

MEETING #572

MINUTES OF MEETING

GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE TOWN HALL

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH, 2023

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
 Steve Gosse, Director of Corporate Services\Town
 Clerk
 Todd Mercer, Director of Community Services
 Robyn Hannaford, Communications Officer

Prior to the meeting the Mayor signed the following three (3) Proclamations for:- 211 Day, February 11th, 2023; Allied Youth Week 2023 and Eating Disorder Awareness Week.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:09 P.M. and asked for any errors or omissions to the Minutes of Meeting #571 of January 24th, 2023.

Motion
Coady\Noel

Be it resolved that the Minutes of Meeting #571 of Tuesday, January 24th, 2023 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 \$647,481.94.

Motion

Dwyer\Browne

Be it resolved that the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$647,481.94 would be received as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Services

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Marathon Gold Community Grant

The Committee discussed the Marathon Gold Community Grant allocation. The Director informed the Committee that discussions were held with the company and several key projects were agreed upon. These projects include a new swing for Rotary Park, support for the 2023 Exploits Valley Salmon Festival, Multiculture Night, and the Christmas Light-Up at Church Road Park. The Director and the company agreed to continue dialogue about other potential projects at a future time.

The Committee recommends that the Director continue working with the company to determine the best projects in 2023, that would be sponsored in Grand Falls-Windsor.

Rotary Club Letter

The Committee reviewed correspondence from the Rotary Club in relation to Rotary Park improvements.

The Committee recommends that the Director work with the Rotary Club after June 30th, 2023 to determine if there are any future projects where a partnership can be discussed.

Fibromyalgia Awareness Day Request

The Committee reviewed correspondence regarding Fibromyalgia Day and their request to light up the Town Hall in support of this cause.

The Committee recommends that the Director follow up with the Public Works Department to co-ordinate for May 12th – 13th, 2023. The Committee also recommended that the Director investigate lighting products that could be installed and with capacity to change colours. Using a permanent lighting product with the capacity to change colours may enable Council to easily support colour lighting changes in support of various interest groups who annually approach Council about lighting up the Town Hall with a special colour. The Director will later report back to the Committee with his findings.

Mid-Winter Bivver Provincial Sponsorship

The Committee reviewed sponsorship correspondence from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation about their continued support of the Tourism Season Extension Program and the Mid-Winter Bivver.

The Committee recommends that the Director work with the Mid-Winter Bivver Committee to host the Bivver on March 3rd – 4th, 2023 pending snow conditions. This event is the 10th Annual Festival.

Exploits Valley High – Stadium Request for the Grad

The Committee had some discussion of providing the stadium for the Cap and Gown.

It was recommended that the Town provide the stadium for the Grad for June 20th for set-up and June 21st, 2023 for the Cap and Gown. The Director will work with the Committee on set-up hours required for the event.

Hall of Fame Jerseys – Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium

The Committee discussed the concept of recognizing the professional hockey players who came through the Grand Falls-Windsor hockey system.

The Committee recommended that Deputy Mayor Browne work on this concept with staff and other interested stakeholders, and report back to the Committee.

Salmon Festival Update

The Committee discussed the 2023 Salmon Festival format and the desire to ensure a schedule of events is developed with something for everyone.

The Committee had preliminary discussions about entertainment and recommends the Director explore options. As well, the Director will engage with Tony Murray and the staff to assist in putting together a line-up for 2023. The Committee also recommended that staff contact community groups to help with this year's event. Staff will initially engage with the Heritage Committee, the Classic Theater and the Gordon Pinsent Centre for the Arts to host events. The Director will report back at the next meeting.

2023 Program Update

The Director provided an update on the winter programs and informed the Committee that the Department had developed fifteen (15) programs and that eighty percent (80%) of them have sold out on the opening day.

The Committee was pleased with the winter program offering and recommended the Department start working on the spring session and report back in future Committee meetings.

National Indigenous Peoples Day Request

The Committee reviewed correspondence from Sisters Gifts NL, who are requesting support from the Town for installing a 'Seven Feathers Crosswalk' in honour of National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21st, 2023. The crosswalk would be bright orange with seven (7) white feathers. The feathers represent the seven (7) principles of the Indigenous Communities:- love, respect, courage, honesty, humility, truth and wisdom.

The Committee recommends allowing the crosswalk be painted, and that the Community Services Department and the Public Works and Development Department collaborate to ensure that the crosswalk is installed correctly and all safety protocols are followed when carrying out this work. The Committee also recommends that the group select a Sunday morning to paint this crosswalk because schools will be closed and traffic congestion is normally reduced.

Economic Development Update

The Committee discussed various Economic Development initiatives being carried out by the Department and were pleased with the progress reported. The

Director informed the Committee that staff have been working with several prospective businesses that expressed interest in setting up business in our community. The Department is assisting these proponents identify land.

The Committee also discussed vacant positions on the EXCITE Board of Directors and recommends that Council and Economic Development staff collaborate to identify potential candidates that would be best suited to fill the vacant positions.

Agriculture Development Proposal – MacKenzie Warford

The Committee met with Central NL farmer, MacKenzie Warford, who operates a hydroponics business in the Springdale area. Mr. Warford gave a presentation about the benefits of this kind of farming. The Committee also had some discussion with Mr. Warford about land options where this type of operation may be most suitable for expansion into Grand Falls-Windsor.

The Committee recommends that staff continue to support Mr. Warford as he investigates his options.

Mr. Warford was excused from the Committee meeting following his presentation and the subsequent discussion with Council.

New Business

The Director informed the Committee that staff recently met with ACOA to discuss projects and priorities for 2023 and that applications related to development of the ATV\Snowmobiles routes, Gorge Park, and Winter Tourism would become the focus of these applications.

The Director will work with the Chief Administrative Officer and the Public Works and Development Committee to put together these applications and bring them to Council for review in the coming months.

The Committee reviewed a request about adding a washroom riser to one of the male washroom stalls at the YMCA.

The Director will work with the YMCA to ensure the piece of equipment is added.

The Committee commended the Grand Falls House Foundation Board on receiving their Provincial Heritage designation and are hopeful they will also be successful in getting a Federal designation.

The Committee had some discussion about community garbage bins and the fact that some of them are routinely overflowing. Staff believes this occurs because many times citizens put their household garbage into these cans resulting in the need of continuous maintenance.

The Director will work with the Public Works and Development Department to discuss solutions for areas of concern, especially Cromer Avenue, Dog Park and Gorge Park.

The Committee discussed the option of installing a couple 19 kilowatt charging stations around Town to help provide opportunities for the electric cars for the purpose of ensuring Grand Falls-Windsor is vehicle friendly.

The Committee recommends that staff work with a couple local electric vehicle owners to help identify options and report back when the information is gathered. The Committee also discussed the importance of staff being mindful about the needs for electric charge stations when discussing future renovations or construction projects associated with the large retailers in Grand Falls-Windsor.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Browne\Little

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

Councillor Little commented on the Provincial Heritage designation the Grand Falls House Foundation recently received. It is a big step for the organization and is the result of much work by Peggy Bartlett and the Board. They are now working on their Federal designation which will take approximately 3-5 years. This is a great achievement for them, and now that the Town has ownership of the property, the Board is able to get work completed.

Deputy Mayor Browne commended the new Director of Community Services on new and successful program initiatives the Department has organized in the last month or so. There is something for everyone to participate in. Keep up the great work.

Mayor Manuel commented on the upcoming Annual Mid-Winter Bivver. The Director of Community Services advised that this year tickets for events are separated, so you can buy tickets to individual events instead of an all-inclusive package.

Mayor Manuel mentioned this year's Salmon Festival that will be taking place on the third week-end in July. Last year's Festival was very successful and looking to be the same this year. Events are well attended, participants enjoy them, they're affordable, and there is something for all age groups.

Mayor Manuel commented on charging stations. He had meetings with people locally and from the East Coast who have been advocates for charging stations for electric vehicles for some time. The number of electric vehicles is increasing, and a station would be beneficial for visitors and people passing through the community.

Mayor Manuel also mentioned that he had received word from former Mayor Blackmore that the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium's 75th Anniversary is this summer. There will likely be a recognition event of some kind to happen for this huge milestone.

Public Works and Development

The following report was presented by Councillor Coady.

53 Second Avenue

The Committee reviewed a report from staff concerning a rental property at 53 Second Avenue. There was a complaint received and an inspection was completed by the Town's Building Inspector and the Fire Inspector. A letter was addressed to the landlord outlining the deficiencies discovered by the inspection and requested action be taken to complete the necessary repairs. A follow-up inspection found that little action was taken. Staff requests a Repair Order be issued to the property owner.

The Committee recommends staff prepare a Property Status Report for the Chief Administrative Officer and a Repair Order be issued for 53 Second Avenue to address the issues identified.

Proposed Riverfront Development

The Committee reviewed areas along the riverfront within the Town to identify potential areas for future development.

The Committee recommends staff focus on a parcel of land on the east of Gorge Park near the Ski Chalet. Staff must investigate to ensure there are no issues with potential development from Government Departments and agencies

and that there are no private ownerships. Once this is completed, an Expression of Interest for development is to be issued.

Gas Tax

The Committee reviewed two (2) potential projects for the Regional Water Treatment Plant. These projects potentially can be funded through the Federal Gas Tax Fund, Provincial Water and Wastewater Initiative. The first project to address is the filter upgrades for \$103,594.58. The second project is to hire a Consultant to assist with process optimization for \$83,428.80.

The Committee recommends Resolutions be prepared for the application for funding for these projects and addressed at the next public Council meeting.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Coady\Hiscock

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

Mayor Manuel commented on the available parcel of land near the Ski Chalet. Much of the land along the riverfront is incumbered, whether privately owned, old Abitibi land, or the Nalcor presence on the river. Council wishes to have a riverfront that is not overdeveloped, but still has opportunities, particularly accommodations such as Airbnb's or cabins. We look forward to offering the land to gauge interest from potential developers.

The following Resolution was presented by Councillor Coady:-

RESOLUTION GF-W 2023-356

FEDERAL GAS TAX FUND

PROVINCIAL WATER AND WASTEWATER INITIATIVE

WHEREAS: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor qualifies for funding under the Provincial Water and Wastewater Initiative Fund Agreement; and

WHEREAS: all spending under this Agreement must be used to improve the Exploits Regional Water Supply;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor approves the application for funding under the Federal Gas Tax Fund – Provincial Water and Wastewater Initiative Agreement in the amount of \$103,594.58 for Filter Upgrades.

Motion
Coady\Noel

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2023-356 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

The following Resolution was also presented by Councillor Coady:-

RESOLUTION GF-W 2023-357

FEDERAL GAS TAX FUND

PROVINCIAL WATER AND WASTEWATER INITIATIVE

WHEREAS: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor qualifies for funding under the Provincial Water and Wastewater Initiative Fund Agreement; and

WHEREAS: all spending under this Agreement must be used to improve the Exploits Regional Water Supply;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor approves the application for funding under the Federal Gas Tax Fund – Provincial Water and Wastewater Initiative Agreement in the amount of \$83,428.80 for Process Optimization.

Motion
Coady\Little

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2023-357 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Corporate Services

The following report was presented by Councillor Dwyer.

Open Call for Bids Results
Dump Truck

The Committee reviewed the results from an open call for bids for a single axle dump truck. There was only one bid for \$162,288 plus HST, which is \$19,243 over budget after HST rebate.

Given this was over budget, the Committee recommends rejecting this bid and cancelling open call for bids at this time.

Trailer

The Committee reviewed the results from an open call for bids for a trailer. There was only one bid for \$144,000 plus HST, which is \$172 over budget after HST rebate.

The Committee recommends awarding this open call for bids to Reefer Repair Services Ltd.

Boom Lift

The Committee reviewed the results from an open call for bids for a boom lift. The lowest acceptable bid was for \$52,900 plus HST, which is \$16,558 under budget after HST rebate.

The Committee recommends awarding this open call for bids to United Rentals.

The Director of Public Works and Development, Nelson Chatman was excused from the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Disbursement Report

The Committee reviewed the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$647,481.94 and recommends this be presented at the next Council Meeting.

Taxation Receivables Analysis Report

The Committee reviewed the taxation analysis for January 2023. The report analyzes the receivable balances, along with the amounts collected during the month. Total taxation receivables as of January 31st, 2023 was \$18,496,028 (\$18,006,416 – 2022) an increase of \$489,612 (2.72%) from the previous year. Total amount of taxes collected in January 2023 was \$1,099,686.

The Committee recommends that staff continue to exhaust all avenues of collecting outstanding taxes as we start 2023. 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. To avoid interest on their accounts, residents should ensure their taxes are paid before the due date on March 31st.

Municipal Codes of Conduct

The Committee reviewed Policies HR-30 and C-19 which are required by recently adopted Provincial Legislation regarding Codes of Conduct for Councillors and Municipal Officials.

The Committee recommends these Policies be adopted and the training and education of all staff and volunteers begin as soon as possible. There is also mandatory training for Councillors, which is already underway.

Lions Club Auction

The Committee reviewed a request from the Lions Club looking for a donation toward their online auction.

The Committee recommends staff put together a ticket package for upcoming Town events.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Dwyer\Browne

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

Committee of the Whole (1 of 2)

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Community Centre

The Committee held discussions on the possibility of constructing a new Community Centre to replace aging arenas and adding new infrastructure to meet current and trending recreational, leisure and conference hosting needs. The

discussion stemmed from a Recreational Needs Assessment and a Regional Complex Feasibility Study completed in March 2020 by Lat49 Architecture Inc.

The Committee recommends that staff review this report and engage with Council about options for its consideration. The Committee also recognized that these discussions are preliminary and much more discussion is recommended in future Committee meetings.

As well, the Committee will discuss its options for more public engagement at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

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 commented on the Recreation Complex and how impressed she was with Dave Gardner and planning staff to develop a concept that could really work for our community and the Region. The facility concept is very impressive. Community engagement will be required to determine needs and changing trends; therefore a Public Consultation will happen in the near future to provide an opportunity to residents for feedback.

Committee of the Whole (2 of 2)

The following report was also presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Community Centre

The Committee discussed the concept of constructing a new Community Recreation Complex.

The Committee recommends that staff explore options for the best approach to such an undertaking. The Committee is supportive in principle of this concept, but wants a plan developed that would include community engagement in this early stage.

Grand Falls House Foundation Expression of Interest

The Committee reviewed an Expression of Interest document that was drafted by the Grand Falls House Foundation for the purpose of inviting private sector involvement within the Grand Falls House and for the utilization of surrounding land.

The Committee was supportive in principle of this approach by the Grand Falls House Foundation and asked staff to relay their feedback so they are able to finalize the Expression of Interest document. As well, the Committee recommended that staff have discussions with the Foundation about community engagement in addition to this Expression of Interest process.

Facility and Ice Usage Request

The Committee reviewed a request from Glenn Casey with Central Impact Hockey to secure ice time and to accommodate the Central Impact's "AAA" U18 team.

The Committee recommends that the Director work with the Central Impact "AAA" U18 group to ensure the team can play in Grand Falls-Windsor for the 2023\24 season.

Grand Falls House Foundation Logo

The Committee reviewed correspondence from the Grand Falls House Foundation whereby they are looking for feedback on a logo design for their organization.

The Committee recommended some modifications for the Foundation's consideration and wanted staff to relay this feedback. As well, the Committee thought it may be too early in the process to name the area as a "park".

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.

Mayor Manuel commented on the Grand Falls House Expression of Interest. He encouraged any group, individual, business or organization who may have

ideas or interests in an opportunity with the Foundation to come forward. He is looking forward to the results.

NOTICE OF MOTION

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Little commented on the U18 Impact Blizzard series outcome. The teams goalie, Adam Hedges, a Grand Falls-Windsor native, was recently recognized as the top performing goaltender in “AAA” U18 across Canada for the week of January 31st to February 5th. Congratulations.

Councillor Dwyer commented on our Health Information Forum held at the Classic Theater. The event was well attended and post-event comments have been excellent.

Deputy Mayor Browne commended Councillor Dwyer, the Mayor and Town staff on their work for the Health Information Forum. He also wished everyone a Happy Valentine’s Day.

Councillor Coady echoed the Deputy Mayor’s comments and wished all a Happy Valentine’s Day. She advised that the Public Hearing scheduled for tomorrow, February 15th has been cancelled in accordance with the Urban and Rural Planning Act as no objections were received.

Councillor Noel commented on the upcoming Mid-Winter Bivver. This year will be the events 10th Anniversary. It is a great opportunity to enjoy the scenery in Central Newfoundland and a unique dining experience. We encourage you to participate in this great week-end event. He also commended Councillor Dwyer for work on the Health Information Forum. In addition, he reminded residents that it still gets dark early this time of the year and to please wear reflective clothing when walking, be proactive and stay safe.

Councillor Hiscock mentioned the Special Olympics Winter Games coming up in March. We are expecting in excess of four hundred (400) athletes and caregivers in attendance. Special Olympics is still looking for volunteers to assist. We are looking forward to hosting these athletes and he strongly encouraged residents to attend the events. He commended Nelson Chatman, Director of Public Works and Development; George Saunders, Manager of Public Works and our frontline staff on a great job clearing snow and keeping our roads and sidewalks safe. Please be kind and respectful to our workers, they are doing the best they can

during inclement weather. He also reminded residents to please clear the snow around fire hydrants if you have a fire hydrant on your property. He also acknowledged local Jamie Elliott who recently sustained injuries in a snowmobile accident. Please keep Jamie and his family in your prayers and wish him a speedy recovery.

Mayor Manuel congratulated Councillor Dwyer on her story that was presented at Woodland Primary for World Literacy Day. Councillor Dwyer wrote the story and illustrations were done by local artist Terry Wicks. He also acknowledged and recognized a long-time employee and Volunteer Firefighter of over twenty (20) years. The late Peter Anstey was very involved in our Fire Hall and the Youth Firefighting Program. He took great pride in his work, and this is a great loss. We offer our sincere condolences.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Coady\Little

Be it resolved that the meeting of the Grand Falls-Windsor Town Council would be adjourned until the next regular scheduled meeting of Tuesday, March 7th, 2023. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 P.M.

Barry Manuel
Mayor

Darren Finn
Chief Administrative Officer