

Minutes

A public meeting held at the Town of St. George's Town Hall on Thursday February 9th, 2023, with the following in attendance.

Mayor: Conrad White
Deputy Mayor: Andy Tobin

Councillors: Joe Blanchard
Sharon O'Neill Parsons
William Vincent
Jean Legge
Absent: R. Sheppard

Also present: Manager- Danny Conway
Town Clerk- Jocelyn Deluney-King
2 members of the public in attendance

Call to Order:

Mayor Conrad White called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and welcomed all members of council, staff and the public present.

Adoption of the agenda:

Motion #23-10 Councillor S. O'Neill Parsons 2nd by Councillor J. Legge

Be it resolved that the council of the town of St. George's does adopt the agenda dated February 9th, 2023

In Favor: 6

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

Adoption of the Minutes:

Motion #23-11 Councillor S. O'Neill Parsons 2nd by Councillor J. Legge

Be it resolved that as there were no errors or omissions the Council of the Town of St. George's does adopt the minutes of the regular council meeting of January 12th, 2023, as presented

In Favor: 6

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

Proclamation:

Motion #23-12 Councillor J. Blanchard 2nd by Councillor S. O'Neill Parsons

Resolved, the third Monday in February is recognized nationally as Heritage Day and Whereas, Heritage Day and Heritage Week are a time to reflect on the achievements of past generations and to accept responsibility for protecting our heritage; and Whereas, our citizens should be encouraged to celebrate Newfoundland and Labrador's uniqueness and to rejoice in our heritage and environment; and Whereas, in 2023 the residents of Newfoundland and Labrador will celebrate a rich and diverse heritage.

Therefore, I, Mayor Conrad White, on behalf of the Town of St. George's, do hereby proclaim Monday February 21, 2023, as Heritage Day and February 21- 27, 2023, as Heritage Week, and call upon all citizens to celebrate the richness of our past and the promise of our future.

In Favor: 6

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

Action Report:

- a) The manager gave a report on the follow-up to the Hudson Lane and Butts Lane issue, he spoke to the resident and let them know what the decision of council was from January meeting. There will be signs erected at the end of both lanes and in the spring, the town will put a couple of loads of gravel at the end of the lane to prevent vehicle traffic from passing through. The residents sent back an email accepting the town's plans for reconciling the issue. Councillor Vincent wanted to note that he felt it should be a motion made to reflect that the residents did accept the towns proposal, Councillor Blanchard didn't see the need for a motion on this but adding notes in the action report would show that this issue was resolved.
- b) The insurance company did state that the town would be held liable for any amount owing over and above what the town is insured, Councillor Vincent feels that the town should probably look at increasing the amount but at this time the rest of council doesn't feel that there is a need to increase the coverage as this will increase our premium.
- c) TownSuite vs Sage Computer Programming:

Motion #23-13 Councillor W. Vincent 2nd by Councillor J. Blanchard

Be it resolved to switch towns financial computer programming from TownSuite to Sage.

In Favor: Councillor W. Vincent, Councillor J. Blanchard

Against: Councillors S. O'Neill Parsons, J. Legge, Deputy Mayor A. Tobin, and Mayor C. White

Abstained: 0

Motion defeated the town will remain with TownSuite.

- d) Doubtful Accounts

Motion #23-14 Councillor W. Vincent 2nd by Councillor J. Blanchard

Be it resolved that council has decided to write off 8 doubtful accounts, due to taxes owed and considered uncollectable because most of these owners are deceased or property is inaccessible. Each account will be written down to \$1.00, with a notation made that in the event of collection the credit note should have an explanation, or ex: motion #, date, reason, person deceased, and no access to property. In the ledger the credit note should not be posted to revenue account but to allowance for doubtful accounts. In this way the account allowance for doubtful accounts is reduced.

In Favor: 6

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

- e) Budget amendment- Vacant Land Tax.

The \$75.00 vacant land increase that council had implemented on this year's budget has to be re-assessed and removed from resident's accounts because it's not permitted to add another separate tax onto the same land, this increase should have been implemented by increasing the vacant land water and sewer tax minimum amount.

Motion #23-15 Councillor W. Vincent 2nd by Councillor J. Legge

Be it resolved to amend the 2023 budget to remove the \$75.00 vacant land tax that the budget committee had included in the 2023 municipal tax plan. Reference to this can be found on the Municipal Tax Plan under motion #22-225 which will need to be rescinded and revised to reflect the change.

In Favor: 6

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

Committee Reports

Finance:

a) **Motion #23-16 Deputy Mayor A. Tobin 2nd by Councillor S. O'Neill Parsons**

Councillors J. Blanchard and W. Vincent both reported on behalf of the Finance Committee and noted that the list of accounts for payment that had been attached to the agenda be approved for payment in the amount of \$ 54,148.70.

In Favor: 6

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

b) **Motion #23- 17 Councillor W. Vincent 2nd by Deputy Mayor A. Tobin**

Councillors J. Blanchard and W. Vincent both reported on behalf of the Finance Committee and noted that the invoice from Brian Hillier, CPA, CA, that was attached to the agenda be approved for payment in the amount of \$ 10,235.00.

In Favor: 6

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

c) A letter will be sent to the auditor for explanation of the extra work that the town was charged for in a separate invoice in the amount of \$2645.00, it was recommended by Finance committee to withhold payment of this invoice until satisfactory explanation is received.

d) Current Bank and Loan Balances given as of January 31st, 2023.

Stadium-Recreation

The stadium committee unaudited financial statement was presented to council. The stadium is currently showing a deficit of \$3,469.30 YTD up to the end of January 2023.

Projects

Hayes Lane, Chestnut Lane, and Farm Road paving project are waiting to begin, in the spring of 2023. All North Consultants has been awarded the contract to Upgrade and Pave Local Roads- the consulting fee was \$ 19, 088.67 (HST Included).

Fire Department:

There were 9 fire calls in the month of January 2023. There is a new list of the fire department volunteers and the officials at the office for viewing.

Motion #23- 18 Councillor S. O'Neill Parsons 2nd by Councillor J. Legge

Be it resolved that the council of the Town of St. George's does accept Nikkia O'Brien as fire chief based on the election held on Feb 5th, 2023, during the annual meeting of the SGVFD.

In Favor: 6

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

Permits:

Motion #23-19 Councillor S. O'Neill Parsons 2nd by Councillor J. Legge

Be it resolved that general repair permits with #s 1427 and 1428 be approved as presented.

In Favor: 6

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

The manager advised council that he had also received 2 permits that couldn't be approved at the office.

A permit from a young resident to erect a jetty (wharf) down by the waterfront was received but due to him needing to get permits from other government offices we can't approve.

A fence permit was received for 38-50 Barachois Drive but couldn't be approved at office level; he recommended that council continue the discussion on that permit at a privileged session due to ongoing issues.

Unfinished Business

The following motions need to be rescinded and updated from the October 10th, 2022, meeting with missing information

Easement and Development Land- Turnaround on Forest Drive

1. Old Motion #22-179 Councillor J. Blanchard 2nd by Councillor S. O'Neill Parsons

Be it resolved that council does agree that the turnaround on Forest Drive will commence. It was stressed that the town stay within the parameters of the five meters easement around the manhole.

In Favor: 6

Abstained: 1

New Motion#23-20 Councillor J. Blanchard 2nd by Councillor S. O'Neill Parsons

Be it resolved that council does agree that the turnaround on Forest Drive will commence. It was stressed that the town stay within the parameters of the five meters easement around the manhole. Councillor Vincent left the table at 8:06 p.m. as discussion on this topic took place and returned at 8: 10 p.m. when the vote was finished.

In Favor: 5

Abstained: Councillor W. Vincent abstained due to conflict of interest

Councillor Vincent left the table at 8:04 and

2. Old Motion #22-181 Councillor J. Legge 2nd by Councillor S. O'Neill Parsons

Be it resolved that Council does approve the following general repairs permit with #s 1401, 1403, 1404,1406,1407,1409 as presented.

In Favor: Councillors J. Blanchard, J. Legge, S. O'Neill Parsons, and Mayor White

Against: Councillor W. Vincent

Abstained: Councillor R. Sheppard

New Motion #23-21 Councillor J. Legge 2nd by Councillor S. O'Neill Parsons

Be it resolved that Council does approve the following general repairs permit with #s 1401, 1403, 1404,1406,1407,1409 as presented.

In Favor: Councillors J. Blanchard, J. Legge, S. O'Neill Parsons, Deputy Mayor A. Tobin, Mayor White

Against: Councillor W. Vincent

3. Old Motion #22-185 Councillor J. Blanchard 2nd by Deputy Mayor A. Tobin

Be it resolved that council does approve the home-based business permit on Mercers Lane as presented.

In Favor: 6

Abstained: 1

New Motion #23- 22 Councillor J. Blanchard 2nd by Deputy Mayor A. Tobin

Be it resolved that council does approve the home-based business permit on Mercers Lane as presented.

In Favor: 5

Abstained: Councillor W. Vincent declared himself in conflict

New Business

Some discussion on the following items with items to be added to the action report for follow-up.

- a) Waste Management Treatment Plant- Councillor Vincent would like to have manager look into this, what it will cost the town, he said he has seen it on other towns budget, and he feels that the town would benefit from it. Manager will check into this and report back next meeting.
- b) Stephenville Airport Corp representation- Councillor Vincent inquired as to if the town has anyone on the board as a representative, it was assumed that the manager was the town representative as he is on the board, but Mr. Conway clarified that he doesn't represent the town when he attends these meetings. Manager Conway said that no town has a representative on the board.
- c) Guardian Angels-Councillor Vincent wonders if the town would benefit from partnering with this group as they offer wonderful services for seniors.
- d) Gasoline Carbon Tax –Councillor Vincent saw this on another towns budget and wondered if this town should be getting this rebate, Town manager said that this town burns 99% diesel so he doesn't think we qualify but will check into it and give report on the Action Report at next meeting.
- e) Issue on Bayview Road: Councillor Blanchard said that this issue had been dealt with last summer, the road was upgraded with class A, he stated that rose bushes are growing on the side of the road and it is impossible for snowplow drivers to not have snow roll of the blade, council said we have to treat all residents the same, the manager will write a letter to the resident and inform him of council's decision regarding his complaint.
- f) Appointment of new ATIPP Coordinator: The town clerk gave a report to council that she had requested from ATIPP office to be removed as ATIPP Coordinator as she felt that with the time it takes to collect the information that is requested in the last month has taken up a considerable amount of her time and has resulted in either work not getting done during office hours or having to work OT to complete the work resulting in her working hours she isn't paid for. The email she received back from the ATIPP office said that the CAO/ Manager shouldn't be the ATIPP Coordinator but she can avail of any help in the office when needed.

Adjournment

Motion#23- 23 Councillor S. O'Neill Parsons 2nd by Deputy Mayor A. Tobin

Be it resolved that as there is no more business to discuss the meeting will now adjourn @ 8:31 p.m. and the next scheduled regular meeting of council will be Thursday, March 9th, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

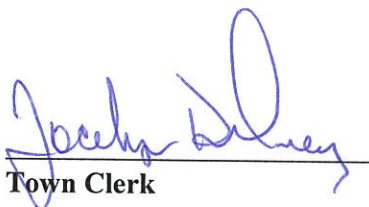
In Favor: 6

Against: 0

Abstained: 0



Mayor



Town Clerk