



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

## Minutes of Council Meeting

January 16, 2024 7:00 PM

|          |                                |                    |
|----------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Present: | Mayor (Chair)                  | Krista Freake      |
|          | Deputy Mayor                   | Brian Hooper       |
|          | Councillors                    | Roxanne Haliburton |
|          |                                | Perry Pond         |
|          |                                | Ken Tucker         |
|          |                                | Derek White        |
|          | Town Clerk                     | Coreen Colbourne   |
|          | Recreation and Tourism Manager | Ashley Ivany       |
|          | Superintendent of Public Works | Bruce Roberts      |
| Regrets: | Councillor                     | John Mullett       |
|          | Town Manager                   | Todd Champion      |

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

She brought forward a land acknowledgement.

### **1. Call to Order – 7:01 pm**

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

**24-001 Pond/Haliburton**

**Resolved to adopt the agenda, as presented.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

**3.1 Minutes for Approval - Regular Council Meeting December 5, 2023**

**24-002 White/Haliburton**

**Resolved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of December 5, 2023.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

**3.2 Minutes for Approval – Budget Adoption Meeting December 12, 2023**

**24-003 Haliburton/White**

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

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

**4. Recreation/Tourism Committee**

**Update by Deputy Mayor Hooper**

Deputy Mayor Hooper wanted to take the opportunity once again to thank public works and inside staff, for all the time and effort put into making the Christmas season so special.

Deputy Mayor Hooper announced the date of the upcoming Winter Carnival, from February 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>. He said that as details of the schedule of events become available, they will be posted on the Town's Facebook Page. He asked if anyone wanted to become involved by helping or organizing an event, to reach out to the Special Events Co-ordinator, Tiffany.

Deputy Mayor Hooper noted the 2024 Newsletter that would be included with the 2024 tax invoices. He mentioned a few pieces from that newsletter, which includes the upgrades to the softball field, that started in 2023 and will continue as weather improves in 2024. He also noted the upgrades to the comfort station for Woolfrey's Pond Park for 2024, the paving of the multi-use court, along with new equipment for the facility, as well as the addition of a beach volleyball court to the site. He said that repairs would be ongoing to the boardwalk and other trails, and he hoped that 2024 would see the completion of the Train Park Trail. The bowling alley will see the addition of heat pumps and the Town has committed once again to the O2 Club to help with upgrades to their trail. He said that Council and the recreation committee have been working behind the scenes to get the splash pad started, he wanted to assure residents of the

commitment of the Town to bring this project to fruition. Deputy Mayor thanked the residents and businesses of the Town, he pointed out that if it wasn't for their support, the special events put off by the Town would not be as successful.

Mayor Freake congratulated the hockey players from the various teams in Lewisporte for their successes. She is happy to see the stadium filled with both young and old, enjoying the various leagues, she mentioned the start of a new women's league in Lewisporte. She also congratulated the Notre Dame Figure Skating Club on their success in Corner Brook this past weekend.

Deputy Mayor Hooper added that the Town has been made aware of the problem with the new "Mike Austin Arena" sign, and it is in the process of being fixed.

## **5. Economic Development**

### **Update by Councillor Pond**

#### **Marina**

Even though the purchase of the Marina has almost concluded, the Town has not heard from the Provincial Government on whether funds from the economic diversification can be used.

Councillor Pond noted that the Town has not received official notification from Government on being able to utilize some of the diversification funding for the purchase of the Roman Catholic Church either.

#### **Port Development**

There has been environmental assessment activity, by way of drilling, seen down by the wharf as part of the due diligence process of transferring the commercial Port. The Town Manager has begun the process of drafting a request for proposal to engage a consultant to help with the next phase of the project. Councillor Pond said that once the Port is the Town's, we will move forward with redevelopment, by finding out the condition, what the costs are going to be to repair it, etc.

#### **Upgrade of Railbed**

A new item on the economic development committee's agenda for this year, is upgrading the railbed from Monroe's Pond to the Town. A consultant provided a draft of what needs to be completed to improve that stretch of railbed, the cost was significant. However, the Town has had some discussions with some funding agencies, and it looks like the project is still a possibility. The Town is in the process of notifying the businesses that are impacted the most by recreational traffic, and a meeting will be held with these business representatives in the next few weeks. It is the committee's opinion that it is a project that is attainable, they think that the expectations of the funding agency can be met, they feel with an insignificant amount of money on the Town's part, the trailway should be able to be brought up to a reputable standard and the Town start receiving traffic from the cross island atv/utv tours.

#### **Scotiabank Closure**

Councillor Pond updated Council and the public on Scotiabank's decision to close in Lewisporte. He said that he and the Mayor had the opportunity to speak with bank representatives and they are confident that they have done their due diligence on being able to meet their customer demands, using online and telephone portals. They have tested that process elsewhere and can be duplicated here in Lewisporte, the closure will be happening as planned. He said that the bank is exploring the possibility of an ATM somewhere in the community. The Mayor added that during their

conversation with Scotiabank personnel, they asked some difficult questions, the question of ethics was brought up, as well as the decision-making process. The bank was able to give some information around what can be done for the people most affected by the closure. The Mayor said they were very clear on their disappointment of the closure, and how the community of Lewisporte helped brand the Scotiabank being in the community for 80+ years. She said the data for the closure that was presented was valid and supported. Councillor Pond interjected that the Scotiabank is confident enough in their decision that in 2024 technology allows them to reduce their footprint and with these closures, Scotiabank is still the largest bank in Atlantic Canada. They are confident they can maintain their business level without a physical site in Lewisporte. The Mayor said they asked Scotiabank representatives about what the intent for the building would be upon the closure. Councillor Pond said that they expressed an interest in the building, but in no way did they express that the Town would surrender their efforts to keep the bank open for an opportunity to purchase it. Councillor Pond said that in May, Scotiabank will no longer be physically present in Lewisporte. Mayor Freake said she would follow up with the bank on the ATM possibility for the Town.

Councillor Tucker added to the railbed update, saying that the Town can try to use some of the economic diversification funding for the upgrades along with utilizing other funding agencies. Councillor Pond said that if things went the way they hoped with the business community, the committee is confident they can access a large percentage of the money required from a funding agency.

There was some further discussion for the need for this upgrade, as the Town is being overlooked because of the condition of the railbed, while this part of tourism is on the rise.

Deputy Mayor Hooper brought forward the difficulties in accessing the economic diversification funds, it was supposed to be easier, given that the funds are in trust for the Town. He suggested that the Mayor would follow up with Minister Parsons, to help expedite the projects requiring diversification funds. The Mayor and economic development committee members thought that the decision was very near and want to follow up with the Town Manager before sending any correspondence, The Town Manager has been working on this file. Councillor Tucker made the point that it seemed that the Town was being treated as if it was for a new application for funding, when the Town already has funding established through the economic diversification fund.

## **6. Lands Committee**

### **Update by Councillor White**

Councillor White noted that it was a new year, and that the permit process is still essential when completing outside repairs and renovations, or additions to your property. He took the opportunity to thank everyone for adhering to the Town's regulations by picking up their permits, 2023 saw over 200 permits being issued, five applications for residential dwellings.

In 2024, the Town will be updating the Town's development regulations, this could see an increase in the size of the accessory buildings that can be built on your property. He felt that many property owners have more recreational vehicles or equipment that require storage, so a bigger allowance for sheds may be appreciated. When this process is ready to begin, the Town will hold a meeting to get input from property owners.

There was a letter received from the Communities in Bloom organization, with a request to become involved with the movement. Councillor White spoke of the Tiny Town award received many years ago by the Town, this was an activity of the Communities in Bloom. He is hopeful that the Town can achieve its goal for the program if residents and business

owners continue to make improvements to their properties. Councillor White read an excerpt from the letter with the Communities in Bloom expectations for a town. He said that the Town has already received many favourable comments on the Town's green spaces and the Train Park. He also said that there was a beautification committee in the past, and it might be a good idea to see if that group would want to become involved again, if we were to participate in the program this year. He went on to explain that every aspect of a community is looked at, the recreation facilities, green spaces, camping facilities, etc., and that it is based on a point system.

**24-004 White/Hooper**

**I motion to consider the Town of Lewisporte becoming involved in the Communities in Bloom Program.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

**7. Public Works**

**Update by Councillor White**

Councillor White took time to remind the public that snow clearing regulations are currently in effect, and to please keep vehicles off the road for easier snow clearing during inclement weather.

**8. Protective Services**

**Update by Councillor Tucker**

**Regional Fire Service**

Councillor Tucker reported that the Lewisporte Regional Fire Rescue did not have any serious call outs during the Christmas season.

The new Corporal, who will be the supervisor for the Lewisporte Detachment, is due to start January 25<sup>th</sup>, Councillor Tucker said that having a supervisor is a major component for a detachment. The protective services committee is looking forward to the opportunity to meet with the new corporal to discuss community policing and the Town's concerns. They hope to maintain an ongoing relationship with the RCMP.

**9. Finance/HR**

**Update by Councillor Haliburton**

**9.1 Motion**

The Exploits Search and Rescue Team is a highly trained and well-equipped volunteer emergency response unit serving communities throughout Central Newfoundland. To help bring support to their organization the Town of Lewisporte will be contributing \$500.00 toward the purchase of a new vehicle to aid in ice rescue operations and equipment transport.

**24-005 Haliburton/Pond**

**I so move to contribute \$500.00 to Exploits Search and Rescue.**

Councillor Tucker clarified that the Exploits Search and Rescue is a centrally based operation, they will come to the aid of Lewisporte and area if needed.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

**9.2 Motion**

In an effort to collect outstanding taxes, I bring forward the following policy:

Policy FN 04 states: A building permit application shall not be approved if there are outstanding taxes on the property in question for the previous calendar year(s).

**24-006 Haliburton/Pond**

**Be it resolved to accept Policy FN 04, as presented.**

Deputy Mayor Hooper wanted to clarify that it is based on the calendar year, not the discount date, Councillor Pond said it was based on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

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

**24-007 Haliburton/Pond**

**I motion to approve the cheque register as presented, from cheque numbers 003337 to 003453, with the exception of cheques 003356, 003358, 003368, 003369, 003421, 003425, 003431 and 003435 for a total of \$563,804.97.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Tucker was in conflict and left Chambers at 7:40:12.

**24-008 Haliburton/Pond**

**Motion to approve cheque numbers 003368, 003369 and 003435.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Tucker re-entered Chambers at 7:40:40.

Deputy Mayor Hooper was in conflict and left Chambers at 7:40:57.

**24-009 Haliburton/Pond**

**Motion to approve cheque number 003425.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Hooper re-entered Chambers at 7:41:22.

Councillor White was in conflict and left Chambers at 7:41:40.

**24-010 Haliburton/Pond**

**Motion to approve cheque numbers 003356 and 003421.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor White re-entered Chambers at 7:42:03.

Councillors Haliburton and Pond were in conflict and left Chambers at 7:42:19.

**24-011 Hooper/Tucker**

**Motion to approve cheque numbers 003358 and 003431.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillors Haliburton and Pond re-entered Chambers at 7:42:44.

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

**10.1 Air Ambulance**

Councillor White gave some background on the committee that was formed some time before Covid consisting of various Municipalities in support of the air ambulance operating out of Gander. Just before Christmas 2023, there was a news piece that spoke of a group that completed a study of where the best places would be to locate two air ambulance services in Newfoundland and Labrador. The recommendations were for one in Labrador, which had been favourable by the committee. The other recommendation was for St. John's, rather than Gander. The committee believed at that time, to shorten travel times, the operation should be out of Gander, they also felt that St. John's area did not need an air ambulance due to the closeness of the hospital and specialized physicians.

Councillor White motioned:

**24-012 White/Hooper**

**The Town Council write a letter to the various Government Departments in St. John's, expressing concern if the decision to move the air ambulance goes ahead. And that we copy the Town of Gander in the letter that Lewisporte Town Council is in full support of the air ambulance service either stay in Gander or put in Gander, one or the other, but not to take so much of it away, but keep it. Mayor, I would like to make that motion.**

Mayor Freake said that she has had numerous conversations with Councillors from Gander, concerned citizens in Lewisporte, along with Lee from Freake's Ambulance regarding what has transpired, the data and the logistics. She said if all agreed, she would have a letter drafted and sent to the various individuals.



Councillor White said that if a committee was ever reformed to take on this issue, he offered to be on it representing the Town.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Mayor Freake brought forward that the Town is supporting the Town of Gander during the Winter Games. She said that a Councillor from there has requested a meeting with Council. She has asked the recreation director for an update on what the Town of Lewisporte is doing for their support. Mayor Freake is seeking clarification on what the Town Council's role will be in the Winter Games. It was confirmed that the Mike Austin Arena will be used for the Winter Games for figure skating for two days.

It was announced that the frequency of Public Council Meetings going forward would be once a month, Council will reevaluate if deemed necessary.

## 11. Adjournment

**24-013      Pond/Haliburton**

**Resolved that the meeting adjourn.**

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Time of adjournment: 7:51 PM.

Next Public Council Meeting to be held on February 13, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Krista Freake, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Coreen Colbourne, Town Clerk/Treasurer