

REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
May 9, 2012
Approved Minutes

DATE: May 9, 2012
TIME: 7:33 p.m. - 8:32 p.m.
PLACE: Stratford Town Centre, 234 Shakespeare Drive

PRESENT: Councillors Emile Gallant; Diane Griffin; Randy Cooper; Steve Ogden; Robert Hughes, CAO; Joanne Weir, Assistant Recreation Director; Kim O'Connell, Manager of Finance and Administration; Vahid Ghomoshchi, Director of Planning, and Mary McAskill, Recording Clerk

REGRETS: Deputy Mayor Gary Clow, Councillor Steve MacDonald and Jeremy Crosby, Manager Public Works and Utility

CHAIR: Mayor David Dunphy

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dunphy called the Regular Monthly Council Meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as circulated.

3. MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Diane Griffin and seconded by Councillor Steve Ogden that the April 11, 2012 Regular Monthly Council Meeting Minutes be approved as circulated.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Nil

5. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Nil

6. CARI REPORT

Included in the package for Council to review.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

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

8. MAYOR'S REPORT

Included in the package for Council to review. Mayor Dunphy gave an overview of his report noting that since the last Council meeting he attended the following events and meetings:

- met with town residents Frank Zhou and Sherry Wang to discuss how the Town of Stratford can enhance diversity and inclusion in the Town.
- attended the Chamber of Commerce business mixer hosted by the Town on April 18 and it was a well attended event.
- attended the 'Stratfords of the World' information session hosted by the organizing committee, and it was noted that the committee is looking for more host families.
- attended the Federation of Prince Edward Island Municipalities (FPEIM) annual meeting in Georgetown
- attended the 'Housing Demand Study' meeting with consultants from Stantec, along with Deputy Mayor Clow and staff members Vahid Ghomoshchi and Kim O'Connell who are all members of the steering committee, to review some basic information that the consultant had compiled to date.
- participated in the Canadian Paraplegic Association PEI "Chair Leaders" event on May 8 by using a wheelchair for a day.

9. **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Included in the package for Council to review. Robert gave a brief overview of his report noting that another Act Review Committee meeting was held earlier today and things continue to go very well. However, the Revenue Sharing Committee has not met since the province announced that it is cutting the municipal support grants.

Sustainable Stratford Results Matter - Robert noted that we had a fantastic response to our resident survey. He stated that the survey is complete and a summary will be available within a few weeks. He also noted that we will also be putting something together to inform residents of the results.

A very brief business survey was hand delivered to all businesses and organizations who have employees, and mailed to all of the home based businesses.

Robert noted that the consultant for the Communications and Branding Strategy Project presented their findings from the two focus group sessions (internal and external) to the Steering Committee. They are now focusing on the details of the communication plan and we should have a report in a few weeks. He added that he attended a three day crash course in PR for Experienced Professionals which was excellent, and will hopefully help to better manage the implementation of our communications plan.

Councillor Ogden asked Robert who has the lead on the Revenue Sharing Committee and Robert replied that the chair of the committee is Christine MacKinnon. He noted that the municipal representatives made a proposal and the 'ball' is now in the hands of the provincial representatives.

10. PUBLIC WORKS**a) Report**

Included in the package for Council to review. In Councillor MacDonald's absence Councillor Cooper gave a brief overview of the report. He noted that much of the discussion that took place was centered around the damage that was done from the snow clearing.

Councillor Cooper stated that we have our summer maintenance staff back, and our gardener Claire Walker is also back for the season.

Councillor Cooper stated that we do receive gas tax funding from the federal government and we will be moving forward with some sidewalks. We do need the participation of the province for ditch infilling, and we have been quite happy over the past number of years with their participation, and we ask for their continued support again for 2012.

It was noted that we are also looking at widening the roads, in conjunction with the province, for bike lanes and for pedestrians.

The expansion of the Cotton Park Centre is underway and Councillor Cooper noted that the Mayflower Seniors are contributing \$7,000 to the project which should be completed within the next month or two.

Councillor Cooper stated that Doug Murray has been very active with the Trans Canada Trail people. Mr. Murray submitted the completed Trans Canada Trail Concept Plan on March 31, 2012 which was the deadline for submissions. The plan was signed by the Town, the province and Island Trails, so now it needs the signature of the Trans Canada Trails Committee.

Councillor Gallant asked if staff walks the trails each spring to see what shape they are in, and Joanne Weir replied that we do walk them and there are a lot of repairs that need to be done.

11. STRATFORD UTILITY CORPORATION**a) Report**

Included in the package for Council to review. Councillor Ogden noted that the Utility Board continues to work on a number of items that he reported on previously. He noted that the waste water treatment plant report has been received from the consultants. However, when the Utility Board looked at the report they realized there were some questions that needed to be answered before we could proceed further, and for that reason it has been sent back to the consultant.

Wellfield Project - Robert noted that we received the survey plan yesterday for the wellfield project and Councillor Ogden stated that hopefully we will have some positive news to report on this project at our next meeting.

Trial Metering Program - there will be meters installed in 50 volunteer homes to gather data which will provide information to help develop a fair rate structure. He also noted that this is in no way a decision that we will be going with metering - it is a data gathering exercise only at this point. We want to gather water use information from a number of different types and sizes of households to help us structure our rate to make the Utility sustainable.

Water Conservation Program - there continues to be a lot of good work done by staff on this project.

b) Financial Statements

Included in the package. Councillor Ogden noted that the balance sheet continues to be very positive and we are running a very healthy surplus which will allow us to address any water or sewer situations that might arise.

12. RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT

a) Report

Included in the package for Council to review. Councillor Griffin noted that registrations for two of the major summer programs are underway. The soccer and baseball programs accepted registrations on April 14 and the following week at the Stratford Town Centre. She noted that the recruitment of coaches, organizing field schedules, compiling registration forms and preparing fields for summer use are now underway.

It was noted that the 2012 spring and summer program guide was released in April and several programs, including after school tennis, summer day camp and Intro to Sports highlight some of the activities. Councillor Griffin noted that a Lacrosse Program for ages 6 - 18 is being offered this year through Lacrosse PEI. Registration took place on April 14 and the recreation department continued to accept registrations until the end of April.

The Youth Can Do continues to be very busy and was canvassing for the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal on May 3, and will be selling carnations at the Stratford Sobey's on May 11 and 12 in support of the MS Society. It was noted that the last Youth Can Do dance was held on April 13 for grades 7 - 9 and 229 youth attended.

Councillor Griffin stated that she wanted to remind everyone that May 31, 2012 is the deadline for submissions for volunteer of the year award for the Town of Stratford. She added that we have excellent volunteers in the Town and asked that people take a few moments to submit a name of someone they feel deserves the award.

Councillor Cooper noted that he has seen the Lacrosse taking place and there is a great interest in it this year. He noted that the baseball programs were also mentioned and he

asked if the fields are ready yet and Joanne Weir replied that the fields are now ready.

Mayor Dunphy noted that in the minutes it states there were some meetings with some individuals interested in a skateboard park, and Councillor Griffin replied that she will be reporting in detail at the Committee of the Whole, but basically we met with a group of young people and their parent representative, as well as a young adult spokesman who is working with the group. Councillor Griffin noted that before they met with her and Joanne Weir they met with MP Lawrence MacAulay. They have also approached the Minister of Education who happens to be one of our MLA's for the Town. They will be talking to the Minister regarding some provincial support, so they are canvassing a number of levels of government, as well as looking for other interested parties.

13. **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

a) Report

Included in the package for Council to review. Councillor Cooper stated that the auditors have finished their report and the statements are on the website for residents to view. He noted that 2011 turned out to be another success in terms of meeting and exceeding where we would like to be with the budget. We were able to exceed our debt reduction target again this year. We were also able to cover our principal payments and move on into 2012.

b) Finance Report

Included in the package. Councillor Cooper stated that we look forward to continued growth and we are on target for another successful year financially. Mayor Dunphy stated that we are achieving or exceeding our budget goals, and it puts the Town in good stead for the future.

14. **PLANNING AND HERITAGE**

a) Report

Included in the package for Council to review. In Deputy Mayor Clow's absence, Councillor Griffin gave a brief overview of the report.

b) Permit Summary

Included in the package for Council to review.

c) Resolution PH010-2012 Street Name Request - Shepard Drive

Moved by Councillor Diane Griffin

Seconded by Councillor Steve Ogden

WHEREAS a new street has been constructed off of Stratford Road by CADC in a new subdivision in waterfront area; and

WHEREAS the Heritage Committee studied the history and backgrounds of the area as follows:

David Shepard and Kesiah Wilson were two of four slaves that Loyalist Edmund Fanning brought with him to Prince Edward Island. Their son, Benjamin is responsible for the continuation of the Shepard family name on PEI. The Shepard family is unique in that the majority of the descendants of David and Kesiah (Wilson) Shepard remained on PEI. This accounts for their descendants constituting more than fifty percent of the Black community of PEI today; and

WHEREAS the Heritage Committee has recommended the proposed new street be named as Shepard Drive.

BE IT RESOLVED that approval is granted to the street name Shepard Drive for the newly constructed street located off of Stratford Road.

Discussion: Councillor Cooper stated that a lot of times when new subdivisions are being built, the streets are named by the developer, and Councillor Griffin agreed noting that we almost always rubber stamp them. However, because the Town and CADC are in a different situation we get to name this street, so we approached the Heritage Committee and asked them to do some research and make a recommendation.

Question: **CARRIED**

15. **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

a) Resolution CW003-2012 Noise and Nuisance bylaw Amendment - 1st Reading

Moved by Councillor Emile Gallant

Seconded by Councillor Randy Cooper

WHEREAS the Noise and Nuisance Bylaw contains a provision to allow Council to grant a temporary exemption from the noise requirements of the bylaw; and

WHEREAS some farmers in the Town have requested an exemption from the requirements of the bylaw to allow them to use shot guns and noise makers to get rid of the crows that were destroying their crops; and

WHEREAS the provision of the bylaw that allows Council to grant an exemption does not work well in this instance because of the potential crop damage that could result during the time it takes to obtain an exemption; and

WHEREAS Council is not comfortable granting a blanket exemption for nuisance

animals on farms and it is therefore proposing to amend the bylaw to allow the Chief Administrative Officer to grant temporary exemptions from the Noise and Nuisance Bylaw, on a case by case basis, to allow farmers to deal with nuisance animals on bona fide farms.

BE IT RESOLVED that Bylaw # 30A, a Bylaw to amend the Stratford Noise and Nuisance Bylaw (Bylaw # 30) to enable the Chief Administrative Officer to grant temporary exemptions for bona fide farms to deal with nuisance animals, be hereby read and approved a first time.

Discussion: It was noted that this resolution bears the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole.

Councillor Cooper asked if this just covers crows, and Robert noted that the amendment states 'nuisance' animals.

Mayor Dunphy noted that you are not allowed to discharge a firearm in the Town unless it is for an official sanctioned duty. This special exemption gives a farmer of a bona fide farm the ability arm protect his crops.

Question: **CARRIED**

b) Resolution CW004-2012 QEH Equipment Drive Donation

Moved by Councillor Emile Gallant

Seconded by Councillor Diane Griffin

WHEREAS a donation request has been received from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Foundation (QEH); and

WHEREAS the Town gave a donation of \$2,000 last year, as residents of the Town form a significant component of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital population.

BE IT RESOLVED that \$2,000 be donated to the QEH Foundation Equipment Drive.

Discussion: The resolution *does not* bear the recommendation of the Finance and Administration Committee. This resolution *does* bear the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole.

Councillor Ogden noted that the reason it does not bear the recommendation of the Finance and Administration Committee is because it did not meet the criteria of the policy. However, the Committee of the Whole, in its' discretion, agreed to give \$2,000.

Councillor Cooper noted that he wanted to clarify that the QEH Foundation is a tremendous group of individuals and volunteers who go out and canvass support for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. He noted that when requests come to us, it is our job as committees to take those requests and apply the policies of the Town, and based on the policy, it was not supported by the Finance Committee. Councillor Cooper stated that he hopes in due time the QEH Foundation and their volunteers would come and do a presentation for the Town, as it is a very valuable institution. However, at this time the Finance Committee was unable to support the request, but he understands why the Committee of the Whole feels it can support it.

Mayor Dunphy noted that the QEH Foundation would welcome the opportunity to make a presentation to Council. Councillor Gallant stated that he does not have a problem giving a donation of \$2,000. However, he noted that individuals also give through their companies, as well as their own individual donations. If the Foundation came and requested a large donation - he does not feel it is the responsibility of municipal government to fund hospitals.

Mayor Dunphy stated that we have policies for a reason and there are a lot of charities that you could argue are in the same position as the QEH Foundation, but we have to make decisions as a Council on these things and that is what we are doing tonight.

Question: **CARRIED (1 Against - Councillor Cooper)**

16. SAFETY SERVICES

- a) Included in the package for Council to review. Councillor Gallant gave a brief overview of his report. He noted that a representative from the PEI Humane Society attended the last committee meeting and there was a good discussion on some of the issues.

There was also a discussion on the Traffic Safety Committee report and we hope to be presenting the report to the residents in the very near future.

b) Street Light Report

No Report

c) RCMP Report

The RCMP report for the month of April was included in the package. There was a brief discussion on the statistics provided by the RCMP.

d) Humane Society Report

The Humane Society report for the month of April was included in the package.

e) Transit Report

Included in the package. There was a brief discussion on the ridership. The marketing was also discussed, but it was noted that Trius does not want to do any marketing until they finalize their routes.

Councillor Ogden asked if there has been any response from the provincial government in regards to the interim traffic calming request made for Rosebank and Governors Lane and Robert replied that we did get a response from the Minister stating that the request has been forwarded to his staff. We have not received anything further to date, so Robert will do a followup.

f) Fire Company Report

No Report

17. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**a) Report**

Included in the package for Council to review. Mayor Dunphy noted that we are working with the Sharp Group on our Branding and Communications and the Steering Committee has had an initial meeting. The committee identified 10 individuals for a focus group - trying to find a diverse group within the Town, and also some people outside of the Town who may be interested in establishing a business within the Town. The Sharp Group has come up with some ideas that they have vetted through both the focus group and the Steering Committee and we should have something to present to Council in approximately one month.

Mayor Dunphy noted that another item that the committee is working on is a business brochure, that will contain pertinent information, for people who may want to consider establishing a business in Stratford.

We are a sponsor of the Chamber of Commerce Connector Program, which is a program that assists new Islanders who want to go into business. We met with representatives of that program, and Robert is continuing to work with the group to continue to move the file forward for immigrant investors who want to establish or invest in businesses in the Town.

Robert noted in his report that he and Doug Deacon circulated a business survey by visiting businesses with employees and we are receiving some good feedback from our business community.

Diversity and Inclusion - On Thursday, May 17 there will a business mixer which will hopefully bring in existing businesses, as well as some immigrant people who are interested in investing. It will be a small group and it will be a meet and greet format.

Mayor Dunphy noted that Coles Doors System, which is in the same building as Store Mark, will be holding their grand opening on Thursday, May 10 at 5:00 p.m.

18. HUMAN RESOURCES

No Report

19. OTHER COMMITTEES

a) Stratford Seniors Complex

No Report

20. PROCLAMATION - MS Month

WHEREAS multiple sclerosis is a chronic, often disabling neurological disease affecting an estimated 55,000 to 75,000 Canadians and more than 450 Islanders; and

WHEREAS multiple sclerosis symptoms vary widely and may lead to problems with numbness, coordination, vision and speech, as well as extreme fatigue and even paralysis; and

WHEREAS there is no known cause or cure for multiple sclerosis; and

WHEREAS the MS Society of Canada, founded in 1948, is the only national voluntary organization in Canada that supports both MS research and services for people with MS and their families; and

WHEREAS the MS Society of Canada has provided more than 132 million dollars for MS research for more than 60 years, as well as a wide range of programs and services for people with MS and social action; and

WHEREAS the MS Carnation Campaign will take place this month in our community and across the Island to fund MS research and services; and

WHEREAS the dedication and commitment of Island supporters and volunteers could only make this possible.

I, therefore, David Dunphy, the Mayor of Stratford, do hereby proclaim this month of May to be MS Awareness Month for the Queens and Kings chapter of the MS Society of Canada.

21. OTHER BUSINESS

a) Meeting Times for Town Council and Committee of the Whole Meetings for June through September

RESOLUTION

It was moved by Councillor Gallant and seconded by Councillor Ogden that the summer

Council meetings and the Summer Committee of the Whole meetings will start at 4:30 p.m. for June - September inclusive.

Discussion: None

Question: **CARRIED**

22. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

David Dunphy, Mayor

Robert Hughes, CAO