

MINUTES OF MEETING
GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE TOWN HALL
7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH, 2022

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor: Mike Browne
Councillors: Holly Dwyer, Bob Hiscock, Andrew Little,
Dave Noel
Staff: Darren Finn, Chief Administrative Officer
Nelson Chatman, Director of Public Works and
Development
Steve Gosse, Director of Corporate Services\Town
Clerk
Todd Mercer, Manager of Leisure Services
Robyn Hannaford, Communications Officer

Deputy Mayor Browne called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. and asked for any errors or omissions to the Minutes of Meeting #568 of November 8th, 2022.

Motion
Noel\Dwyer

Be it resolved that the Minutes of Meeting #568 of Tuesday, November 8th, 2022, would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

Councillor Dwyer presented the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$820,143.77.

Motion

Dwyer\Little

Be it resolved that the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$820,143.77 would be received as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Services

The following report was presented by Councillor Little.

2023 Community Services Budget

The Committee reviewed the Community Services Budget requests for 2023 highlighting ways to maximize services without increasing expenses.

The Committee recommends staff continue to work on the Budget for final approval in December.

EXCITE Building Space for Community Groups

The Committee discussed the arrangement several community groups have utilizing office space in the EXCITE Building.

As it is anticipated the space they are currently using will be utilized for Health Innovation Projects, the Committee recommends the Director make arrangements to find alternate locations for these groups.

Figure Skating Correspondence

The Committee discussed correspondence from the Exploits Blades Figure Skating Club looking for assistance with their program expenses.

The Committee recommends staff work with their Club to provide them with a boards advertising fundraising opportunity for the Windsor Stadium.

Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium Boards Advertising

The Committee discussed options for selling the advertising on the arena boards in the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium.

The Committee recommends staff finalize an Agreement with Minor Hockey and the Exploits Blades Hockey Club to sell this boards advertising as a fundraiser for these groups.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Little\Hiscock

Be it resolved that these recommendations and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Deputy Mayor Browne commented on the advertising opportunities at the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium. This has historically been a fundraising effort for the Cataracts; however, as they are not operating this season, the revenue generated will be divided among the Sparkling Blades Figure Skating Club, Exploits Blades Hockey Club and Grand Falls-Windsor Minor Hockey.

Public Works and Development

The following report was presented by Councillor Noel.

Saturday Drop-Off

The Committee reviewed the proposed Schedule for the Saturday Drop-Off and Household Hazardous Waste collections days for 2023. There are eighteen (18) Saturday Drop-Off events and two (2) Household Hazardous Waste days scheduled throughout the year.

The Committee recommends this be approved.

Clean-Up Order – 310 Grenfell Heights

The Committee reviewed a report from staff on the condition of the property at 310 Grenfell Heights. The investigation by staff discovered large amounts of garbage dumped and buried in the back of the lot. The garbage is now encroaching on the adjacent property and the Town's property in the back.

The Committee recommends staff prepare a Property Status Report for the Chief Administrative Officer and a Clean-up Order be issued for 310 Grenfell Heights to remove and properly dispose of the garbage and rehabilitate the area of illegal dumping.

Development Regulations Amendments

The Committee reviewed the memorandum from staff regarding the proposed changes to the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor Municipal Plan and Development Regulations. The purpose of this change is to permit shipping containers as an accessory building in the Industrial Light Zone and to make changes to conditions regarding domestic sawmills. The Town advertised the proposed change on the Town's website, social media pages and in the local newspaper. There were no submissions received.

The Committee recommends moving to the next step under the Urban & Rural Planning Act which is to submit the proposed amendment to the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs for review and recommendations.

Royal Canadian Legion Land – Beaumont Avenue

The Committee discussed the land that the Royal Canadian Legion has for sale on Beaumont Avenue. This land has been used for additional parking for downtown events and snow storage in the area. This piece of land has a storm line running through the property that would need to be relocated before any potential buyers could utilize the property. The cost of storm sewer relocation would be significant.

The Committee recommends staff approach the Legion's Realtor to discuss a possible purchase of the property for the Town to continue using it as parking, snow storage, and as an easement for the existing storm sewer. Once a purchase price is recommended, staff is to bring back to the Committee for discussion.

Sidewalk Clearing

The Committee discussed a concern from a resident regarding the snow clearing on Crawley Avenue. The concern was using the wing of the plow for clearing the sidewalk rather than the sidewalk blower. The Town's Snow Clearing Policy has identified routes for sidewalk clearing and Crawley Avenue is not included; however, once all the priority routes are completed, the Town moves out to all streets, when possible, with the sidewalk blower. The Town's snowplows

also widen the streets and push back snow in all areas of Town during regular operations, including over sidewalks, to prepare for the next snowfall.

The Committee recommends no change in the snow clearing operations at this time.

2023 Budget

The Committee reviewed the proposed Budget for the Department of Public Works and Development and the Exploits Regional Water Supply operations.

The Committee recommends that this be added to the overall Budget discussions at a future Committee meeting.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Noel\Little

Be it resolved that these recommendations and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Councillor Noel commented on snow clearing operations and asked residents to exercise patience during winter weather and ensures Town staff work diligently to keep our roads clear and safe.

Deputy Mayor Browne reminded residents that they are not permitted to move snow onto the sidewalk.

Corporate Services

The following report was presented by Councillor Dwyer.

Budget Discussions

The Committee reviewed the initial Budget requests for Corporate Services, the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Municipal Enforcement and the Fire Department.

The Committee recommends that staff continue to work on the Budget documents and prepare for more discussion at a future meeting.

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 5-0.

Committee of the Whole (1 of 2)

The following report was presented by Councillor Hiscock.

Health Accord Coalition Committee

Cyril Farrell, Ruth Down-Robinson and Marg Power attended the meeting on behalf of the Coalition Committee. The Committee hosted the Health Accord Coalition Committee for the purpose of them presenting their eighteen (18) recommendations with respect to the Town's possible role in assisting with the recruitment and retention of medical professionals in Grand Falls-Windsor and the region.

The Committee was very appreciative of the Health Accord Coalition Sub-Committee work and expressed their thanks to the group.

The Committee recommends that Council receive the recommendations report as presented but will discuss the individual recommendations and potential future actions in a future Committee meeting.

Cyril Farrell, Ruth Down-Robinson, Marg Power, Lawrence Ducey, Todd Mercer and Stan Singh were excused from the meeting at 6:30 P.M.

Director of Community Services Recruitment

The Committee discussed the recruitment process for filling the position of Director of Community Services that will be vacated on November 25th, 2022.

The Committee recommends that Todd Mercer be appointed the Director of Community Services effective November 30th, 2022.

Council Meeting Schedule

The Committee reviewed the Council Public Meeting Schedule for 2023 and recommended it be approved as presented.

Grand Falls-Windsor Day

The Committee recommends that Grand Falls-Windsor Day be held on July 17th, 2023.

Amber Estates

Council discussed correspondence from the developer for Amber Estates located in the Grenfell Heights area. The developer is requesting a meeting with Council to discuss his development.

The Committee recommends that staff arrange a meeting.

Correspondence from Minister Osborne

The Committee reviewed correspondence from Minister Osborne that was a reply to a Council letter whereby concern was expressed about a decision to locate a laboratory hub in Gander and to remove associated services in Grand Falls-Windsor.

The Committee recommends that Council draft a letter of reply to be sent to the Minister, Premier, and other Elected Officials, expressing our displeasure with their reply.

The Committee expects that a more thorough independent review be undertaken and that the Premier's commitment for the equitable distribution of non-urgent samples be addressed by Government.

1 St. Catherine Street – Re-zoning Request

The Committee discussed a request for re-zoning of land at 1 St. Catherine Street, the former Millcrest School. Black Hawk Developers wish to re-zone the old school section of the property from Public Use to Medium Density Multi-Unit Residential and the old gym area to Commercial General.

The Committee recommends that staff start the rezoning process and later report back to the Committee.

Disbursement Report

The Committee reviewed the Disbursement Report for the period ending November 22nd, 2022 in the total amount of \$820,143.77 and recommends the Report be received.

Samantha Kearley Photography

The Committee reviewed correspondence from Samantha Kearley Photography where she is seeking support for organizing a children's parade.

The Committee recommends that staff follow up with Ms. Kearley to discuss her plan.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Hiscock\Dwyer

Be it resolved that these recommendations and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Councillor Dwyer commented on the correspondence from Minister Osborne regarding Lab Services. Previously, the Premier had agreed and promised to re-examine the decision about the relocation of Lab Services to Gander and promised the equitable distribution for non-urgent lab samples. The Committee was disappointed to hear from Minister Osborne that they have again reviewed and have not changed their decision. The Health Accord Committee will continue to lobby Government in this regard.

Councillor Hiscock commented on the re-zoning of 1 St. Catherine Street as many residents have inquired about the property. He advised that plans and drawings from the developer have been reviewed by Town staff, and Council believes the development will enhance the St. Catherine Street\Lind Avenue area.

Councillor Dwyer advised that Ruth Down-Robinson and the Health Accord Sub-Committee made a presentation to Council this past week and relayed their eighteen (18) recommendations.

Deputy Mayor Browne passed on congratulations to Todd Mercer, the new Director of Community Services and wished him the best of luck and success in his new role.

Committee of the Whole (2 of 2)

The following report was presented by Councillor Hiscock.

Budget Review

The Committee reviewed budget reports related to inputs for the 2023 Town Budget.

The Committee recommends that staff make adjustments as discussed and report back to the Committee at a future time.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Hiscock\Little

Be it resolved that these recommendations and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Councillor Hiscock commented that although Budget Meeting Minutes appear to be short, he assures residents that Council and staff are working long hours to prepare the new Budget.

Deputy Mayor Browne added that the Budget will be released to the public at the next Council meeting on December 20th.

NOTICE OF MOTION

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Noel reiterated congratulations to Todd Mercer on his appointment to the Director of Community Services position. He also encouraged residents to shop local as much as possible this holiday season. Our small businesses contribute to the community all year long and they depend on this season for a large portion of their annual revenue.

Councillor Hiscock commended Fire Chief MacKenzie and the Volunteer Fire Department on their recent efforts. A quick responding crew helped the Anglican Church avert a bad situation with a recent furnace malfunction. The Church hopes to be back up and running in the coming days. He also reminded residents to ensure that fire hydrants on their properties are cleared of snow during the winter months.

Councillor Little offered congratulations to Todd Mercer. He also reminded residents to be kind to retail associates, especially during the holiday season.

Councillor Dwyer advised of an upcoming meeting with Dr. Megan Hayes, Deputy Minister for Recruitment and Retention of Physicians. The Town of Grand Falls-Windsor has been receiving national recognition for their ongoing efforts and was recently acknowledged for the organization of Physicians Appreciation Day. Council will certainly continue these initiatives. She advised that she attended Central Health's Diabetes Information Session where ten (10) year old Brett Samson from Peterview gave a presentation. She sent a letter and goodies on behalf of the Town to recognize his fundraising efforts for the diabetes community. She also reminded residents that the Annual Santa Claus Parade is happening this Saturday, December 3rd and the Church Road Park Light-up has been postponed to Sunday, December 4th.

Deputy Mayor Browne attended the "Keep Christ in Christmas March" this past Sunday. He commended former Mayor Blackmore and the Knights of Columbus on a well-organized event. He commented that he and Councillor Hiscock attended a session on Opioid Dependency and Treatment at the Salmonid Interpretation Centre. It was a very informative session, and there are many resources available in the community for citizens experiencing opioid dependency and addiction issues. He also advised and he and Councillor Hiscock attended the Mental Health Conference for Seniors Post-COVID. The event encompassed many great speakers and was a well-attended event. He offered commends to Stan Singh, our Business\Economic Development Officer, for organizing a great event. He also mentioned that it is not too later to enter a float in the Santa Claus Parade. Citizens can contact Wanda Healey to get involved.

Councillor Hiscock mentioned the ongoing Salvation Army Kettle Campaign. Residents can notify Glenn Fisher if they wish to volunteer.

Deputy Mayor Browne encouraged residents, if they can, to give generously to community groups such as the Food Bank, or help out those in need this holiday season.

Motion

Little\Dwyer

Be it resolved that the meeting of the Grand Falls-Windsor Town Council would be adjourned until the next scheduled meeting of Tuesday, December 20th, 2022. This motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 P.M.

Mike Browne
Deputy Mayor

Darren Finn
Chief Administrative Officer