

MEETING #580

MINUTES OF MEETING

GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE TOWN HALL

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, AUGUST 30TH, 2023

PRESENT: Mayor: Barry Manuel  
Deputy Mayor: Mike Browne  
Councillors: Amy Coady, Holly Dwyer, Andrew Little,  
Dave Noel  
Staff: Darren Finn, Chief Administrative Officer  
Robyn Hannaford, Communications Officer

Prior to the meeting the Mayor signed a Proclamation for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Month – September 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 #579 of Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Motion

Coady\Dwyer

Be it resolved that the Minutes of Meeting #579 of Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Mayor Manuel advised that Councillor Hiscock is absent from the meeting.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

## DISBURSEMENT REPORT

Councillor Dwyer presented the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$1,550,299.22.

Motion

Dwyer\Browne

Be it resolved that the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$1,550,299.22 would be received as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Community Services

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

#### Grand Falls House Summer Maintenance

The Director informed the Committee that regular summer maintenance has been ongoing at the Grand Falls House since July. The Summer Students have been brush cutting, trimming, and mowing the grass on a regular basis and will continue until mid-August.

#### Equipment Loan Out Policy

The Committee reviewed the new Loan Out Policy documents and encouraged the Director to continue to educate the user groups on it. The Director said staff have been strictly enforcing the policy without exception.

#### Salmon Festival Update

The Committee had some discussion of the recent Salmon Festival and has received nothing but positive remarks from the public. The five-day Festival created fun and fellowship for the community and most of the Events were full.

Plans for next year have already started with discussion on events, entertainment and new activities already being considered.

### Culinary Update

The Director informed the Committee that the staff is working to finalize sponsorships now and that tickets will go on sale in the coming weeks. The Director informed the Committee that there will be ten (10) stations and some exciting new Chefs attending this year's event.

### Labour Day Parade

The Committee discussed plans for this year's Labour Day Parade. Deputy Mayor Browne explained to the Committee that the group has been meeting for the past month and plans are well under way for this year's event. The events will happen on September 4<sup>th</sup> with the parade and will conclude with a Concert in the Park with live entertainment and bouncy castles. More information will be posted to the Town's Facebook page in the coming weeks.

### Wendy Morgan Correspondence

The Committee reviewed the correspondence from Wendy Morgan requesting permission to set up at the Friday Concerts.

The Committee recommended that the Director contact Ms. Morgan to get additional information on what services she would be providing at the events and report back to the Committee.

### Other Business

The Director informed the Committee about a request for equipment from the Fetal Alcohol Disorder Committee on September 8<sup>th</sup> and the Take Back the Night Walk on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

It was recommended that the Special Events staff inform both groups as per our new Loan Out Policy.

The Director informed the Committee that the Grand Falls-Windsor Theatre Project is up and running again this year and that the project has been co-written by

four (4) local play writes. The Director will work with the Group to collaborate on different events for next year and later inform the Committee on confirmed dates for 2024.

The Director informed the Committee that work is continuing on the ATV Trail and hopes that staff will have a draft copy completed soon.

The Committee had some discussion on the opening of the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium. The Director will follow up with some of the rental groups to confirm their use of the building and follow up with the user groups to find out the need and an estimated cost for opening in November.

The Director informed the Committee that the new swing for Rotary Park has arrived and will be installed in the coming weeks.

The Director informed the Committee that the Skateboard Park expansion is set to start construction in the coming week and the equipment and installation will start September 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Director presented some photos taken by a resident of Church Road Park that showed some deficiencies. The Committee asked that the Director follow up with the Public Works and Development Supervisor to see if the necessary work can be addressed soon.

The Director informed the Committee that the Stadium Canteen Contract has been extended for 2023-2024.

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 6-0.

Councillor Little advised that there are still tickets available for the Culinary Festival and that this year will be another very well-done spectacular event.

Councillor Dwyer advised that September 23<sup>rd</sup> is the date of the Culinary Festival.

### Public Works and Development

The following report was presented by Councillor Coady.

#### Land Request – 11 Harmsworth Drive

The Committee reviewed a request from the resident of 11 Harmsworth Drive for 335 square meters of backland. The resident needs additional land to facilitate an accessory building.

The Committee recommends this be approved and to be sold as per the Town's Land Sales Policy.

#### Speed Limit – Scott Avenue

The Committee reviewed a request from a resident to reduce the speed limit on Scott Avenue in the downtown area and install a crosswalk near the Long-Term Care facility. The speed limit is currently 60 km\hour and there is a very active ATV trail crossing in this area.

The Committee recommends the speed limit not be reduced at this time and a crosswalk is planned in this area once the upgrades are completed in the near future.

#### Clean-Up Orders

The Committee discussed issues with 45 King Street and 6-10 Cater Avenue.

45 King Street – This property has an oversized accessory building constructed too close to the rear yard boundary and does not comply with the Town's Regulations. A Work Order has been issued to stop any additional work to this building. Work on the accessory building was completed without an approved building permit.

6-10 Cater Avenue – There is a resident of Cater Apartments that has constructed some structures behind 6-10 Cater Place without a permit, it does not comply with

the Town's Regulations or National Building Code and is a fire safety issue. A letter has been sent to the property owner to remove the structure, however there was nothing completed.

The Committee recommends staff prepare a Property Status Report for the Chief Administrative Officer and an Order be issued for 45 King Street to reduce the size of the accessory building to meet the Town's Development Regulations and complete all necessary finishes.

The Committee also recommends staff prepare a Property Status Report for the Chief Administrative Officer and a Demolition Order be issued for all accessory structures behind 6-10 Cater Place.

#### Discretionary Use – 18 Larch Street

The Committee reviewed a request from the resident at 18 Larch Street to operate a Home Based Business for tattoo services. This type of business is identified as discretionary use in the Single Unit Small Lot Residential (RS-2) Zone in the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor Development Regulations (2022-2023). A notice was mailed to adjacent property owners and advertised on the Town's social media outlets. There were two (2) submissions received concerning the parking availability in this area.

The Committee recommends staff request the proposed parking plan be submitted and to approve if the plans meet the Town's Development Regulations.

#### Discretionary Use – Hill Street

The Committee reviewed a request from a resident to construct four (4) tiny homes development on Hill Street. This type of construction is identified as discretionary use in the Single Unit Small Lot Residential (RS-2) Zone in the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor Development Regulations (2022-2023). A notice was mailed to adjacent owners and advertised on the Town's social media outlets. There was one submission received concerning the area being too congested and suggest using this area for a park or playground.

The Committee understands the concerns but recommends this be approved. The Town of Grand Falls-Windsor needs more affordable housing.

### Variances Request – 78 Grenfell Heights

The Committee reviewed a request from the resident at 78 Grenfell Heights for a ten percent (10%) variance on the maximum height of an accessory building. A notice was mailed to adjacent property owners and there were no objections received.

The Committee recommends this variance be approved.

### 226A Grenfell Heights

The Committee further discussed the backland at 226A Grenfell Heights that is currently for sale. The owner has sold the residence, but the back land is still for sale. This land was appraised at \$95,000. The owner is wondering if the Town is interested in purchasing this land for future development.

The Committee recommends that this not be purchased by the Town at this time.

### Housing Accelerator Funds

The Committee discussed the Housing Accelerator Funding Program by the CMHC that could potentially provide significant funding which can be used for land developments to increase housing units within the Town including infrastructure for high density living. The application deadline is August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

The Committee recommends approval and for staff to prepare the application for the August 18<sup>th</sup> deadline.

### Rezoning Request – 50 Main Street Extension

The Committee reviewed a rezoning request from the owner of 50 Main Street Extension for a residential development. A portion of this land cannot be used due to the area being zoned Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA).

The Committee recommends this rezoning request be approved and staff commence the process.

### Water Quality

The Committee discussed the water quality issues that are currently around Town. Staff have been investigating potential causes of this problem and addressing areas by flushing and investigating\repairing waterline breaks. Staff has also changed their procedure to the annual flushing program in an attempt to improve water quality. The Committee reiterated that the water quality in Town remains a top priority for Council and thanks staff for their continued efforts.

The Committee recommends staff continue to focus on this issue and identify areas for future Capital Projects to address.

### Accessibility Concerns in Construction Zones

The Committee discussed correspondence received from a resident concerning accessibility issues within construction zones including access to their own property.

The Committee recommends staff implement a plan moving forward to address accessibility in construction areas in the future. The Committee also recommends encouraging residents to reach out if they experience any difficulty.

### Public Works Production Reports

The Committee reviewed the Public Works Production Reports to July 2023. This report is updated on a regular basis.

The Committee recommends reviewing these reports at every Public Works and Development Committee meeting.

### 2023 Street Paving

The Committee reviewed the proposed Paving Program for 2023. This list was prepared on a priority basis for consideration. The new 2023-2026 Multi-Year Capital Works Program has allocated \$1 million for the 2023 Paving Program and the Town has just received the signed Agreement from the Provincial Government.

The Committee recommends the proposed streets be approved and staff prepare the tender for the required work.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

## Motion

Coady\Little

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

Councillor Coady advised an important issue that came up in our meeting was accessibility concerns in construction zones, and we agreed that moving forward we need to do a better job at recognizing that when we are doing major construction that we reach out to the residents that are going to be directly affected so that accommodations are put in place to make sure they can enter and exit their homes safely. She also advised that our goal is to do 6KM of paving annually, \$1,000,000 is a lot of money, but unfortunately it does not get us any way near that. We have highlighted specific streets that we know are priority so we will work with that \$1,000,000 and get what we can do with those funds. Lastly, a lot of our residents are having issues with water quality lately and we are doing our best to resolve the issues. It is disappointing because we want our residents to have clean water with no disruptions. We are working diligently to try to identify the problem and come up with solutions to correct it. We know it is frustrating, but we encourage residents to keep making the calls every time they get discolored water, so that we can track, monitor and trend to try and figure out what is causing the problem.

Mayor Manuel advised we have been talking about the increase in water quality issues, we believe a lot of it is related to flushing and construction in the Circular Road and Goodyear Avenue area which can be expected. We are hopeful that once that project is over it will alleviate some disruptions. We have also purchased a couple of new pieces of equipment, a leak detection unit and a water jetter that can scour the inside of our water lines better than they have for decades. We know that flushing of the lines is not a permanent solution, and we know there are many contributing factors that complicates things a little bit more. Tomorrow we will be putting out some extra information on the water distribution, the Water Treatment Plant and investments that have been made, how the Plant works and testing information that could be helpful. The important thing is for residents to report issues so we can act on them. For those having water disruptions on a continual basis, we understand your frustration and it is something that we want to fix, but it is challenging sometimes to detect the problem and to fix it. Fixing it sometimes means Capital Work, meaning we have to apply for funding

from Provincial and Federal sources. The priority areas will be the areas discussed for Capital Budgets going forward and for those areas that are having issues that have not before, we hope it will clear up once construction is finished. The water is tested at the Plant daily, and tested by the Provincial Government quarterly so we know it is safe water. It is discolored and that causes a big problem, but it is not causing health risks to our citizens and the testing proves that. We have cast iron pipes that have been used for years, they produce corrosion and that in many cases is causing discoloration. We will continue to find solutions, but it takes time. In the meantime, he offered an invite to anyone that would like to meet with him or Council to reach out. He also mentioned that the tiny homes are needed, but it takes private landowners and developers to come forward looking for permits in order to carry out these developments. The Town is encouraging development in tiny homes, in affordable homes, and senior housing, and we have identified fourteen (14) areas around Town for in-filling development and will be encouraging developers to move forward on projects. The mining is going well here, and we had a great announcement today that the Wind Energy Project will be going ahead in Botwood and all of that will bring more strain and stress on our housing and the rest of our infrastructure. It is important for the Provincial Government when they come into an Agreement with these companies that the companies are held accountable for insuring, they are going to invest in the municipalities in the Region. If a company is going to come into this area with a \$6 billion dollar project, we will get an economic spin-off, but we also need investments in our infrastructure. Great news but it will present some challenges and development will be needed and we will continue to work with developers as best as we can.

The following Resolution was presented by Councillor Coady:-

RESOLUTION GF-W 2023-370

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT

TOWN OF GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

AMENDMENT No. 3, 2023

Under the authority of Section 16 of the Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000, the Town Council of Grand Falls-Windsor adopts the Development Regulations Amendment No. 3, 2023.

Motion

Coady\Little

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2023-370 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

The following Resolution was presented by Councillor Coady:-

RESOLUTION GF-W 2023-371

URBAN AND RURAL PLANNING ACT, 2000

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT

TOWN OF GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

AMENDMENT No. 7, 2023

Under the authority of Section 16 of the Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000, the Town Council of Grand Falls-Windsor adopts the Development Regulations Amendment No. 7, 2023.

Motion

Coady\Noel

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2023-371 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

The following Resolution was also presented by Councillor Coady:-

RESOLUTION GF-W 2023-372RESOLUTION TO APPROVETOWN OF GRAND FALLS-WINDSORMUNICIPAL PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONSAMENDMENT No. 2, 2023

Under the authority of Section 23 of the Urban and Rural Planning act, 2000, the Town Council of Grand Falls-Windsor approves the Municipal Plan and Development Regulations Amendment No. 2, 2023.

Motion

Coady\Dwyer

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2023-372 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

The following Tender Summary was presented by Councillor Coady:-

2023 Street ResurfacingProject #17-MYCW-24-00000

<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>HST</u>	<u>Total</u>
Penney Paving Ltd.	\$ 921,467.00	\$ 138,220.05	\$ 1,059,687.05

Motion

Coady\Browne

Be it resolved that the Tender be awarded to Penney Paving Ltd. in the amount of \$921,467.00 plus HST. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

## Corporate Services (1 of 2)

The following report was presented by Councillor Dwyer.

### Labour Report

The Committee reviewed the labour costs as of week thirty-one (31). Total labour was \$2,170,231. This was \$214,421 (8.9%) 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 \$1,550,299.22 and recommends this be presented at the next Council meeting.

### Taxation Receivables Analysis

The Committee reviewed the taxation receivables analysis for July 2023. The report analyzes the receivable balances, along with the amounts collected during the month. Total taxation receivables as of July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 is \$4,907,019.07 (\$4,656,795.47 – 2022) an increase of \$250,223.60 (5.37%) from the previous year. Total amount of taxes collected in July 2023 was \$725,176.

The Committee continues to encourage staff to increase efforts to collect all outstanding balances. Reminder that residents and businesses can check their balances and make payments online; instructions are on the back of your tax invoice. Alternatively, you can come by the Town Hall at 5 High Street or call 709-489-0402 or 709-489-0403 to make a payment or set up a payment plan to avoid future interest charges.

### Donation Requests

The Committee reviewed a request from Kids Eat Smart for support towards its breakfast program for children in schools. Every \$1.00 donated provides breakfast for a child in need. In addition, the Kids Eat Smart Foundation, in partnership with VOCM Cares, are having a radiothon on Wednesday, November

8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 1:00-5:00 P.M. which will broadcast on VOXM. Residents can check out kidseatsmart.ca for more information.

In past years, Council has agreed to make a donation and rotate which local school it supports. The Committee recommends continuing this practice, and for the donation amount to be \$500.

The Committee reviewed a request from Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Central for support towards placemats to be placed in restaurants across the Central Region. The cost of an ad on the placemat is \$150.

The Committee recommends approval of an ad on the placemat and for staff to follow up with the group to make arrangements.

Councillor Dwyer excused herself at 5:30 P.M. due to a perceived conflict of interest, and this meeting paused until 5:40 P.M.

#### Open Calls for Bids

The Committee reviewed an Open Call for Bids for Project #17-GI-23-00024 Downtown Area Water, Storm & Road Upgrades.

The Committee recommends this project be awarded to Emmanuel Construction Services Ltd. in the amount of \$2,116,098.32 plus HST (\$27,434.18 under budget).

The Committee reviewed an Open Call for Bids for Project #17-MCW-23-00018 Town Hall HVAC Upgrades.

The Committee recommends this project be awarded to R&R HVAC Controls Ltd. in the amount of \$182,918 plus HST. This amount is \$9,006.41 above the pre-project estimates but is below the approved Government Funding for the project.

#### Taxi License Transfer

The Committee discussed a request to transfer a taxi license to a new operator.

The Committee recommends that staff obtain more information from the applicant and bring it back to a future meeting.

Grand Falls House Foundation

The Committee discussed the recent correspondence from the Grand Falls House Foundation requesting support for their initiatives and upgrades to the House and property.

The Committee recommends that this request be discussed further at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

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 6-0.

Corporate Services (2 of 2)

Prior to the reading of these Minutes Councillor Dwyer was excused due to a perceived conflict of interest.

The following report was presented by Councillor Coady.

Donation Request

Councillor Dwyer excused herself from this portion of the meeting due to a perceived conflict of interest. The Committee reviewed a request from the College of the North Atlantic for a donation towards their annual orientation breakfast for students. This is an event that Council has supported in years past with a donation and helping serve breakfast.

The Committee recommends a donation of \$500.00.

I move the recommendation and report of this Committee.

Motion

Coady\Noel

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

Mayor Manuel advised us to error on the side of caution with conflict of interest, that is why Councillor Dwyer was excused for this section of the meeting as she is an employee of the College of the North Atlantic.

Councillor Dwyer returned to the meeting at this time.

The following Resolution was presented by Councillor Dwyer:-

RESOLUTION GF-W 2023-369

2021 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

WHEREAS: Section 92(1) of the Municipalities Act, 1999 requires submission and acceptance of the annual Audited Financial Statements;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor accepts the December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, Audited Financial Statements and submission to the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Motion

Dwyer\Little

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2023-369 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Committee of the Whole (1 of 2)

Prior to the reading of these Minutes Councillor Coady was excused due to a perceived conflict of interest.

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador (MNL) Nominations

The Committee discussed positions on the MNL Board for which nominations are being accepted until 2025. Councillor Coady is currently serving as President of MNL and is willing to continue in the position.

The Committee recommends that Council support Councillor Coady in her position and quest for re-election.

The Committee wishes her success in this process and work ahead.

I move the recommendation and report of this Committee.

Motion

Browne\Dwyer

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

Deputy Mayor Browne advised that Councillor Coady was excused from the meeting due to a perceived conflict of interest because she is the current President of Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador and intends to run again.

Mayor Manuel stated Councillor Coady has been doing a great job and has a very strong voice for Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador. The Conference is in late October and hopefully she will be successful.

Councillor Coady returned to the meeting at this time.

Committee of the Whole (2 of 2)

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Skateboard Park Upgrades

The Committee discussed tender results for the Skateboard Park Upgrades and recommends awarding the project to Bluebird Investments in the amount of \$91,977.00 (tax included).

### Stadium Schedule

Staff reviewed with the Committee the outcome of their discussion with Stadium user groups to extend the season at the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium by opening November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, versus January 2024. This change would be to accommodate “AAA” Hockey.

The Committee recommends that the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium open on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, if staff can confirm the user group bookings.

### Stadium Advertising

The Committee discussed the practice of user groups selling Stadium rink board advertising for a fundraiser and the Town being responsible for invoicing and collecting payments.

The Committee recommends that the user groups collect their advertising revenue directly. The Town must approve all advertising before it is finalized to ensure it is suitable messaging for the arena.

### Grand Falls House Foundation

The Committee discussed correspondence received from the Grand Falls House Foundation whereby they are requesting financial and in-kind support from the Town to restore and re-purpose the Grand Falls House.

The Committee recommends support in principle for this request, but that staff have discussion to negotiate an Agreement and report back to the Committee for final approval.

### New Community Centre

The Committee reviewed some concept drawings for a new Community Centre prepared by staff. This new Community Centre would potentially be a Phase 4 initiative that would consolidate the community recreation facilities into one location for recreation and leisure experiences. The Phases discussed include a new arena and site development in Phase 1, and an aqua centre and fitness space in Phase 2, a multi-use gymnasium and multi-purpose rooms in Phase 3. And a second rink with capacity for ice sports and curling in Phase 4. Like all other

significant recreation facilities constructed in the Province, this project is very much dependent on funding from the Federal and Provincial Government.

The Committee recommends that staff engage in Public Consultation about this potential project and that staff explore funding possibilities sufficient for Phase 1 at the minimum, and report back to the Committee.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Browne\Noel

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

Councillor Little noted the Minutes talked about the opening of the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium to accommodate “AAA” hockey, he wanted to point out that there were many groups that reached out wanting the Stadium open earlier, but “AAA” hockey was the biggest user with the biggest impact. He also advised that we are working with the Grand Falls House Foundation to ensure they meet some of their goals that they have set out. Since we obtained the Grand Falls House from Government, there has not been a whole lot done, but it is reassuring to see that we are working towards doing something with the property.

Councillor Coady advised the extension of the Skateboard Park is a different piece of equipment that is a track for BMX bikes which are popular across Canada and the rest of the world. It is exciting that not only do we now have a Skateboard Park, but now a park for bikes and scooters too.

Councillor Noel said he has had numerous conversations with residents over the past several days about the new Community Centre and all comments are positive and the need for is recognized.

Mayor Manuel stated there comes a time when you must look at the time and money that is being put into keeping up with old facilities as opposed to investing in something new which will incorporate the arenas, pool and extra gym space. And in addition, all these industrial sectors including healthcare encouraging people to come and live in Grand Falls-Windsor makes this infrastructure that we have been lacking very important. And it gives us the opportunity to re-purpose some of the old infrastructure to be used for other activities that have also been giving us challenges to find space for. It will be frustrating as this will take a long time to happen, but we do plan to talk to the

community about the proposed Recreation Complex to make sure the money is well spent and utilized for the broadest number of people. We have met with the Grand Falls House Foundation numerous times; it has been in existence since 2016 and their mandate is to preserve the Grand Falls House and property but to also come up with a sustainable plan so that we are utilizing the property to benefit the community in a meaningful way. I have expressed concern to the Foundation about the importance of the Foundation being the driving force for this project with support from the Town. I am hesitant with moving forward with any kind of investment, until we can be assured that this is going to be a long-term benefit for the Town. When it comes to governance of the project, it will be the Foundation that is the driving force that gets any of the many ideas going. The Town wants that project to move forward. It is a very important historic structure, but we cannot invest significant dollars into the Grand Falls House just because it is a heritage structure. We look forward to working with the Foundation to develop that beautiful property overlooking the river.

### NOTICE OF MOTION

None

### OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Little commented that we are offering four (4) free hours of skating per day this week from 9:00 A.M.-2:30 P.M. and the details can be found on our website and Facebook page. He also expressed condolences to the family of the late Rod Budgell who passed away last week.

Mayor Manuel commented Rod Budgell deserves acknowledgement for the contributions he put into the sporting community over the years, he is gone too soon and will be missed.

Councillor Dwyer advised our youth S.T.E.M. Club will be starting October 1<sup>st</sup> and there is information on our Facebook page and our website. It is exciting for children, focusing on three (3) areas: Cyber Security, Health and Robotics held 2:00-4:00 P.M. on Sundays and registration is \$240 for twenty-four (24) weeks. We had a kick-off to this Program in the spring when fifty (50) students were down at the Ski Chalet, and they really enjoyed themselves and were really successful. Last week we were invited to tour the new Nursing building, it is state of the art

that looks and feels brand new, and she is sure the teachers and students of the program will be very pleased. The Town of Grand Falls-Windsor will send representatives to their Orientation Program the first week of their Semester to welcome them. Access to healthcare is a big issue for residents in our community and we have the Healthcare Coalition which has been very active this summer and recently we have been corresponding with the Minister of Health because we want to ensure that our family care team that was promised to Grand Falls-Windsor is established here sooner than later. We are down to eight (8) or nine (9) Physicians and we are unique because we service the entire region and without family Physicians patients are having to resort to the emergency room, so the emergency Doctors and staff are overrun. The Health Hub are seeing patients that do not have a family Doctor, but they cannot keep up either. It is having an impact on specialists as well because they are having to see follow-up patients, where normally they would go to a family Physician. This is a huge issue, so what we are advocating for now is a family care team that would service this region and we are going to be a lot more vocal in the coming weeks and months because this is needed now. We have an obligation to support the Physicians that we have left here and to make our Town a community where Physicians and healthcare professionals want to come to work.

Mayor Manuel advised there are no doubt healthcare issues all over the Province, but as Councillor Dwyer mentioned Grand Falls-Windsor is unique in that all the diversions coming to our Emergency Department from Lewisporte, Buchans, Baie Verte, Springdale and the list goes on. Our Emergency Department was already a busy place, so when you have family Physicians leaving hand over fist and then people being forced to travel to Grand Falls-Windsor for emergency services it leaves a lot of work for the small number of doctors we have who are getting burned out as are the nurses. We have people in the emergency room who should not be there, you got wait times of sixteen (16) to eighteen (18) hours, you have people leaving throughout the day who should be seen, you got specialists dealing with issues that they should not be dealing with. We have talked to many healthcare professionals with the Coalition, and the lack of Physicians is worse in Central Newfoundland than in other areas. The vast majority of the new recruits have been recruited for the eastern part of the Avalon. We are very concerned with the amount of money Government have been spending on remuneration, bonuses and incentives for Physicians in towns that service just that town. For example, the amount of money paid to ER Physicians in Bonavista that service only Bonavista, also when Government puts out bonus structures for Emergency Room Doctors

Grand Falls-Windsor was excluded. Grand Falls-Windsor, Gander and Burin were the three (3) places that were excluded from the bonuses, so now our ER Doctors are relocating to where they make more money. This has been made known to the Minister as it should be offensive to people in this community that Grand Falls-Windsor has not been included when we have lost so many doctors in the last few years. I hope it gets rectified soon, because incentivizing others that will take workers away from our hospital is despicable. We encourage residents to call the Government or even open line to get their voices heard.

Deputy Mayor Browne advised the Labour Day Committee has been actively busy preparing for Labour Day and to include all workers not just Union groups. The Labour Day Parade and the Bike Contest will start at 9:00 A.M., Monday morning, from Main Street. They will stop at the fountain on High Street from some speeches and there will be hot dogs and hamburgers to everybody that shows up and some prize draws. As 2:00 P.M. the festivities will move to Church Road Park where there will be entertainment, bouncy castles and giveaways. He encourages everybody to take part in Labour Day activities. Lastly, he wanted to acknowledge the discolored water issues, and wanted to assure all those affected that we will be doing everything possible to try and correct those extremely frustrating issues.

Councillor Coady expressed congratulations to Cameron Snow of Exploits Valley High here in Grand Falls-Windsor who was awarded the Ministers Award for Compassion Teaching. She advised that Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador announced their 2022\2023 Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Award recipients, and Pauline Price from the Exploits Hurricanes was named Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador Volunteer of the Year Awards, so congratulations to Pauline. She expressed congratulations to Jayden Reid of JR's Cupcakes who was awarded the CBDC Youth Ventures 2023 Community Impact Award. Lastly, we have children starting school, children going back to school and children moving on to college. She wishes anyone travelling this weekend safe travels whether it is moving here for college or moving children to University and Colleges, and she wishes everyone a successful 2023\2024 season.

Councillor Noel noted that with school starting next week he asked that motorists take their time on all the routes that the school buses travel. Kudos to all those involved in the Community Garden as it has provided so many things not only the growth of the gardens, but the social interactions and relationships built.

He wanted to remind anyone that is interested to contact the folks at the Community Gardens and get their name put on the list for next year.

Mayor Manuel advised there is a video for the Community Gardens going around and he encouraged everyone to check it out on Facebook, what a fantastic job and like Councillor Noel said it is not just the growing, you have got the Autism Society, Special Olympics and sixty (60) beds provide food for the Grand Falls-Windsor\Bishop's Falls Community Food Bank. It looks amazing out there and it is just another example of a project that a community group put together, and it is absolutely beautiful out there. The Wind Energy Project is one of four (4) that Government recommended today to proceed, and that is a project that will be able to generate power around 3200 megawatts which is four (4) times the size of Muskrat Falls. It is more of a manufacturing project because you have the deep-water port, the ability to be able to transform hydrogen to ammonia and ship it overseas to European markets. This is a \$6 billion dollar project, that will offer thousands of jobs and opportunities for young people here to have careers in that field, also bringing people in from other Provinces and countries and growth for our Region. It is going in Botwood, and what is good for Botwood is good for Grand Falls-Windsor and vice versa, so that is fantastic news. Lastly, he hopes everyone enjoys the rest of their summer.

### ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Dwyer\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, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 P.M.

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Barry Manuel  
Mayor

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Darren Finn  
Chief Administrative Officer