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Minutes of Council Meeting

October 3, 2023 7:00 PM

Present:	Mayor (Chair)	Krista Freake
	Deputy Mayor	Brian Hooper
	Councillors	Roxanne Haliburton
		John Mullett
		Perry Pond
		Ken Tucker
	Town Manager	Todd Champion
	Town Clerk	Coreen Colbourne
Regrets:	Councillor	Derek White
	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 – 7:02 pm

2. Approval of Agenda

23-122 Hooper/Pond

Resolved to adopt the agenda, as presented.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

3. Minutes for Approval - Regular Council Meeting September 12, 2023

23-123 Mullett/Tucker

Resolved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of September 12, 2023.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Mayor Freake took time to proclaim the month of October 2023 to be National Child Abuse Prevention Month on behalf of the Miles for Smiles Foundation, she read the proclamation aloud and urged all citizens to work together to help reduce child abuse and neglect, significantly in years to come.

4. Protective Services

Update by Mayor Freake and Councillor Tucker

RCMP

The Mayor moved the Protective Service Committee Report from its usual place during Public Council Meetings to address the recent break and enters and personal property issues that the Town of Lewisporte has experienced recently. She wanted to address the responsibilities and roles of the Town in these matters. She went on to say that while the Town of Lewisporte has no capacity for law enforcement, we strongly share common concern and have a responsibility to advocate for resources and resolution, collaborate regarding solutions, as well as offer any support available to businesses, residents, the local and district RCMP. She wanted to assure the public that the Town is very aware of what has happened, and that the Town has taken a reactive approach, as well, the Town has attempted to be preventative and proactive in addressing issues regarding the presence of the RCMP in the Community. She went on to read out a three-page summary, starting from January 2021 and continuing to as recently as today, of the conversations, interactions, etc. that Town Council or Management has had with the RCMP. Mayor Freake concluded by inviting anyone from the community that wishes to discuss any RCMP related events with Council to contact the Town Office.

From what Mayor Freake read, Councillor Tucker agrees that the Town has indeed done their due diligence to bring forward to the police the concerns of the public and has maintained an ongoing dialogue with the RCMP. He is concerned about the low number of active members and that the Corporal position is not yet filled. The Corporal has a supervisory role at the detachment and an important role, he feels that Council will have to take a firmer stand on lobbying the RCMP to fill the position as soon as possible. He spoke of how several months ago it was said that the Town would be given priority for a Corporal position at the Lewisporte Detachment and is very disappointed that it is not yet filled. He is aware that the public is seeing a lack of presence in the community not only in the evenings but in the day as well. The questions that he wants answers to, is: What are the plans to address the situation in the town regarding current and/or extra staff coming into town to address the problems within the Town, and when will the Corporal position be filled?

Mayor Freake provided an update from the RCMP as of today, there was an extended shift over the weekend past by one of the on-duty members. Also, the RCMP is diligently working on getting some more overtime shifts covered to

increase their presence in the immediate. She also noted that Council members have an in-person meeting scheduled for this Thursday with the Superintendent and other members.

She concluded saying: as we continue to address the current issues collectively as a community with the RCMP, our business partners and our residents, please reach out to the local detachment with any concerns. If you have any information, witness any suspicious activity or evidence pertaining to any criminal activity, please call Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-Tips or utilize their website nlcrimestoppers.com. She noted that any calls to Crimestoppers must be followed up on and can be anonymous. She also passed along some tips to help protect yourself or businesses.

Councillor Tucker ended saying that we all have roles to play, The Council as a voice, the public and business community to protect themselves, and a bigger role for the Police. But it is most important to call the Police or Crime Stoppers as they are the enforcement agency.

Regional Fire Service

There was a meeting held with representatives of the Local Service District of Brown's Arm on September 20th and the protective services committee. There are negotiations ongoing to extend an agreement that they have with the Town of Lewisporte for fire protection and the regionalization of the fire departments in both communities. We are hoping to have a draft agreement ready for the LSD to review and approve in the near future.

5. Recreation/Tourism Committee

Update by Deputy Mayor Hooper

Lewisporte Stadium

Upgrades to the headers and condenser at the arena are ongoing. The work so far is on schedule, and the tentative date for ice to be put down is October 20th.

In anticipation of the upcoming hockey and figure skating season, the recreation committee is scheduled to meet with user groups to discuss expectations, rules, and stadium regulations.

Special Events

October 26th is the date set for the trunk or treat/haunted hike at Woolfrey's Pond Park.

Deputy Mayor Hooper spoke of the orange shirts placed on a clothesline in front of the Town Hall in observance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The public was encouraged to view them from Saturday, September 30th to Monday, October 2nd, the shirts contained individual promises by Council and staff on how they could help facilitate change.

Some preliminary revenue and expenses have come in on the Mussel Bed Soiree, once the committee and Council has had a chance to discuss it thoroughly, a report will be given to the public, Council will also reveal what direction they will be taking for the 2024 Soiree.

A reminder was given to the public, that brush cutting has commenced around Woolfrey's Pond and on some of the Lookout Trails, please pay attention to signage and workers in the area.

6. Economic Development

Update by Councillor Pond

Old Craft Shop/Museum/Dinner Theatre Site

In the next few weeks, the economic development committee should be ready to announce how they plan to dispose of the old museum building.

New Dinner Theatre Site

The acquisition process of the new dinner theatre site is taking longer than originally expected. After the finalization, the redevelopment of the site will begin shortly after.

Port Development

The economic diversification committee had the opportunity to meet with the transfer team from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to outline how the process will unfold, what's involved, and to keep the Town informed in every step of the progression. Councillor Pond said that it would be eight to twelve months before the infrastructure becomes the Towns. There was also a brief discussion on how things will look over the next twelve months while the formal process is undertaken in terms of the Towns abilities to manage, market and utilize the structure. The use that Transportation and Infrastructure may need, after the transfer, was also considered. A right of access agreement will probably be put in place, for after the transfer is finalized.

Marina

The process that Transportation Canada has undertaken for the Town to purchase the Marina is almost complete. The committee is hoping that by the end of October, the Town will be in a position to buy the land.

Health Care Committee

Councillor Pond, the Mayor and other members of the health care committee met with Dr. Carrol, vice-president of rural medicine. There was a thorough discussion of what the committee members feel to be the current challenges of delivery of health care in the Lewisporte area. They also expressed some of their historical understandings on how they thought it should work, how it can work, and how it used to work. Dr. Carrol is working through a process to help address some of the issues and has promised to keep the committee informed. The public should see some improvements or changes in the next few months. Collaborative care teams seem to be the new strategy used for delivery of health care service. The committee will continue to lobby the provincial government for funding to establish a collaborative clinic in Lewisporte. Councillor Pond went on to say that Lewisporte is on a list to establish a family care team, it's a matter of where the Town fits in priority and budgeting, he's hopeful that Lewisporte will be on the 2024 list. He feels that is when the public will see real improvements. In the meantime, Dr. Carrol is having discussions and seeing if there are things that he can help establish, to provide an improved health care model.

Mayor Freake added that she and Councillor Pond were tasked with following up with correspondence to the Minister to reiterate the need to be in the 2024 budget. The committee was directed to the College of Physicians to look at how the standards of care are, to help frame some of the conversations that are had and to be able to advise the public on how to address any issues that they are having around their medical care. Councillor Pond added that it was said that the delivery of health care in Lewisporte is different than any other place in the province, the fee for service Family Medical Clinic and a public type of emergency service is an anomaly. Mayor Freake said they had some very deep conversations with Dr. Carroll so that he could understand the challenges.

7. Lands Committee

Update by Deputy Mayor Hooper

Knowing that he would be absent for tonight's meeting, Councillor White asked Deputy Mayor Hooper to remind residents of the importance of having a permit.

8. Public Works

Update by Councillor Mullett

Councillor Mullett happily announced that Beaumont Street is finished.

He advised the public that town staff is out on the streets patching and to please use caution when you approach the workers.

Motion

23-124 Mullett/Hooper

Be it resolved that the Town of Lewisporte accepts cost shared funding as outlined in the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Project 17-GI-24-00076 – Water Tank Bypass Line and Intake Supply Line Repairs with a total project value of \$417,248.00. The Council agrees to provide their cost shared value of \$75,675.00 in funding for this project and authorizes the Town Manager to enter into a funding agreement with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure on behalf of the Town of Lewisporte.

Councillor Tucker asked Councillor Mullett to explain what this involves, Councillor Mullett gave details.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

9. Finance/HR

Update by Councillor Haliburton

9.1 Cheque Register- Scotiabank (Operating Account)

23-125 Haliburton/Pond

I motion to approve the cheque register as presented, from cheque numbers 003114 to 003180, with the exception of 003115, 003122, 003132, 003133, and 003156 for a total of \$139,327.54.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Tucker was in conflict and left Chambers at 7:40:50.

23-126 Haliburton/Pond

Motion to approve cheque numbers 003122, 003133 and 003156.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Tucker re-entered Chambers at 7:41:20.

Deputy Mayor Hooper was in conflict and left Chambers at 7:41:24.

23-127 Haliburton/Pond

I motion to approve cheque number 003132.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Hooper re-entered Chambers at 7:41:51.

Councillors Haliburton and Pond were in conflict and left Chambers at 7:41:55.

23-128 Mullett/Hooper

Motion to approve cheque number 003115.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillors Haliburton and Pond re-entered Chambers at 7:42:28.

10. Other Committees and/or Business

Mayor Freake reminded the public of the special event presently ongoing at the Town, the Addams Family Hunt, residents were encouraged to stay tuned to the Town's Facebook Page for details.

Mayor Freake updated the public that Council has been diligently examining some of the ongoing major files to help complete their vision and direction going forward. They also plan on completing some professional development around work plans that will be reviewed on a committee level, as well as by Council as a whole. A reminder that budget will be another big undertaking by Council in the near future.

Many Council members will be attending the Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador Conference later in October, this gives Council the opportunity to collaborate with other Municipalities, share information and gain some new information.

An upcoming event is: Pastoral Spiritual Care Week, a proclamation will be brought forward in the next week or so.

11. Adjournment

23-129 Hooper/Pond

Resolved that the meeting adjourn.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Time of adjournment: 7:46 PM.

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



Krista Freake, Mayor



Coreen Colbourne, Town Clerk/Treasurer