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**Minutes of Council Meeting**

**December 13, 2022 7:00 PM**

Present: Mayor Krista Freake

Deputy Mayor Brian Hooper

Councillors Rhoda Hannem

Perry Pond

Ken Tucker

Derek White

Town Manager Todd Champion

Town Clerk Coreen Colbourne

Recreation and Tourism Manager Ashley Ivany

Superintendent of Public Works Bruce Roberts

Regrets Councillor John Mullett

Mayor Freake brought greetings to those watching on Facebook, fellow Councillors and Staff.

She welcomed District Commander Larry Turner from the RCMP.

1. **Call to Order – 7:15 pm**

**22-234 White/Hooper**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

**22-235 Hooper/Tucker**

**Resolved to adopt the agenda with a change in the order of speakers, to accommodate District Commander Larry Turner.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

The Mayor brought forward a land acknowledgement.

1. **Minutes for Approval -** **Regular Council Meeting November 22, 2022**

**22-236** **White/Hannem**

**Resolved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of November 22, 2022.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

1. **Protective Services**

As noted in our previous Public Council Meeting, Staff Sargent Larry Turner, the District Commanding Officer for our area expressed interest in joining one of our meetings to update residents of the area on what efforts the RCMP are taking to ensure the safety and well-being of our communities. He has joined the Public Council Meeting tonight to discuss some of the issues the protective services members have expressed to the RCMP at the various levels.

Staff Sargent Turner started with a recap of responses by our local detachment. Since April 1, 2022, the Lewisporte Detachment has responded to 824 complaints. He noted that the detachment is fully staffed, one corporal is on modified duties, the other 4 constables are working full time. He mentioned that there has been calls for property crime in the area recently, but it is on the same level as compared to other areas. He mentioned that persons offences such as assaults, domestic violence and sexual assaults are on the rise, as well as a significant increase in uttering treats, it is concerning but being addressed. Mental health calls are up, which is happening across the province, which is a major concern. Alarm calls are up but he feels that it is due to increases in installation of alarms, most of the responses are false alarms. There were 33 complaints in the area of illegal atv use, of that 17 were in Lewisporte. The detachment responded by trying to educate the public on the usage of atv’s, by posting items on the website, and stopping some vehicles and educating them on the new act and regulations. He said that the RCMP have now moved into a new phase where they would be laying charges and impounding some atv’s, if driving on the road in a reckless manner or not adhering to the regulations. Staff Sargent Turner did note that of the 824 complaints to date, approximately 300 of them are related to traffic. The traffic services unit has been advised and will be making visits to the area in less marked police vehicles.

Councillor Tucker asked Staff Sargent Turner about the future of the Lewisporte Detachment or whether the level of members will remain the same. He responded by saying that there is no interest in closing any of the 7 detachments that are under his command. There will be no change in the number of officers at the Lewisporte Detachment while under his tenure. He did say that the detachment sees around 1200 files a year, and the compliment of officers can accommodate that amount.

Deputy Mayor Hooper noted that after a meeting of the RCMP with Council, the highways unit was scene in the area, he wanted an update on whether it was successful. Staff Sargent Turner said 24 tickets were issued that day and one vehicle taken off the road due to insufficient insurance. He did note that the detachment members are more focused on the person and property offences.

Discussion continued on the merits of the speed monitoring signs, the importance of maintaining a police presence on our roads, due in part by the volume of traffic that flows through Lewisporte. It was agreed that Council is looking forward to seeing what the next phase in patrol will bring for the illegal use of the atv’s.

After Staff Sargent Turner left, Councillor Tucker brought forward an update on the review of the regionalization of the fire department. A meeting was held with Brown’s Arm representatives of the fire department to discuss some of the issues and concerns Council had with regionalization, he felt it was a very positive meeting, with notes sent out to Council on where things are headed with respect to Brown’s Arm’s involvement. Further review of regionalization will be made covering different aspects each time.

Councillor Tucker noted at the last Public Council Meeting that the fire protection agreement between Lewisporte and Campbellton had been finalized. Just last night, the Campbellton Fire Department had to call on Lewisporte RFD for assistance. He was happy to report that things went very well and provided Campbellton with the assistance needed in short order.

1. **Recreation/Tourism Committee**

**Update by Deputy Mayor Hooper**

The stadium and bowling alley user group are enjoying full access of the facilities.

Deputy Mayor Hooper expressed his gratitude to the residents that turned out for the tree lighting on December 2, despite the postponement the previous night, due to inclement weather. He also thanked the young group of talented performers for filling us with Christmas spirit through their music and singing. He also thanked all that were involved in making the Santa Claus Parade such a tremendous success. He applauded the efforts of the employees involved on a great job in making and decorating the Town floats. He brought to the attention of the public, the new Twinkling Train Park Trail reveal starting on Friday night. For Friday night only, there would be face painting, hot chocolate and candy canes, Mr. & Mrs. Claus would be there for a visit and photo opportunities, and at the end of the trail some marshmallow toasting. Further details can be found on the Town’s Facebook page. It was noted that the trail would remain open for the Christmas season. DM Hooper once again thanked all the employees that decorated the trail, a special thank you to the recreation director and special events co-ordinator for putting this event together. He applauded the staff for a tremendous job in bringing the community into the Christmas Season and wished everyone a safe and happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Mayor Freake noted that many people in the community wanted her to commend the employees on the fantastic job on the light displays and the community events put off for the Christmas season. She also mentioned the kits available from the Town, for the youth to ring in the New Year, registration is required because there are a limited number available. She also thanked the employees for their tremendous efforts.

DM Hooper noted that he has been approached by residents that wanted him to publicly thank the staff and the JCP workers that carried out the brush cutting and upgrades on the Woolfrey’s Pond Boardwalk for a fantastic job.

1. **Economic Development**

**Update by Councillor Pond**

5.1 Vendor Permit – 22-003V – JPJC Holdings Inc. permit to occupy 405-413 Main Street from December 20 – December 31, 2022.

**22-237 Pond/Tucker**

**I so move to accept the vendor permit 22-003V – JPJC Holdings Inc. permit to occupy 405-413 Main Street for the Christmas Season, from December 20 – December 31, 2022, as presented.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

**Marina**

The Town is still waiting to hear back from Transport Canada on the acquisition of the Marina, committee members are still optimistic that there will be a response before Christmas, as they usually honor those kinds of commitments.

**Craft Shop/Museum/Dinner Theatre**

The RFP for the disposal of the old museum has now been released, to learn more, details can be found on our Facebook page or Town website, or for anyone interested, a copy can be picked up at the Town Office, the deadline is January 16, 2023. The RFP is merit based, not just about the offer.

The Economic Development Committee is still working on the RFP for the Dinner Theatre and Craft Shop. Members are trying to figure out what the province is expecting regarding acquiring the expertise to get the project off the ground. Council is hoping that the new site will be finished in 2024.

**Port Development**

Since meeting with MHA Bennett, the economic development committee has learned that the Town’s proposal to address the commercial port infrastructure has been received by the province and the Premier’s office, they have committed to having an official response back to Council by the end of January.

**7. Finance/HR**

**Update by Councillor Hannem**

**7.1 Cheque Register - Scotiabank**

**22-238 Hannem/Pond**

**Motion to approve the cheque register as presented from cheque numbers 002344 to 002395 for a total of $114,739.11** **with the exception of 002373, 002380, 002381, 002383, and 002387.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Pond was in conflict and left Chambers.

**22-239 Hannem/Tucker**

**Motion to approve cheque number 002387.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Pond re-entered Chambers.

Councillor Tucker was in conflict and left Chambers.

**22-240 Hannem/Pond**

**Motion to approve cheque number 002380.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Tucker re-entered Chambers.

Councillor White was in conflict and left Chambers.

**22-241 Hannem/Pond**

**Motion to approve cheque number 002383.**

In favour: Mayor Freake, Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Hannem, Pond and Tucker.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor White re-entered Chambers.

Deputy Mayor Hooper was in conflict and left Chambers.

**22-242 Hannem/Pond**

**Motion to approve cheque number 002381.**

In favour: Mayor Freake, Councillors Hannem, Pond, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Hooper re-entered Chambers.

Mayor Freake was in conflict and left Chambers.

Deputy Mayor Hooper assumed the role as Chair.

**22-243 Hannem/Pond**

**Motion to approve cheque number 002373.**

In favour: Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Hannem, Pond, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Mayor Freake re-entered Chambers.

**7.2 Donation – Salvation Army Christmas Appeal**

The Town of Lewisporte would like to show its support to the Salvation Army and the Kinsmen Club by donating to the Christmas Appeal and the Happy Tree, to help those less fortunate this holiday season.

**22-244 Hannem/Pond**

**I so move to donate $100.00 to the Salvation Army Lewisporte Christmas Appeal.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

**7.3 Donation – Kinsmen Happy Tree**

**22-245 Hannem/Pond**

**I so move to donate $100.00 to the Kinsmen Club of Notre Dame Happy Tree.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

**7.4 Donation – Roman Catholic Church, Lewisporte**

During the repair and paving of Veteran Street this fall, the Roman Catholic Church was so kind to give permission for the staff of the Town to use their church parking lot for parking, as a thank you, the Town would like to give a donation to the church.

**22-246 Hannem/Pond**

**I so move to donate $100.00 to the Lewisporte Roman Catholic Church.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

**7.5 Operating and Capital Budget**

The chair of the finance/HR committee gave the budget speech as attached.

**7.6 Tax Schedule and Rates**

The Mayor stepped away for a few moments, Deputy Mayor Hooper assumed the role as Chair.

**22-247 Hannem/Pond**

**The Committee recommends, and I move, approval of the 2023 Schedule of Rates and Fees established within this budget, as attached.**

In favour: Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Hannem, Pond, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried

**22-248 Hannem/Pond**

**The Committee recommends, and I move, that May 31, 2023, be established as the due date for payment of taxes.**

In favour: Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Hannem, Pond, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Mayor Freake returned and assumed the role as Chair again.

**22-249 Hannem/Pond**

**The Committee recommends, and I move, that a 3% discount will be applied to tax payments received on or before March 31, 2023.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

**22-250 Hannem/White**

**The Committee recommends, and I move, that a 15% discount will be applied to seniors receiving the Guaranteed Income Supplement (showing in Box 21 on the T4A OAS) providing his/her/their account is paid in full by the due date of May 31, 2023, this discount is for his/her/their principal residence only. Any adjustment for the current year can be applied for until December 31, 2023. There will be no adjustments for prior years missed.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

**22-251 Hannem/Pond**

**The Committee recommends, and I move that all taxes in arrears after May 31, 2023, will be charged a compound interest rate of 15% per annum and will be charged at the first day of each month on the outstanding principal. All other invoices, including those issued because of supplementary property assessments, are due 30 days from the date of issue and all invoices in arrears at the end of the month following issuance will be subject to compound interest charges of 15% per annum.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

**22-252** **Hannem/Pond**

**Payment of taxes is permitted by credit card, but anyone wanting to pay by credit card will have a 2% fee applied to the payment amount.**

Councillor Pond noted that this is a new change that residents should be aware of.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

**7.7 Tax Exemptions**

**22-253 Hannem/Pond**

**The Committee recommends and I move, that pursuant to Section 111 of the Municipalities Act 1999, the properties owned by the Kinsmen Club of Notre Dame located at 47 Centennial Drive and Loyal Orange Lodge located at 230-232 Main Street be exempt from property tax for 2023.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Hooper was in conflict and left Chambers.

**22-254 Hannem/Pond**

**The Committee recommends, and I move, that pursuant to Section 111 of the Municipalities Act 1999, the property owned by the Lions Club located at 18 Bowater Avenue be exempt from property tax for 2023.**

In favour: Mayor Freake, Councillors Hannem, Pond, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Hooper re-entered Chambers.

**22-255 Hannem/Pond**

**The Committee recommends, and I move, that pursuant to Section 111 of the Municipalities Act 1999, the property owned by the Calypso Foundation located at 45 Centennial Drive be exempt from property tax and business tax for 2023.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

**22-256 Hannem/Pond**

**The Committee recommends, and I move, that pursuant to Section 111 of the Municipalities Act 1999, the Interfaith Goodwill Centre be exempt from the payment of 2023 business tax.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Tucker was in conflict and left Chambers.

**22-257 Hannem/Pond**

**The Committee recommends, and I move, that pursuant to Section 111 of the Municipalities Act 1999, the property owned by the Masonic Lodge located at 12 Tizzard Street be exempt from property tax for 2023.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Tucker re-entered Chambers.

**Adoption of Budget**

**22-258 Hannem/Pond**

**The Committee recommends, and I move, adoption of the 2023 Operating & Capital Budgets, as presented.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

**8. Lands Committee**

**There was no report from Lands**

**9. Public Works**

**Update by Councillor White**

Councillor White reminded the public that the Town’s snow clearing regulations are in effect, and that there is to be no overnight parking on Main Street. He did mention in the event of a storm, having a vehicle parked on Main Street during the day will also impede snow clearing.

**10.** **Other Committees and/or Business**

Mayor Freake wanted to thank all the departments and Council involved in the budget process. She spoke of the time and effort that goes into preparing the budget so that the public’s money is used in a responsible manner while considering the needs and providing services to the community.

Mayor Freake thanked District Commander Larry Turner for joining the Council meeting.

Mayor Freake spoke of her involvement with the Community Advisory Committee from Central Health, on a sub committee on recruitment and retention, she recently attended one of their meetings, and helped welcome a Psychologist to our area.

Mayor Freake spoke of an honour that was bestowed on Deputy Mayor Hooper for his involvement with the Lion’s Club. It is the highest honor awarded to a Lion’s Member in the Country, the Melvin Jones Fellowship for dedicated humanitarian service. She felt that it was important that his contributions to the community and to the Lion’s Club were recognized. He shared the honor with his mother, who also received the same award with him last night, congratulations were extended to them both.

Mayor Freake reminded the public of the events still to come for the Christmas Season, she extended Council’s wish for a happy and healthy holiday season and is very excited and proud of what is up and coming as a Council in the new year. She thanked the public for supporting them.

Councillor White asked if there were any updates from Central Health on the Clinic. Mayor Freake said there has been many conversations, and there would be another meeting with Central Health, but these types of meetingd are only updates, there was no opportunity to ask questions. It was an item however that would be on Council’s agenda moving into the new year.

**11.**  **Adjournment**

**22-259** **White/Pond**

**Resolved that the meeting adjourn.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Time of adjournment: 8:15 PM

Next Public Council Meeting to be held on January 24, 2023.

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Krista Freake, Mayor Coreen Colbourne, Town Clerk/Treasurer