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### Minutes of Council Meeting

November 14, 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.

She brought forward a land acknowledgement.

#### **1. Call to Order – 7:05 pm**

#### **2. Approval of Agenda**

**23-139 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.

### **3. Minutes for Approval - Regular Council Meeting October 24, 2023**

**23-140A      Pond/Tucker**

**Resolved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of October 24, 2023.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

#### **Mayor's Notes:**

Mayor Freake announced that the Town released a public statement in relation to a situation that occurred in the Town. The Mayor has followed up with media and any other individual that has made inquiries with her.

Council met with MHA Bennett on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> regarding the closure of Scotiabank. It is the Council's intention to request a meeting with the district manager to discuss the ethical obligations around the presence of Scotiabank in Lewisporte. They also discussed paving in the downtown area, along with the incident that took place at the Intermediate School and the perspective from the Province.

Mayor Freake announced that the Town has been advised by the RCMP that a new Corporal has been selected for the Lewisporte Detachment, the Council will be meeting with him upon availability.

Mayor Freake declared that November 20<sup>th</sup> is National Child Day.

### **4. Recreation/Tourism Committee**

#### **Update by Deputy Mayor Hooper**

Before Deputy Mayor Hooper gave his update he asked if the Town knew when the new Corporal would arrive, Mayor Freake said there was no indication at this time when that would be, but she did feel it would be sooner rather than later.

#### **Mike Austin Arena**

After a few delays, the Mike Austin Arena is up and running for the season, and hockey and figure skating are in full swing. The stadium condenser project has been successfully completed, marking the final phase of our comprehensive stadium overhaul initiative.

On behalf of the Council, Deputy Mayor Hooper extended his sincere gratitude to the residents of the town and the user groups of the arena for their patience and understanding throughout this process. Over the past three years, the Town's efforts have focused on replacing critical components, including 2 new compressors, new control panel, new brine pump, replacement of the chiller gaskets, new headers, new desuperheater, new Zamboni, new ventilation system, and new computerized monitoring system. As a Council, the commitment to ensuring the smooth operation

of the Mike Austin Arena remains steadfast. The public's continued support is invaluable as the Town strives to enhance the user's overall experience and create a safer environment.

Deputy Mayor Hooper encouraged the public to stay tuned to the Town's Facebook page for weekly updates on community skating times and reminded all that if anyone is looking to rent the ice to please contact Ashley at the Town Office.

### **Softball Field**

The demolition of the men's softball field is well underway, and Town workers along with a Town contractor have been busy removing sods to make way for extensive improvements. Workers are now in the process of installing a drainage system in the infield. Simultaneously, the playing surface is being elevated to assist with water issues and leveled for a better playing experience.

### **Special Events**

On behalf of the Council, Deputy Mayor Hooper extended heartfelt gratitude to all who joined in for the Trunk or Treat, especially to the business and organizations that decorated campsites. The Town is also grateful to those who participated in the Haunted Hike, Bonfire Night, explored the enchanting Pumpkin Trail, and stood alongside the Council and staff during the Remembrance Day Ceremony. The public's enthusiastic participation and support have truly made these events memorable for our community.

A special acknowledgment was due to the dedicated town staff and special events coordinator, whose hard work and commitment played a pivotal role in the success of these occasions. Their tireless efforts behind the scenes ensure that community events run seamlessly, creating enjoyable experiences for everyone.

The Town of Lewisporte will be hosting its annual Christmas Tree Lighting on November 30th, 2023, at 6:00pm at the Town Hall. Hot chocolate will be served, along with candy canes, and performances from local talent will be heard.

Deputy Mayor Hooper on behalf of the Council invited all residents and visitors to the Annual Christmas Parade on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. This year, the Town will be making a noteworthy change by transitioning from the traditional nighttime parade to a daytime event. The parade will start at 1:00pm from the Industrial Park and will proceed down Main Street. The decision to switch to a daytime parade was made with careful consideration for the safety and enjoyment of our community. One of the key reasons behind this shift is to make the parade more accessible and cost-effective for participants. Hosting the parade during the day reduces the need for additional lighting and related expenses, making it more budget-friendly for individuals, local businesses, and community groups who wish to participate. This adjustment aims to encourage broader community involvement and ensure that the parade remains an inclusive event for all. Additionally, a daytime schedule provides a family-friendly atmosphere that accommodates participants of all ages. The Town believes that this adjustment will enhance the overall experience for our community and contribute to a more inclusive and accessible celebration.

Councillor Pond expressed concern that other members of Council were not included in the decision to change the Santa Claus Parade. Deputy Mayor Hooper, as Chair of the recreation committee, responded to Councillor Pond, giving the details for the decision, and that given all those reasons the committee felt it would be acceptable to try the change for one year. He said that because there was no financial burden or policy change to the Town, the committee members felt that the rest of Council did not need to be engaged in the decision. Councillor Mullett also expressed his reasons for moving the time of the event to the daytime.



## 5. Economic Development

### Update by Councillor Pond

#### Motions

##### 5.1 Occupancy Permit - 23-006R (Residential)

**23-140          Pond/Tucker**

**I so move to accept the permit application - 23-006R (Residential); Lemuel White – to occupy 163 Road to the Isles, as presented.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

**Councillor Mullett was in conflict and left chambers at 7:23:15**

##### 5.2 Occupancy Permit - 23-007C (Warehouse)

**23-141          Pond/Tucker**

**I so move to accept the permit application - 23-007C (Warehouse); JPM Realty Ltd. – to occupy 224 Main Street, as presented.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

##### 5.3 Occupancy Permit - 23-008C (Extension to Building)

**23-142          Pond/Tucker**

**I so move to accept the permit application, 23-008C (Extension to Building); JPM Realty Ltd. – to occupy 224 Main Street, as presented.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

**Councillor Mullett re-entered chambers at 7:24:15**

**Councillor White was in conflict and left chambers at 7:24:45**

The Town of Lewisporte has recognized the economic benefits of the business community by upgrading the railbed from Monroe's Pond to Lewisporte, an eight (8) kilometer stretch, to attract snowmobilers, ATV and UTV traffic. The Town of Lewisporte has heard from major players in the tourism industry regarding ATV & UTV operators that Lewisporte is not being utilized because of the deplorable condition of that stretch. As part of the economic diversification funding that is being provided by the Province, the Town is looking at utilizing some of those funds. To access that funding, the scope of work and a cost estimate must be provided. To provide those details the Town has looked at engaging a consultant, the consulting firm, Meridian Engineering, came highly recommended. Mayor Freake clarified that the Town is looking to complete the work properly and into having a concise maintenance plan.

**23-143          Pond/Tucker**

**I so move to engage Meridian Engineering to design the preliminary work for the railbed from Monroe's Pond to the Town of Lewisporte, approximately eight (8) km, at a cost of \$9,900.00 tax included.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

**Councillor White re-entered chambers at 7:33:10**

Councillor Pond gave an update on the old museum building, he spoke of the effort that was put into trying to secure a use for the old museum building, to date the Town received one proposal for the future use of the site. Once the economic development committee members have had the opportunity to review the details and had the chance to negotiate with the submission it will be brought forward to the rest of Council for their endorsement.

Councillor Pond elaborated on the planned meeting with Scotiabank, Council is looking forward to sitting down with the decision makers of the organization to stress how communities like Lewisporte have helped to build the brand and want to encourage the corporation's social economic conscious.

Mayor Freake added that she has been conversing with many other individuals from many different places inside and outside the province, seeking advice around what the obligation is from Scotiabank to the membership in the community.

There was further commentary by Council on the subject, but it was noted that the Premier has intervened on the matter, as other communities have experienced closures around the Province.

## **6. Lands Committee**

### **Update by Councillor White**

Councillor White noted that the time of the year has meant a slowdown in repairs and construction, but to keep in mind that permits are still required for any of those activities. He thanked the public for ensuring that those permits were purchased.

He wanted to let the public know that there is a development area at the top of Second Avenue with land for sale, if anyone is looking for property to build on, as well as on the South Side.

He also gave a reminder of the Provincial Government's five-point program for low-cost housing. He said if anyone in the public or any contractor has an idea or wanted to get involved in the construction of low-income housing units or senior apartments, to please come to the Town Office and speak to the Town Manager or the Superintendent of Public Works with your idea, and the Council will do what they can to help make your idea a reality and help with the development plans.

## **7. Public Works**

### **Update by Councillor Mullett**

Councillor Mullett wanted to let the public know that the Town has their winter equipment ready in the event of snow, he also gave a reminder that in the event of snow, to not shovel it out into the streets or in anyone else's way.

He also spoke of the work being completed on the men's softball field by the public works staff in conjunction with an outside contractor, the Town is hoping to complete the groundwork before the snow comes.

Councillor White reminded the public that snow clearing regulations come into effect on December 1<sup>st</sup>, the regulations will be posted on the Town's Facebook page.

## **8. Protective Services**

### **Update by Councillor Tucker**

#### **Regional Fire Service**

Councillor Tucker spoke of the meeting that was held with MHA Bennett on November 11<sup>th</sup>, during that meeting protective services brought forward the fact that the Town has not heard anything from the Province regarding the application for a pickup truck for the Regional Fire Rescue. The application was sent in the spring, usually the announcement of successful applicants is announced by June of the same year, however to date, the Town has not heard anything, even after several follow ups with the Province. The Town has asked MHA Bennett for his input in finding out the status. The Council is anxious to hear the results, as having to pay for a truck for the fire department will change the 2024 budget allocations for protective services.

Councillor Tucker added that as part of the Regional Fire Rescue, Brown's Arm was provided with a copy of a new proposed agreement for their review. Also, the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief attended a public meeting of the



Local Service District of Brown's Arm to explain how the Regional Fire Rescue works and to answer any questions the public might have.

## **9. Finance/HR**

### **Update by Councillor Haliburton**

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

##### **23-144 Haliburton/Pond**

**I motion to approve the cheque register as presented, from cheque numbers 003246 to 003305, with the exception of 003276 for a total of \$639,033.52.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillors Haliburton and Pond were in conflict and left Chambers at 7:47:21.

##### **23-145 Hooper/Tucker**

**Motion to approve cheque number 003276.**

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 7:47:53.

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

Mayor Freake reminded the public that the public engagement session for the Indian Arm Brook proposed ecological reserve is now going to be held on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Lion's Club from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Deputy Hooper added that due to the large number of people that had showed up for the previous planned meeting, Government was asking anyone interested in attending to register. He also expressed, from his point of view, that after a meeting with a member of WERAC with the Council last spring, he feels that all the information on the proposed ecological reserve was not as detailed at that time, or it was misunderstood by him. He feels that this proposed reserve will have drastic effects on much of the public from many communities, he encouraged anyone unsure of what the proposal entailed to attend the meeting.

Councillor Tucker reiterated Deputy Mayor Hooper's sentiments, he also feels that some aspects of the agreement may be up for debate and possible changes.

Mayor Freake spoke of some of the topics discussed at the Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador Conference that was attended by most of Council, topics such as the housing crisis, outdoor recreation, and fire protection. It was also a time to connect with other Municipal Leaders and vendors that are inherent to Municipalities.

Mayor Freake wanted to address the latest headlines of the events happening in the town, she wanted to assure the community that Council has been engaged in the conversation, collaboration, and collectiveness around addressing the issues of being targeted of being racist, or the issue of potentially losing two medical doctors. She encouraged the public to reflect on where we are, what your role is, and felt we would move forward collectively as a community to address any additional issues and support anyone involved.

Deputy Mayor Hooper spoke for a few minutes on the new dinner theatre that the Town will be constructing. The members of the recreation committee will be sitting down with the Heritage Society to review the wants and needs for the facility. The Town is hoping to get the project off the ground by spring 2024.

The recreation committee held a meeting with the rest of the Council members to go into a very detailed review of the splash pad. There was money put away in the budget for preliminary investigation and engineering work for the splash pad, which has now been completed. The Town is ready to move into phase 2, no start or finish date has been determined, as there are too many variables that can stall a project of this size.

Deputy Mayor Hooper having attended the MNL's Annual General Meeting, gave some information from the Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador Conference. Grand Falls-Windsor's Councillor Amy Coady was re-elected MNL President, the Vice-President is Mayor Brian Keating from the Town of Marystown. For the benefit of Council, Deputy Mayor Hooper relayed that MNL fees would be going up in 2024.

## **11. Adjournment**

**23-146      Hooper/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: 8:02 PM.

Next Public Council Meeting to be held on December 5, 2023.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Krista Freake", written over a horizontal line.

Krista Freake, Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Coreen Colbourne", written over a horizontal line.

Coreen Colbourne, Town Clerk/Treasurer