

MINUTES OF MEETING

GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE TOWN HALL

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, MAY 7TH, 2024

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 Fibromyalgia Awareness Day – May 12th; Municipal Awareness Week May 5th – 11th; World Ovarian Cancer Day – May 8th and Heart Failure Awareness Week 2024.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and asked for any errors or omissions to the Minutes of Meeting #591 of April 16th, 2024.

Motion
Coady\Hiscock

Be it resolved that the Minutes of Meeting #591 of April 16th 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 \$494,029.04.

Motion

Dwyer\Noel

Be it resolved that the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$494,029.04 would be received as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Works and Development

The following report was presented by Councillor Coady.

Water Quality

The Committee was updated on the calls received for discoloured water. Over the last couple of weeks, there was only one (1) call received and water samples around Town have been good. Staff continues to monitor Bishop Street closely as this continue to have issues and there has been regular ongoing flushing. In addition, final quotes have been received for the flushing valves and are now being ordered.

Capital Works

The Committee was presented with a list of streets to be considered for the 2024 Street Resurfacing Project that has \$1 Million in Capital Works Funding. Other projects outside of this funding that have previously been approved are the Church Road Park repaving and upgrades to Grenfell Heights Extension.

The Town also has close to \$2 Million of unallocated funds from the MYCW 2023-2026 Agreement and staff provided a list of projects for consideration for water and sewer upgrades. There is a long list of available projects that need attention; however, funding is only available for one of these to be completed under the current agreement.

The Committee recommends the Street Resurfacing Project be discussed at a future meeting to provide more time for the Committee to review. Also, the

Committee recommends the replacement of water and storm infrastructure on Circular Road from Union Street to High Street be completed with the available funding. This will complete the upgrades on Circular Road, one of the oldest sections of the waterline in the Town.

Orthophosphate

The Committee was updated on the design work for the Orthophosphate addition at the Water Treatment Plant. The design is not completed, but preliminary estimates for construction are in the range of \$700K. This addition will help reduce the discoloured water issues in the Town and extend the life of the current infrastructure by reducing the corrosion of the pipeline.

The Committee recommends staff use these latest drawings and estimate to seek funding from Government Agencies to get this project completed as it is of the highest priority.

Roundabout Design

The Committee reviewed bids for the design work of a single lane roundabout for the Queensway\Toulett Drive intersection near Action Caps & Accessories Ltd. This intersection has had accidents and near misses in the past and with additional residential developments proposed in the area, traffic volume will increase. This proposed roundabout will provide safe passage for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The lowest acceptable bid is from Harbourside Engineering at \$43,000 plus HST.

The Committee recommends this be awarded to Harbourside Engineering.

New Cemetery Locations

The Committee discussed the need for a new Interfaith Cemetery location within Town limits. The new location will have to meet the immediate needs of the Town along with a lot of room to grow.

The Committee recommends staff research some proposed areas and bring back to a future Committee meeting for discussion.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Coady\Dwyer

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

Councillor Dwyer wanted to point out that we are getting the same amount of Multi-Year Capital as we did ten (10) years ago when costs have increased at least thirty percent (30%). It is not easy when we have a long list of projects that we would like to complete which would cost multi-millions, but we will try to complete what we can with the \$2,000,000 Multi-Year Shared Capital Works Funding that we have available this year.

Mayor Manuel stated that he really does not know how the Government expects municipalities to keep up, if they are not willing to provide more funding. If infrastructure is slowly fading and the funding is not there for repairs, then we will start having problems.

Councillor Coady in speaking about the budgeted \$2,000,000 when costs are increasing, we try to do what we can. For example, it will cost approximately \$700,000 for the orthophosphate system, which will extend the life of our already aged pipes that are underground. It is a less costly route than replacing infrastructure, but it is not fixing the problem and in ten (10) years the infrastructure will need to be replaced. We continue to work on the discoloured water issued and are pleased to see improvements. A lot of money is being spent on improving water quality as well, for instance we have ordered eight (8) new flushing valves that we hope will improve our flushing procedures.

Mayor Manuel, speaking about the funding required for the Water Treatment Plant on New Bay Road is an absolute disaster. We are not doing some projects because we do not want to, we just can't. We try to keep taxes down, but at the same time costs are going up and funding does not change, it is just not a good equation. The flushing valves are approximately \$8,000 each, so that's another \$64,000 and it all adds up. We are sure residents can appreciate our situation, because they too are struggling too with the cost of living increasing and it is very sad to see.

Deputy Mayor Browne advised that he got calls from residents on Esmond Street that were having water quality issues, and he noted that he got a call last night from them saying "Thank You" and that their water had never been clearer.

The following Resolution was presented by Councillor Coady:-

Resolution GF-W 2024-389
Revised Schedule "A"
Multi-Year Capital Works Program

WHEREAS: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor qualifies for funding under the

Provincial Multi-Year Capital Works Program;

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

AND WHEREAS: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor has available funding remaining in the Multi-Year Capital Works Program and has to re-profile funding;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor agrees to reallocate funding under the Multi-Year Capital Works Program to include Circular Road Waterline, Storm, and Road Upgrades – Phase II.

Motion

Coady\Hiscock

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2024-389 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Corporate Services

The following report was presented by Councillor Dwyer.

Labour Report

The Committee reviewed the labour costs as of week sixteen (16). Total labour was \$1,025,957. This was \$18,976 (1.9%) over budget.

The Committee is pleased to see the labour budget within two percent (2%) of the budget as the busy summer season approaches. The Committee encourages Management to continue monitoring the labour budget throughout the year.

Disbursement Report

The Committee reviewed the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$494,029.04 and recommends this be presented at the next Council meeting.

Taxation Receivables Analysis

The Committee reviewed the Taxation Receivables Analysis as of March 31st, 2024. The total taxes receivable at March 31st, 2024 is \$10,454,508 (compared to \$8,087,590 in 2023); an increase of twenty-nine percent (29%). March 31st fell on a Sunday this year; therefore, a significant amount of taxes was received after the cutoff for this report. After reviewing the balances as of April 25th, it was noted that the increase was just over four percent (4%), which falls in line with previous months. Staff noted that there is a staff meeting planned in the coming week to discuss the outstanding balances and determine a plan for the collection of arrears.

The Committee continues to closely monitor the tax receivables and encourages all residents and businesses to ensure they pay their outstanding balances as soon as possible or contact staff at the Town Hall to set up a payment plan. Interest is now accruing monthly on outstanding tax balances, so please act quickly to avoid additional interest charges.

Open Call for Bids – Project #17-MYCW-24-00004

The Committee reviewed the summary of an Open Call for Bids for the engineering and planning of upgrades to the HVAC system at the Public Works Depot. There were three (3) bidders on the project, and the lowest accepted bid was from AllNorth Consultants Ltd. in the amount of \$75,655 plus HST. The bid is \$11,785.90 under the proposed estimate for this portion of the overall project.

The Committee recommends awarding the project to AllNorth Consultants Ltd.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Dwyer\Little

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

Councillor Dwyer said it seems like an increase of twenty-nine percent (29%) in our taxation receivables is a lot, but an explanation to that is that the end of our taxation period fell on a Sunday and when it was checked on the Monday it was in line with previous years. It is still over last year's receivables, and that comes down to assessments being higher than last years, so too are our receivables.

We have asked staff to put some extra emphasis on getting those receivables down because we do not want to see it increase any more.

Deputy Mayor Browne said we have residents that find it difficult to pay their taxes, and he encouraged anyone in this situation to contact our Director of Corporate Services\Town Clerk to set up a payment plan and avoid interest.

Mayor Manuel wanted to also advise residents that if they wanted to come down to discuss their taxes, there is an office dedicated to privacy, so you are not in front of other staff or other citizens. We try our best to work with citizens to make sure they can pay, but at the same time we appreciate that the financial situation for some is not the best and we understand that.

Community Services (1 of 2)

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Canadian Heritage Correspondence

The Director gave the Committee an update on the funding application approval letter from Canadian Heritage to support the 2024 Canada Day Celebrations. The funding will assist with financing the celebrations including fireworks, entertainment, and prizes.

Summer Students Update

The Director gave the Committee an update on the Summer Student positions for the summer. The Director informed the Committee that the Town has received ten (10) Federal Summer Student positions this year, up three (3) from last year, but no approvals from the Provincial Government yet.

CNVAS Correspondence

The Committee reviewed a letter from CNVAS looking for help to secure a location for their Club. This room would be used to run and operate as a safe place for art classes, art studio, meetings and community gatherings.

The Committee recommends that the Director of Community Services sit with the group to work on a solution for space requirements and the cost associated to each partner.

Community Services Special Events 2024 Overview

The Director informed the Committee that the Community Services Department has been working on the 2024 events. The Director informed the Committee that the public will see the addition of several new events, concerts and programs being rolled out and that there will be something for everyone, and all events will be posted on the Towns Facebook page.

The Committee recommends that the Salmon Festival schedule of events be announced and posted as soon as the final schedule is completed.

Traction Central Impact Ice Request Correspondence

The Committee reviewed a request from Central Impact on the availability of the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium on the October 25th-27th weekend to host a Provincial Tournament. The Committee discussed the positive economic impact this would have on the community and the great entertainment value for the fans early in the hockey season.

The Committee recommends that the Director of Community Services work with the Public Works and Development staff to make the ice available for that opening weekend.

Spring Clean-up Update

The Director of Community Services informed the Committee that all community groups have been scheduled for the annual community clean-up and are scheduled to start in the coming weeks. The Committee advises the general public to be aware of roadside cleaning and ensure driving safety by paying attention to the road.

New Business

Splash and Boots Contest

The Committee had some discussion on the new contest that is being generated by the popular kid's performers "Splash and Boots" that has Grand Falls-Windsor as one of three (3) places in Canada that would win the name of a song and a video shoot.

The Committee recommends that the Communications Officer promote the contest on a regular basis and encourage our citizens from near and far to vote.

Ball Hockey Start Up

The Director informed the Committee that both Men's and Youth Ball Hockey will start at the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium in the coming weeks and will run until the end of June.

Stadium Dressing Room Repairs

The Committee had some discussions on the opportunity to update some of the stadium dressing rooms at both locations.

The Committee recommended that the Director of Community Services and the staff of the Public Works and Development Department meet to discuss options and present them at a later 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 Noel encouraged residents that if they see garbage, to do the right thing and pick it up. Toulett Drive was cleaned up a couple weeks ago by students, and he has noticed since that there is fresh garbage littered there. We are all in this together and if we all do our part, this community can be a very desirable place to live.

Councillor Little advised we have a lot of great special events planned for the summer, and they are always well attended and well received. Congratulations to the Director of Community Services and staff for all the great work they are doing. Two (2) events that are coming up are the 90's Night and Golden Girls and they are sold out, they sell out fast because our staff do such a great job at putting them off. We encourage citizens to get out to as many of our events as possible and enjoy them, and we offer a lot of free events, so there is something there for everyone. Our Salmon Festival announcement will be coming soon, and we know people are looking forward to that also.

Deputy Mayor Browne advised that our Spring Clean-up Schedule is on our Facebook page and he encourages all residents to take advantage of that; however, there is a Regulation that states you cannot put your items out until forty-eight (48) hours before your scheduled pick up date. The Spring Clean-up starts May 21st and he asks that residents abide by these Regulations.

Mayor Manuel advised not only is Spring Clean-up starting, but we also give community groups an opportunity to clean up an assigned area of Town and will receive a \$300 grant.

Community Services (2 of 2)

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

The following report was presented by Councillor Little.

Exploits Nordic Ski Club Correspondence

The Committee reviewed a letter from the Exploits Nordic Ski Club requesting the use of the facility during the summer months to run events and programs. The extra activities will be developed to help generate extra revenue for the Club to help offset the shortened skiing season.

The Committee recommends allowing the Exploits Nordic Ski Club to operate from May to October and that the Director of Community Services work with the Club to ensure that it is available for any future Town requirements.

I move the recommendation and report of this Committee.

Motion

Little\Hiscock

Be it resolved that this recommendation and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 5-1 with Councillor Coady voting “Naye”. She also wanted it to be noted that she was not in attendance at this meeting. She is also not sure if she is in favour of it, and disappointed that she missed the conversation. She thinks allowing Exploits Nordic Ski Club to use the facility for events from May – October is quite lengthy, and in off seasons we usually use them for Town purposes as they are Town buildings. They are used for programming; for example, our big eclipse event was just held there and those type of events happen fairly quickly with not a lot of notice or planning. She is concerned that allowing this facility to be open from May – October may limit us in our abilities to do some things that we may want to do. She is concerned that they will be putting themselves at a disadvantage by allowing a building that we normally do keep for our own purposes in the off season.

Deputy Mayor Browne mentioned the Nordic Ski Club was down to sixty (60) members this year due to the weather and their revenue generated was at an all time low because in 2020 and 2021 they had nine hundred (900) members. They are limited to how much revenue they could generate, and that is the basis of why they ask for use of the Ski Chalet in the off season.

Councillor Coady said she is looking at competing factors as well, because there is a lot of other community groups and private businesses that offer the same type of services that the Clubhouse would also be offering. She understands that they are facing financial difficulties because of membership numbers but allowing them to compete in the same field as private businesses would also affect their numbers and availability and maintain their current clientele and business opportunities.

Councillor Dwyer said looking at the request, it does not say that it would be used just for 2024, so she understands where Councillor Coady is coming from regarding the length of time.

The Director of Community Services said two (2) factors came into play with the discussion with the Nordic Ski Club: - #1 is that there is a need for small professional office space for meetings and small functions, and a lot of people try to get the Corduroy Brook facility for that reason, but it is not available in the summer months. The second factor is the ability to try and generate revenue due to their unforeseen low member count this year due to weather. They are looking to support their own requirements such as staff and equipment upgrades and grooming of the trail. Without being able to operate during the summer, it would probably come back to us in a larger grant than we would have to give. This year we have decided not to operate our summer camp out of that building, it will be operated in our playgrounds, which means our need of that facility daily was not required. We have presented to the Nordic Ski Club our list of dates for the remainder of the year that we know of right now, that we need the facility, and they will be blocked for us on those dates. We do have another location that could be used, on the offset chance that the facility is unavailable when needed.

The Chief Administrative Officer said it was important to Council that rental costs will not be any cheaper than going to another facility, and it was the view of Council that all our buildings get maximum utilization. Their events will not be run by Town staff, it will be ran by the Club and the volunteers.

Mayor Manuel returned to the meeting at this time.

Committee of the Whole

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne.

Towns and Local Service District Act

The Committee discussed a recent presentation by the Government regarding proposed changes to the Towns and Local Service District Act. The new Act is expected to provide more autonomy and flexibility for municipalities.

The Committee recommends that staff and Council Members actively engage in discussions related to these changes during the upcoming MNL Symposium and provide updates to Council as information emerges.

Visit from Residents of 43 Memorial Avenue

Residents requested a meeting to discuss noise disturbances in their neighbourhood.

The Committee recommends sending correspondence to an adjacent property and inform them about Councils Noise and Nuisance Regulations.

Mill Land Discussions

Staff provided an update on discussions related to acquiring some of the Mill lands from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure.

The Committee recommends continuing these discussions and conducting environmental testing along the road corridor in this area. Testing is expected to cost approximately \$33,000 plus HST.

Rezoning Request in Queensway\Ridgewood Area

The Committee supports the current and ongoing efforts to respond to increased housing demands and seeks to rezone lands in the Queensway\Ridgewood area.

The Committee recommends referring these amendments to rezone land in this area back to the Provincial Government for their review, excluding environmentally sensitive-zoned lands.

Discretionary Use Request for Childcare Centre

The Committee reviewed a proposal for a Childcare Centre to be developed in a current Commercial Neighbourhood Zone on Cartwright Street. Under the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor Development Regulations 2022-2032, Childcare Centres are not listed specifically as a permitted use; however, Personal Service is permitted within this zone. Under Section 3.6, Discretionary Consideration of Development Permit Applications, Council has the authority to interpret whether the use of Childcare Centre would fit the use class of Personal Service.

The Committee recommends that Personal Service include the use of Childcare Centres and the proposed development be approved.

AND Company Dinner Theatre Student Positions

Concerns were raised about the shortage of student positions for the AND Company Dinner Theatre production. The Dinner Theatre was expecting ten (10) students but were provided funding for only seven (7).

The Committee recommends staff follow up to gather more information and report back at the next Committee meeting.

Paved Shoulders on Grenfell Heights

Concerns were expressed about vehicles parking on paved shoulders, obstructing pedestrians.

The Committee recommends installing signage in the area to prevent parking on paved shoulders.

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 7-0.

Councillor Noel said regarding the noise complaint on Memorial Avenue, it just seems like respect is missing even when it comes to neighbours. Some people work shift work or turnarounds, and it is important to respect that noise can affect people for different reasons. It is sad that in today's society we still have to deal with complaints like this. Around Town people do not park on sidewalks they park next to them, and it allows pedestrians to walk by safely, but on Grenfell Heights

there is no sidewalk it is just a road with a paved shoulder acting as an invisible sidewalk. He has noticed that several people park inside that line, which is dangerous for any pedestrian and people with accessible aids because now they must go into the road to get around the vehicle. He asked that residents keep that in mind going forward.

Mayor Manuel said people that live on Grenfell Heights with larger lots, driveways and frontage have the room to park their vehicles on their property, so there is no need to be parked on the road. Pedestrians are very important and should be always considered.

Councillor Coady said while she respects the paved shoulder space on Grenfell Heights for the pedestrians and those that are mobility impaired and using aids to be able to safely pass, it is a large space then there is a dirt shoulder before the property. A lot of the times people are parking on the dirt shoulder, and their vehicle is slightly on the paved shoulder. The difference in other areas of Town is that a sidewalk runs directly into the front of someone's property. She feels that putting "No Parking on Paved Shoulders" signs up will be confusing and is misleading because they weren't parking on the paved shoulder. She recommends that they be encouraged to move as much as possible off the paved shoulder, or obviously in the extended length driveway so that there is ample space for pedestrians in that section.

Councillor Noel noted the amount of "dirt road" on the side of the street is approximately 30cm, so to be inside of the paved shoulder you would be on someone else's property. We encourage people to get out and enjoy the fresh air, and their safety has to be thought about and there is ample opportunity to get these vehicles off the road.

Mayor Manuel advised "The Towns and Local District Act" will be replacing the Municipalities Act of 1999. It is uncertain when it will come into effect, but it is suspected to be in 2025. There are a lot of good things in that document that make things easier on municipalities, but there is also a lot of things that gives great concern. The draft document is online if anyone is interested in viewing it, and he encourages residents to look at it as there will be a lot of talk about it in the future. The Mill lands continue to be on our Minutes, and we certainly hope to get the land to connect the roadways and to make sure we have a right-of-way for recreational vehicles.

The following Resolution was presented by Deputy Mayor Browne:-

RESOLUTION GF-W 2024-388

VIOLATION REGULATIONS NAME CHANGE

WHEREAS: the Town Council of the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor may issue Violation Notices with respect to a failure to comply with a Provision of the Occupancy and Maintenance Regulations under the Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000 or a provision of the following Regulations enacted by the Town Council under the Municipalities Act, 1999 or the Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000;

WHEREAS: the current name listed in the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor Violation Regulations is stated as “The Town of Grand Falls-Windsor Development Regulations, 2020-2030, and the new Town of Grand Falls-Windsor Development Regulations are 2022-2032;

AND WHEREAS: it is deemed appropriate to simplify and streamline the Violation Notice name for ease of reference and clarity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Violation Notice name in the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor Violation Regulations be changed from “The Town of Grand Falls-Windsor Development Regulations, 2020-2030, to “The Town of Grand Falls-Windsor Development Regulations”.

Motion

Browne\Little

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2024-388 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Deputy Mayor Browne and Councill Dwyer were excused from the meeting at this time due to a perceived conflict of interest.

The following Resolution was presented by Councillor Coady:-

RESOLUTION GF-W 2024-390

DISMISSAL OF CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT AGAINST
RESPONDENT 1 AND RESPONDENT 2

WHEREAS: a complaint was lodged by a citizen concerning the travel expenses claimed by Respondent 1 and Respondent 2 during the Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador 2023 Conference;

WHEREAS: the staff on behalf of Council conducted a review of the travel expense claims and found that the actions of these Municipal Officials were in full compliance with established policies and procedures;

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Council of Grand Falls-Windsor, recognizing the adherence to policy, hereby dismisses the complaint against them and affirms their actions as compliant with the Town's Code of Conduct.

Motion

Coady\Noel

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2024-390 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Mayor Manuel advised the Code of Conduct Policy is new to Council, but just to give people an understanding he would like to explain this Code of Conduct complaint. Both Councillors attended a Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador Conference that hosts several Professional Development Sessions over two (2) or three (3) days, of which one evening there is a Gala Dinner with awards and live music, etc... Councillor Dwyer and Deputy Mayor Browne decided not to go to the Gala, but the complaint said that they claimed their twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) stipend when there was a meal provided by Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador that they should have went to. When Councillors travel there is a fifty-five dollar (\$55.00) allowance, they get twelve dollars (\$12.00) for breakfast, eighteen dollars (\$18.00) for lunch and twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for supper, and in this case because they claimed the meals allowances they were entitled to and someone complained about that.

The following Resolution was also presented by Councillor Coady:-

RESOLUTION GF-W 2024-391

DISMISSAL OF CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT AGAINST A
RESPONDENT

WHEREAS: a complaint was filed by the Complainant on March 17th, 2024, alleging the Respondent breached the Town's Code of Conduct by claiming an expense for a lunch meeting with the Witness on October 18th, 2023; and

WHEREAS: the complaint was investigated, including a review of related Policies; and

WHEREAS: the investigation found that the expense was in accordance with the Town Travel Policy and normal business practices, and the meeting was held to discuss Town business; and

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Council of Grand Falls-Windsor dismisses the complaint against the Respondent as unfounded and concludes that no further action shall be taken in this matter.

Motion

Coady\Hiscock

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2024-391 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Mayor Manuel wanted to explain that complaint as it was different and he wants to be transparent, this one has to do with the Deputy Mayor having a lunch meeting with the Chief Administrative Officer at the Mount Peyton. This is not something we do very often, but there are times in everybody's busy schedule that a lunch meeting is necessary. This complaint alleges that the meeting should not of happened and should have taken place in the Chief Administrative Office. He suspects that these are not the last we will hear about these types of complaints, and our staff had to go through a lot of work to investigate and stack up papers for everybody to read through and try to decide whether this was a violation of the Code of Conduct. The complaint is that Council is trying to enrich themselves, but if anyone wants to see our meeting expenses at any time, they are welcome to request them.

Deputy Mayor Browne and Councillor Dwyer returned to the meeting at this time.

NOTICE OF MOTION

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Coady noted Spring Clean-Up is May 21st to June 7th. The schedule was circulated in mailboxes, and she reminded residents not to put items out until forty-eight (48) hours before their scheduled pick-up day. We got our new \$700,000 vacuum truck this week, which will provide sanitary, sewer flushing, cleaning out maintenance holes, catch basins, installation of underground utilities, and can assist with excavation and water and sewer projects. Not only does it clean out the sewers, it does a bunch of other things and will make our work much more efficient. She did want to make it clear that all waste from the truck gets disposed of at our Waste Treatment facility. There is a picture of it on Facebook to show where all the tax dollars went on this key piece of equipment. The Queen Street Dinner Theatre auditions are happening May 15th and 16th at 7:30 P.M. at 29 King Street which is Jim's Value Grocer's building, and more information is on their website. Lastly, as part of Municipal Awareness Week our Facebook page has some contests, and she encourages people to get involved. She wanted to thank all her fellow Councillors and the Mayor for being easy to work with, she admitted they are busy and put in a lot of time, but they do great work with what they can, and she thanked residents for supporting them. It is hard work, but they love what they do.

Councillor Noel said there are many people that are on the organ donor list, and he encourages people to become a donor and get the red heart put on their driver's license. National Composting Week is coming up, and he encourages residents to take advantage and utilize our composting site by dropping off used coffee grounds and other compost items. He is pleased to see the basketball nets are out and staying on people's property rather than on the roads, which free up the sidewalks for pedestrians. Our High School Drama Club was in Corner Brook this weekend for the Provincial Drama Festival and came away with an Award of Distinction. He wanted to thank the teachers involved for developing the Drama Festival participants from Exploits Valley High. This past Saturday we had students out in the cold cleaning up the grounds of the Grand Falls House and although it is not completed yet, it went very well. Lastly, a student at Exploits Valley High, Jenna Hamilton was successful in receiving the Schulich Leadership Award of \$100,000, so congratulations to her on such a prestigious award.

Councillor Hiscock mentioned ATV season is upon us once again, and he asks riders to be cognizant of the rules and regulations of the road. To all the parents of younger children driving these recreational vehicles, they must be sixteen (16) years of age and the vehicle must be registered. He also asks motorists to be cognizant of motorcycles that will be on the streets now that the weather is getting nice, so always practice safety and be aware of your surroundings. He asked anyone bringing a complaint forward to our staff to be respectful, our employees work very hard and do a great job and they need to be treated with respect. We, as a municipality and as a Council, will not tolerate anyone verbally or physically abusing our employees for any reason. We lost a sweet lady on April 23rd, Ms. Elizabeth Banfield who was one hundred (100) years old, condolences to her family on such a loss of a wonderful lady. Lastly, there will be a concert at Holy Trinity Church on Thursday at 7:00 P.M. under the directorship of Charlotte Carey, with a line up of some talented musicians and it is free of charge.

Councillor Little stated there seems to be an alarming trend lately that motorists are failing to yield or stop for pedestrians in our Town. He asked that motorists be more courteous and advised that our Municipal Enforcement Officers will be patrolling to ensure motorists abide by the rules of the road. The Accessibility Plan Committee has already made a difference in our community by identifying businesses that were not accessible enough. Riff's Limited was one of the businesses that an issue was brought to their attention and immediately they made changes to ensure there are no barriers for people with disabilities. It is commendable that Riff's Limited acted so quickly, and hopefully more businesses will do the same in the future.

Councillor Dwyer said she had the honour of putting smiles on cookies and it was a great experience, and she was glad she was able to do that. The Community Advisory Committee met since our last Council meeting, which consists of volunteers that met to discuss things that are pertinent to Grand Falls-Windsor. This is something that Health Services Central Zone has put together, and last week they spoke about Family Care Teams, operational updates from Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services, and the Residency Program Forum. It was very informative, and she wanted to advise residents of what this Committee is doing and thank them for the work that they do. We have a site visit arranged for a pediatrician who is new to Grand Falls-Windsor, and we welcome them to our community. This is Nurses Week and as everyone knows we have the Memorial Nursing Program here now and a lot of the nursing students are finished for their Semester and will be working as Nurse Collaborators in the Hospital, Carmelite House and Long-Term Care facility. It is great that we have this program as it will supply some relief for some of the nurses that we have here. We have adopted a

Comprehensive Accessibility Plan and established an Accessibility Advisory Committee. that consists of members with disabilities and members with lived experiences. The Town is dedicated to eliminating barriers and increasing access to residents and visitors in the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor. Some businesses are coming on board and making necessary changes to reduce barriers, which is wonderful. Just so everyone is aware we sent some letters out to a lot of businesses in the community not only about physical accessibility, but also about facilities, washrooms, communication with signs, and how messages are presented to people who might have vision disabilities. The letters were also about customer service, as it does not necessarily have to cost the business money to make changes, they can simply train their staff in ways to help somebody with a disability. It does take some effort to train your employees about some differences that they could make, but it does not cost a thing and could have a huge impact. We also advised that they could allow feedback from customers who are availing of your services so that they can make necessary changes that might make a difference in the lives of people who have disabilities, and we provided our contact information to reach out should they have any questions, concerns or ideas.

Deputy Mayor noted Ms. Doris Caravan is celebrating her 95th birthday today, so Happy Birthday goes out to her. The Grand Falls House Foundation are hosting their Annual General Meeting on June 5th at the Corduroy Brook Enhancement Association. If you are interested, he recommends that you register, and information is on our Facebook page for that. He asked for an update on the dilapidated old Riff's building on Main Street, as he was approached asking the same question.

Mayor Manuel agreed that the building has been in poor shape for a while and remembers that the owner was contacted, and we were assured that there will be something done about it, but that was some time ago now.

The Chief Administrative Officer said the property owner lives in Ontario and staff were in communication with the owner last fall, at which point they made a commitment that they would revisit the building in the spring. We did not expect anything to be done in the winter, but we do expect to hear something soon or we must consider other options.

Deputy Mayor Browne said the building is an absolute eyesore and in deplorable condition and to have it there for another summer is just unacceptable in his opinion.

The Chief Administrative Officer believes the owner has good intentions, and hopefully they proceed with a plan soon to make it a viable property for themselves.

Mayor Manuel said we always try to do this with kindness and cooperation rather than the hard handed approach because there are so many obstacles in the

legislation that allows people to be able to drag out process by an Appeal or whatever the case may be. This is a situation where we got a favourable response and understanding that there is an urgency now to get it done. We don't want to get to Demolition Orders, but at the same time he agrees that this is an eyesore that has been there way too long and it needs to be addressed. He said tomorrow is McHappy Day, and he encouraged people to go to McDonald's and show support as proceeds go to the Ronald McDonald House. Also tomorrow is the Health Foundation Radio-thon at the Exploits Valley Mall, which will be on local channels if you want to donate the proceeds go to supporting Cardiac Care in the South and Central Health Foundation. The Stewardship Association of Municipalities Conference was held here a couple of weeks ago, and he and Councillor Hiscock were in attendance. He wanted to thank our staff for a great job that they did, and the people who attended the Conference from a lot of other municipalities were really impressed by the hospitality they received. Finally, Sunday is Mother's Day, so Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers out there like mine who is living at Hollett's Park Living these days and enjoying it. He is sure everybody would get together if they could with their moms and enjoying a good day and hopefully wine and dining them and making them feel very special.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Hiscock\Coady

Be it resolved that the meeting of the Grand Falls-Windsor Town Council would be adjourned until the next regular scheduled meeting of Tuesday, May 28th, 2024. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 P.M.

Barry Manuel
Mayor

Darren Finn
Chief Administrative Officer