works and Development

The following report was presented by Councillor Coady.

Variance – 12 Cromer Avenue

The Committee reviewed a request for a variance from a business at 12 Cromer Avenue for a drive thru business. The requested variance is for ten percent (10%) of the interior side lot line in Regulation 3.6.7 of the Town's Development Regulations. The required minimal setback is 6m and the proposed setback is 5.5m. Written notices were sent to all adjacent businesses and advertised on all Town's social media platforms for input or representation. There were no objections received for the variance request.

The Committee recommends this request be approved.

Crown Land Referral – 17 Bank Road

The Committee reviewed a Crown Land request from the Bank of Montreal for the parcel of land at 17 Bank Road. This property has been developed since the 1950's and ownership is requested to deal with the lock of freehold issue to sell the property. Abitibi approved development of this property when they had ownership rights.

The Committee recommends this request be approved.

Land Request – 130 Grenfell Heights

The Committee reviewed a request from the residents of 130 Grenfell Heights to acquire an additional 10.75m of frontage on the east side of their property. The land is former Abitibi land, and the Town must be the applicant.

The Committee recommends this request be approved and staff make the appropriate application to Crown Lands. Once land is transferred to the Town, it is to be sold as per the Land Sales Policy.

Grenfell Heights Extension

The Committee revisited the poor condition of the road at Grenfell Heights Extension at the east side of Town. This section of roadway is owned by the Provincial Government; however, the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure does little to no maintenance on this road. Council continues to lobby Government to upgrade this roadway.

The Committee recommends staff follow up with the Deputy Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to again request upgrades to this section of roadway.

Crown Lands Referral – Whitmore Street

The Committee reviewed a Crown Lands request at the end of Whitmore Street for a Licence to Occupy 950m of an access road. The applicant's request is to upgrade the existing woods road for access to a section of land previously approved by Crown Lands.

The Committee recommends this request be approved; however, Crown Lands must ensure that there are no restrictions of the roadway to the public and that the applicant does not obtain permanent ownership.

Snow Clearing – Main Street Extension

The Committee discussed a request by the resident at 16 Main Street Extension for the Town to provide snow clearing of their access road. The road is a private road and not in the Town's inventory. Furthermore, an agreement was in place with the previous owners that the Town would not provide any maintenance, including snow clearing, to this roadway.

The Committee recommends this request be denied.

Heritage Society

The Committee revisited the request of funding from the Heritage Society to complete a Master Plan for the development of the grounds of the Heritage Building. This Plan will incorporate the Town's proposed road alignment and the long-term plan of site development. The requested amount for this project is \$1,725 plus HST.

The Committee recommends that the Town contribute fifty percent (50%) toward the cost of this project as it is equally beneficial for Council to ensure the appropriate planning of the site.

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 Dwyer acknowledged that Grenfell Heights Extension is in a state of disrepair and the issue is that the Town does not own that road, but we do have taxpayers that are living on it. We have asked the Provincial Government to bring the road up to standards, and then the Town will take it over and maintain it. What they did commit to was not up to our standards, so we have asked staff to go back to them and see how much they are willing to commit. We also spoke to MHA Chris Tibbs earlier this week, and he is also going to bring it up to Government. We also have a meeting planned with Minister Stuckless where we will mention this topic along with other important issues that we need resolved.

Mayor Manuel agreed that the Grenfell Heights issue has been ongoing for five (5) years and it is time that the issue gets resolved.

The following Resolution was presented by Councillor Coady:-

RESOLUTION GF-W 2021-331

REVISED CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN

WHEREAS: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor qualifies for funding under the Provincial Gas Tax Agreement;

WHEREAS: all spending under this Agreement must be approved through submission of a Gas Tax Capital Investment Plan;

AND WHEREAS: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor has a funding shortfall of \$63,479.00 in Project #17-CCR-21-00010 which is an ICIP Funded Project (supporting documents attached) for the Goodyear Avenue Parking Lot and Recreational Upgrades;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor approves the allocation of funding under the Gas Tax Agreement for the Goodyear Avenue Parking Lot and Recreational Upgrades Project #17-CCR-21-00010 in the amount of \$53,147.60.

Motion

Coady\Noel

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2021-331 for the Revised Capital Investment Plan be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

The following Resolution was also presented by Councillor Coady:-

RESOLUTION GF-W 2021-332

2021\2022 Investing In Canada Infrastructure Program Funding

WHEREAS: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor qualifies for funding under the Investing In Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) Fund;

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

AND WHEREAS: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor has recognized the projects listed below are high priority for the Town and have need of additional funding from the Investing In Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) Fund to address this need;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor apply for the funding for the projects below:-

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Downtown Area – Water, Storm and Road Upgrades | \$3,095,168.10 |
| Centennial Field Parking Lot and Skateboard Park Upgrades | \$1,050,951.16 |

Motion

Coady\Hiscock

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2021-332 for the 2021\2022 Investing In Canada Infrastructure Program Funding 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.

Meeting with MHA (Grand Falls-Windsor – Buchans District)

MHA Chris Tibbs and his Executive Assistant Brenda Wootton attended the Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss Provincial issues that impact Grand Falls-Windsor. Some of the issues discussed included the School of Nursing slated for Grand Falls-Windsor; the NL Health Accord, the Grand Falls House; Abitibi Mill lands; Marathon Gold; paving on Grenfell Heights Extension and the Heritage Society building and land.

Gorge Park Phase II Planning Update

Chad Clendenning attended the meeting at 6:15 P.M.

The Consulting Team for Gorge Park Phase II Planning provided the Committee with an update on their conceptual planning to-date and were seeking feedback proceeding to complete the detailed design and engineering work. The Consulting Team includes CBCL, Mills and Wright, ISL and Lat49 Architecture Inc.

The presentation included an overview of the project, but with specific presentations on trail development, the suspension bridge, look-outs, rest areas, a bridge across Stoney Brook, park access and parking, play structure, an amphitheatre, kiosks, park building and park connectivity to the zip line operation that is being set-up by a private operator.

The Committee recommends that Council members review the presentation materials and provide feedback to staff in the next scheduled Committee meeting. This feedback will be relayed to the Consultants and will solidify the path forward for the Consulting Team to complete detailed designs.

Correspondence from a Citizen

The Committee recognizes having received correspondence from a citizen, who expressed concern about violations with Council Policy C-8 “Use of the Council Chambers” with specific reference to the provision “hats are not to be worn in the Council Chambers”.

The Committee is aware of the Policy and notes that no further action is required.

Investing In Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)

The Committee discussed projects to be proposed for the Investing In Canada Infrastructure Program intake that is due November 2021.

The Committee recommends that staff apply for:-

1. Water, storm and road upgrades on Carmelite Road and Scott Avenue.
2. Storm sewer, grading, paving, and landscaping of Centennial Field parking lot.

Chad Clendenning was excused from the meeting at 7:45 P.M.

Art Procurement Program

The Committee discussed whether the Art Procurement Program would proceed this year.

The Committee recommends this Program proceed as soon as possible and recognize that the event may not happen until a date in December 2021.

NL Health Accord

The Committee discussed some of its concerns about the NL Health Accord Committee and possible negative impacts on the local hospital.

The Committee recommends that Council and staff be very engaged with the work of this Committee and ensure the interests of citizens in Grand Falls-Windsor and surrounding areas is protected.

Gymnastics

The Committee were given an update on the transition of the Gymnastics Program to the new leased space on Hardy Avenue. Staff expect that all equipment will be moved and set up by November 14th, 2021. Staff will also move to start the ice plant at the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium as soon as the gymnastics equipment is moved out.

Community Garbage Cans

Staff reported to the Committee that they have started installing new community garbage cans across Town this week.

The Committee was pleased this work has started.

Change in Policy Related to Garbage Collection

The Committee discussed changes that were approved by Council a year ago and that will now require residents to only use covered garbage containers going forward.

This change in policy comes into effect on January 1st, 2022. Citizens will be reminded of this change in a mail-out to be distributed next week.

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.

Councillor Coady read out the notice that the Town has on the Facebook page that referenced the changes to the Refuse and Recycling Regulations. She stated that there was a “Notice of Motion” presented early in 2021 that stated that these Regulations would be coming into effect in January of 2022. We did this to make sure our residents had ample opportunity to prepare and that they were aware. The reason that bins are becoming mandatory is mostly to prevent birds and rodents from tearing up the bags and refuse blowing around the streets. Nets and blankets are left out a lot, especially if it is wet, and they get caught up in our snow blowers and plows and it is unsightly and messy. The garbage cans that we are proposing must have an attached lid, also the wooden boxes are allowed if they are removed from the end of the driveway after garbage is collected. She also noted that a flyer will be going out in the mail, and residents can contact the Town if they have any questions.

Mayor Manuel stated that he gets many calls about garbage bags blowing around the street, or garbage ripped open and the wind blowing around trash. This change is to keep the Town clean and tidy and help keep rodents away.

Mayor Manuel advised that the Art Procurement Program has been tentatively set for December 11th, 2021 and encouraged all artists to submit their artwork. The Town has budgeted \$5,000 to purchase local artwork in support of our local artists. As well, he wanted to clarify the Resolutions for funding in the “downtown area” is related to work that will improve water distribution, storm water and roads. The infrastructure in this area of Town is very old, and we recognize that it is an issue.

Mayor Manuel lastly commented that the Gorge Park expansion is starting next year, and there are a lot of editions; however, it will be a phased approach and will not be all completed at once. But it will be wonderful and will make a mark on Grand Falls-Windsor.

Corporate Services

The following report was presented by Councillor Dwyer.

Gorge Park

Chad Clendenning joined the meeting for this discussion.

The Committee reviewed the presentation that CBCL gave at the last Committee of the Whole meeting regarding the Gorge Park Project.

The Committee was pleased with the presentation and provided staff with some feedback to provide back to the Consultants.

Chad Clendenning was excused from the meeting at 5:30 P.M.

Revised Budget 2021

The Committee reviewed the Revised Budget for the 2021 year. The Capital out of Revenue originally budgeted for 2021 was \$856,324. After reviewing the current year revenue and expenses and forecasts, the Revised Capital out of Revenue is expected to be \$2,143,286 (an increase of \$1,286,962).

The Committee is pleased with this result and will discuss options for this excess Capital out of Revenue during the budget process in the coming weeks.

Councillor Amy Coady had a prior commitment and was excused from the meeting at 6:00 P.M.

Labour Report

The Committee reviewed the labour costs as of week forty-five (45). Total labour was \$2,137,048. This was \$1,279,832 (37.5%) under budget.

The Committee recommends that staff continue to monitor labour costs moving forward.

Taxation Receivables Analysis

The Committee reviewed taxation collection for October 2021. Total taxation receivables as of that date was \$3,734,492.16 (\$3,046,655.25 – 2020) an increase of \$687,836.91 (22.58%) from the previous year.

The Committee recommends that staff continue to focus on collecting outstanding taxes and to contact residents regarding payment options and payment plans.

Disbursement Report

The Committee review the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$662,161.41 and recommends this be presented at the next Council Meeting.

Councillor Bob Hiscock had a prior commitment and was excused from the meeting at 6:45 P.M.

Funding Request – Carols for Wishes

The Committee reviewed a request from the Carols for Wishes Committee to support their fundraising efforts.

The Committee recommends \$100 be approved.

Compensation

The Committee reviewed the wage and benefits as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

The Committee recommends that the wage increase outlined in the Agreement be approved for all Management and Non-Union personnel.

Childcare Capacity Initiative

The Committee reviewed correspondence from the Department of Advanced Skills, Education and Labour regarding a new source of funding for new and existing daycare facilities as the Government moves towards \$10 per day daycare.

The Committee recommends that this information be shared with other non-profit groups to ensure they are aware of the available funding.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Dwyer\Noel

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

Mayor Manuel advised the planning of a long term vision for Gorge Park is important because we want to have shovel ready projects because when funding becomes available you do not know how much of a heads up you are going to get or what kind of timelines are involved, so having these projects planned and engineering design done we are ready to accept funding right away.

NOTICE OF MOTION

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Noel wanted to thank the three (3) students involved in cleaning up an area of Town that litter always seems to accumulate, which is the access road off Grenfell Heights towards the weigh scales. These students took it upon themselves to clean up the area and collected sixteen (16) garbage bags of trash, and he encourages all business owners to walk around their properties and pick up garbage and even people out walking could take a bag with them and pick up garbage on their route, because it is so nice to see residents take pride in helping to maintain a clean community. He lastly wanted to congratulate the students and staff of Exploits Valley High that pulled off a musical over the weekend. He expressed how nice it is to see those sorts of activities coming back to society again and especially an event that shows the abilities and talents of young people that have not had the chance to shine in a very long time due to COVID-19.

Councillor Hiscock, on behalf of the President of the Royal Canadian Legion and the Poppy Chair, wanted to thank all our residents that supported the Poppy Campaign. He wanted to give a shout out to our special events staff for all their hard work in preparation for such events. He also wanted to acknowledge a couple of issues that came to his attention, the first being the signage at the Dog Park that is in a deplorable state and as a result people are forgetting the protocols and rules that are in place and would like to see the signage replaced as a refresher to the users of the rules. Secondly, he asked for an update on the request for having staff check out the condition of Conway Street.

The Director of Public Works and Development stated that staff are visiting the street and will provide recommendations, which will be brought to Council for future consideration.

Councillor Little announced that he recently attended an event held by Qalipu First Nation which was their Comprehensive Community Plan launch. This event was put together very well and was a learning experience for a lot of people in regards to community culture. For anyone that would like to look at the Plan, it is available on the Qalipu First Nation website.

Councillor Dwyer advised that the fifth and final series of the virtual Town Halls for NL Health Accord is happening next week and encourages people to register and educate themselves on what the issues are and get their voices heard. She also advised that the Gordon Pinsent Centre for the Arts has a lot of upcoming events, and their capacity has now increased so she encourages residents to check them out on their Facebook page. She had another tour of the Lionel Kelland Hospice last week and heard about their plans for construction which they hope to start soon. Author Aimee Wall from Grand Falls-Windsor has her book "We Jane" in the running for the Provincial Battle of the Books, she is one of four (4) authors and encourages residents to vote for her on the Newfoundland Public Libraries website or Facebook page. Congratulations to Councillor Amy Coady for last week's Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador Conference as it was a great success. In respect to the Dog Park signage, we also have a commitment to put some lights up there, so hopefully that will be done soon. She also wanted to encourage everybody to shop local, to support our local businesses as they have suffered during COVID-19. And lastly, it was mentioned in the Committee of the Whole Minutes that we received correspondence referring to our Policy that "no hats are to be worn in the Council Chambers -", she realizes that it was referring to her and she sincerely apologizes as she meant no disrespect and will not wear a hat again.

Deputy Mayor Browne wanted to acknowledge the late Bob Molloy, who was inducted into the Provincial Hockey Hall of Fame. He was nominated twenty (20) year ago, and it was very well deserved as he went above and beyond for the Cataracts organization.

Councillor Coady wanted to remind residents that they are now allowed to put their snow tires on and advises residents to make their appointment as the weather is starting to change. The streets and roads are sometimes slippery and advised residents to be careful driving and/or walking. She has noticed a lot of piles of leaves on the side of the roads and advises residents that live near a culvert or drain if they can to look and scoop the leaves out to prevent back up of water. Reminder that COVID vaccines are still available along with the flu shots. Lastly, a lot of businesses did get creative during COVID and have an online presence so

you can shop online and do curbside pick-up in most local locations and some businesses offer delivery even. Gift Certificates are a great idea this time of year, so she also encourages everybody to shop local.

Mayor Manuel encourages everyone to get involved with the virtual Town Hall NL Health Accord series next week, if for anything to hear what people have to say. There is an Interim Report available on their website to see where they are in the Plan so far, although no final decisions will be made at this time. The Poppy Campaign has concluded and now the Kettle Campaign will be starting and encourages residents to show support for that Campaign as well. Tomorrow night is Grand Falls-Windsor Firefighter Honorarium Night, and it is our opportunity to show our appreciation to the Fire Department with a monetary token of appreciation. It is very well deserved, and we are proud of the dedication and commitment from them. Lastly, there are a lot of Christmas events coming up and we will have a calendar of events listed on our Facebook page to encourage residents to take part and enjoy these events.

Motion

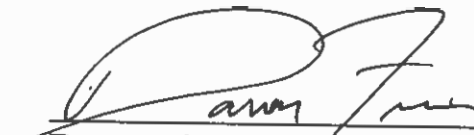
Coady\Dwyer

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 P.M.



Barry Manuel
Mayor



Darren Finn
Chief Administrative Officer