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Minutes of Council Meeting

August 1, 2023 7:00 PM

Present:	Mayor (Chair)	Krista Freake
	Deputy Mayor	Brian Hooper
	Councillors	Roxanne Haliburton
		John Mullett
		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

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

1. Call to Order – 7:03 pm

Mayor Freake brought forward a land acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

23-098 Hooper/White

Resolved to adopt the agenda, as presented.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

3. Minutes for Approval - Regular Council Meeting July 11, 2023

23-099 Hooper/Tucker

Resolved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of July 11, 2023.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

4. Recreation/Tourism Committee

Update by Deputy Mayor Hooper

Mussel Bed Soiree

Deputy Mayor Hooper gave out the dates of the upcoming Mussel Bed Soiree, he told the public that there is a full schedule of events, some new, some recurring, and events for all ages. The public was encouraged to stay tuned to the Town's Facebook Page for the schedule of events, as well he mentioned that the booklets would be out in stores by the end of the week or early next week. He asked if anyone would like to volunteer their time to please reach out to Ashley or Tiffany at the Town Office.

Arena

Deputy Mayor Hooper informed the public that Cimco Refrigeration is currently working on the replacement of the headers at the Mike Austin Arena. This is the first stage in a 2-phase process before the new season gets underway. The condenser that needs to be replaced will be completed later in the summer once it arrives.

Other Recreation

As part of the upgrades for the multi-use courts, the Town is waiting on quotes for paving of the surface.

Softball Field

The recreation committee members and the rest of Council has had more discussion on how to best overhaul the softball field, the committee will meet with the user groups to give an update on what the Town can provide.

Hanging Basket Program

For clarification purposes, Deputy Mayor Hooper gave an overview of the hanging basket program, he wanted to stress that any of the hanging baskets not located on Main Street, would not be watered or maintained.

5. Economic Development

Update by Councillor Pond

5.1 Occupancy Permit - 23-005HBB; Angela Moyles/Just Sew Studio – to occupy 26 Laytes Avenue.

23-100 Pond/Tucker

I so move to accept the permit application 23-005HBB; Angela Moyles/Just Sew Studio – to occupy 26 Laytes Avenue, as presented.

In favour: Mayor Freaque, Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Haliburton, Mullett, Pond, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Port Development

Councillor Pond reported on the announcement that was made by the Premier on July 19th. There were 2 pots of \$5,000,000 each, plus the eventual transfer of the port infrastructure, was given for the economic fall out of the closure of the Labrador Coastal Service. One pot of \$5,000,000 is to address any shortfalls in infrastructure or other improvements that Council feels is needed to bring some long-term viability to the Port. The other \$5,000,000 is an extension of traditional funding programs available through government, but it will be specifically for economic development initiatives. The Town will have priority access to 5 million because of the Provinces response to our economic diversification request.

Councillor Pond went on to say on behalf of all Council, that they think they have made a good decision and a wise choice to get the Port infrastructure under the Town's control, it is part of the Town's history, and they feel with the right partnerships that it will be apart of the Town's future. He encouraged the public to stay tuned, he feels there is great things to come. He also thanked all those involved in the process from the Provincial Government, and for having the confidence in Council to take that money and do great things with it.

On July 19th, Council had the opportunity to sit down with the Premier, during his visit. Council had a few items that they wanted to bring to his attention, one being health care delivery. Council expressed their concerns to the Premier, which are the concerns of the residents, hoping he will help his Ministers address some of those issues.

Marina

The Town received authorization from the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs to acquire the Marina. Council made an informal request of the Premier to use some of the economic diversification money to purchase the Marina, which will allow Council to move forward with the business plan that was devised for the area.

Another topic of discussion with the Premier was Die Trac. Council's concerns, as a not-for-profit college, is the control by Government regulations, process, and funding, they feel Die Trac is not being treated fairly in respect to those items, particularly with the allocation of block training.

The Mayor added, for the benefit of the public, what traditional funding means. She wanted the public to understand that Council does not decide what to spend the money on, it must be approved by Municipal and Provincial Affairs, and it must be spent on economic development and diversification initiatives. The Mayor also took the time to thank fellow Councillors, previous Councillors, management, and staff, for the extensive amount of time, energy, research, hours, reflection, and meetings dedicated to this undertaking.

6. Lands Committee

Update by Councillor White

Councillor White reminded the public of the need for a permit, he also thanked the public for the care taken in cleaning up their property. He also reminded residents of a piece of property the Town has for sale in the Industrial Park. If anyone is interested in it, they should call the Town Office.

Councillor Tucker asked if the land would be advertised prior to sale. Councillor White said it was previously announced and advertised. The Town Manager added that it is posted on the Town website and will remain there until it is sold.

7. Public Works

Update by Councillor Mullett

Councillor Mullett gave an update on the Beaumont Street upgrades; Town employees have completed their part of the project, everything has been approved by Government, the Town is currently waiting to hear from the contractor as to when they will start.

Motion

23-101 Mullett/White

The funding stream for the second phase of the Outfall Consolidation is about to be closed. As there is still work to be performed, the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs requires a motion from Council requesting a time extension for project 17-GI-20-00058. This extension will provide adequate time to install a new lift station and cover the maintenance period.

I hereby motion to request a time extension for project 17-GI-20-00058 to facilitate completion of all the work.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Tucker asked the rest of Council if they felt the Town would be in a position to lobby Government to have some or all of Main Street upgraded. Government officials have said they would not upgrade Main Street because the Town is completing projects that involve tearing up the street, however with the amount of time that will pass before moving on to the next stage of work to be completed, Council feels that the roads would remain in a deplorable state for too long.

Councillor Tucker wanted to point out to residents that the maintenance of Main Street and Premier Drive belongs to the Provincial Government.

Councillor Mullett reiterated that the roads do belong to the province and are maintained by them. Government employees will patch potholes in the road, but it does not last, and the roads are not in good condition. Council did ask them to upgrade the roads some time ago, and the province was not interested because of ongoing projects in the Town. Councillor Mullett felt that it was time to pressure the Government once again to complete repairs to Main Street as the reasons that were being used, to not do it, just don't add up anymore. There was further commentary by other Council members on the subject. Mayor Freake committed to sending correspondence to MHA Bennett lobbying Government for upgrades.

8. Protective Services

Update by Councillor Tucker

Councillor Tucker took time to address the ongoing issues of illegal use of ATV's and dirt bikes within the town. It has been seen on social media recently that the Town needs to do something about the illegal use of offroad vehicles on our streets. Councillor Tucker wanted to clarify that while the Town does play a role through the protective services committee, it is not the Town's sole responsibility to enforce the law in the Town. Protective services have had discussions with the RCMP over the illegal use of ATV's, however, the RCMP has urged residents to call them to voice their concerns regarding these issues. The RCMP responds to statistics in the area in how they respond, if no one is reporting these issues to the local detachment, they don't have the stats saying they need to step up their presence.

Mayor Freake reiterated Councillor Tucker's views and added that the same discussions were had with the RCMP six years ago. She echoed the same point, the RCMP needs to be called on all issues regarding the illegal use of offroad vehicles, once they have been made aware, and do not respond, the Town can consult with them on it. There was some further commentary on the subject by Council.

The protective service committee has reached out to the RCMP to make them aware of the events happening during the Mussel Bed Soiree, they have responded and will be stepping up patrols and event visits, to ensure the safety of our residents and visitors.

9. Finance/HR

Update by Councillor Haliburton

9.1 Cheque Register- Scotiabank (Operating Account)

23-102 Haliburton/Pond

Motion to approve the cheque register as presented, from cheque numbers 002936 to 003003 for a total of \$153,287.49 with the exception of 002966, 002974, 002975, 002976, and 002981.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Hooper was in conflict and left Chambers at 7:41:58.

23-103 Haliburton/Pond

Motion to approve cheque number 002975.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Hooper re-entered Chambers at 7:42:28

Councillor Tucker was in conflict and left Chambers at 7:42:35.

23-104 Haliburton/Pond

Motion to approve cheque numbers 002966 and 002981.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Tucker re-entered Chambers at 7:43:07.

Councillors Haliburton and Pond were in conflict and left Chambers at 7:43:10.

23-105 Hooper/Tucker

Motion to approve cheque numbers 002974 and 002976.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillors Haliburton and Pond re-entered Chambers at 7:43:43.

10. Other Committees and/or Business

As a follow up from the meeting the Health Focus Group had with Minister Osbourne and his team, Mayor Freake received correspondence from Dr. David Carroll (who's responsibility it is for the delivery of health care for the Lewisporte area) requesting a meeting on August 14th to discuss health care. Mayor Freake, Councillor Pond and other members of the Health Care focus group will meet with him. Council felt it to be very positive to have Dr. Carroll follow up with them in such a short time.

11. Adjournment

23-106 White/Pond

Resolved that the meeting adjourn.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Time of adjournment: 7:45 PM.

Next Public Council Meeting to be held on August 22, 2023.



Krista Freake, Mayor



Coreen Colbourne, Town Clerk/Treasurer