

REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

December 14, 2016

Approved Minutes

DATE: December 14, 2016

TIME: 7:40 p.m. – 8:47 p.m.

PLACE: Stratford Town Centre, 234 Shakespeare Drive

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Randy Cooper; Councillors Gary Clow; Keith MacLean; Steve Ogden; Gail MacDonald; Robert Hughes, CAO; Kim O’Connell, Director of Finance and Technology; Jeremy Crosby, Director of Infrastructure, Joanne Weir, Recreation Director; Wendy Watts, Community Engagement Coordinator; and Mary McAskill, Recording Clerk

REGRETS: Patrick Carroll, Director of Planning and Heritage

CHAIR: Mayor David Dunphy

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dunphy called the Regular Monthly Council Meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and welcomed Erin Clarke. He noted that Erin will be filling in for Wendy Watts while she is on maternity leave, and he wished Wendy all the best on her maternity leave.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Randy Cooper and seconded by Councillor Steve Ogden that the agenda be approved as circulated. Motion Carried.

3. MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Steve Odgen and seconded by Councillor Gary Clow that the Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2016 be approved as presented. Motion Carried.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Nil

5. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Nil

6. CARI REPORT

Report is included in the agenda package.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

A list of all correspondence sent and received since the last Council meeting was included in the meeting package. Councillor MacLean noted that the listing of the correspondence is included in the package, but not the actual correspondence and he wondered why. Robert replied that he will look into it.

8. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Dunphy noted that he attended the following meetings and events since the last Council meeting:

- Attended the Stratford Community Energy Plan Steering Committee meeting.
- Along with Robert Hughes, met with Chief Superintendent Joanne Crampton and Staff Sgt. Mark Crowther to discuss policing in Stratford.
- Attended the municipal working group on retaining immigrant residents. This working group meets quarterly.
- Attended the bylaw public meeting on the green/open spaces.
- Attended Education 20/20 and the Rodd Hotels and Resorts Christmas Receptions.
- Participated in the very successful event of the food and monetary donation of the food drive.
- Along with Deputy Mayor Cooper, Councillor Clow, CAO Robert Hughes and infrastructure director Jeremy Crosby, met with the Hon. Lawrence MacAulay to discuss our Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) funding issue with the province.
- Along with CAO Robert Hughes, met with the school reorganization project manager Bob Andrews, to discuss the review of schools by the PEI Public Schools Branch. This was in advance of a written report which was also sent to Mr. Andrews.
- Along with CAO Robert Hughes, met with Premier MacLauchlan and Chief of Staff Robert Vessey, to discuss the issue of funding our long term solution for our WWTP.
- Attended the PEI Human Rights Day event hosted by the Town.
- Attended Chances Annual Open House; Holland College President's Christmas Reception; Greater Charlottetown & Area Chamber of Commerce Annual President's Christmas Reception; The QEH Foundation's Annual Christmas Reception and the Junior Achievement of PEI's Christmas Reception hosted by Lt. Governor Frank Lewis.
- Attended the CBC Feed a Family and taping with Boomer at Stratford Sobeys.

9. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Included in the package for Council to review. Robert extended a welcome to Erin Clarke as a member of the Town of Stratford's Team, and he wished Wendy all the best on her maternity leave.

10. INFRASTRUCTURE

a) Report

Councillor Clow noted that some of the items being worked on by the infrastructure department are as follows:

Waste Water Treatment Plant Update – the plant is running relatively well. The system has stabilized from the sludge removal and the parameters have returned to normal.

Inflow and Infiltration Study – the data collection is complete and we now have some preliminary information regarding the collection system. Although the report is not complete, there is enough information to budget for some repairs in 2017.

Sidewalk Construction – we are currently in the process of designing the continuation of the Georgetown Road project for 2017.

Trans Canada Trail – the portion of trail between Williams Gate and Hollis Avenue on the Mason Road has been designed. However, due to the time of year, the project will be deferred until the spring of 2017.

Budget 2017 – the first draft of the budget has been presented to Council. The draft is now being reviewed for any required adjustments.

Metering Program – staff is preparing a tender for the purchase and installation of the water meters for 2017/2018.

The Town's outdoor staff has been busy completing Christmas decorating and snow removal procedures. Utility staff is finalizing the fall water flushing program and sewer lift station maintenance program.

Deputy Mayor Cooper stated that the Town Centre looks great with all the decorations and he asked that his comments be passed along to the staff. Mayor Dunphy also echoed Deputy Mayor Cooper's comments and noted that staff did a great job.

Trans Canada Trail - the portion of trail between Williams Gate and Hollis Avenue on the Mason Road has been designed; however, due to the time of year, the project is being deferred until spring of 2017.

Councillor Ogden asked if the sidewalk priorities for next year have been established and Councillor Clow replied that we will continue on with the Georgetown sidewalk and there are plans to complete the Keppoch/Kinlock loop. However, we will not be able to

do as much next year, because of the trail that is going from Williams Gate over to Hollis, and that will complete the Trans Canada Trail.

Budget 2017 – the first draft of the budget has been presented to Council and we are in the process of reviewing the draft and making any required adjustments.

11. RECREATION, CULTURE AND EVENTS

a) Report

Early planning for the upcoming winter carnival, now being called Fam Fest, is underway. A wide host of activities will again be presented. The event will be held from February 17 until February 20, 2016.

There will be free skates at the Pownal Rink on December 27, 2016; January 21, 2017; February 11, 2017; and March 18, 2017 from 3:20 p.m. until 4:20 p.m.

The Stratford Youth Centre again participated in the Stratford and area food drive on Sunday, November 20, 2016.

The Stratford Youth Council continues to meet on a weekly basis. There are currently 11 members from grades 8 to grade 12, and their fundraising continues toward their leadership trip in the summer of 2017.

Artists in Residence continued in November with programs for pre-school children, youth, and seniors and their final reports will be available on December 31, 2016.

On December 3, 2016 local florist Elizabeth Ghiz gave a centerpiece workshop in the art centre. The workshop is back this year at the request of several residents.

It was noted that the children's Christmas party was a great success again this year with more than 250 people attending.

Councillor MacDonald noted that planning is well underway for the New Year's Levee being held on January 1, 2017.

Councillor Ogden asked for an update on the skatepark and Councillor MacDonald noted that the fundraising will resume with the start up the Chase the Ace again. Councillor MacDonald noted that there has been some interest shown from people wanting to join the committee and there have been one or two members who have left the committee so this is something to look at in January of 2017.

Councillor MacLean asked how the funds from the Chase the Ace are split and Councillor MacDonald replied that the split is 50/50 for the Charlottetown Legion and the Cross Roads Fire Department. The Cross Roads Fire Department then splits 50/50 with the Skate Park Committee.

12. FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY

a) Report

Included in the package for Council to review. Deputy Mayor Cooper noted that the final meeting with the current committee was held on November 22, 2016.

b) Financial Statements

The financial statements for the Town and the Utility were included in the meeting package.

Deputy Mayor Cooper stated that we now have to show government grants as revenue on our financial statements, so it does skew them somewhat. If all the expected grants come in both the Utility and the Town will be running 'close to the line,' and we should end out the year on a positive note.

13. PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HERITAGE

a) No Report

Councillor Ogden noted that the committee did not meet in November.

b) Permit Summary

Included in the package for Council to review. Councillor Ogden gave an overview of the summary noting that the numbers show a big increase over last year - even without the commercial development (Sobey's). The value total this year is just under 24 million, and was just over 11 million last year, so we had a strong year of growth.

Councillor Ogden noted that the next bylaw review meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2017. At the last meeting there was great input from residents and we are hopeful that the next meeting will be similar.

14. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Resolution CW009-2016 – Federation of Prince Edward Island Municipalities Board Member Appointment

Moved by Councillor Steve Ogden

Seconded by Councillor Gary Clow

WHEREAS the Federation of Prince Edward Island Municipalities (FPEIM) constitution allows for a member of the Stratford Town Council to serve as a member on the FPEIM Board; and

WHEREAS Councillor Diane Griffin, who recently resigned her Council seat to join the Senate, was the Town's representative on the Board.

BE IT RESOLVED that Councillor Keith MacLean be appointed to serve as a member of the FPEIM Board of Directors for the remainder of the 2016 – 2017 term.

Discussion: None

Question: **CARRIED**

15. SAFETY SERVICES

- a) Included in the package for Council to review. Councillor Ogden noted that the major highlight from the meeting was the new crosswalk at Horton Park and the need for lighting. The province will not put in an overhead flashing light, but they are considering putting in an additional street light. Mayor Dunphy stated that he will write a letter to the Minister to make an official request.

There were a number of budget items discussed at the meeting for safety purposes such as security cameras and lights on the trails, and lighting on the Trans Canada Highway from KFC to the lights at Sobey's.

The speed hump policy is still being discussed and Councillor Ogden stated that we hope to have a policy in place by next summer. The committee also discussed crosswalk priorities.

b) Street Light Report

No report

c) RCMP Report

The RCMP report for the month of November was included in the agenda package. Mayor Dunphy noted that the number of tickets issued this year is up, and the number of warnings is down.

d) Humane Society Report

The Humane Society Report for the month of November was included in the agenda package.

e) Transit Report

The Transit Report for the month of November was included in the agenda package. Mayor Dunphy asked if there were any initiatives being worked on with TRIUS Transit and Councillor Ogden replied there was a Transit User's meeting scheduled, but it had to be cancelled. He noted that the users have great ideas to increase the usage and TRIUS usually attends the meeting.

Robert stated that we did talk to the operator and he has come up with a scenario where he would reduce the service on the Bunbury side for the middle run in the morning, and then go out the Trans Canada Highway down around the Keppoch Road. However, the operator would like us to do a survey asking residents if they did this would residents sign up for it. We also want to have someone go on the bus and talk to the people of the Mason Road area, who would be affected by it, to get their feedback. We can then bring something back to Council for consideration. Councillor Ogden stated that the original concept was that we were looking for runs that are not being used or running close to empty.

f) Fire Company

There was some discussion regarding false alarms. The board of directors of the fire company felt that if you put a deterrent in place there could be a possible loss of life because a resident would hesitate to call in case it is a false alarm.

The fire company felt that people need to be educated and informed on how much each false alarm costs the fire company (\$1,000). Mayor Dunphy felt that we should let the police department and the fire department decide what they want to do regarding false alarms. Councillor Ogden noted that whoever chairs the Safety Services Committee next year may want to put it on their agenda for discussion purposes.

16. SUSTAINABILITY

a) Report

The Sustainability Committee had their last meeting of the year on December 1, 2017. One of the items discussed was the review of the Cosmetic Pesticide Bylaw – specifically the infestation clause, and we are working with the City of Charlottetown on the issue.

Mayor Dunphy stated for information purposes that the committee discussed the Charlottetown Area Development Corporation (CADC) and the fact that the province has decided to take 100% ownership of it. The province currently owns 83%, the City of Charlottetown is a 15% owner, and the Town of Stratford has a 2% share. We are not sure what will happen, but we will monitor the situation.

A number of Stratford businesses participated in the holiday Think! Stratford campaign. It was a 'passport' card campaign where you could take the card to various Stratford businesses, and after collecting six stamps you put the card in for a draw. This is just another way of trying to encourage residents to 'Think Stratford.'

The community energy plan is continuing with Ben Grieder, the Community Energy Plan Coordinator. The committee meets on a monthly basis and Ben is working on gathering the current greenhouse gas emissions of the Town – both residential and commercial.

It was noted that there was a presentation just before the start of the Council meeting and Len Currie, who does great work in the community, was presented the Stratford Energy Champion Award. The Green Energizer Youth award was awarded to Lily Hickox. Ms. Hickox is a grade 12 Charlottetown Rural student, and an excellent young person in our community.

Diversity and Inclusion – International Human Rights Day was hosted by the Town on Friday, December 9, 2016 and Mayor Dunphy thanked staff for pulling it all together. He noted that he received many positive remarks from people and thanks to the staff for such a successful event. There were a number of presentations at the event, and Stratford resident Thilak Tennekone received an award for all his efforts on behalf of human rights.

The Levee will be held on January 1, 2016 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. We will also holding a new resident welcome event on January 22, 2017.

Deputy Mayor Cooper asked if the new digital sign arrived and Robert replied that it did; however, the wiring needs to be upgraded before it can be installed.

Councillor MacLean stated that the International Human Rights event was very successful and he was impressed with the Stratford Choir. He added that numerous people have commented how things are done in Stratford, and how Stratford is an inclusive community.

Councillor Ogden asked about the new approach to the committees and Mayor Dunphy stated that it is on his list and he hopes to get to it next week.

17. ACCOUNTABILITY AND ENGAGEMENT

a) No Report

Councillor MacLean stated that there was no meeting held in November. However, he noted that there was an interview process for the community engagement coordinator's (Wendy Watts) maternity leave and Erin Clarke was chosen as the replacement

18. HUMAN RESOURCES

No Report

19. OTHER COMMITTEES

a) Stratford Seniors Complex

Councillor MacDonald stated that everything is running well at the complex and all units are rented. She noted that a long-term capital plan has been submitted to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). They want to do a physical inspection, but will need to wait until spring to do it.

Councillor MacDonald noted that the snow clearing season has begun and everything is working out well with the contractors.

It was noted that the Social Committee is planning a Christmas dinner for all the tenants.

20. PROCLAMATIONS

Nil

21. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Dunphy wished everyone and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! He wished all the best to staff and Council in 2017.

22. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Mayor David Dunphy

Robert Hughes, CAO