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Minutes of Council Meeting

September 21, 2021 7:00 PM. Council Chambers

Present:	Mayor	Betty Clarke
	Deputy Mayor	Krista Freake
	Councillors:	Brian Hooper
		Kenneth Tucker
		Derek White
		Stephen Hollett
		Perry Pond
	Town Manager	Todd Champion
	Town Clerk	Coreen Colbourne
	Recreation and Tourism Manager	Ashley Ivany
	Superintendent of Works	Ivan Bridger

Mayor Clarke brought greeting to the residents tuned into the nights Council meeting, she stated that it is the last meeting for the present Council, as October 5, a new Council will be sworn in. She did mention that the only face that was known to be continuing on Council was Deputy Mayor Freake who won the Mayor position by acclamation.

Ashley and Gary were congratulated on the excellent job that they did with the craft and trade show this past weekend. It was a huge success, and only positive comments were heard.

The Mayor welcomed our new Superintendent of Works, Ivan Bridger to the Town of Lewisporte's management and staff team.

Mayor Clarke spoke of the events, herself and Deputy Mayor Freake attended in Gander on September 10 and 11, the 20th anniversary of 9/11, she thought that all events were excellent and very emotional.

Mayor Clarke wished all the nominated candidate's good luck this coming Tuesday, and she encouraged all residents of Lewisporte to get out and vote on election day.

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Agenda

21-190 Hooper/Freake

Resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.

In favour: Mayor Clarke, Deputy Mayor Freake, Councillors Hooper, Pond, Tucker, Hollett and White.

Decision: Motion carried.

3. Minutes for Approval

3.1 Regular Council Meeting August 31, 2021

21-191 Pond/Hollett

Resolved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of August 31, 2021, as attached.

In favour: Mayor Clarke, Deputy Mayor Freake, Councillors Hooper, Pond, Tucker, Hollett and White.

Decision: Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Freake pointed out that the Mayor spoke on Friday night at an event titled Untold Stories, Deputy Mayor Freake said that Mayor Clarke did an excellent job representing the Town and the Mayor at the time of 9/11, Bill Hooper spoke at an event on Saturday and also did a wonderful job representing the Town.

4. Recreation/Tourism Committee

4.1 Update by Deputy Mayor Freake

Meeting held on September 13, 2021.

Stadium Update

- A work schedule was received today for the stadium retrofit; it is felt that the stadium should be ready by November 3 to start making ice. It is dependent on the compressors arriving on time. Demo and duct work installation should be starting in the next couple of weeks.
- Masks are mandatory again, Deputy Mayor Freake gave the public a rundown of the current covid regulations as they apply to recreation facilities.
- The recreation director has put together an advertising package for the public to avail of.

21-192 Freake/Hollett

Motion to adopt the stadium advertising opportunity with the advertising application as presented to Council.

In favour: Mayor Clarke, Deputy Mayor Freake, Councillors Hooper, Pond, Tucker, Hollett and White.

Decision: Motion carried.

Woolfrey's Pond Update

- The Park closed as of Sunday September 12, 2021. As of September 13, the park had profited around \$25,000.00.
- A few camp sites are going to require brush cutting and fill for next season. We have painted the electrical buildings; garage shed and have started painting the chalet. We will have to finish painting the chalet.
- The kiosk has a deck and rails that meet accessibility regulations, the kiosk is painted, and the floor will soon be placed. Our staff will build a custom desk, but we need to purchase some office pieces, as well as a new cooler and a slushie machine.
- The basketball court is installed but we need to put a fence around, the cost will be looked into.
- We are waiting on tract consulting to send the drawings for the bathrooms. They are hoping to give us the 50% drawings by next week.
- We purchased supplies to complete 4400 feet of the boardwalk, the workers have 2800 feet completed.

Bowling Alley

- The parts for the bowling alley arrived today, we are just waiting for the installation so that our leagues can get started back up.
- Our bowling alley manager attended the AGM for Bowl NL, Patrick would have been able to gather different ideas on leagues, different events, etc. for the bowling alley at that time.

Softball Field

- Deputy Mayor Freake went over in detail the various options that were given to the recreation committee for the softball field. All options were well considered and ultimately what the committee members felt was the best decision was made.

21-193 Freake/Hollett

Motion to continue with the current proposal of a new softball field location as was presented by Mills and Wright and as is evident in the master plan utilizing unused or additional funds in the recreation budget.

Councillor Tucker asked the question as to whether or not the recreation committee felt that the new softball field versus repurposing one of the existing ones, was giving the Town the best value for the money being spent. Deputy Mayor Freake went on to explain committee decision.

In favour: Mayor Clarke, Deputy Mayor Freake, Councillors Hooper, Pond, Tucker, Hollett and White.

Decision: Motion carried.

- The craft and trade show was well attended and nothing but positive comments have been heard.

Halloween

- We're hoping to do our haunted hike event this year, if you know of anyone that would be interested in decorating a campsite encourage them to get involved and contact the town.
- We hope to play a scary movie again this year, probably in the stadium if the ice isn't down.
- Other events were discussed as a possibility, such as a stadium costume dance if the ice isn't down, also pumpkin carving, trunk or treat.

Christmas

- We have been looking at trees for this year's Christmas tree, we will continue to decorate the town hall, we are also looking at decorating the train park similarly to the town hall. We will be looking at the Santa Claus Parade again this year.

Other Recreation

- The organizer of the quad-a-pollooza spoke to the Deputy Mayor at the stadium this past weekend, he said that Gary and Ashley had done an excellent job around communication of the event, the signage was exceptional, he was very pleased with the efforts of the Lion's Club and Adam Baxter in on the field, and he felt that it was one of the smoothest events they've organized to date, he wanted to thank the town's staff for that.
- The Town will be recognizing September 30 as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the recreation department will partner with the Salvation Army to put off several events, to recognize "every child matters". The Mayor will be signing a proclamation at that time.
- Deputy Mayor Freake urged any resident to walk the trail at the Train Park, there has been some brush cut and gravel laid, work is ongoing.
- The O2 Club has asked the Town for some in kind work and materials to help with some of their trails, we will work with them to get that done.

Economic Development

Update by Councillor Perry Pond

5.1 Residency Occupancy Permits Approval

21-194 Pond/Tucker

Motion to Approve Occupancy Permit; 4 Noseworthy Street/21-010R as submitted.

In favour: Mayor Clarke, Deputy Mayor Freake, Councillors Hollett, Hooper, Pond, Tucker and White.

Decision: Motion carried.

5.2 Residency Occupancy Permits Approval

21-195 Pond/Tucker

Motion to Approve Occupancy Permit; 16 Old Briton Crescent/21-011R as submitted.

In favour: Mayor Clarke, Deputy Mayor Freake, Councillors Hollett, Hooper, Pond, Tucker and White.

Decision: Motion carried.

- Councillor Pond said that Deputy Mayor Freake had touched on some of the business plan around the Park, there were other ideas in that plan that have been talked about, Committee members felt that it would be a decision by the next Council what they would want to tackle.
- Councillor Pond proceeded to reiterate with Council and the residents of Lewisporte ongoing business that has taken place in regards to the Marina. He went on to explain why Transport Canada is involved in a Marina Lease. The committee will follow up with the new leaders of the Federal Government and hopefully get a response. Moving forward with the Marina Business Plan will hinge on the outcome of the lease agreement or transfer of land.
- The Port of Lewisporte: Committee has a plan in place, they want to implement the plan, and has a schematic of what they want to do moving forward but feel the only way to move this forward is to get a formalized commitment of capital money now.
- Offshore oil and gas committee continues to meet. It is the hope that infrastructure will be ready through the Port development to meet any opportunity that may arise in the future.
- Committee members had the opportunity to meet with Minister Haggie, a lot of the issues that the public has expressed to us is the result of policies and procedures put in place because of covid that is becoming very difficult to undo. But Minister Haggie and his department is working hard to resolve those issues in the next few weeks or months. Members expressed to Minister Haggie what we would like to see as an operational model with respect to emergency care, 24 hour care, and expressed our disappointment in the 2000's when the redevelopment of the North Haven Manor was not considered a one roof health care facility. He was provided with a lot of background information that he was not aware of that will hopefully change the delivery of health services in Lewisporte, for the better. Minister Haggie said the health accord is going to change the health care in a big way but we will not see much of that change until the next 16 – 24 months.

The Mayor pointed out that someone that she had spoke with suggested that if the Town had a harbour authority we would be in a better position to deal with things going on in the harbour right now and there was money available for port/harbour authorities.

Councillor Hooper, as Chair of the Board of the Board of Directors that operates the Marina, wanted to dispel any misinformation that the public had, the Marina is in a good financial position.

Councillor Pond wanted to speak on some of the other boards that the Town is involved in, Dietrac Technical Institute is up and running for another year, enrollment is up this year, and they have a full staff of instructors.

Lands Committee

6.1 Update by Councillor Tucker

Meeting held September 9, 2021.

- Councillor Tucker was pleased to say that at the last committee meeting they clued up a lot of items on their action sheet.
- There was a delegation at the meeting, a resident wanted to move a house onto property on the south side, and came to the Town looking for approval to do so, the house will be lived in temporarily. It was decided that the Town Manager would work with the resident to ensure that everything is in order. It was decided that the resident would have to subdivide the land and any applicable taxes would apply, and a plot plan was requested.
- The Lewisporte and Area Chamber of Commerce applied to have a sign placed on Town property, it was decided that we would allow them to put the sign in the Train Park, it will be placed where the estuary sign was.
- It was motioned at our last meeting that we engage a consultant for the purpose of expanding our boundary, the Town Manager has confirmed that that process has been completed, LW Consulting is working on our behalf to move that project forward.

7. Public Works

7.1 Update by Councillor Hooper

Meeting held on September 19, 2021.

- Councillor Hooper said that the committee was trying to tidy up their action sheet but this was difficult as many items were pending government approval.
- Signage for the multi-use atv trail was completed last week by the public works department, he wanted to thank the staff for the excellent job.
- Approval has been received for infrastructure upgrade, water/sewer, curb, and asphalt for Beaumont Street. It has to go to tender but Councillor Hooper wanted to assure the residents living on that street that in the spring of 2022 that project should start.

- In speaking with the Town Manager, committee members have learned that the Harbourview Terrace Project is going extremely well and things seem to be on schedule.
- Councillor Hooper brought a welcome to the new Superintendent of Works, Ivan Bridger.
- The Town Manager has informed Councillor Hooper that as of today, the tender has closed on phase 2 of the sewer outfall consolidation plan, the project is being evaluated and things will move forward in the coming days.

Councillor Hooper on behalf of himself and Councillor Pond wanted to thank the public works staff and management for a great working relationship.

Councillor Tucker asked about the recapping project, Councillor Hooper stated that the project has been approved and passed the question over to the Town Manager who clarified that the recapping tender has not been released yet, he is hoping that it will happen in the next week or so, that is a two week process, so by the time it is awarded, the project will probably not start until spring, asphalt needs to be laid at a certain temperature and with winter coming feels that there won't be time to get it laid.

In terms of the infrastructure upgrades at the water treatment facility at the water pond, we are finding that we are hung up on delivery times for materials. The Town Manager reached out to the consultant today and an update will not be available until tomorrow. Some items required have very long lead times, they are very specific items, it has 12 - 16 weeks delivery times, but there should be people starting work there in the next couple of weeks, and there has been some preliminary work done.

8. Protective Services

8.1 Update by Councillor White

- Councillor White spoke of there being complaints over the summer for backyard firepits getting out of control. He wanted to bring it to the public's attention that all firepits should be CSA approved and keep their property boundary in mind when deciding where to place their fire pit, also a bucket of water should be at the ready when having a fire. Public should consult the provincial fire index when deciding whether to light a fire, the Town will be going by that. The fire index will be put on the Town facebook page as well on the fire department facebook page. There was discussion by Council members as to what kind of guidelines that the Town would use for the lighting of fires, in backyard fire pits. It was suggested if it is very high or extreme, there would be no fires allowed, also at the high mark it would depend on other factors such as wind conditions. It was also suggested there be a link on our facebook page where a resident could click on the map of our area to see what the index was at that time. It was also suggested that we post it on our electronic bulletin board, after making some policy changes to our bulletin board.
- Councillor White wanted to bring to the public's attention that the Town in conjunction with the fire department are responsible for carrying out various inspections within the town, such as oxygen, building, and basement apartments. He wanted to bring to the public's attention in particular that upon receiving a call from Central Health that a patient is being released from hospital and needs an oxygen inspection done, we need time to complete it, they are done by our volunteer fire department by a few trained to do so, on their personal time, and this cannot be done in the time that Central Health is giving us, so if a resident knows that their loved one is coming home from hospital and needs an inspection, please try to give us ample time to do so.

- Councillor White wanted to let residents know that he has been appointed to the Central Health Advisory Committee, last night they had their first meeting. The prime objectives for him is to gather information on the concerns in the Town of Lewisporte and this area, and bring them back to the main body, to the Health Board, in minute or report form. They will take that information and bring it back to a forum. He said that from Baie Verte to Fogo there are 11 different advisory committees. These Advisory Committees will have a great bit of insight into the new health model that is coming out in the next couple of years. The question was asked as to how a resident would express their concerns, he said that next week the Committee was having a meeting whereby he would find out what their mandate would be. He said the Committee was looking for feedback from the community. Councillor Hollett asked if he was on this Committee as a resident or on behalf of the Town, he said it was on behalf of the Town and his appointment was for a two-year term regardless of whether he is reelected.

9. Finance/HR

Update by Councillor Hollett

Meeting held September 14, 2021

9.1 Cheque Register

21-196 Hollett/Hooper

Motion to approve the cheque register as presented, cheque numbers 001144 up to and including 001195, for a total of \$373,965.85, with the exception of cheque numbers 001162, 001170, 001172, 001194 and 001195.

In favour: Mayor Clarke, Deputy Mayor Freake, Councillors Hollett, Hooper, Tucker, Pond and White.

Decision: Motion Carried.

Councillor Pond was in conflict and removed himself from Chambers.

21-197 Hollett/Hooper

Resolved to approve cheque numbers 001162 and 001194.

In favour: Mayor Clarke, Deputy Mayor Freake, Councillors Hollett, Hooper, Tucker and White.

Decision: Motion Carried.

Councillor Pond re-entered Chambers.

Councillor Tucker was in conflict and removed himself from Chambers.

21-198 Hollett/Hooper

Resolved to approve cheque numbers 001170 and 001172.

In favour: Mayor Clarke, Deputy Mayor Freake, Councillors Hollett, Hooper, Pond and White.

Decision: Motion Carried.

Councillor Tucker re-entered Chambers.

Councillor Hooper was in conflict and removed himself from Chambers.

21-199 Hollett/White

Resolved to approve cheque number 001195.

In favour: Mayor Clarke, Deputy Mayor Freake, Councillors Hollett, Tucker, Pond and White.

Decision: Motion Carried.

Councillor Hooper re-entered Chambers.

9.2 Motion to Appoint superintendent of Public Works

21-200 Hollett/Pond

As per Section 63. B) of the Municipalities Act be it resolved to appoint Ivan Bridger as the new Superintendent of Public Works.

In favour: Mayor Clarke, Deputy Mayor Freake, Councillors Hollett, Hooper, Tucker, Pond and White.

Decision: Motion Carried.

9.3 Water Tax Exemptions

21-201 Hollett/Hooper

Motion to approve the water tax exemption for 57 Premier Drive for the basement apartment.

In favour: Mayor Clarke, Deputy Mayor Freake, Councillors Hollett, Hooper, Tucker, Pond and White.

Decision: Motion Carried.

21-202 Hollett/Hooper

Motion to approve the water tax exemption for 6 Quinton Street for two time periods, May 2019 – May 2020 and May 2020 – May 2021.

In favour: Mayor Clarke, Deputy Mayor Freake, Councillors Hollett, Hooper, Tucker, Pond and White.

Decision: Motion Carried.

9.4 Gas Tax Top up

21-203 Hollett/Hooper

Be it resolved that the Town of Lewisporte accept the Ultimate Recipient Gas Tax Amendment as per letter received August 6, 2021, the amendment includes allocation Top up for 2019-2024 Gas Tax Distribution. The total for the 2019-2024 Gas Tax distribution is \$1,106,424.00, the Town of Lewisporte authorizes the Town Clerk to accept the funding agreement with the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs on behalf of the Town of Lewisporte.

In favour: Mayor Clarke, Deputy Mayor Freake, Councillors Hollett, Hooper, Tucker, Pond and White.

Decision: Motion Carried.

9.5 September 30, 2021 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

21-204 Hollett/Hooper

Be it resolved that the Town of Lewisporte recognize September 30, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, as a public holiday for the Town and as a result the Town office and facilities will be closed that day.

In favour: Mayor Clarke, Deputy Mayor Freake, Councillors Hollett, Hooper, Tucker, Pond and White.

Decision: Motion Carried.

10. Correspondence

The thank you letter from Mr. Bert Harding was recognized by Mayor Clarke.

Councillor Hollett informed residents that it was because of family commitments that he did not put his name forward for re-election and went on to thank Council for the last 4 years and thanked the residents of Lewisporte for placing their trust in him.

Mayor Clarke showed a very emotional side of her when she said her good-byes, she said that there were times that were challenging, there were up and downs, but Council members have been a great bunch to work with, no matter what happened in Chambers, those differences were set aside and friendships remained strong, she would miss them all. She went on to thank the management and staff at the Town.

Councillors Pond, Tucker, Hooper and White each passed along to the Mayor and Councillor Hollett especially, and also to the rest of Council, what a pleasure it was to work together over the last 4 years, even though everyone did not see eye to eye all the time, the group did work well together to put the interest of the Town and its residents first. It was the hope of each of these Councillors to be re-elected so that they could continue to move the Town forward.

Deputy Mayor Freake said that even though she didn't have to campaign, she has not taken it for granted, she went on to say that she is truly honored to be taking the Mayor position and look forward to working with a new Council, she extended her best wishes to all the candidates running. She thanked the Mayor, fellow Council, management and staff for making her last 4 years so memorable, and went on to say that the members of Council always had the best interest of the residents in mind when making their decisions. A special thank you was extended to Mayor Clarke and Councillor Hollett.

11. Adjournment

21-205 Hollett/Pond

Resolved that the meeting adjourn.

In favour: Mayor Clarke, Deputy Mayor Freake, Councillors Hollett, Hooper, Pond, Tucker and White.

Decision: Motion carried.

Time: 8:20 PM

Betty Clarke, Mayor

Coreen Colbourne, Town Clerk/Treasurer