

MINUTES OF MEETING

GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE TOWN HALL

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

PRESENT: Mayor: Barry Manuel  
Deputy Mayor: Mike Browne  
Councillors: Amy Coady, Holly Dwyer, 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 a Proclamation for Sexual Violence Awareness Week September 11<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 #580 of Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Motion

Coady\Noel

Be it resolved that the Minutes of Meeting #580 of Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

## BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

Councillor Noel requested a crosswalk on Scott Avenue. He reminds residents that a crosswalk does not provide protection and you still must practice safety.

Mayor Manuel noted there is always a need for crosswalks, and we hope to continue to add more as time goes on in areas that it is warranted. It is one thing to ask drivers to be cautious, and another to make sure that pedestrians are being aware when they are crossing the street at any location at any time.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Community Services

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

#### Ice Cancellation Policy

The Director updated the Committee on the newly developed Ice Cancellation Policy set to start this season that is intended to ensure ice availability is managed with maximize usage in mind.

#### Environment Resources Management Association (ERMA) Correspondence

The Committee reviewed the correspondence from ERMA asking the Town to continue with maintenance of Gorge Park and Sanger Park Trails.

The Director will discuss with the Engineering staff and look at options moving forward and present back at a later meeting.

#### Summer Events Overview

The Director gave the Committee an overview of the events this past summer and the success the Department had. All events such as Concerts in the Park, Bouncy Castle Mondays and Salmon Festival had great crowds and were well received by citizens and visitors.

The Director informed the Committee that work has already started for next season with several new and exciting events planned.

### Stadium Schedule – Opening

The Director informed the Committee that staff are continuing to work on the upcoming Stadium Schedules, but this work is being impacted by discussions among local hockey and Figure Skating Clubs considering mergers with their organizations. The Town will continue to work with the Associations until final decisions are made about the make-up of their organizations and this will enable them to better know what ice will be required. The Director will provide an updated schedule at the next meeting.

### Culinary Update

The Director informed the Committee that all the chefs have been confirmed, menus completed, and staff are now working to promote ticket sales for the September 23<sup>rd</sup> event.

### Marathon Gold Correspondence

The Committee had some discussion on the correspondence from Marathon Gold Corporation to partner with Y2C and the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor on a “Back-to-School” event aimed at gathering school supplies for those parents in need of help during this time of year.

The Committee recommended that we help with this event and provide the facilities and staff required to make it a success.

### Grand Falls-Windsor Minor Baseball Correspondence

The Committee had some discussion on the correspondence from Minor Baseball on the redevelopment of “C” Field to a Midget, Junior and Senior Field.

The Committee recommends that the Director discuss with the Engineering and Development staff and develop a costing of the work that would be required and add it to the Capital List to be considered in the 2024 Budget.

### Multi-Materials Stewardship Board (MMSB) Correspondence

The Committee had some discussion on a Grant available from the Multi-Materials Stewardship Board.

The Committee recommended that the Director consider developing a proposal around keeping green spaces and recreation facilities clean.

### Central Health Correspondence

The Committee had some discussion on correspondence received from Central Health about the availability of Town equipment for their Provincial meetings here in the region.

The Committee recommended that the Director contact the group to get additional information before discussing further.

### Seniors Fair 2023

The Director informed the Committee that the 2023 Seniors Fair is scheduled for Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

The Committee recommended that the Town put in a booth and that Councillors and staff make themselves available.

### Exploits 50+ Club

The Director informed the Committee that he and Deputy Mayor Browne have met with the Exploits 50+ Club to find ways that the Community Services Department could help the Club with some issues with their building.

The Committee recommended that the Director and his staff help the Club with some Grant Applications for building improvements.

### First Time Skaters Program

The Committee had some discussion on the First Time Skaters Program.

The Committee recommended that the Director look at other options for next season and present them at a future Committee meeting.

### Agriculture Show

The Director informed the Committee that the Agriculture Show will not be coming to Grand Falls-Windsor this year but will be scheduled again for the 2024 tour.

### 2023 Labour Day

The Deputy Mayor discussed the 2023 Labour Day activities including the parade, the free BBQ, and the Concert in the Park.

The Committee recommended that all the activities be posted on the Towns website and encourages everyone to come out and support this event.

### Soccer Field

The Committee had some discussion on field maintenance on the soccer field.

The Committee recommends that the Director look at options for ensuring scheduled games are communicated to Supervisory staff, so the Town can ensure we provide the best facilities to groups who use them.

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 6-0.

Deputy Mayor Browne reminded residents that the Seniors Fair will be on October 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium.

Councillor Little stated that he is disappointed that the Agriculture Fair is not coming here this year, but we are looking forward to having it back next year. He also advised Minor Baseball are asking us to upgrade the “C” Field to allow our Midget, Junior and Senior Programs to play here, because right now we do not have a field that they can host tournaments on.

Mayor Manuel stated over the last ten (10) to fifteen (15) years the Stadium did not open until after Remembrance Day, the only time it was opened earlier was when Rogers Hometown Hockey was here. We have two (2) Stadiums, and the demand for an arena and a half. Groups tend to want the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium because it is upgraded, has heat, and holds more people for games, so we try to accommodate people as best we can. Environment Resources Management Association (ERMA) has asked us to continue to take care of maintenance of Gorge Park Trails. We will continue to work with them as they have some big plans for the future and the Town would like to be part of them.

### Committee of the Whole (1)

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

### Rezoning Request – 222 Grenfell Heights

The Committee discussed a request from the property owner of 222 Grenfell Heights to rezone their property from Commercial to Residential. The property owner wishes to convert the front portion of this property into an apartment unit. Currently, there are two (2) other apartments in the rear portion of this building.

The Committee recommends that the process for rezoning this property be initiated with Council's initial support.

### Community Centre

The Committee discussed the concept of constructing a new Community Centre and the process for engaging the public.

The Committee recommends that property owners immediately adjacent to the proposed location be advised of the project and given an opportunity for feedback. The next steps following the engagement of adjacent property owners will include general communications to all residents of Grand Falls-Windsor and this will be followed up by an initial public meeting later this year.

### Seniors' Day in the Park

The Committee discussed the planned Seniors' Day in the Park at Gorge Park on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. A free pre-registration was required that resulted in fifty (50) registered participants signing up on a first come, first served basis, and another seventy-two (72) registrants were placed on a waitlist. The limit of fifty (50) was based on the limited capacity of staff to serve a larger group.

The Committee recommends that we accommodate those on the waitlist and Council will assist with cooking and engagement of participants.

### Video Surveillance

The Committee discussed the ongoing need for video surveillance and reinforced their desire to have video surveillance in more locations.

The Committee recommends that staff investigate options and cost for adding additional surveillance.

### Water Quality

The Committee discussed concern expressed by citizens, in some areas, about persistent water quality issues.

The Committee reaffirmed that it was their priority to find resolutions to these problems in both the short and long term and continue reporting back to the Committee on progress.

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.

Deputy Mayor Browne advised we had one hundred and three (103) seniors that participated in the “Seniors Day at the Park”, that was moved to the Stadium last week. They were delighted with the afternoon and looked forward to the next one.

Mayor Manuel noted last week we had the opportunity to discuss water quality with some residents after our last public Council meeting, and we recognize that they are important issues because we want everyone in Town to have clean water. We have had a lot of resources put into this issue for many months now and that includes our own staff who have been in those areas to investigate, to try and find leaks and looking at the flows to try and determine what may be causing these issues. We have a consultant that will be looking at these areas with another set of eyes and give us some information on what the issues may be and act on them. We do recognize that a vast majority of Town have good water, but some construction work in areas has caused water disruption in areas that do not normally have any issues. We want people to report these issues, because if we are not made aware we aren't able to act on it. The last time we looked seriously at having some broader video surveillance and coverage in Town, the costs of technology were very prohibited. Now we realize that technology has come a long way, especially accessing internet services, and we once again do want to look to broaden our surveillance capabilities. We do realize that this is not a solution to everything either, we still need people to keep their eyes open for any destructive behavior and always report anything suspicious. The Municipal Enforcement Officers are not allowed under legislation to deal with criminal activity, so please send your reports to the RCMP. He also suggests that citizens have their voices heard around the lack of policing available for this region, we realize that the crime in this area has increased, and we want to make sure we have adequate police resources.

Committee of the Whole (2)

Prior to the reading of these Minutes Deputy Mayor Browne was excused due to a perceived conflict of interest.

The following report was presented by Councillor Coady.

Grand Falls Golf Club

The Committee discussed a request from the Grand Falls Golf Club for assistance excavating trenches for their new irrigation system. The work would take approximately six (6) weeks to complete, and the Club would compensate the Town for staff wages.

The Committee recommends that staff discuss the scope of work with the Club Executive and accommodate the request if the Town has the operational capacity to do so.

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 commented there is a lot of inaccurate information floating around social media when it comes to the Grand Falls Golf Course, for example, the Town giving the Golf Course \$750,000 for an irrigation system is not correct. The Town has had relationship\partnership with the Golf Course for decades and will continue to have that, but he is happy to report that the irrigation system is something that the Golf Course is financially able to do on their own. The Town's contribution to the Golf Course is \$375,000 and it is over twenty (20) years, the overall cost of the project is roughly \$1.4 million dollars, so it works out to twenty-five percent (25%) of the cost over time contingent on several factors. We are weaning the Golf Course off Town support with this agreement. We have made a commitment with the Golf Course Executive to meet with them annually and go through their financial statements and make sure that everything is in order. If we feel that a fee increase for its members is needed to continue to be a stable organization then that is something that the Town can request. If we feel that is necessary and the Executive doesn't agree, then we will stop paying as per the agreement. We also won't be disbursing funding if they find themselves in a good



financial situation. The Golf Course is not only a good thing for the members, but also good for the community. It draws people to Town, from a tourism professional recruitment perspective it's big and it is important that we support it. To make the accusation that this support is because our Deputy Mayor is on the Golf Course Executive is ridiculous when we support so many other groups and organizations in Town in the same way if not more. We have all the information here; anybody is welcome to view it and we are always open to questions. We have a beautiful Golf Course, and this irrigation system is much needed to improve it.

Deputy Mayor Browne returned to the meeting at this time.

The following Resolution was presented by Councillor Dwyer.

RESOLUTION GF-W 2023-373

2021\2022 INVESTING IN CANADA INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM  
FUNDING

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

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

AND WHEREAS: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor has a funding shortfall of approximately \$58,000 in Project #17-GI-23-00024 which is an ICIP Funded Project (supporting documents attached) for the Downtown Area Water, Storm and Road Upgrades;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor agrees to award the tender to Penney Paving Ltd. in the amount of \$709,969.18 and recover the shortfall under Municipal Operational Cost.

Motion

Dwyer\Little

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2023-373 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

### NOTICE OF MOTION

None

### OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Dwyer mentioned that the “Take Back the Night” event is happening on September 14<sup>th</sup> at Church Road Park at 7:30 P.M. and she wanted to remind people that you can bring canned goods to that event, and they will accept the donation. The terms of the Youth Advisory Committee were accepted, and we are ready to start that Committee, so now we are recruiting youth from Grade 7-9, Grade 10-12, Post-Secondary and under 21 who are not attending Post-Secondary, for a two (2) year term and the application deadline is September 29<sup>th</sup>. The whole idea around the Youth Advisory Committee is to get information and ideas from youth in our community that we can implement in our programs, our policies, our systems, and events that have an impact on what we do in our community and on Council. It is a great opportunity for youth that are interested in Municipal Government and want an opportunity to have a look at how it works and how we operate and get involved at a young age.

Deputy Mayor Browne expressed congratulations to the Labour Day Committee on a successful Labour Day this past Monday. The day and events were enjoyed by many. Going forward the Unions will be forming a Committee and taking over the Labour Day festivities starting next year, which is great news.

Councillor Coady reminded residents that there is still a lot of construction work going on and asks that people please be cautious going around Town by watching speeds to keep our motorists safe, and our workers in the areas safe. She also advised that the Parkinson “Shake, Rattle and Stroll” event will take place on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 P.M. from the Francis M. Nichols Community Centre (YMCA) parking lot, and donations can be made online at [NLparkinsons.ca](http://NLparkinsons.ca).

Councillor Noel noted that September 24<sup>th</sup> is World Rivers Day where students and residents help to clean up litter along the river, and he encourages people to meet them at 1:00 P.M. to get involved to help keep our world class river clean. We recently had a targeted theft at the Community Gardens of the barricades that were in place to help keep the participants in the Community

Gardens safe. Community Gardens do so much for our community, and it is extremely sad that someone would do this, so if anyone knows where they are or has any information, please reach out to the RCMP.

Councillor Little commented that children are back at school now and reminded residents to slow down especially in school zones and pay attention to school bus signs. Not all families are equally fortunate, so if you can support the breakfast program or school supply drives, please do that as it is needed.

Mayor Manuel advised if anybody wants any information about events that are coming up, they can always find it on our website or Facebook page, and if you have any questions about any programs, please contact our Community Services Department at 709-489-0450. Sadly, Chad Haggett passed away recently, a young man from our community that did a lot for our community. He was involved with the Lions Club, and he helped raise money for the Ronald McDonald House through the Red Shoe Walk for years as the local representative and served on the Ronald McDonald House Executive, along with many other things as he was very passionate about this community. If anyone wants to recognize Chad's memory, they can do so by making donations to the Ronald McDonald House in his memory.

### ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Coady\Noel

Be it resolved that the meeting of the Grand Falls-Windsor Town Council would be adjourned until the next regular scheduled meeting of Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

---

Barry Manuel  
Mayor

---

Darren Finn  
Chief Administrative Officer