

REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
March 24, 2021
Approved Minutes

DATE: March 24, 2021
TIME: 4:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers – Public Via Facebook Live

ATTENDANCE: Deputy Mayor Gary Clow; Councillors Derek Smith; Darren MacDougall; Jill Burridge; Steve Gallant; Gail MacDonald; Robert Hughes, CAO; Jeremy Crosby, Deputy CAO, and Director of Infrastructure; Kevin Reynolds, Director of Planning, Development, and Heritage; Jeremy Pierce, Director of Recreation, Culture, and Events; Kim O’Connell, Director of Finance and Technology; Wendy Watts, Community and Business Engagement Manager; and Mary McAskill, Recording Clerk

REGRETS: Nil

GUESTS: Corporal Glen Dudley

CHAIR: Mayor Steve Ogden

Mayor Ogden took a moment to acknowledge the land upon which we gather is the unceded territory of the Mi’Kmaq people, and we pay our respects to the indigenous Mi’Kmaq people of this territory past, present, and future.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Steve Ogden called the Regular Monthly Council Meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and welcomed those who were viewing via social media.

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Councillor Derek Smith and seconded by Councillor Gail MacDonald that the agenda be approved as circulated. Motion Carried.

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gary Clow and seconded by Councillor Steve Gallant that the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2021 be approved as circulated. Motion Carried.

5. **BUSINESS ARISING**

Nil

6. **PRESENTATIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

Nil

7. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

The report was included in the agenda package for Council to review. Mayor Ogden noted that one thing that he neglected to add was the presentation of the draft budget held on Monday, March 8, 2021.

8. **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (CAO)**

The report was included in the agenda package for Council to review. The CAO highlighted a few items noting that it was a busy month with budget meetings, the PACE program, and the community campus.

9. **SAFETY SERVICES**

a) **Report**

Councillor Smith welcomed viewers to the meeting. He noted that the Safety Services Committee did not hold a meeting last month. However, he wanted to update Council on the Crossing Guard issue.

Crossing Guards – It was noted that the Town has come to an agreement with the provincial government. The province indicated that they would help us with crossing lights at major intersections and at the school area, and Councillor Smith thanked the province for their help. The flags for crossing the street have been put back in place as well. Councillor Smith thanked Minister Steven Myers, (past Minister responsible for highways) for all the work he has done for the Town. He also thanked Minister James Aylward who is the current Minister in charge of highways. Upon hearing our request Minister Aylward acted quite swiftly.

Citizens on Patrol (COP)

Councillor Smith noted that COP is a group of 10 citizens who live in the community and patrol the Town on the weekends. They report anything they see to the RCMP but do not involve themselves in anything. It was noted that they accumulate approximately 700 - 800 hours per year. Nicole Phillips is the head of the COP group and she has been with the Town for several years. Councillor Smith thanked Nicole and her crew for all they do for the Town.

b) Street Lights

No Report

c) RCMP Report

The report for the month of February was included in the agenda package. Councillor Smith noted that the RCMP is going to implement a program within the Town, and he called upon Corporal Dudley to explain it. Corporal Dudley stated that Constable Lorenzo Sanders, who was the driving force behind the program, is also present in the meeting. The program which is called Stratford CAPTURE (Community Assisted Policing Through use of Recorded Evidence) is a camera registry (not a monitoring system) in Stratford that will assist the RCMP in investigations. The cameras and the videos remain the property of the residents. Corporal Dudley stated that it gives the RCMP a data base program to refer to in the event of a crime, and Stratford will be the first community on PEI involved in the program.

Corporal Dudley noted that this program has been implemented in Red Deer with very good results.

Constable Lorenzo noted that Corporal Dudley explained how the program will work and reiterated it is a registry and not a monitoring system. The RCMP will approach the residents to ask their permission to access their cameras, to see if there is any evidence or leads that the RCMP could use.

Deputy Mayor Clow thanked the RCMP for the program. He asked if Stratford businesses will be involved in the program, and if it was only in Stratford, or will it cover any outlying areas going east? Corporal Dudley replied that businesses will be invited to register with the RCMP. He added that starting out the focus will be local, but he would love to see it go Island wide.

Councillor MacDonald asked if the RCMP used a resident's video recording would the resident be required to go to court, and Corporal Dudley replied that it would be the same as someone who had provided a statement. If there was a trial they may be required to attend in order to get the evidence into the court. However, quite often matters are dealt without mediation of the court. Corporal Dudley reiterated that it is a voluntary program, and the resident is not obligated to give the recording to the RCMP.

Mayor Ogden commended Corporal Dudley and Constable Sanders for their initiative for the benefit of the citizens of the Town.

Councillor Smith took a moment to thank both Corporal Dudley and Constable Sanders for all the community things that they do on their off hours for the Town as well.

Councillor Smith stated that he would like to report to Council about the Guardian news story of an incident that happened in one of the communities close to Stratford. *"I won't spell out what was done in this case, but I would like to thank all of the personnel who helped from L Division of the RCMP, and the Charlottetown City police, as reported. It should be noted that it was the RCMP Stratford members who took the lead in this investigation. They did this for a number of reasons, the most important being the health and safety of the people of PEI and that of the citizens of Stratford. On behalf of the Stratford Council, he would like to say thank you for the work on this file. It is appreciated."*

Corporal Dudley spoke briefly about the incident noting that they joined up with all law enforcement across the Island and everyone was pleased with the results.

d) Humane Society Report

The report for the month of February was included in the agenda package for Council to review.

e) Transit

The report for the month of February was included in the agenda package for Council to review. Councillor Smith noted that the numbers are down, and that is because of Covid. He noted that the citizens of Stratford are paying for a system that everyone cannot access. However, because of Covid, we need to start looking at new ways of doing things. We should look at the service itself and not just the numbers of riders.

Deputy Mayor Clow felt that the numbers would go up a little if we had full service in ward 3. He is hopeful that before the end of the Council term transit will be fully in ward 3.

Deputy CAO and Infrastructure director Jeremy Crosby noted that he had a meeting with T-3, and they are trying to partner up with another local firm to have an 'on-demand' system for ward 3, and he is hopeful that we can provide some level of service by September.

f) Cross Roads Fire Department

The report for the month of February was included in the agenda package. Councillor Smith noted that there was a minor fire on Marion Drive. It was a furnace fire, and it is also a reminder to the public to have their furnaces cleaned at least once a year.

10. RECREATION, CULTURE AND EVENTS

a) Report

The report was included in the agenda package for Council to review. Councilor Gallant highlighted some of the items from the report as follows:

Recreation, Culture, and Events Committee – The committee met on March 2 to discuss the community campus, the waterfront, the public art request for proposal (RFP), the 2021 recreation capital budget request, and updates on Stratford Winterfest.

Arts and Culture - The sub-committee meeting was held on February 11. An RFP for an interactive public art piece for Pondside Park received four proposals. The “Leap,” by artist Gerald Beaulieu was chosen and the sculpture will be installed by November 30, 2021. Thirty Indigenous musical instruments were purchased from the Lenox Island Cultural Centre Artisans and will soon be offered to Stratford Elementary to be incorporated into their music program. The recently awarded 10 week, Artist in Residence Youth Visual Art program for ages 6 - 9 and 10 – 12 has full enrollment and is being led by artist Ryan MacAdam-Young.

Stratford Youth Centre and Council – Attendance continues to be steady at drop-in times despite the Covid concerns. The youth centre is a reassuring safe haven for Stratford youth.

Town Centre Gymnasium, Walking Track and Fitness Area – The numbers are increasing for daily attendance. The recent mini circuit breaker impacted programming and fitness centre users, but the Town Centre gym and fitness areas were able to open after a four day closure. The gym hosted two days of Covid testing and a special thank you goes out to the Chief Public Health Office and its’ team of medical professionals who administered countless tests in an effort to keep our Island safe.

Events – A virtual and in person, Stratford WinterFest was held over a 28 day period in February. Activities and programs encouraged residents to embrace winter and outdoor activities.

Special thanks to the following businesses for their corporate and community support: Nimrods, Stratford’s Own Barber Shop, Green Diamond Equipment, The Lucky Bean Café, Reactive Wellness, Yoga, Red Rock Climbing Wall, Domino’s, Aspire Health and Wellness, and Fox Meadow Golf Course.

The Town received a grant from Heritage Canada in support of our annual Canada Day Celebration and Canada Day planning is underway. The Town is cautiously optimistic that

Canada Day festivities will be a blend of 2020's successful motorcade and the previous year's celebration at Tea Hill Park.

On a sad note, Councillor Gallant informed everyone that Eric Bowland, aka Mr. Magic, passed away in February. Eric was a centerpiece in many Stratford hosted events with his very popular magic show. Thank you Eric, for all the years of smiles, laughter, and the wonder in so many children's eyes. Our deepest condolences to his wife, children, and grandchildren. Mayor Ogden also expressed his condolences to the family of Eric Bowland who was a friend of his and a great community volunteer.

Deputy Mayor Clow stated that it would be great to have an additional multi-use ice pad by the Town Centre. He would like the recreation committee to have a look to see what can be done possibly for next year.

Councillor Smith and Mayor Ogden took a moment to acknowledge Jody Jackson who was responsible for setting up the curling event for the WinterFest. It was noted that quite a few members from the Charlottetown Curling Club also helped.

Mayor Ogden asked Councillor Gallant to have the Recreation, Culture, and Events Committee follow-up and make a recommendation of how we do rinks, and the difficulty we have with hockey versus just skating.

11. FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY

a) Report was included in the agenda package for Council to review. Councillor MacDonald highlighted some of the items in the report as follows:

- Meetings with staff and Council on budget documents for 2021/22
- A virtual pre-budget meeting was held on March 8, and the information is now available on the Town's website and social media
- Pre-budget survey is open until March 15, 2021
- The budget is planned to be passed on March 24, 2021
- Staff attended some HR training sessions
- Staff is working with Townsuite on both the recreation and planning modules
- Finalizing paperwork to get the financing for the pipe to Charlottetown sewer project in place
- Staff is working on year end files for the Stratford Seniors Complex
- Capital project spreadsheets have been updated
- The asset management items are being finalized to bring into Townsuite.

Councillor MacDonald noted that the regular monthly meeting was held on February 16, and there was a discussion on the small donation that will be made to the Stratford Senior's Complex so they can purchase furniture for their common room.

Councillor MacDonald also noted that one of the committee members gave an update on technology regarding cyber security threats.

b) Financial Statements

Included in the agenda package. Councillor MacDonald briefly reviewed the statements. At the end of February 2021 revenue was down 3% and expenses were down 11%. Councillor MacDonald noted that on the Utility side the expenses are down for the year by 16% and revenue is up a bit, but that may be because of a government grant.

Both Mayor Ogden and Councillor MacDougall congratulated Councillor MacDonald on her pre-budget consultation on March 8. Councillor MacDougall added that it was well laid out and the responses were quick and accurate. Thanks also went to Kim O'Connell and Wendy Watts for their involvement in putting together the budget document.

12. PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HERITAGE

a) Report

The report was included in the agenda for Council to review. Councilor Burrridge noted that the committee met on March 1 and there was a discussion held on what to expect this year, and the planning director predicts another busy year. She also noted that the town planner continues to work on the Town's official plan review.

Councillor Smith felt that there are a lot of businesses that would like to come to Stratford and asked where we were with this issue, and the planning director replied that we see a lot of fit up clients for some of the existing buildings that have commercial lease space available, but there are no current applications for any additional commercial spaces. Two projects that put the brakes on last year will be coming back to 'the table' this year- they were being cautious because of Covid.

b) Permit Summary

Included in the agenda package. Councillor Burrridge briefly reviewed the summary.

c) Resolution PH004 – 2021 – (VA001-21) – Rand Cook – Lot Size Variance Request – 114 Georgetown Road

**Moved by Councillor Jill Burrridge
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Clow**

WHEREAS an application has been received from Rand Cook for a lot size variance to parcel number 624676, located at 114 Georgetown Road for a single dwelling use;

AND WHEREAS the lot size variance request involves a parcel that was previously surveyed for subdivision in June 1980 for two new lots but was never approved. The remnant section will contain the existing single dwelling. The lots are referred to as existing Lot "A" and new Lot "B";

AND WHEREAS the lot size variance for new Lot "B" will be approximately 13,140 Sq ft. (or 30.2%), for a single dwelling lot located within the Agricultural Reserve Zone (A1). The applicant, therefore, is seeking a lot size variance from 43,560 sq.ft to 30,420 sq.ft;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to section 6.1.1, Council may authorize variances in excess of ten (10%) percent from the provisions of the Bylaw, if Council deems such a variance is desirable and appropriate and if such a variance is in keeping with the general intent and purpose of the Bylaw;

AND WHEREAS on February 9, 2021 twelve (12) notification letters were sent to property owners who own parcel(s) of land, which are located (or part), within sixty meters (200 feet) from any lot line of the parcel being proposed for the variance. There were two phone calls to the Town Planner requesting details about the variance but neither had any issue with the variance request.

BE IT RESOLVED that Council grant approval to an application received from Rand Cook for a lot size variance of 13,140 Sq ft. (or 30.2%), to parcel number 624676 located at 114 Georgetown Road within the Agricultural Reserve Zone (A1).

Discussion: This resolution bears the recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Heritage Committee.

Question: The planning director Kevin Reynolds demonstrated the request with the aid of the overhead. He noted that the area outlined in red is the entire parcel of land that is owned by Rand Cook. Originally, the land was intended to be three parcels, the first lot is divided off, Mr. Cook's house is on the second lot, and he indicated the location of the third lot on the survey plan which was dated 1980. Kevin was not sure why the third lot did not get finalized; as it had received preliminary approval.

Kevin noted that when the Town amalgamated in 1995, the land was designated in the agricultural reserve zone, (and still is) and could not be subdivided unless there was municipal sewer. The municipal sewer has been extended through this area, so Mr. Cook is coming back to try and

legally finalize the subdivision that was proposed many years ago. However, because the lot size requirement in the zone is one acre, he requires a variance as noted in the resolution.

The CAO asked if existing lot A would be an acre after the subdivision, or will it require a variance, and Kevin replied that when a new lot is being created, we only consider the variance on the newly created lot. However, technically we could consider a variance on lot A.

Mayor Ogden asked if we should hold off and Kevin suggested that we go forward with a variance for both lots and the CAO agreed. The CAO suggested doing the change as a friendly amendment if the mover and seconder were okay with giving a variance to the second lot and they were.

The friendly amendment shall read as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that Council grant approval to an application received from Rand Cook for a lot size variance of 18,000 square feet or 41% to parcel number (624676) located at 114 Georgetown Road within the agricultural Reserve Zone (A1), and a lot size variance of 12,140 sq. ft. 30% to Lot B parcel number (624676) located at 114 Georgetown Road within the Agricultural Reserve Zone (A)1.

Discussion: None

Question: **CARRIED**

13. INFRASTRUCTURE

a) Report

The report was included in the package. Deputy Mayor Clow highlighted some of the items from the report:

Wastewater Collection System to the Charlottetown Pollution Control Plant – The new pump station is now operating on a permanent basis with all wastewater flowing into the station and being pumped to the Charlottetown Pollution Control Plant. The contractor continues to provide warranty period services and to address deficient items. Decommissioning of some treatment plant components will begin immediately, with filling in of the lagoons anticipated to be complete later in the spring.

Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Strategy – The sanitary sewer collection system is continually monitored and assessed to identify any areas requiring repair that will reduce the amount of surface and groundwater entering the collection system.

Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Update

- **Sewer Lift Station Upgrades** – Upgrades to the Corish pump station, including redirecting the flow to the trunk main, have been estimated by Coles Associates to cost \$4.5M. Additional upgrades will be required to the 2500 meters of gravity line in order to accommodate the ultimate buildout of the Town. This work can be phased in over time.

Coles Associates is finalizing the report which will include recommendations of how to phase in the work. The report is expected to be completed by the end of the month, with tendering of phase 1 to occur immediately so work can begin this construction season.

- **Water Station Upgrades** – The scope of the project was reduced to meet the budget, and the project was awarded to Hansen Electric for \$201,100 plus HST.
- **Applications for the second call of Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Funding** – Will be submitted by April 30, 2021 for projects to be constructed in 2022 and 2023.
- **Provincial Active Transportation Fund** – The Georgetown Road sidewalk project has been completed, with just landscaping to be done in the spring. Coles Associates has submitted a tender ready package for review for the Keppoch Road multi use path, including a construction cost estimate of \$1.9M for the trail. The tender will be issued within the next month, with the intent to begin construction later in the spring.

The infrastructure staff has been busy with snow clearing operations at our buildings and properties; de-icing operations on our sidewalks and walkways; trail grooming; outdoor rink maintenance; as well as many other necessary tasks.

The Utility supervisor, Gurpreet Singh, began his position with the Town on February 22. He has been familiarizing himself with our infrastructure, as well as with operation and maintenance schedules and practices.

There were no major issues with our water distribution or wastewater collection system during the month of February.

14. **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

a) **Resolution CW004-2021 Community Campus Implementation Committee, Terms of Reference, and Committee Member Appointments**

Moved by Councillor Jill Burridge

Seconded by Councillor Steve Gallant

WHEREAS Stratford is undertaking the development of a Community Campus, which will house a new high school and community recreation and cultural facilities; and

WHEREAS Council is establishing an Implementation Committee to oversee the development of the Community Campus with Council and staff representatives from the areas involved as well as key partners and community representatives.

BE IT RESOLVED that the attached Terms of Reference for the Community Campus Implementation Committee be hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following persons be appointed as members of the Community Campus Implementation Committee for the remainder of this term of Council.

- Chair – Councillor Jill Burridge, Chair of Planning, Development and Heritage
- Vice-chair – Deputy Mayor Gary Clow, Chair of Infrastructure
- Councillor Steve Gallant, Chair of Recreation, Culture, and Events
- Councillor Gail MacDonald, Chair of Finance and Technology
- Mayor Steve Ogden
- Cory Gray, Business Community
- Fred Horrelt, Resident
- Raymonde Arsenault-MacKenzie, Transportation and Infrastructure Department
- Tyler Richardson, Transportation and Infrastructure Department
- Dylan Mullally, Public Schools Branch
- Robert Hughes, Chief Administrative Officer
- Jeremy Crosby, Deputy CAO and Director of Infrastructure
- Jeremy Pierce, Director of Recreation, Culture, and Events
- Kim O’Connell, Director of Finance and Technology
- Jeannie Gallant, Project Manager
-

Discussion: This resolution bears the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole. Councillor Burridge noted that the committee covers a lot of expertise that we will need, and she looked forward to getting to work.

Question: CARRIED

15. SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

a) No Report – Councillor MacDougall stated that the committee did not meet this month.

b) Resolution SC002-2021 – Switch (PACE) Program Bylaw – 2nd Reading

Moved by Councillor Darren MacDougall

Seconded by Councillor Derek Smith

WHEREAS Council adopted a Community Energy Plan which includes targets to reduce community greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS Stratford ran a pilot program (SPEAR Stratford’s Program for Energy Audits and Renewables) to make it easier for residents and businesses to reduce energy use through efficiency improvements and increase renewable energy production, based on the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) concept, whereby funds are advanced to property owners to cover the capital cost of improvements which are paid back from savings in electricity and fuel costs; and

WHEREAS Stratford has joined with the City of Charlottetown and the Town of Wolfville in Nova Scotia, and the PACE Atlantic Community Interest Corporation, to develop an application to FCM for loan and grant funding to offer a PACE program to the residents and businesses of these communities; and

WHEREAS the program in Stratford and Charlottetown will be branded as the Switch Program for promotional purposes; and

WHEREAS the Switch Program Bylaw was read and approved a first time at the January 13, 2021 Council meeting; and

WHEREAS the following changes were made to the bylaw after first reading:

- the definition of Council added as new clause 4.1 (f) as follows: “Council” means the Municipal Council for the Town;
- clause 5.4 (b)+ was amended to change the words “Must Strive” to “must strive” and “property owner” to “Owner of the Qualifying Property;”
- clause 6.6 (e) was amended by inserting the word “the” in front of the word “charge;”
- sub-section 7.3 was amended by removing the words “The Charge is collectable in the same manner as other Town levies and charges.”

BE IT RESOLVED that the attached Switch Program Bylaw, Bylaw Number 52 as amended be hereby read and approved a second time.

Discussion: This resolution bears the recommendation of the Sustainability Committee and the Committee of the Whole.

Councillor Smith noted that we did a survey recently and 75% of the people who responded to the survey wanted something of this nature and he is in favour of the program.

Councillor Smith stated that the change made under clause 5.4 subsection (b) Must Strive was changed to lower case letters, and the CAO agreed adding that this was required because capital letters are defined terms in the bylaw and must strive was not a defined term.

Question: **CARRIED**

c) **Resolution SC003-2021 – Switch (PACE) Program Bylaw – Adoption**

Moved by Councillor Derek Smith

Seconded by Councillor Darren MacDougall

WHEREAS Council read and approved the Switch Program Bylaw, Bylaw Number 52 the first time on January 13, 2021; and

WHEREAS Council read and approved the Switch Program Bylaw, Bylaw Number 52 as amended for the second time on March 10, 2021.

BE IT RESOLVED that the attached Switch Program Bylaw, Bylaw Number 52, be hereby adopted and that the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to affix their signatures and the corporate seal of the Town thereto and to be formally declared the said bylaw passed.

Discussion: This resolution bears the recommendation of the Sustainability Committee and the Committee of the Whole.

Question: **CARRIED**

16. ACCOUNTABILITY AND ENGAGEMENT

Report was included in the agenda package. Mayor Ogden highlighted some of the items in the report as follows:

Mayor Ogden started that the committee discussed the business survey, the Council Procedural Bylaw amendment, and the PACE program and policy. The engagement statistics were also reviewed. Mayor Ogden noted that some interesting ideas were raised by the younger committee members such as video clips and shorter messaging in our engagement efforts, as well as different ways to engage our young people.

17. HUMAN RESOURCES

No Report

18. INQUIRIES BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Councillor Burrridge asked for an update regarding the annexation on the Town boundary and Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission (IRAC), and the CAO replied that IRAC put out the ad on February 18 and they are required to allow 30 days for people to respond. He added that if not much opposition is received IRAC will make their recommendation to the province – hopefully by the first week of April.

19. OTHER COMMITTEES

a) Stratford Community Seniors

Deputy Mayor Clow noted that the committee held a Zoom meeting on March 9, and it was well attended. He noted that the Doucette Brothers were awarded a contract to replace the copper pipe on the recirculation of the water line and the work will be done in April.

It was noted that Ostridge Brothers was awarded the contract for the replacement of patio doors in 12 of the units and this work will be done in the spring.

Deputy Mayor Clow stated that the seniors complex had a snow blower that they were not using, so it was sold to the Town for \$400 and the money is going to go toward some furniture for their common room.

Councillor Gallant asked about the donation request made to the Town for furniture in the common room, and Councillor MacDonald replied that we were able to find the funds in the current year and a cheque was prepared.

Councillor Gallant stated that it will soon be tax time and wondered if there was anything setup for the seniors to have their taxes done. Deputy Mayor Clow replied that they haven't discussed it, but he felt it was a great idea. Kim noted that the Murphy Centre has tax preparation volunteers that is available to Stratford seniors. Wendy stated that due to Covid, the provincial library has taken over the program. It is not being done in person, but seniors can drop off their paperwork at a provincial library such as the

Stratford Library, and they will arrange to have it delivered to one of the volunteer tax preparers to complete.

Councillor Smith suggested that moving forward, we should consider finding a space for the volunteers to work in, as he knows some of the volunteers are Stratford residents. Mayor Ogden suggested that we discuss this further at a future Committee of the Whole meeting to see what the possibilities might be for space. He asked Kim O'Connell and Wendy Watts to look into it and make recommendations.

20. APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE

Nil

21. PROCLAMATIONS

WHEREAS each day 1 in 10 Canadians learn that their kidneys have failed, and this number is on the rise; 45% of new kidney patients are under 65. Their survival will depend on dialysis treatments or a kidney transplant. In 2019, kidney disease was the 10th leading cause of death in Canada. There are currently 96 people on Prince Edward Island receiving hemodialysis 3 or more times per week. Twenty three people receive peritoneal dialysis in their homes, 115 Islanders have received a kidney transplant, 8 patients are waiting for a kidney transplant, 16 are in the process of determining if they are medically eligible to receive a transplant, and 7 patients are on the waiting list to start the process. In 2020, there were 5 transplants compared to 8 in 2019.

WHEREAS the Kidney Foundation of Canada is the only national health charity serving the particular needs of people living with kidney disease through finding research, providing educational and emotional support programs, promoting access to high quality health care, and actively promoting awareness of, and commitment to, kidney health and organ donation.

WHEREAS March 11, 2021 is World Kidney Day and aims to raise awareness of the importance of our kidneys to overall health and to reduce the frequency and impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems.

THEREFORE, I Mayor Steve Ogden hereby proclaim that the month of March be observed as "Kidney Month" in the Town of Stratford. I urge all citizens to become aware of your own kidney health and learn about the role your kidneys play in your body and the kidney disease warning signs to look for, as well as the awareness of the organ donation registry.

22. OTHER BUSINESS

a) Special Council Meeting March 24, 2021

RESOLUTION

It was moved by Councillor Gail MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Derek Smith that a special Council meeting be held on March 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., to approve the 2021/22 budget.

Mayor Ogden took a moment to acknowledge Jordon Koughan, who is the son of staff member Charlie Koughan. He noted that Jordon has made the Special Olympic Training Team which is a big accomplishment – Congratulations go out to Jordon.

Councillor Smith also noted that we have a new grandfather among us and congratulated Robert Hughes, CAO on the new arrival.

22. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Mayor Steve Ogden

Robert Hughes CAO