



MINUTES

Regular Public Council Meeting

Meeting: #597

Date: September 10, 2024

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Location: Town Hall – Council Chambers

PRESENT: Mayor Barry Manuel
Councillors: Amy Coady
Holly Dwyer
Bob Hiscock
Andrew Little
Dave Noel

Staff:

D. Finn, Chief Administrative Officer
N. Chatman, Director of Public Works & Development
T. Mercer, Director of Community Services
S. Gosse, Director of Corporate Services\Town Clerk
R. Hannaford, Communications Officer

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Mike Browne

1. Call To Order

The Mayor called Meeting #597 to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. Proclamations/Visitors/Presentations

Sexual Violence Awareness Week - September 15-21, 2024

National Forest Week - September 22-28, 2024

3. Adoption of Agenda**Moved by:** Councillor Hiscock**Seconded by:** Councillor Noel

Be it resolved that the Agenda for September 10, 2024, Public Council Meeting be adopted as presented.

Motion 2024-031 Carried 6-0

For: Mayor B. Manuel, Councillors: A. Coady, H. Dwyer, B. Hiscock, A. Little. D. Noel

Absent: Deputy Mayor M. Browne

4. Adoption of Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Meeting #596 of August 20, 2024.

Moved by: Councillor Dwyer**Seconded by:** Councillor Little

Be it resolved that the Minutes of the August 20, 2024, Public Council Meeting be adopted as presented.

Motion 2024-032 Carried 6-0

For: Mayor B. Manuel, Councillors: A. Coady, H. Dwyer, B. Hiscock, A. Little. D. Noel

Absent: Deputy Mayor M. Browne

5. Business Arising Out of the Minutes

None

6. Disbursement Report**Moved by:** Councillor Dwyer**Seconded by:** Councillor Little

Be it resolved that the Disbursement Report dated September 4, 2024, in the amount of \$2,580,740.54 would be received as presented.

Motion 2024-033 Carried 6-0

For: Mayor B. Manuel, Councillors: A. Coady, H. Dwyer, B. Hiscock, A. Little. D. Noel

Absent: Deputy Mayor M. Browne

7. Committee Reports

A. **Community Services**

Presented by: Councillor Little

The Community Services meeting was held on August 28, 2024. The meeting was Chaired by Councillor Dwyer. Other members of Council present: A. Little, A. Coady, B. Hiscock, D. Noel. Staff present: R. Hannaford, T. Mercer.

NL Health Services Correspondence

The Committee discussed the correspondence from NL Health Services on partnering with a new Activator Walking Program in the community.

The Committee agrees in principle with partnership and asked the Director to get additional information about the program and report back at the next meeting.

Digital Sign Correspondence

The Committee reviewed the correspondence from a local business on the Town's interest in purchasing a digital sign located in the community.

The Committee recommended not to purchase the sign and to continue with supporting local businesses through ad purchases when required.

Red Shoe Walk

The Committee reviewed correspondence from the Red Shoe Walk Committee requesting our continued support of their event.

The Committee recommends continuing supporting this great cause by providing the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium to the Committee again this year.

Ribs and Riders Update

The Director gave an update on this weekend's Ribs and Riders Festival highlighting all those who attended the event were very pleased with the food and the event. The Director informed the Committee that Donnie Love from the NTV's Show Adventures Unknown participated in the event and highlighted other tourism opportunities in the community to produce a full length show to be aired next season. The Committee had a discussion on a future marketing plan when two (2) events are proposed and better ways to separate the promotion highlighting each event. The Director and the Communications Officer will discuss the changes for future events of this scale.

XHockey Correspondence

The Committee reviewed correspondence from XHockey on the new board system that was purchased in partnership with Exploits Valley Minor Hockey and are pleased with the design, look and opportunities that the new equipment will provide its users.

CNVAS Update

The Director informed the Committee that CNVAS is continuing to do work on the mural in Church Road Park and hopes to have it completed in early September. CNVAS has also expressed interest in carrying out an additional family/kids mural on High Street. The Committee recommends that the Director contact the owner of the proposed property site to see if access can be given and to see if they are interested in partnering on the project.

Culinary Fall Festival

The Director informed the Committee on the proposed Culinary Fall Festival. The Director informed the Committee that with both stadiums in operation it is purposed to move the event to the Grand Falls Golf Course on October 18th-19th and have an exclusive event. The Director will continue to work on the Festival content, the chefs to be invited and the proposed budget with anticipated ticket sales for mid-September.

Seniors Fair

The Director informed the Committee that work is underway for the Annual Seniors Fair scheduled for September 24th, 2024. The Committee has received significant interest from the business community in booth space with over fifty percent (50%) already booked.

MUN Faculty of Nursing Correspondence

The Committee reviewed the correspondence from the Faculty of Nursing on their request to use the Main Street Softball Fields for their annual tournament scheduled for September 28th, 2024.

The Committee recommended that the Director work with the group to make the day tournament a success again this year.

Ski Club Application

The Director informed the Committee that he met with both ACOA and the Province to discuss the submitted application for new equipment and trail improvements to the Exploits Nordic Ski facility. A final decision should be made in the coming weeks and if successful work will start immediately and equipment will be ordered.

Gordon Pinsent Statue Update

The Director informed the Committee that the Town has received the contract from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure for the bronze statue of the late Gordon Pinsent. The Committee discussed setting up a Working Committee on the unveiling and activities surrounding the event.

The Committee recommended that the Committee have additional discussion on the event at the next Community Services meeting.

New Business

Seniors and Technology

The Committee had some discussion on offering a free workshop for seniors and technology. The Director will work with the Economic Development staff to see if it is offered in the community. If required staff will work with the Senior Clubs in the community to develop a Course based on the needs and the demand.

Kayak Launch Update

The Director informed the Committee that the ramp leading to the new kayak launch has been built to provide access for those with mobility issues. The Committee will discuss location options for the kayak launch for the 2025 season.

The Committee also recommended that the Communications Officer put together a promotional video for the launch and how it can be used. This is the first of its kind in Newfoundland and Labrador and has been well received by all users thus far.

Community Centre Update

The Committee had some discussion on the next steps for moving the Community Centre forward.

The Committee recommended that they discuss the next steps at the next Committee of the Whole meeting with all Committee members in attendance.

Moved by: Councillor Little **Seconded by:** Councillor Hiscock

Be it resolved that the Community Services Report be adopted as presented.

Motion 2024-034 Carried 6-0

For: Mayor B. Manuel, Councillors: A. Coady, H. Dwyer, B. Hiscock, A. Little. D. Noel

Absent: Deputy Mayor M. Browne

The following topics were discussed:

- Community Events Info/Updates
- Kayak Boat Launch
- Gordon Pinsent Statue
- Church Road Park Murals

B. Committee of the Whole #1 of 2

Presented by: Councillor Little

The Committee of the Whole meeting #1 was held on September 3, 2024. The meeting was Chaired by Deputy Mayor Browne. Other members of Council present: B. Manuel, A.Coady, H. Dwyer, B. Hiscock, A. Little, D. Noel. Staff present: D. Finn, N. Chatman,

S. Gosse, T. Mercer, R. Hannaford.

Correspondence from a Resident Regarding ATV and Dirt Bike Nuisance Driving

The Committee discussed a letter received from a resident concerned about dangerous and nuisance driving behaviors involving ATV's and dirt bikes across the Town. The resident highlighted concerns for safety due to these activities.

The Committee reviewed reports from Municipal Enforcement, which indicated over sixty (60) stops in the first half of 2024, resulting in seven (7) fines, four (4) warnings, and three (3) confiscated vehicles. Recent collaboration with the RCMP has yielded seventeen (17) more inspections, leading to six (6) confiscations, multiple insurance and registration tickets, and some criminal charges.

The Committee recognizes the danger and illegality of these behaviors but acknowledged the challenge in identifying and stopping some drivers, therefore the Committee recommends that staff continue its measures to increased enforcement and community education.

Additionally, the Committee acknowledges the parents' responsibility in knowing how their children are using such vehicles likely purchased by them.

Mill Lands

The Committee reviewed the August 8, 2024, Phase II Environment Site Assessment Report for the Abitibi Access Road and the Purchase and Sale Agreement negotiated between the Government and Town Management. The environment assessment did not reveal any concerns regarding the land's suitability for maintaining an access road.

The Committee recommends that Council approve entering into the Purchase and Sale Agreement to acquire the three (3) parcels of land, including the mill access road, an access connection to Lincoln Road, and the land surrounding the Heritage Society Building (Training Centre).

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

The Committee discussed the Federal Holiday known as Truth and Reconciliation Day, scheduled for September 30.

The Committee recommends that Council observe this holiday to recognize and honour the importance of reconciliation.

Community Centre

The Committee discussed the concept of building a new Community Centre and requested an update on the project's progress. Staff and the Mayor noted that the Premier had committed to participating in the Engineering Study for this project.

The Committee recommends that staff expedite efforts to engage the community and secure necessary Government commitments for other funding.

Labour Day Parade

The Committee reviewed the Labour Day Parade held on September 2, 2024. The event saw high participation from both parade entrants and spectators, and the Committee was pleased with the organization and recognition of organized labour.

The Committee thanked staff for their efforts in organizing the event and supporting activities before, during, and after the parade.

Moved by: Councillor Little **Seconded by:** Councillor Dwyer

Be it resolved that the Committee of the Whole Report #1 be adopted as presented.

Motion 2024-035 Carried 6-0

For: Mayor B. Manuel, Councillors: A. Coady, H. Dwyer, B. Hiscock, A. Little, D. Noel

Absent: Deputy Mayor M. Browne

The following topics were discussed:

- Labour Day Parade
- ATV Usage

C. Committee of the Whole #2

*Councillor Coady left the Council Chambers for this set of Minutes, due to a conflict of interest.

Presented by: Councillor Little

The Committee of the Whole meeting #2 was held on September 3, 2024. The meeting was Chaired by Deputy Mayor Browne. Other members of Council present: B. Manuel, H. Dwyer, B. Hiscock, A. Little, D. Noel. Staff present: D. Finn, N. Chatman, S. Gosse, T. Mercer, R. Hannaford.

Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador Conference and Trade Show

The Committee discussed the upcoming Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador Conference and Trade Show scheduled for November 7 to 9 in Gander. The Committee recommends that Council representatives participate in this Conference to benefit from networking and learning opportunities.

Moved by: Councillor Little **Seconded by:** Councillor Hiscock

Be it resolved that the Committee of the Whole #2 Report be adopted as presented.

Motion 2024-036 Carried 5-0

For: Mayor B. Manuel, Councillors: H. Dwyer, B. Hiscock, A. Little, D. Noel

Abstained: Councillor A. Coady (Conflict of Interest, Councillor Coady is President of MNL)
Absent: Deputy Mayor M. Browne

*Councillor Coady returned to the Council Chambers.

D. Corporate Service

Presented by: Councillor Holly Dwyer

The Corporate Services meeting was held on September 4, 2024. The meeting was Chaired by Councillor Dwyer. Other members of Council present: D. Noel, A. Coady, M. Browne, B. Hiscock, A. Little. Staff present: D. Finn, R. Hannaford, S. Gosse.

Labour Report

The Committee reviewed the labour costs as of week thirty-three (33). Total labour was \$2,377,790. This was \$215,921 (8.3) under budget.

The Committee is pleased with the labour costs overall as we near the end of the busy summer season. The Committee recognizes the amount of work that gets completed within our Town and asks to continue to monitor labour costs.

Disbursement Report

The Committee reviewed the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$2,580,740.54 and recommends this be presented at the next Council meeting.

Taxation Receivables Analysis

The Committee reviewed the Taxation Receivables Analysis as of August 31st, 2024. The total taxes receivable at that date is \$4,500,178 (compared to \$4,262,660 in 2023; an increase of 5.6%). Collection plans are underway for amounts in arrears, and the Committee discussed alternative options including tax sales, and the use of collection agencies. It remains a priority of Council to improve the collections of outstanding tax balances.

The Committee 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 continues to accrue monthly on outstanding tax balances, so please act quickly to avoid additional interest charges.

Capital Spending Update

The Committee reviewed a Capital Spending Report outlining a summary of Capital Expenditures to date in 2024. To the end of August 2024, there has been a total of \$1,672,301 spent in Government Shared Infrastructure Projects, and \$3,404,463 spent in Town Capital items.

The Committee is pleased with the spending level so far in 2024, despite the rising costs of most expenses. There were several items that were required to be purchased in the year that were not budgeted for, but those were able to happen through savings in

other areas.

Municipal Capital Works Program Funding

The Committee reviewed a draft Resolution for the funding related to the Gordon Pinsent Statue that is being 100% funded by the Provincial Government. The total amount of funding is \$201,250 including HST.

The Committee recommends acceptance of this funding.

Moved by: Councillor Dwyer

Seconded by: Councillor Little

Be it resolved that the Corporate Services Report be adopted as presented.

Motion 2024-037 Carried 6-0

For: Mayor B. Manuel, Councillors: A. Coady, H. Dwyer, B. Hiscock, A. Little. D. Noel

Absent: Deputy Mayor M. Browne

E. Public Works and Development

Presented by: Councillor Coady

The Public Works and Development meeting was held on September 5th, 2024. The meeting was Chaired by Councillor Coady. Other members of Council present: B. Hiscock, M. Browne, B. Manuel, H. Dwyer, D. Noel, A. Little. Staff present: D. Finn, R. Hannaford, N. Chatman.

Water Quality

The Committee discussed the water quality around Town. Recently there have been some issues in the Hill Road and Poplar Road areas. It is intermittent and staff will flush areas as needed. Random testing continues and results are good. Staff will flush the lines if chlorine levels are lower than normal, or iron levels are elevated somewhat. Four (4) of the flushing valves are working and others will be installed upon arrival. The water levels at the dam are at the lowest levels seen in decades and the Town has paused its annual flushing program until it improves.

The Committee recommends staff install the valves upon arrival and issue a notice out of water conservation in the Town.

New Proposed Cemetery Location

The Committee was informed of the results of some investigation into the proposed location for the new community cemetery. The area consisted of rocky ground and solid rock was encountered within 1m to 1.5m from the surface. This would not be suitable for a cemetery. Staff proposed another location and would like to investigate

further.

The Committee recommends staff continue to investigate a new site and report back to the Committee.

Four (4) Units as of Right

The Committee reviewed the proposed changes to the Regulations under the Municipal Plan Amendment #10 and Development Regulation Amendment #14. These proposed changes will add language that would potentially permit up to four (4) residential units per lot. These changes do not allow multiple units if the lot does not meet all the necessary characteristics but would help increase housing availability within the developed urban areas.

The Committee recommends staff commence the process for these proposed amendment changes.

Street Names

The Committee reviewed the list of potential street names on file that have been submitted for consideration. Additional names are needed for approval for future development areas.

The Committee recommends consulting the public to gather additional names for consideration before making the final decision. Once all the information is received, a decision will be made in early 2025.

Spruce Woods Estates

The Committee reviewed the updated design for the Spruce Woods Estates subdivision. The proposed Subdivision Agreement was also reviewed. Staff met with the developer, and they are ready to enter into an Agreement that has the potential for up to two hundred (200) units.

The Committee recommends the Agreement be signed and are excited about the new development to help address the housing need in the community.

Incentive Program Update

The Committee was updated on the status of the program. The program has been well received among builders and developers. Currently there have been three (3) Housing Incentive Applications received and a Developer Incentive Application will be forthcoming after the signed Agreement with Spruce Woods Estates Subdivision. The Committee is pleased with the program and encourages other builders and developers to apply for the program as it is only available for a limited time. The Committee also recommends staff continue to promote the programs.

Moved by: Councillor Coady

Seconded by: Councillor Noel

Be it resolved that the Public Works and Development Report be adopted as presented.

Motion 2024-038 Carried 6-0

For: Mayor B. Manuel, Councillors: A. Coady, H. Dwyer, B. Hiscock, A. Little. D. Noel
Absent: Deputy Mayor M. Browne

The following topics were discussed:

- Water Conservation
- Street Names

8. Resolutions

The following Resolution was presented by Councillor Holly Dwyer: -

RESOLUTION GF-W 2024-400

GORDON PINSENT STATUE

MUNICIPAL CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

WHEREAS: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor qualifies for funding under the Municipal 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 been approved for funding under the Municipal Capital Works Program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor agrees to enter into an Agreement for Municipal Capital Works Funding in the amount of \$201,250 HST included.

Moved by: Councillor Dwyer **Seconded by:** Councillor Little

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2024-400 be adopted as presented.

Motion 2024-039 Carried 6-0

For: Mayor B. Manuel, Councillors: A. Coady, H. Dwyer, B. Hiscock, A. Little. D. Noel
Absent: Deputy Mayor M. Browne

The following Resolution was also presented by Councillor Amy Coady: -

RESOLUTION GF-W 2024-401

RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL

AGREEMENT OF PURCHASE AND SALE FOR MILL LANDS

WHEREAS: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor has reviewed the Phase II Environment Site Assessment, dated August 8, 2024, for the Abitibi Road, and environment assessment revealed no concerns regarding the land's suitability for maintaining an access road;

AND WHEREAS: the Council of the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor has reviewed the negotiated Agreement of Purchase and Sale between the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, as represented by the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (TI), and the Town;

AND WHEREAS: the Town wishes to acquire three (3) parcels of land from TI for the purpose of maintaining a public road, access to Lincoln Road, and the land surrounding the Heritage Society building (Training Centre);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Council of the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor hereby approves the Agreement of Purchase and Sale for the acquisition of the following parcels of land:

- Parcel 1: 8.922 hectares for the purpose of a public road;
- Parcel 2: 0.589 hectares for the purpose of a public road;
- Parcel 3: 2.095 hectares for the purpose of a public museum;

AND FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Council authorizes the Mayor and the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to enter into the Agreement of Purchase and Sale with His Majesty the King in Right of Newfoundland and Labrador, as represented by the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, for the price of One Dollar (\$1.00) CAD, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Agreement.

Moved by: Councillor Coady

Seconded by: Councillor Hiscock

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2024-401 be adopted as presented.

Motion 2024-040

Carried 6-0

For: Mayor B. Manuel, Councillors: A. Coady, H. Dwyer, B. Hiscock, A. Little, D. Noel

Absent: Deputy Mayor M. Browne

9. Notice of Motion

None

10. Other Business

The following topics were discussed:

- Community Events
- Recognitions/Congratulations
- Harvesting / School Breakfast Programs
- Schools in Session / Motorist Advisory
- ATV Usage
- Code of Conduct / ATIPP Requests
- Housing Incentive Programs
- Meeting with Minister of Health / Healthcare Concerns
- Condolences

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Moved by: Councillor Coady **Seconded by:** Councillor Hiscock

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 1, 2024.

Motion 2024-041

Carried 6-0

For: Mayor B. Manuel, Councillors: A. Coady, H. Dwyer, B. Hiscock, A. Little, D. Noel

Absent: Deputy Mayor M. Browne

Barry Manuel
Mayor

Darren Finn
Chief Administrative Officer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIUlaUroBQY>