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Minutes of Council Meeting

July 30, 2024 7:00 PM

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

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

1. Call to Order – 7:06 pm

Mayor Freake brought forward a land acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

24-089 Hooper/White

Resolved to adopt the agenda, as presented.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

3. Minutes for Approval - Regular Council Meeting July 2, 2024

24-090 Mullett/Haliburton

Resolved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of July 2, 2024.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Mayor's Notes

Mayor Freake took the opportunity to speak publicly on behalf on the Town Council of Lewisporte about the **Biomedical Waste Incineration Proposal** presented to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador by Paul Dalley Holdings. The Mayor wanted to clarify any misconceptions that the public might have on the involvement of the Town in the proposal. The Council and management met with Mr. Paul Dalley as a delegation on June 25, 2024, to listen to his proposal of the biomedical waste incinerator. During that time the process of endorsement was discussed but has not taken place as the Government has not completed the environmental assessment process. It was also noted that Council did not make any promises during the meeting, but Mr. Dalley was encouraged to be open and honest to all invested parties. The Mayor also clarified that there was no letter of support given to Mr. Dalley during that time. The Mayor also touched on the assertions around public consultation and the Town's involvement in it, she stated that the Town Council has not been involved in any public consultations around this proposal and have not made any arrangements for public consultation. She asked the public to review the entire proposal that is available online, to become thoroughly apprised of the project.

Mayor Freake added that any time the public has questions for the Town of Lewisporte, to reach out to Council, the Town Manager or the Town Office, the Town does not respond to tags on Facebook.

Mayor Freake also addressed the **inappropriateness of some commentary on social media** regarding the Town's staff. She went on to say that Council supports the Town's staff in all their work endeavours. Any inappropriate comments to staff while they are on a job site is not acceptable. She said if the public has any questions or concerns, or needs clarification on any work or project being performed, they should be addressed to the Town Manager or Town Office.

Mayor Freake updated fellow Councillors on the **Family Care Team** that the Town of Lewisporte was approved for. There is to be a virtual meeting on August 13, 2024, for those involved in that endeavour.

Mayor Freake spoke of the meeting with MNL representative around **housing** and the availability of it in Lewisporte. It was an extensive meeting with many questions being asked around housing needs and what services the town has, to support its population.

4. Recreation/Tourism Committee

Update by Deputy Mayor Hooper

Deputy Mayor Hooper announced that planning for the **Mussel Bed Soiree** is well under way. The festival starts on August 8th and runs through to August 12th. For a full list of events please see the Town's Facebook

Page and to keep apprised of upcoming or potential changes of any events. The Town is looking forward to seeing many of the town's residents and visitors over those days, enjoying the many events taking place.

Deputy Mayor Hooper mentioned that the **hanging baskets** have been placed around town and right now are in full bloom and being cared for by the beautification team. He thanked Faith's Greenhouse for providing a beautiful product. He also mentioned the flowers/shrubs would be planted at the Welcome to Lewisporte Sign in the next few weeks, as weather temperatures cool off.

The number of campers to Woolfrey's Pond Park are up this year, campers are having a great season. The new **comfort station** is finished, it is a beautiful building and a welcome addition to the patrons of the Park.

Deputy Mayor Hooper brought forward an update on the proposed **splash pad**. He wanted to assure the public that the Council is still committed to installing a splash pad in the town. Council and management have met many times to discuss the logistics of the project. Staff have been in consultation with many other communities that have a splash pad to get feedback on the types of splash pads that work best, and the appropriate size needed for the communities that the splash pad needs to accommodate. He went on to explain the challenges that the Town has faced in trying to get the project off the ground. Deputy Mayor Hooper feels that the Town is nearing the end of the challenges and hopes to have an announcement in the next couple of months. Other Councillors reiterated the same sentiments as Deputy Mayor Hooper.

5. Economic Development

Update by Councillor Tucker

The economic development committee on behalf of the Town interviewed a potential candidate for the position of consultant/manager of the **Marina Development Project**. The Town is hoping to have someone hired for the role in the next few weeks, that person will be responsible to oversee the project.

The **wharf analysis**, both above and under water, is now completed. A report of the work completed, and the findings, is expected in the next two (2) weeks. The results of the assessment will give Council a good idea of how the Town can move forward with that piece of infrastructure.

The **Trailway Redevelopment Project** is ongoing. ACOA, who is a possible source of funding for the project, has requested from the Town, information on the Town's authority to occupy the Trailway section that the Town is looking to upgrade. The Town Manager has been working with the Newfoundland and Labrador Snowmobile Association to get that permission. ACOA has said, once they receive that piece of information, they will be in a position to proceed with the funding application.

Councillor Tucker, as a member the economic development committee, to which any new business has to go through, made a statement regarding the **Biomedical Waste Incineration Proposal**. He went on to say that he has heard a great deal of misinformation, misunderstanding of information, and inaccurate information, around the community, regarding the proposed project. He went on to reiterate the Mayor's opening remarks on the project. He said that there is a process through the Government of NL, then it needs to go through the Town Council of Lewisporte to further the process Municipally.

6. Lands Committee

Update by Councillor White

Last week there was a public consultation held for members of the community to voice their opinions on the Town's development regulations as part of the update to the Town's **Municipal Plan**. During the meeting the consultant gave those in attendance the opportunity to either submit their concerns/ideas/proposed changes to either the Town Manager or to the consultants. After review of the proposed changes the Council will have the opportunity to review the new Municipal Plan, as well as the public. Councillor White said the process could take up to a year. After review by Council and the public, it has to be sent to the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs for approval.

Councillor White always takes the opportunity to remind property owners of the requirement of a **permit** for any outside repairs or construction. He thanked property owners for keeping their properties in good condition.

Councillor White spoke also of the lands committee being a point of contact for any new development in town and the owner needing to go through the committee. He said any new development must start with the permit process. He wanted to let the public know that at this time, there has been no application made for the **Biomedical Waste Incineration** development.

7. Public Works

Update by Councillor Mullett

New lines for a **crosswalk** have been painted downtown in front of the Canada Post building. Councillor Mullett made a plea to the public, to please use the crosswalk when crossing Main Street to ensure the safety of yourself and for the people driving on Main Street having to keep an eye on the pedestrians crossing.

Councillor Mullett took time to address the **commentary on social media** around the water leak repairs on Main Street and **the treatment of the workers** completing the repairs. After years of lobbying the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to repave Main Street and Premier Drive, it was finally accomplished. But with the money invested in paving the Government did not have enough money to give the Town funding to complete all the changes needed to the aging infrastructure under ground and the Town did not have the money needed either. When the Minister of Finance met with Council on March 27th, she told Councillors that she was hoping to be able to pave Main Street, and Premier Drive if there was enough money in the budget, she did not indicate when, or even if it would be done this year. The Town found out on a Thursday that paving would start that following Tuesday, with little notice and no water leaks at that time on either of those streets, nothing was done to the infrastructure. There have since been water leaks, which need to be addressed or properties will not have water. The Town is committed to putting the pavement back as close to how it was laid originally. Councillor Mullett was very disappointed however to hear that the Town's staff were being disrespected while performing their work, he went on to say that it is not acceptable. If the public has any questions, comments or concerns about the work seen being completed around the town they should reach out to a Councillor or call the Town Office.

Councillor White added that the Town's public works staff are the guys that get out of bed in the middle of the night to fix problems with water and sewer, Councillor Mullett had said during his commentary that it could be Christmas morning, so that there is no interruption in the property owner's service. They are

dedicated to their jobs and to the town, and do not deserve to be treated the way they have been by the public. They need to be praised for all they do to keep the town operational and beautiful, not criticized.

Councillor Tucker clarified that the Town's workers are directed to complete work by their supervisors, it is always required work. He feels that once again the public is misinformed about or misunderstands why things are being done.

Deputy Mayor Hooper asked if the **King Street Outfall** has been completed, it has been, on time, with no major issues.

8. Protective Services

Update by Councillor Tucker

Councillor Tucker reported that the protective services committee has finalized a **mutual aid agreement** with the Local Service District of Brown's Arm for fire protection services.

Protective services members have been working diligently on a solution to the live **fire dispatching services** for the Lewisporte Fire Rescue. There has been extensive research done on what is available, the members feel they have found a great service. There will be a new paging system and a live dispatching service that is 24/7. The dispatchers that will answer your fire emergency calls are highly trained, the information for the call will then be sent to the Lewisporte Fire Rescue for response. There will also be another system put in place that allows two-way communication via radio between the dispatcher and the local firefighters.

Motion

24-091

Tucker/Haliburton

I so move to purchase the equipment required that will provide two-way radio communication from the local fire department in Lewisporte to the dispatch provider, in the amount of \$9,667.30 plus HST from Rock Networks.

Councillor Mullett asked if there would be an annual fee for the service. Councillor Tucker responded saying the motion was for a one-time purchase for the equipment required, but there would be an annual fee for the service of approximately \$450.00 per month. Councillor Tucker said the fee was based on the number of households in Lewisporte. He also said that the equipment has a cellular back up. In case landlines go down, the system could be used over the cellular network.

Deputy Mayor Hooper asked when the equipment was expected to be delivered and installed. Councillor Tucker explained that with the extra equipment purchase, there will be an extra four weeks for the delivery. The extra time is needed to ensure both systems are synched together, so a date in September is more realistic. He is thinking around 5-6 weeks from now.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Mayor Freake thanked the fire department for their patience and to the executive for their extra time put into the receiving of calls through the interim system.

Councillor Tucker spoke on the Town's backyard fire pit policy that explains the Town's stance on having open fires in Lewisporte and the Municipal Park. He told the public of where the policy can be found on the Town's website, he also said the fire index can be accessed from that policy and that Lewisporte falls under region nine (9). He said the same information can be obtained by calling the Government of NL's Forestry Office. He said that the Lewisporte Fire Rescue should not be called with questions of this nature. He also said that the only time that the policy could be overridden is if the Province has a Provincial fire ban in place.

The protective services committee is in the process of scheduling a meeting with the new supervisor of the local RCMP detachment, to discuss ongoing policing in the community.

Councillor Tucker thanked the public works staff for getting the crosswalk lines painted in front of Canada Post. He asked the public to please take note of the safe crossing section.

9. Finance/HR

Update by Councillor Haliburton

9.1 Cheque Register- Scotiabank (Operating Account)

24-092 Haliburton/Pond

I motion to approve the cheque register as presented, for cheque number 03894 and from cheque numbers 03903 to 03975, with the exception of cheque 03908, 03930, 03938, 03953, 03955, 03968 and 03974 for a total of \$655,565.64.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried

Deputy Mayor Hooper was in conflict and left Chambers at 7:59:46.

24-093 Haliburton/Mullett

Motion to approve cheque number 03938.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Hooper re-entered Chambers at 8:00:10.

Councillor White was in conflict and left Chambers at 8:00:17.

24-094 Haliburton/Mullett

Motion to approve cheque numbers 03908 and 03974.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor White re-entered Chambers at 8:00:44.

Councillor Tucker was in conflict and left Chambers at 8:00:55.

24-095 Haliburton/Hooper

Motion to approve cheque number 03953.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Tucker re-entered Chambers at 8:01:19.

Councillor Mullett was in conflict and left Chambers at 8:01:25.

24-096 Haliburton/Hooper

Motion to approve cheque number 03968.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Mullett re-entered Chambers at 8:01:50.

Councillor Haliburton was in conflict and left Chambers at 8:01:52.

24-097 Mullett/Hooper

Motion to approve cheque numbers 03930 and 03955.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Haliburton re-entered Chambers at 8:02:17.

10. Other Committees and/or Business

Deputy Mayor Hooper gave an update from the Lewisporte Marina Administrative Authority. He said that due to the continued good weather most of the boats at the Marina have been put in the water. They expect to have a great season.

Mayor Freake updated Council and the public that she would be participating in a CBC Radio program from Kinden's Bakery and Café on this coming Thursday at lunch hour to do a piece on tourism in Lewisporte.

Mayor Freake thanked those who came out to the Municipal Plan meeting.

She also gave praise to the Hann's Point Dinner Theatre for the fantastic performance and delicious meal. She also thanked those involved from the Lewisporte and Area Heritage Society for bringing the Dinner Theatre productions to the public.

11. Adjournment

24-098 White/Hooper

Resolved that the meeting adjourn.

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

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion Carried

Time of adjournment: 8:06 PM.

Next Public Council Meeting to be held on August 27, 2024.

Krista Freake, Mayor

Coreen Colbourne, Town Clerk/Treasurer