

REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

July 9, 2014

Approved Minutes

DATE: July 9, 2014
TIME: 4:35 p.m. – 5:50 p.m.
PLACE: Stratford Town Centre, 234 Shakespeare Drive

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Gary Clow; Councillors Steve MacDonald (left the meeting at 4:55 p.m.) Steve Ogden; Emile Gallant; Randy Cooper; Robert Hughes, CAO; Joanne Weir, Recreation Director; Kim O’Connell, Director of Finance and Technology; Jeremy Crosby, Director of Infrastructure and Adele Gillis Recording Clerk

REGRETS: Councillor Diane Griffin, Vahid Ghomoshchi, Director of Planning, Development and Heritage

CHAIR: Mayor David Dunphy

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor David Dunphy called the Regular Monthly Council Meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Councillor Randy Cooper and seconded by Deputy Mayor Clow that the agenda be approved with the following Agenda changes: move agenda item 15 - Safety Services to agenda Item 12, and move agenda Item 12 - Finance and Technology to agenda item #15.

Discussion: None

Question: **CARRIED**

3. MINUTES

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gary Clow and seconded by Councillor Steve MacDonald that the Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2014 be approved as circulated.

Discussion: None

Question **CARRIED**

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Mayor Dunphy noted that the Water Conversation Art Awards given to the school children at the June Council meeting was a great event. He added that the calendars, with the winning artwork, are now out.

Mayor Dunphy also commented on the Trans Canada Trail. He noted that the Globe and Mail produced a supplemental addition where the Town was mentioned in an article, and the Premier was recognized as the first Premier to champion the Trans Canada Trail in Canada.

5. **PRESENTATION**

Nil

6. **CARI REPORT**

No Report

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Included in the package is a list of all correspondence sent and received since the last Council meeting.

8. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Dunphy gave an overview of his report noting that since the last Council meeting he attended the following events:

- Attended the provincial launch of the 'Summer Reading Program' at the Stratford Public Library.
- Met with representatives of RBC regarding their donation of \$10,000 to the Town of Stratford from the RBC Blue Water Fund.
- Attended the Sustainability Committee Meeting.
- Attended the Annual Ceremonial Review for the 20 Stratford Royal Canadian Cadet Corps.
- Attended the CADC Annual General Meeting.
- Attended the Finance and Technology Meeting.
- Attended the Diversity and Inclusion Meeting along with Robert Hughes, Kim Dudley and Thilak Tennekone, to discuss Canada Day diversity events in Stratford.
- Attended the Committee of the Whole Meeting.
- Along with Councillor Ogden and Town staff – met with RCMP representative to discuss their analysis of staffing resources for Stratford.
- Attended the pancake breakfast and Canada Day events at Tea Hill park. There was a large at these events and a great day all around. Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Harry MacLellan and an excellent time was had by all!
- Was interviewed at CBC Radio regarding the Stratford Market that is opening on July 12.
- Was interviewed by CBC Radio about the odour issue and the Blue Frog system being installed at the waste water treatment plant.
- Along with Robert Hughes met with Minister Rob3rt Vessey and Deputy Minister Brian Douglas to discuss issues of mutual interest between the Town and Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR).

- Attended the very successful launch of Stratford's Traffic Safety Plan. Thank you to Council and staff for all the working getting to this stage in our plan.
- Attended the fishing derby event held in June – very good turnout to the event.

9. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Included in the package for Council to review. Robert noted that he responded to the Gateway consultant with Council's feedback and he is now waiting for a sketch showing the gateway concept - in the context of the existing site. He stated that cost estimates for the work has been received and it looks like the total cost will exceed the budgeted amount. We directed the consultant to include some items in the base contract and some items as optional in the tender, to allow us to make choices once the tendered prices are known.

Robert noted that he had an interesting exchange of ideas with a planner from Denmark who works with the WSP consulting firm. They have a worldwide presence and have an experienced planner in sustainability. Robert noted that they exchanged ideas, and the planner expressed an interest in what the Town is doing.

Meetings attended during the past month are as follows:

- Coordinated the launch of the Traffic Safety Program.
- Official Plan Review.
- Attended a Transit Coordinating Committee Meeting.
- Hosted a Sustainability Planner from Denmark to exchange ideas.
- Attended the RCMP presentation on the Policing Resource Methodology.
- Met with the Mayor and the Chair of Human Resources regarding performance management.
- Met with a representative of APM to discuss the Mason/TCH intersection issue.

10. INFRASTRUCTURE

a) Report

Included in the package for Council to review. Councillor Gallant gave an overview of the report noting that the Blue Frog System will be installed later this month. The Infrastructure Committee will be scheduling a tour before their next meeting in July.

Mayor Dunphy noted that there were odour issues earlier in the month, but they have since been rectified, and we are looking forward to the installation of the Blue Frog System which will address the issues with the wastewater treatment plant.

Mayor Dunphy also noted that due to tropical storm Arthur staff had to deal with down trees and power outages. Jeremy stated that there was a significant power outage in the Town Centre building, but everything is back on line now. He also noted that Jerry Villard worked very hard to keep up with the systems to make sure that everything was monitored and that we didn't have any overflows.

Councillor Gallant took a moment to pass on his sympathies to the family of Mrs. Norberta Weatherbie who passed away as a result of the storm (Arthur).

Councillor Ogden received a comment from a resident regarding the medians at the corner of the Trans-Canada Highway (TCH)/Kinlock Road. The resident suggested paving the medians in the middle of the TCH, or to coming up with a permanent solution rather than having staff weed and plant each year. Councillor Gallant noted that staff is working on the area now and a few years ago the objective was to have the area planted with different flowers and plants.

Councillor Ogden noted that a resident had suggested to him that the town do something similar to Charlottetown and plant buckets of flowers in the medians. The buckets could then be removed during the winter months. Councillor Gallant noted that he would bring the suggestion to the Committee members for discussion.

11. RECREATION, CULTURE AND EVENTS

a) Report

Included in the package for review. Councillor MacDonald noted that the Recreation Events Committee was again very pleased with the turnout for this year's Canada Day celebrations. Organizers felt that this turnout was the largest to date, as slightly more than 1000 servings of cake, strawberries and ice cream were served. There was also the Pancake Breakfast hosted again by the Stratford Lions Club.

In addition, our Annual Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Harry McLellan for 2014. Special thanks are extended to Stratford Lion's Club, RCMP, Fox Meadow, Stratford YCD, Citizens on Patrol and our maintenance staff for a job well done.

Due to the approaching storm, the Stratford Market scheduled to begin Saturday, July 5 at the Stratford Cotton Centre, 57 Bunbury Road, will be **delayed until Saturday, July 12.**

The Stratford Market will operate each Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. from July 12 to October 11, and will be a family friendly and accessible market located in the Town's flagship Park. Available at the market will be freshly brewed organic fair trade coffee or tea, and deliciously prepared ethnic foods and freshly picked vegetables. Children and adults alike can pick their favorite fruits or vegetables while inhaling the amazing smells from the food vendors. Inside the Cotton Centre residents can visit the Artisans who are selling hooked rugs, knitted items, handmade jewelry, soap, pottery and quilts.

On June 17 our youth coordinator participated in the monthly frontline workers meeting held at the PEI Native Council, to share best practises and network with other front line Youth workers and others youth professionals.

The last 'Dinner and a Movie' before the summer break was held Friday, June 20 in the youth room. Twenty five youth attended and made their own pizzas. As of June 25 the youth room was closed for the summer and will open again in the fall. It will be used for the summer day program during July and August.

A list of events held during the month of June at Stratford Town Centre is included in the meeting package.

Mayor Dunphy noted that in the report it was mentioned about tennis lessons at Kinlock Park. How many courts are in Kinlock Park and Councillor MacDonald replied that there are two courts at Kinlock Park. Joanne Weir added that there are also two at Pondsider, but they are scheduled to be resurfaced very soon and are not being used at this time.

12. SAFETY SERVICES

a) Report

Included in the package for Council to review.

Councillor Ogden reviewed the minutes of the June 12 Safety Services Committee meeting with Council. The main discussion of the meeting centered on the classification of the streets for collectors and what the speed zone should be. A discussion was held on how to separate pedestrians from vehicular traffic, especially during the winter months because of the danger of having them so close together.

Committee members talked about the criteria for designating streets as local collectors, and the recommendation was for areas that have 100 residents or more, schools, or major parks. There was discussion of sidewalk priority mythology - for deciding which areas would receive sidewalks. The recommendation of the committee was based on safety, and risk factor, such as traffic and pedestrian volume. Even though we have the sidewalk money available, one of the difficulties we face is that we need an agreement from the province to infill the ditches for areas where we want to install sidewalks. Councillor Ogden stated that the committee was disappointed, as it appears there will not be any money from the province to infill ditches this year. Councillor Gallant confirmed that there will not be any money from the province for the sidewalks this year.

It was noted that the committee members discussed the recommendation to increase speed on local roads from 30 to 40 km per hour, along with enforcement, social marketing, education and traffic calming measures. Councillor Ogden noted that he wasn't in agreement, but he will support his committee because the majority of committee members and RCMP were in favor of changing the speed limit.

Councillor Ogden noted that some people have smoke allergies and a curtesy letter was sent to residents of Governors Lane area informing them that there is a bylaw in the

Town requiring residents that open fires are not permitted. Only a fire pit with a chimney and a screen is allowed.

The committee also discussed the bylaws and what the RCMP can enforce. It was noted that the members of the RCMP will be made aware of the bylaws.

Councillor Ogden commended and congratulated Harry MacLennan on being named Stratford's Volunteer of the year. Mr. MacLennan does a great job with Citizens on Patrol and it is a real asset to Stratford.

Councillor Ogden then reported on the following items:

- Transit - A small committee has been set up to make recommendations to Council on how to increase ridership. The committee will make recommendations on the short, medium, and long term goals to promote the transit system.
- RCMP - report was included in the package.
- Humane Society - report was included in the package.
- Transit - report was included in the package.

Councillor Ogden stated that the Finance and Technology Committee dedicated the June 24, 2014 meeting to questions on the RCMP and the value for the money we are paying. This has been a long standing issue that has been on the table for a long time, and Staff Sgt. Mark Crowther set everyone's mind at rest. The RCMP is giving us good value for the money we are spending and the financially related questions were answered.

Councillor Cooper noted that he believes, as we move forward, there will be better reporting and approach by the RCMP. The big thing is that we have a leader in Staff Sgt. Mark Crowther, and he lives in the Community and wants to see his members do a good job in Stratford.

Deputy Mayor Clow noted that we need to make sure that we keep Staff Sgt. Crowther as he is doing a great job.

Councillor Ogden added that the meeting made it really clear that we are working together. There is a good element of trust and we look forward to a positive relationship with the RCMP. It appears that we are on a sound financial footing from a Safety Services Committee perspective and we have established a good foundation moving forward.

Deputy Mayor Clow noted that traffic calming was discussed and the work we are doing regarding traffic calming, but he noted that when you look at the traffic flow at Balderston's Produce on the Trans Canada Highway it is very dangerous situation. Deputy Mayor Clow stated that he received two calls on this situation and residents are

wondering if the Town is going to put another lane into the property. It was suggested that we have the RCMP look at the situation and see what can be done.

Councillor Ogden asked if we could set a meeting with the RCMP and the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR), to see what can be done at the Balderston Produce location.

Councillor Cooper noted that MLA Alan McIsaac and Deputy Mayor Clow were both involved in getting the turning lane into Clearview Estates. Councillor Cooper believes that it is a good time to look at the traffic situation at Balderston's and get it taken care of.

Councillor Ogden noted that he was pleased with the Road Safety Campaign event this morning. This campaign reflects the work that a lot of people, and addresses the concerns that were heard while going door to door four years ago. Councillor Ogden also commended Councillor Gallant on the work he did with the Traffic Safety Committee, and added that the RCMP and TIR were also involved with this project. It was noted that the only piece that wasn't mentioned in the launch was the accountability part in terms of how we will evaluate the Campaign in a year's time.

Mayor Dunphy mentioned that accountability was noted in the report and we will be looking at the campaign again in the future and make adjustments as required.

The CAO noted that one way to evaluate the Campaign is through the annual resident's survey. We will also do a speed survey on the same roads that were done last year, and after another year we can compare the data with previous data to see if it had an impact.

Mayor Dunphy commended Councillor Gallant, Councillor Ogden and staff on the work that was put into the Traffic Safety Report. Hopefully, the implementation of the report will be successful and will change some behaviors, with people driving a little slower making our streets a little safer. Perhaps more people will get out walking and biking, jogging etc. We are looking forward to a successful campaign and a safer community.

a) Street Light Report

No report

b) RCMP Report

Councillor Ogden noted that a report is included in the meeting package.

c) Humane Society Report

Councillor Ogden noted that a report is included in the meeting package.

d) Transit Report

Included in the package for Council to review.

e) Fire Company

Councillor Ogden noted that the number of fire calls is increasing each month.

13. PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HERITAGE

a) No Report

Deputy Mayor Clow noted that the committee did not hold a meeting since the last Council meeting.

b) Permit Summary

Deputy Mayor Clow noted that the permit summary was included in the package for Council to review. It was also noted that the permit numbers are down from last year.

Councillor Gallant noted that he is concerned when Deputy Mayor Clow states the numbers for development are down. We know that residential development is our 'bread and butter' and shouldn't we be promoting our Town in order to get more people to move to Stratford and develop in the Town.

Mayor Dunphy noted we did have high years and the push was on to get ahead of the HST. If you look at immigration in the 2007 to 2012 time frame, we had a significant influx of new immigrants, and that created the demand for additional housing. What is happening now is that it is going the other way a little bit; with a lot of immigrants moving to other areas there is a bit less of a demand for housing.

Councillor Gallant asked if we have we reached the demand for apartments and Deputy Mayor Clow replied that Marshall MacPherson is still building condos.

Mayor Dunphy then asked staff to contact other municipalities for their housing numbers. Once we have their information we can compare them with the Town's numbers.

Councillor Ogden inquired about the Official Plan and Deputy Mayor Clow replied that the meeting with the management team has now been completed and the draft Official Plan will be sent back to Council in September. We should also be ready for a public meeting in September.

14. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Nil

15. FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY

a) Report

Councillor Cooper noted that the Finance and Technology Committee did not meet this month. The last meeting held was on June 24, 2014 and it was a very lengthy meeting.

It was noted that the Town and Utility income statements are both showing a healthy surplus.

Councillor Cooper gave an overview of the June meeting noting that the committee discussed the RCMP. Councillor Cooper noted that we have been trying to zero in on the RCMP policing initiative in Stratford in regards to finance. The RCMP is one of the largest portions of the budget in Stratford and we have struggled to get the proper information, in order to have a good conversation about the finances. Last year we had Cheryl Frizzell, Financial Analyst for the RCMP Queens District come in and go over the numbers and costs. The Finance Committee and Council spent a great deal of time coming up with a set of detailed questions for the RCMP. These questions were sent to the RCMP before the meeting, and the RCMP representatives answered every question that we posed to them. It was noted that we have a Staff Stg. Who is very engaged with the Town of Stratford in terms of policing, and we as residents are more aware of what happens in the Town in regards to policing.

Councillor Cooper referred to the unfortunate event that happened in the city of Moncton, where three RCMP officers lost their life. When you are responsible to talk about the finances within a municipality, you always wonder what might happen if this happened in the Town of Stratford. The general answer would be that we would have the resources within the RCMP to bring in the extra teams if such an incident were to happen here. The extra cost for a tragedy like that would be minimal, in comparison to paying \$150,000 an officer. If you talk about the \$750,000 expenditure that we are under this year, it would be considerably less. If that were to happen in the City of Charlottetown, who has their own police force, it could be devastating. I know the province would pick up a lot of the tab but those resources, as indicated by Stg. Smith, would be devastating to the City of Charlottetown. Councillor Cooper noted that he did not have an actual report from Stg. Smith but indicated that he did talk to a lot of elected officials within the City and they have had the discussion and they are aware that it would be a serious situation. Over the past number of years the Town has talked about a regional police force and also about having our own police force. Councillor Cooper noted that personally, he thinks that we probably have the best service. In general, the Finance Committee is fairly happy with the RCMP contract that we now have.

Deputy Mayor Clow responded that the Charlottetown police force would very seldom need the RCMP to assist them as they have their own resources.

The Mayor noted that Staff Sgt. Mark Crowther was asked if a similar event took place in Stratford, what would we be libel for, and Staff Sgt. Crowther noted that there would be extra cost, but they would be minimal. However, if we had our own police force and we were by ourselves, we would be faced with a larger bill.

The Mayor noted that the reporting from Staff Stg. Mark Crowther to the Committee has been great and there is a better relationship with the RCMP. Staff Stg. Crowther is also working internally, with his staff, to ensure communication continues with the Town.

b) Financial Statements

Included in the package for Council to review.

16. SUSTAINABILITY

a) Report

Mayor Dunphy noted that a report was included in the package for Council to review. The following are a few of the agenda items discussed at the June meeting:

- The main topic of discussion was the expansion of Phase 2 (a portion of) the business park and the residential subdivision currently being developed next to the business park.
- The Town launched a public relations marketing campaign on the dangers of cosmetic pesticides.
- Discussed the Waterfront and Gateway proposal.
- The Diversity and Inclusion portion of the Canada Day celebration was a great success.
- Attended the CADC General Meeting.

b) Resolution ST002-2014 – Repeal of the Tax Incentive Policy for the Stratford Business Park

Moved by Councillor Steve Ogden

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Clow

WHEREAS the Sustainability Committee reviewed the Stratford Business Park Tax Incentive Policy, and determined the policy is not critical to a decision of whether or not someone wants to purchase a lot in the business park.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the attached Tax Incentive Policy for the Stratford Business Park, Policy #2004-ED-01 be hereby Repealed.

Discussion: This resolution bears the recommendation of the Sustainability Committee as discussed at a meeting held on October 31, 2013.

Councillor Ogden questioned if this resolution was sent to the Committee of the Whole for discussion. He noted that he does not agree with repealing the policy; it seems we are sending the wrong message to the business community if we have something that could attract them to locate

a business in Stratford. Mayor Dunphy replied that the tax policy does not attract businesses to Stratford.

Councillor Ogden responded that he would like to have the opportunity to do an analysis and he questions the process and the spirit of the bylaw. Councillor Ogden stated that this item did come to Committee of the Whole and it was his understanding that most of the resolutions are discussed at the Committee of the Whole before coming to Council. Councillor Ogden would also like to see an analysis done to determine that the business community does not consider tax incentive when looking to locate in Stratford.

The Mayor noted that to get the tax refund credit, the company has to make a request to the Town. However, companies typically don't contact us, and we have to contact them to make their request for the property tax refund.

Councillor Cooper noted that the Finance Committee talked about this in the past, and the general consensus was if it is not bringing people here, and most are not requesting a tax refund credit then the committee did not have an issue with repealing the policy.

MOTION DEFFERED

After further discussion it was agreed that the resolution will be deferred, and forwarded to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Clow and seconded by Councillor Cooper to defer this resolution and forward it to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

Discussion: None
Question: **CARRIED**

17. ACCOUNTABILITY AND ENGAGEMENT

a) Report

Councillor Gallant noted that a written report was included in the package for Council to review.

18. HUMAN RESOURCES

a) Nil

19. PROCLAMATIONS

a) Nil

20. OTHER COMMITTEES

a) **Stratford Seniors Complex**

Report included in the package for Council to review.

21. OTHER BUSINESS

22. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Mayor David Dunphy

Robert Hughes, CAO