

MINUTES OF MEETING

GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE TOWN HALL

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, APRIL 18TH, 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 Proclamations for Mental Health Week – 2023; Parkinson’s Awareness Week and Volunteer Week – April 16th to 22nd, 2023.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and asked for any errors or omissions to the Minutes of Meeting #574 of Tuesday, March 28th, 2023.

Motion
Little\Browne

Be it resolved that the Minutes of Meeting #574 of Tuesday, March 28th, 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 \$1,086,354.61.

Motion

Dwyer\Hiscock

Be it resolved that the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$1,086,354.61 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.

Activity Report

The Director and staff provided an update on Economic Development initiatives and Special Events planned for 2023. Special Event updates included Senior's Programs, Salmon Festival Line-up, Poutine Festival, Rib Festival, Culinary Festival and Craft Beer Festival. The Committee was also updated about some new programs focusing on Mental Health, new residents, and the possibility of a fun competition with local restaurants called "Burger Wares". Economic Development updates included discussion about ATV Trails planning, and the Town's new website.

Sarah McIntosh, Manager of Leisure Services attended the meeting at 5:10 P.M. and was excused at 5:40 P.M.

Lawrence Ducey, Manager of Economic Development attended the meeting at 5:30 P.M. and was excused at 6:10 P.M.

Promotional Items

The Committee discussed the restocking of Town promotional items for the coming summer season. The Director of Community Services gave an update on the remaining inventory and a recommendation on what should be replaced.

The Committee recommended that the Director look at purchasing some of the popular items that are low now and look at the supply again in the fall.

Concrete Options – Correspondence

The Committee reviewed correspondence from a Newfoundland business promoting the products available.

The Committee recommends that if any benches are required the Director of Community Services should contact any local first to see if they can be manufactured here.

Skateboard Park Funding

The Committee had some discussion on the opportunity to expand the Skateboard Park with funding from both the Provincial and Federal Governments.

The Committee recommends that the Director of Community Services meet with the Engineering staff to develop a plot plan of the new equipment at the Shanawdithit Centennial Park site to see what can fit, and that any new equipment should focus on the younger skateboarders. The Committee also recommends that a discussion on the recommended equipment be brought back to the next meeting.

Active Living Funding Approval

The Committee reviewed the letter from the Active Living Fund confirming the approval of the Town's application for a new seniors and kids program including some related equipment.

Multiculturalism Funding Approval

The Committee was updated on the approval of Provincial Government Funding to help with the 2023 Salmon Festival Multiculturalism Night Event "Food from Around the World" on Saturday night, July 15th.

Y2C Request

The Director discussed a request from Y2C to fix the paving in their parking lot. Public Works staff did look at the lot, but it is deteriorated beyond simple repairs. Staff will follow up with Y2C with some suggestions.

Joe Byrne Stadium Ice Plant

The Director of Community Services informed the Committee that they have experienced issues with one of two (2) motors that run the ice plant.

The Committee recommended that the Director work with the Public Works staff to find a replacement motor and arrange to have it installed.

Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium 75th Anniversary

The Committee had some discussion on the first event of the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium 75th Anniversary Celebration. It will be an open Carnival skate to be scheduled for April 23rd, 2023. It will be a free event where both adults and kids will dress up in costumes and skate around. There will be prizes for Best Decorated Adult, Child and Family, and hot chocolate and popcorn will be provided.

Salmon Festival 2023

The Committee recommends that the Director and his staff plan the release of details for the 2023 Exploits Valley Salmon Festival for a date at the end of April.

The Committee recommends that the Director give an update at the next meeting.

General Skating

The Committee discussed the general, family and pre-school skating schedule for the rest of the year.

The Committee recommends that all activities be moved to Windsor Stadium when the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium closes on April 23rd.

Kitchen Party Theatre Group

The Committee discussed “The Kitchen Party Theatre Group” schedule for 2023. The Director of Community services informed the Committee that his staff have been in contact with the group to finalize the schedule for 2023 and help them promote and support their events. The Director also informed the Committee that he will work with the group for the upcoming season and have them perform at several of the Town’s community events, including the Salmon Festival and a Tribute Night to the late Gordon Pinsent.

Special Olympics Provincial Winter Games

The Committee had some discussion about the Special Olympics Provincial Winter Games week-end events that just concluded. Council received many positive comments from the Organizing Committee and the public about the tremendous level of support and effort shown by Town staff to ensure events were successful. Councillors also received similar praise for the dozens of volunteers and the Organizing Committee members themselves.

The Committee recommends that the Community Services Department work with the Organizing Committee to have a “Thank You Appreciation Night” for the organizers, coaches and volunteers. April 5th and April 6th were the suggested dates the Committee could consider when planning for this event.

Other Business

The Committee discussed an option to repurpose the Coffee Shop Room at the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium as a Meeting Room.

The Committee recommended that the Director of Community Services investigate other options for a Boardroom within the arena and bring back the findings at a future meeting.

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 praised staff for the hard work put into the calendar of events and activities coming up for the spring, summer and fall seasons. He admits he looks forward to the Poutine Festival, he wanted to remind people that the tickets go on sale April 19th at 10:00 A.M. He advised that last year the Poutine Festival tickets sold out in twenty-one (21) minutes, so if people want tickets to call as close to 10:00 A.M. as possible. He also wanted to advise the public that the morning General Skating will be moved to Windsor Stadium next week.

Deputy Mayor Browne reminded residents that the open Carnival Skate event scheduled for April 23rd is the kick-off event to start the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium’s 75th Anniversary Celebration and the celebrations will continue throughout the Salmon Festival Dinner and Salmon Festival weekend.

Mayor Manuel advised we are excited to receive funding towards the Skateboard Park, and we expect to see it bring increased usage to the park. He stated that he understands that we are pressed for space in the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium, but he does not agree with the Coffee Shop being used for a meeting room and is glad that Council are going to re-visit the issue to look for other options. Lastly, Mayor Manuel showed a framed collage of pictures and medals that the Special Olympics had given to the Town as a way of saying “Thank You” for hosting this year. He said it will be displayed proudly in the Town.

Corporate Services

The following report was presented by Councillor Dwyer.

Labour Report

The Committee reviewed the labour costs as of week thirteen (13). Total labour was \$813,817. This was \$46,324 (5.4%) under budget.

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

Disbursement Report

The Committee reviewed the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$1,086,354.61 and recommends this be presented at the next Council meeting.

Taxation Receivables Analysis

The Committee reviewed the taxation analysis for March 2023. The report analyzes the receivable balances, along with the amounts collected during the month. Total taxation receivable as of March 31st, 2023, was \$8,087,589.58 (\$8,310,671.37 – 2022) a decrease of \$223,081.79 (2.68%) from the previous year. Total amount of taxes collected in March 2023 was \$9,235,605.

While the deadline to pay your taxes was March 31st, 2023, residents and businesses are still reminded to pay your tax bills as soon as possible to limit any interest charges. Please contact the Town Hall to pay your bill or set up a payment plan.

Tender Summary – Circular Road Pipe Repair

The Committee reviewed a tender summary for Project #17-MYCW-23-00000 – Circular Road Pipe Repair\Cleanout\Manhole Install. There were three (3) bids on the project.

The Committee recommends awarding the project to W. Reid Construction Limited in the amount of \$248,331 plus HST (\$11,477 below the original estimate).

COVID-19 Vaccination Policy

The Committee discussed HR-28 COVID-19 Vaccination Policy and recommended that this Policy be rescinded.

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.

Councillor Coady advised that the tender that was awarded last year for a large project of work on Circular Road will start in May. This is very much needed to be done and will cause a lot of disruptions, but residents will be kept updated as it proceeds.

Mayor Manuel advised that our Municipal employees are out preparing to paint the lines, and he asks motorists to pay attention and slow down and watch out for the workers and be safe.

The following Resolution was presented by Councillor Dwyer:-

Resolution GF-W 2023-363

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 & Infrastructure,

Municipal Infrastructure;

WHEREAS: the Cost-Shared Funding for this Agreement is as follows:-

Provincial Contribution	-	\$147,562
Federal Contribution	-	\$147,606
Municipal Contribution	-	\$147,562

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor agrees to enter into an Agreement under the Investing In Canada Infrastructure Program for the Centennial Field Skateboard Park Upgrades Project #17-CCR-23-00006 totaling \$442,730 after the GST\HST rebate.

Motion

Dwyer\Little

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2023-363 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Motion

Coady\Hiscock

Be it resolved that one item from the Committee of the Whole meeting be removed and voted on separately as Councillor Dwyer was excused from that item at the meeting due to a perceived conflict of interest. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Councillor Dwyer was excused from the meeting at this time.

Committee of the Whole (1)

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

St. Catherine Street Rezoning

The Committee welcomed Mr. Dulah Gill as a guest at 6:30 P.M.

Mr. Gill wanted to meet with the Committee to discuss his request to rezone land where the former Millcrest Gymnasium was located, to accommodate a warehouse for the Health Board medical supplies Distribution Centre. Mr. Gill

informed the Committee that he was not successful in getting the tender, so wanted to pause his request for rezoning until he can assess his options.

The Committee recommends that the rezoning request be paused until we get more information from Mr. Gill and that staff continue to work closely with Mr. Gill to support his interest in developing this parcel of land.

Mr. Gill was excused from the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Motion

Browne\Little

Be it resolved that this recommendation and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Mayor Manuel advised that the rezoning request was submitted by Mr. Gill to Council about a month and a half ago, and we have received some feedback from residents regarding it. Before we get back to the process, Mr. Gill has since rescinded part of his proposal for now as he re-visits it. Unfortunately, Mr. Gill was not successful in getting the tender for a Health Board medical supplies warehouse which was his original plans for the rezoning. Council will continue to work with Mr. Gill because the last thing we want is another dilapidated school that leads to vandalism and sometimes fire.

Councillor Dwyer returned to the meeting at this time.

Committee of the Whole (2)

The following report was also presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Shalaps Centre (Former Knight of Columbus Building)

The Committee discussed a proposal from the family of the late Dr. Mandavia to donate the Shalaps Centre on Church Road to the Town.

The Committee was very appreciative of this generous offer but prefers that the family first consider other non-profit organizations, community groups, or consider selling the building to a private interest to be used for a suitable purpose.

Although the Committee recognizes the historical significance and character of the building, they do not have an identified purpose for usage, and is also concerned with potential Capital Expenditures due to necessary repairs and renovations. The Committee is also concerned with the future operational costs of the building regardless of its identified use.

If other options are explored without success, the Committee is willing to resume discussions of a possible donation with the family, but would investigate further the estimated costs associated at that time.

The Committee thanks Mrs. Mandavia and her family for their kind offer, and that the Town was considered as a potential donee.

Land for Housing Development

The Committee welcomed Mr. Trevor Hicks as a guest at 6:00 P.M.

Mr. Hicks was concerned about his inability to acquire land to construct a multiple unit property. He is requesting that Council consider rezoning land on Main Street West to accommodate multi-unit construction or facilitate making land available somewhere in Town for this purpose.

The Committee recommends staff give priority to the issue of identifying land for multi-unit buildings.

Mr. Hicks was excused from the meeting at 6:30 P.M.

Councillor Holly Dwyer was excused from the meeting at 6:30 P.M. due to a perceived conflict of interest with the next topic due to living near the school in question.

Queensway Rezoning

The Committee re-visited Council's earlier decision to allow land on Queensway to develop multi-unit housing, if a road was constructed.

The Committee wants staff to look for other options to enable multi-unit housing development because constructing a road and installing services is cost prohibitive for landlords who are interested in building housing units.

The Committee recommends staff look for land options to develop multi-unit housing and to engage local developers to determine if they have any options for making such land available.

Bike Rodeo

The Committee discussed the concept of Municipal Enforcement organizing a Bike Rodeo for children in Grade K-6. The Rodeo is intended to promote safe use of bicycles while having fun.

The Committee recommends that staff plan this event.

Traffic Lights – Intersection at Pinsent Drive and Cromer Avenue

The Committee reviewed a tender to replace the traffic lights at the intersection of Cromer Avenue and Pinsent Drive and to improve the paving.

The Committee recommends that the tender be awarded to Penney Paving Ltd. in the amount of \$433,893.85.

Skateboard Park

The Committee reviewed an offer from Government and the Investing In Canada Infrastructure Fund to expand the Skateboard Park at Shanawdithit Centennial Park. The total funding for this project is \$488,214 and is funded 33.33% by the Town.

The Committee recommends this offer be accepted and staff report back to the Committee about equipment choices in a future meeting.

Equipment – Walk Behind Sand Cleaner

The Committee reviewed a tender result for a Walk Behind Sand Cleaner for grooming the ball fields.

The Committee recommends that the tender be awarded to H. Barber & Sons in the amount of \$27,526.74.

Spring Craft Show

The Committee discussed the Spring Craft Show set for May 13th, 2023. Last year many tables were reserved, but individuals reserving the tables did not show up, while at the same time the Town had a waiting list of individuals wanting a table.

The Committee recommends that a non-refundable fee of \$20 be charged to reserve tables.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Browne\Coady

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

Councillor Noel requested that staff look into putting some extra signage at the Skateboard Park, to remind users of proper usage and expectations.

Mayor Manuel advised that we are in a very challenging situation when it comes to housing in our community, and Council are consistently looking for ways to improve that and overcome the challenge. A lot of the land that could be used is privately owned, and it is up to the owners of the property as to how they would like to proceed. He wanted to assure everybody that Council has made it a priority to get staff to look throughout the Town, identify land and ownerships, and get the contractors together and landowners together in a transparent process to see what we can do to push development along. This may include some type of investment from Council, because the last thing we want is for people that come to work here be turned away because of the unavailability of housing and accommodations. The other issue is that seniors may want to leave their homes for easier access senior housing, and there is not enough senior housing here to accommodate. The other issue is the need for low-income housing, that is also needed within the community. We agree that rezoning is a prescribed legislative process which can take time, but the fact is that we have to identify the land and make sure the developers know that there are opportunities there for them. He also advised that the Sand Cleaner is for the five (5) ball fields that we have in Town, as we host many ball tournaments throughout the year and this will help the fields become safer for use. The decision to pass on the donation of the Shalaps Centre was a difficult one, because your heart says one thing, but the feasibility of use says another. We want to give the family time to find other suitable groups\organizations\businesses that would want to use that building. We would like to see the building maintained, but when you consider taking over such an old building there are renovations that need to be done which will result in big Capital costs for the Town.

NOTICE OF MOTION

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Coady said she is pleased that our new sweeper is out, not only because it is a sign of spring, but it also means motorcycles can get out safely. The Town Clean-up dates have been issued, it will go ahead from May 23rd – June 9th and the schedule has been posted to our Facebook page and our website. She

reminded residents that you are not allowed to have clean-up items out any earlier than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled pick-up. Our Anti-Litter Campaign has started, and volunteer groups that normally participate in that have been contacted. If there are other organizations in Town that would like to participate, please reach out to our Community Services Department. The warmer weather is drawing more people out to the playgrounds, skateboard park, basketball courts, and she advised motorists to slow down and be more aware and careful of this type of activity out on the streets. The Exploits Valley High School will be doing their musical presentation “Mama Mia” on May 12th and 13th at 7:30 P.M. and May 14th at 2:30 P.M. Tickets are limited for each show, so she suggested that you purchase tickets either online at the Gordon Pinsent Centre for the Arts website or at the Box Office. There has been a lot of work put into getting this show ready, so please get out and support Exploits Valley High.

Councillor Noel noted the snow is melting, and it leaves behind evidence of negligent behavior, he asks residents to help clean up the community and for dog owners to pick up after their pets. He also advised that Exploits TrailNet in partnership with Great Canadian Trails is going to host another event simultaneously with the Poutine Festival. They have two (2) groomer operators (Mr. Bill Sullivan and Mr. Roy Folkes), that have been with them for a long time that are retiring this year, so he encouraged everybody to come out on June 3rd and participate in a “Thank You” for their years of dedication to making sure the trails are as good as they can be all winter long.

Councillor Hiscock would like motorists to be more vigilant as motorcyclists are out, and he advised motorcyclists that not all the streets are cleaned yet so be careful. We are looking forward to the Hike for Hospice that is coming up. Council has a team, so if anyone wants to sponsor us, we welcome that. Lastly, he noted that he is very proud of all the events that are coming up in our Town, he advised people to always check our Facebook page for more information.

Councillor Little advised this past week we hosted two (2) Minor Hockey Provincial Tournaments at our Stadium that were successful, and it brought many visitors to our Town showing great sportsmanship. This weekend is the Sparkling Blades Ice Show which will take place at 4:00 P.M. on Saturday. This is a great show and there are still a few tickets left. He also reiterated what other Councillors have said, and advised motorists to be cognizant of more activity on our streets, playgrounds etc...

Councillor Dwyer advised residents that the next Saturday Drop-off is April 29th and there is a Household Hazardous Waste Day on May 6th. She congratulated the Kiwanis Club on their recent Music Festival and said it is great to see the organizers were able to bring it back to life post COVID. She acknowledged that there is so much talent in this and surrounding communities, and this certainly

gives our youth the opportunity to develop confidence and work ethics that she is sure will reap the benefits from in years to come.

Deputy Mayor Browne wanted to acknowledge all the great volunteers in Grand Falls-Windsor that help make our Town such a great one. He also wanted to acknowledge the Knights of Columbus who took it upon themselves to make a financial contribution to Melvin Hanham for his trip to Germany for the World Golf Championship.

Mayor Manuel agreed that it is important to recognize volunteers and said where would we be without them. We had the Provincial Drama Festival in Town last week, and there was a large crowd and people were very pleased with the way things went. He wanted to recognize some of the Award winners because they came from our local Northcliffe Drama Club, which has been operating in Grand Falls-Windsor for over fifty (50) years. Mr. John Whelan was the recipient of the Best Male Supporting Actor Award, Mr. Scott Simms was the recipient of the Best Lead Actor Award, so congratulations to both. The National Day of Mourning is coming up at 12:00 noon on April 28th and will be held at the Injured Workers Memorial on Lincoln Road. Please come out and help recognize all the people who have been killed or injured in the workplace. The Lionel Kelland Hospice have their Smile Cookie Campaign coming up from May 1st to 7th and if you buy a Smile Cookie from Tim Hortons either in Grand Falls-Windsor or Bishop's Falls all proceeds will go to the Hospice. Lastly, he advised that they met with Minister Osborne since the last meeting and had an opportunity to discuss the issues relevant to Grand Falls-Windsor and our Hospital and healthcare. It is important to keep up with the Health Accord and the decisions that are going to be made. Our Hospital has to be sustained for the long term as we serve such a huge demographic area. Cyril Farrell is the Chair of our Health Coalition and the amount of work that he and all the people on that Committee on behalf of Council has put into this is amazing. Just wanted to let people know that we are standing up for Grand Falls-Windsor and the Hospital quite strongly and will continue to do so.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Browne\Little

Be it resolved that the meeting of the Grand Falls-Windsor Town Council would be adjourned until the next regular schedule meeting of Tuesday, May 9th, 2023. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 P.M.

Barry Manuel
Mayor

Darren Finn
Chief Administrative Officer