

MINUTES

A public council meeting held at the Town of St. George's Town Hall on Thursday September 8, 2022 with the following in attendance.

Mayor Conrad White
Deputy Mayor Andy Tobin

Councilors: Joe Blanchard
Sharon O'Neill Parsons
Jean Legge
Rhonda Sheppard
Bill Vincent

Town Manager: Danny Conway
Town Clerk: Jocelyn Deluney-King
5 Residents in attendance

Call to Order: The Town Clerk called the meeting to order at 6:57 p.m. and welcomed all members of council, staff and residents present. She then proceeded to congratulate the newest member of council who had been elected in the September 1st, 2022 bi-election, William Vincent. Councilor Vincent, read and signed his oath of office, all members of council welcomed and congratulated him on his winning the seat in the bi-election. The clerk then handed the meeting over to Mayor White for the regular monthly meeting.

Adoption of agenda:

Motion #22- 151 Deputy Mayor A. Tobin-2nd Councillor S. O'Neill Parsons

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.

All in favor, motion carried.

Adoption of the minutes:

Motion #22-152 Councillor Sharon O'Neill Parsons -2nd Deputy Mayor A. Tobin.

There was much discussion on the minutes before they were adopted as the newly elected councilor needed some clarification on items before adopting. This would be addressed in the business arising.

Be it resolved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 13th, as presented.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Business Arising

Councilor Vincent had some questions on items from the minutes as this was his first night on council.

(a). Councilor Vincent asked why Motion #22-85 wasn't ratified before the August 8th minutes as it was a motion made at the a privileged meeting May 28th, 2022, the town clerk explained that she was off sick at that time and the acting town clerk and the accounts receivable clerk hadn't known that the motion had to be ratified at the next regular meeting and it wasn't put on the agenda. Thus the reason for it not being ratified until the August meeting.

(b). Councilor Vincent asked about the possibility of resuming Zoom or FaceBook Live meetings

again as he has had seniors request it as many can't get out to meetings. There was some discussion as to the pros and cons of live meetings, most importantly was the issue with having to redo meetings if technical difficulties happened. Town Clerk at request of council will check with Municipal Affairs to see if they continue to use FaceBook or Zoom and technical difficulties occur if they have to redo these meetings, and will advise at next meeting

(c). Councilor Vincent inquired if it would be possible to get a more detailed breakdown of expenses for the marina for example how much it costs for street lights and insurance on a monthly basis.

(d). Councilor Vincent inquired as to what CIP applications meant and wanted to know what 4 applications were presented at the previous meeting in July that motions were made to use Gas Tax Funding for this work. A copy of the projects had been included with the handout given to council before the meeting.

Proclamation

Motion #22-153 Deputy Mayor A. Tobin 2nd Councillor R. Sheppard

Be it resolved that I, Conrad White, Mayor of the Town of St. George's, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2022 to be Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month, as cause/issue/special occasions in the Town of St. George's.

All in favor, Motion carried

Committee Reports

Finance

1. Motion 22-154 Councillor J. Legge 2nd Councillor S. O'Neill Parsons

Be it resolved that Council does approve to pay General Invoices in the amount of \$ 31,222.97 as presented.

All in favor, Motion carried

2. Motion #22-155 Councillor S. O'Neill Parsons 2nd Councilor J. Legge

Be it resolved that Council does approve to pay Crane Supply \$12,445.32 from the Gas Tax account for supplies for Butts Lane and School Road repairs as per previous motions #22-128 and #22-149.

All in favor, Motion carried.

3. Motion #22-156 Deputy Mayor A. Tobin 2nd Councilor S. O'Neill Parsons

Be it resolved to pay Eco Contracting from the Projects account in the amount of \$10,764.00 Claim #4 release of Holdback for the St. George's Chlorination Bldg Emergency Generator 17 MCW-2100027

All in favor, Motion carried

The manager gave an update of bank and loan balances, property, water and sewer and business taxes collected to date. Councillor Vincent suggested that it might be good idea rather than keep high account balances to transfer cash for temporary investment with use of savings account and keep small amount in current acct. Credit card account and banking transactions should be provided to councillors along with vendor (account payables) listing.

Projects

The manager gave an update on what is happening with the projects. Generator is paid in full now. We are still waiting on the manuals for the Well so we are still holding the \$15,000.00.

Fire Department

There were 3 Fire call outs for the month of August 2022. The assistant fire chief was in attendance at tonight's meeting to discuss the Public Safety Fire Services Division Fire Protection Program Application that was given to the town manager to present to council for consideration that if approved would see the purchase of a new Fire Rescue Truck. This program allows the municipal authority to determinate the most suitable funding stream that meets the town's financial situation. This rescue truck would aid the towns of Stephenville Crossing and Bay St. George South Fire Departments if needed. Funding for this would be cost shared at 90/10 (Provincial/Municipal). It was suggested we contact Fire and Emergency Services to see if there will be an increase in the fee paid to Municipal Fire Departments for responding to calls outside the municipal boundary.

Motion #22-157 Councillor R. Sheppard 2nd by Councillor J. Legge

Be it resolved that the St. George's Fire Department would like to apply to the Department of Justice and Public Safety Fire Services Division, Fire Protection Vehicle Program for a new vehicle-cost shared. 4 Door Rescue Truck, Cost shared Funding provides financial assistance to municipal authorities based on a set cost share ratio. The provincial/municipal cost share for fire vehicles are based on community population would be 80/20.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Stadium/Recreation

Finance Report was read, as of 31st August 2022 the stadium is Recreation showing a deficit of \$ 3615.46, Council was told that the Stadium Committee will be giving an undisclosed sum of money to the town from funds raised to be used for upkeep of stadium for the upcoming winter season. The winter upcoming winter season is set to begin November 5, 2022. The Brine analysis has been completed by Cimco and report said all is satisfactory; there is no trace of ammonia. There are 7 valves at a cost of approximately \$2500.00, expansion tank needs to be replaced at a cost of 500.00 that need to be replaced along with the dehumidifier at a cost of \$55,000.00, the manager said an application can be submitted to use Gas Tax Funding. Once we put the ice on the stadium floor and the power bills start to increase the town budgeted amount should get us through until December. Manager said he has put out a tender to get the best price for installation and a new dehumidifier. Kenny will come back to work as a rink attendant and he will train someone new.

Motion #22-158 Councillor R. Sheppard 2nd by Councillor Jean Legge

Be it resolved that the Town of St. George's submit its Capital Investment Plan application to the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs Gas Tax Secretariat for permission to use Gas Tax Funding in the amount of \$60,000.00, for Capital Works Project to purchase a Dehumidifier for the Siki Bennett Memorial Stadium.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion #22-159 Councillor S. O'Neill Parsons 2nd by R. Sheppard

Be it resolved that the Town of St. George's does agree to move ahead with the 2022-2023 winter operation for the winter season start up beginning November 5th, 2022.

All in favor, Motion carried.

Roads

The summer season of road repairs on Old Mill Road, Mission Cross Road and Muise's Lane, are completed, these are roads that the public workers have had issues in the past with snow clearing so town has made turn arounds at the end of these roads as opposed to backing onto residents property and tearing up lawns and having to go back to fix it in the spring. Councillor Vincent brought up about who owns land at end of Old Mill Rd and whether town owned, he did indicate the land was private but not used. The French drains have been completed on Old Shore Road and Garniers Lane; The Fire Hall ditching will be completed once Butts Lane is finished. Pump House Road all cleared out and the hope is to have everything clued up by end of October so that the beginning of the winter season operation can begin There was much discussion on whether the town should get surveys and do title searches before it begins any work on roads throughout town. Councillor Vincent says that he believes that this would be the only way to protect the town from legal issues arising from this practice. Councillor Blanchard does not agree that the town should spend money on surveys for roads so we could prove ownership. Councillor Vincent suggested that we send an email to MAA to find out what the process is about finding out how to determine ownership. There was a complaint from a resident on Forest Drive about the garbage truck turning around on their land, the manager said that the town has a right of way there because the water and sewer runs through it, Councillor Vincent questioned the fact that it is private land, and that the town should find out from MAA on this matter. Councillor Blanchard and Manager Conway spoke to the owner of the Eatery on Main concerning the parking issues on Messervey's Lane and she agreed that council could erect a sign that says "DO NOT BLOCK ENTRANCE, PARKING AT THE REAR".

Motion #22-160 Councillor J. Blanchard 2nd by Councillor S. O'Neill Parsons

Be it resolved the Town of St. George's does agree to purchase and erect 2 signs in the vicinity of Messervey's Lane.

6 in favor, motion carried

1 abstained

St. George's Marina

A financial report was given there were marina permits issued for the month of August, with income reported in the amount of \$ 1260.00 ytd. Mayor White said that he has heard from some of the fishermen that they would like the water shut off at the marina because people are using the area to wash bikes, quads and ATVs. Councillor Vincent asked that we give an update on the cost of insurance and power bills for the marina as well

Permits

Councilor Vincent addressed whether the town checks to see if permits issued are in the waterhead protection area (permit # 1396), as he feels that the water head protection area is too large and should be changed in the town plan. Town Manager checked with Municipal Affairs and to change the town plan we would have to hire a consultant and once 1 thing is changed more changes will have to follow. There was a permit submitted by a resident on Mercers Lane requesting to start a home based business, council couldn't approve as they felt they didn't have enough information to make the decision. This was tabled to be discussed at the next meeting.

Motion 22- 161 Councillor S. O'Neill Parsons -2nd Deputy Mayor A. Tobin

Be it resolved that council does approve General Repairs Permits as presented with the following

#s :1390, 1391, 1393, 1394, 1396, 1397

6 in favor, motion carried.

1 abstained

Motion #22- 162 Councillor S. O'Neill Parsons-2nd R. Sheppard

Be it resolved that council does approve in consultation with the manager and Public Works Lead Hand as per town guidelines and building regulations and code, building permits as presented with the following #s: 1389, 1392, 1398, 1399, 1400.

All in favor, motion carried.

Motion #22- 163 Councillor R. Sheppard -2nd Councillor S. O'Neill Pars

Be it resolved that council does approve the demotion permit with #1395 as presented.

All in favor, Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

The manager gave an update on the 86A Main St. issue and it would cost approximately \$5000.00 to have the barriers put in place. Send an email to the Dept. of Transportation to inquire about having signs erected at the top and bottom Seals Rocks Hill.

New Business

Councillor S.O' Neill Parsons asked if it would be possible to do something about the concerns of the many residents in town who feel they are being held hostage in their homes because of the many thefts that have been occurring in the town mostly at night. We have many seniors who are now losing sleep and peace of mind because they are too scared to go to bed at night. Council has asked the manager to contact the RCMP to set up a meeting and maybe get a neighborhood watch program established. We will discuss at next meeting.

Other Business

Motion #22-164 Councillor W. Vincent 2nd by Councillor J. Blanchard

Be it resolved that council does ask the manager to write the auditor and inquire as to why the transaction BlueBerry Festival "IN TRUST ENTRY" is showing as a liability and why it is still on the audit and provide any information and verify the entry.

All in favor, Motion carried.

Incoming Correspondence

Motion #22-165 Councillor J. Legge 2nd by Councillor S. O'Neill Parsons

Be it resolved that Mayor C. White, Councillors J. Legge and S. O'Neill Parsons, Town Manager and Town Clerk will attend the PMA session being held in Deer Lake September 15, 2022.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Code of Conduct Training will be tabled for the next meetig, Council will adopt once it has been created.

Outgoing Correspondence

Meeting with Atlas Salt on September 13th, at 3 p.m.

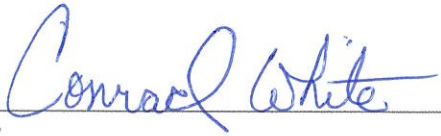
Stewardship for Sandy Point meeting September 21st, at Stadium.

Adjournment

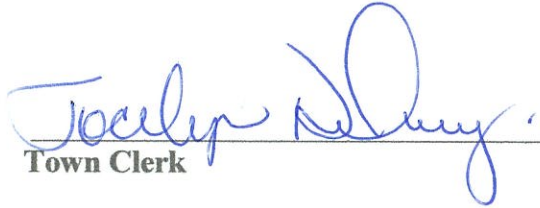
Motion #22-166 Councillor J. Legge 2nd Councillor S. O'Neill Parsons

As there was no more business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

The next regular meeting of council will be held Thursday October 13th @ 7:00 p.m.



Mayor



Town Clerk