

P.O. Box 219  
Lewisporte, NL A0G 3A0  
Phone (709) 535-2737  
Fax (709) 535-2695  
Website: www.lewisporte.ca

**Minutes of Council Meeting**

**August 22, 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 Clerk Coreen Colbourne

Superintendent of Public Works Bruce Roberts

Regrets: Town Manager Todd Champion

Recreation and Tourism Manager Ashley Ivany

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

She also brought forward a land acknowledgement.

1. **Call to Order – 7:02 pm**
2. **Approval of Agenda**

**23-107 White/Hooper**

**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.

1. **Minutes for Approval -** **Regular Council Meeting August 1, 2023**

**23-108** **Mullett/Tucker**

**Resolved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of August 1, 2023.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

1. **Recreation/Tourism Committee**

**Update by Deputy Mayor Hooper**

**Softball**

As the end of summer is coming to an end, most of the organized sports are wrapping up, Deputy Mayor Hooper mentioned the Minor Softball League showed a tremendous amount of interest with the youth, having 116 children enrolled in the program. The year end banquet will be scheduled for the first or second week of September.

Men’s softball saw many tournaments. There have been some challenges with the quality of the field, once the league finishes for the year, the Town will be working on a plan to get the necessary repairs completed.

**Mussel Bed Soiree**

Deputy Mayor Hooper commented on the five-day event put off from August 9th – 13th. Some events were better represented than others. The recreation committee has not met since the Mussel Bed Soiree to review the overall revenues and expenses of the events, but the committee and Council will be taking a deep dive into the event, to help plan for next year’s Soiree, along with input from staff and the public.

**Summer Program**

Mayor Freake said she has received lots of positive feedback on all the different types of summer programs offered to the youth of Lewisporte and surrounding areas. She felt that the summer students did an exceptional job, many of the youth registered looked up to these students as mentors. She said the Town appreciates all the work the students have put into the programs offered over the summer and hopes that the students have had equally as valuable an experience working for us, and they carry it with them as they move on to their future endeavours.

The Mayor said as a Council, the members are responsible financially, and to see what events at the Soiree work and not work, in order for them to make decisions for future years. Some things to consider are human resources and the cost to put off such an event. While the Mayor says she will listen to suggestions by the public, she will not listen to any that are not validated.

1. **Economic Development**

**Update by Councillor Pond**

* 1. Vendor Permit - 23-004V; Johnny’s Speed Dogs – to occupy 477 Main Street (Main Street).

Councillor Pond deferred the vendor permit to be presented to Council, for further review.

Councillor Pond gave the rest of Council an update on the first half of the year in terms of where our revenue and expenses are in respect to the budget. As it was given during the usual economic development report, I will give details in the finance report section of the minutes.

**Port Development**

Councillor Pond stated that the Town is currently waiting for a meeting with Municipal Transportation and Infrastructure to start the formal process to transfer the port and port structure to the Town.

**Marina**

Regarding the purchase of the Marina, the Town has submitted everything that is required to Transportation Canada. Council has now made a formal request to use some of the economic diversification money to purchase the Marina. In September or October, before the finalization of the process, economic development should be able to update the public on where the Town sees that infrastructure moving into the near future.

**New Craft Shop/Museum/Dinner Theatre**

Council had been looking into utilizing funds from the economic diversification money to upgrade the former JW Building. After further review by Council, the projected costs for the upgrades were more than anticipated, Council felt that it would be a substantial investment. With an adjacent property to the Town Office going on the market, Council looked into the purchase of this building as a potential site for the dinner theatre, in conjunction with the Heritage Society. It was felt that this property could be made into what is needed for far less than revamping the former JW building. It would be a ten-to-twelve-month operational facility.

**23-109 Pond/Tucker**

**I so move that Council pursue the purchase of 160 Main Street for the total sum of $175,000.00.**

As an added note, Councillor Pond mentioned that the purchase price of 160 Main Street was about the same cost of the consultant that would be used in the redevelopment process of 166A Main Street. He also mentioned that the cost of upgrading 160 Main Street would be far less and meet the same objective.

Deputy Mayor Hooper added with the upgrades to this site, the Hann’s Point Dinner Theatre would have a permanent home and it would be a facility that could be used as a performing arts space or for cultural events. Councillor Pond added that it will have a commercial kitchen and will be fully accessible. This venue will be upgraded at a significantly lower cost.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

1. **Lands Committee**

**Update by Councillor White**

Councillor White said that the number of permits issued are up from last year. It is the public’s responsibility to apply for a permit whenever doing outside work. He felt it was nice to see the improvements that people are putting into their properties. Councillor White thanked the residents and the businesses for their commitment to the beautification of the Town.

**7. Public Works**

**Update by Councillor Mullett**

Councillor Mullett said that with the summer season being here, the public works staff has been short staffed at times with summer holidays ongoing, they have also been busy lately with preparations for the Mussel Bed Soiree. The staff is now getting back to some form of normalcy so the public will see more jobs being completed around town. Councillor Mullett also reported that the Beaumont Street upgrades are on schedule according to the contractor. He took time to remind the public of the staff members and contractors that are out there on the roads at times, completing tasks, to be very vigilant in these areas.

Deputy Mayor Hooper asked what the timeline for completion of Beaumont Street was, the superintendent of public works said the estimated time frame was five to six weeks.

1. **Protective Services**

**Update by Councillor Tucker**

Councillor Tucker spoke of the meeting that protective services had with the fire chief and deputy fire chief on some issues and concerns around regional fire services.

At the request of the RCMP, the Mayor and Town Manager attended a meeting in Gander on August 8th. The Mayor gave an update. There were other Municipalities in attendance and representatives there from the management side of the RCMP. There was an update given around human resources and staffing, which is an ongoing major issue, the number of recruits coming out of the Academy is far less than where they should be. They are working on a regional plan to be able to provide the best service to the communities that were invited. Some other topics included information that there are no detachments closing; with the newest plan, the RCMP is hoping to increase visibility, there will be reports provided on visits, there will be a mayor’s report available to see what has transpired during the visits, there was some discussion around operations and union compliances, and vacancies. Mayor Freake said that there are currently 15 -16 vacancies in our region, for various reasons. The Town is expecting a new Corporal and the number of members will remain the same at five members. The representatives did have the opportunity to express their concerns which were the same for many Municipalities, they were around response time, visibility in the community, the ability to be proactive rather than reactive, and there was discussion around illegal ATV, UTV use. The Town offered to aid in recruitment, if there was something that the Town could do as a Municipality to help. Council was pleased with the number of officers present in town during the festivities of the Mussel Bed Soiree.

Councillor Tucker added, once the new corporal joins the Lewisporte detachment, it will have a full complement of members. He also pointed out that due to the fewer number of members currently, the detachment would mostly be reactive, that is why it is so important for the public to call the local detachment with any concerns, complaints, and to report illegal activity.

Councillor Tucker took time to commend the Lewisporte Regional Fire Rescue on a recent fire in the community. Their quick response meant the fire at the property was able to be put out rather than destroying the home.

Councillor Tucker mentioned the upcoming hurricane and tropical storm season, which often means more severe weather systems for the province. He reminded the public to prepare for situations where the infrastructure can be overwhelmed, your own drainage ditches should be looked at, as well as sump pumps, etc., also be prepared for extended loss of power, an emergency kit is recommended.

The new Voyent Alert! messaging system was brought up for the information of the public, the new system involves the option to download an app on your phone, this will include day to day messages, as well as any emergency alerts for the Town.

**9. Finance/HR**

**Update by Councillor Pond**

Councillor Pond gave a report on the first half of the year for the interest of the public. Most of the accounts that have been budgeted for seem to be falling in line with what has been expected. With any budget process there are some expenses that arise that are not anticipated, and sometimes revenue exceeds what is expected. There is nothing to date that is of great concern.

**9.1 Cheque Register- Scotiabank (Operating Account)**

**23-110 Pond/Hooper**

**Motion to approve the cheque register as presented, from cheque numbers 003004 to 003052 for a total of $166,398.62 with the exception of 003051 and 003042.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Tucker was in conflict and left Chambers at 7:34:20.

**23-111 Pond/Haliburton**

**Motion to approve cheque numbers 003042.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Tucker re-entered Chambers at 7:34:43.

Councillors Haliburton and Pond were in conflict and left Chambers at 7:34:50.

**23-112 Hooper/Mullett**

**Motion to approve cheque numbers 003051.**

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 7:35:20.

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

Mayor Freake reminded the public of the opening of the time capsule at the Museum on Thursday, August 31st from 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

She reminded the public of the Lewisporte and Area Chamber of Commerce AGM on Thursday, September 7th at 12:00 pm, from Li’s Restaurant with the guest speaker being the CEO of Newfound Gold.

**11.**  **Adjournment**

**23-113** **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: 7:38 PM.

Next Public Council Meeting to be held on September 12, 2023.

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Krista Freake, Mayor Coreen Colbourne, Town Clerk/Treasurer