



**THE TOWN OF ST. GEORGE
REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The regular monthly meeting of the St. George Town Council held on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 in the Council Chambers at Magaguadavic Place was called to order by Mayor Cook at 7:00 pm.

Deputy Mayor Avery, Councillors Allison, Deveau, Harris, Murray, in attendance, Councillor Cooke absent. Staff attendance: Jason Gaudet CAO/Clerk, and Chris MacKinnon Administrative Assistant. Public Attendance: Sari Green (Courier), Sam Rubin, Archie Leslie, Ann Middleton, Allan Grant, Rod Krolouski, Darlene Leslie, Dan Quntze, Allan Eldridge, Tracy Craig, Joan Majchowski.

2) OPENING PRAYER:

Chris MacKinnon

3) AGENDA:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Avery to approve the Agenda with the addition of New Business item H: Resolution to Tender Brunswick Street Property, seconded by Councillor Allison. Motion Carried

4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Moved by Deputy Mayor Avery to approve the Minutes of September 9, 2019, Regular Meeting of Council, seconded by Councillor Deveau. Motion Carried.

5) CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:

None

6) RCMP REPORT – Update on RCMP Reporting to Council:

Councillor Harris explained there have been reports since 1904 from either the RCMP or Town Police. The letter received stated there will not be a police representative present at Council and reports will be quarterly instead of monthly. The Town pays almost a half million dollars and he is sure they can come and give a report.

He suggests to residents to call the RCMP (755-1130) to express their displeasure or write to J. Division (Jason Gaudet is able to provide the address). This is a step back because we will not know what is going on from month to month, such as which kinds of ticket are being written. Citizens should be upset that we are not receiving the report.

7) FIRE REPORT:

Councillor Harris read the report as submitted by Fire Chief Justin Johnston for the month of September (attached).

8) BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT REPORT:

Jason Gaudet read the building permit report submitted by the Regional Service Commission for the month of August (attached).

9) PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

- a. None

10) GENERAL REPORTS:**a. General Government:**

- **Mayor Cook**

- Speaking with DTI today and was notified the tender for the South Street bridge was closed and should be rewarded by the end of the week. Construction will begin after with work continuing until December, and starting up again in May.
- The Splash Pad is currently under construction. This phase should take another 2 to 3 weeks. The Splash Pad will be able to open in the Spring.

b. Community Services:

- **Community Services Report:** Deputy Mayor Avery read the report as submitted for the month of September (attached).

Regarding Chase the Ace, it was added that if the ticket holder is not present they will be called if their name is drawn.

For the Christmas parade, those interested in participating should call the Town Office to let Chris know.

c. Water & Sewerage:

- **Water and Sewer Report:** Councillor Harris read the report as written by Leonard Lee, Works Foreman for the month September (attached). Tenders for the water tower will be discussed under New Business.

Deputy Mayor Avery asked if the water tower was drained? (Yes) Did the work start today? (Yes)

d. Transportation:

- **Transportation Report:** Jason Gaudet read the report as written by Leonard Lee, Works Foreman for the month of September (attached). He also advised the outstanding grading of the shoulder on Harbour View was completed last week.

e. Tourism:

- **Tourism Report:** Councillor Allison read the report as submitted for the month of September (attached). International visitors in September were from Germany, Italy, and Switzerland. The total number of visitors was 210, which is 48 more than last year.

The Visitor Information Center closed on October 12, but some people are still stopping for information about New Brunswick. The October information is also attached.

International visitors in October were from Italy and Australia.

All visitors loved St. George. One couple from Ontario who bought a house here.

f. Economic Development:

- **Economic Development Report:** Councillor Deveau read the report as submitted for the month of September (attached).

g. Community Partners:

- **Community Partners Report:** Councillor Murray read the report as submitted for the month of September (attached).

Deputy Mayor Avery noted she has seen a lot of people are trying to cross from the sidewalk to the Community Garden but there is no crosswalk there. A crosswalk was there before. Mayor Cook agreed it is a very dangerous corner.

11) BILLS PAID AND PAYABLE:

- a. Moved by Councillor Harris, to approve in principal the bills paid and payable for the month of September 2019 in the amount of \$235,152.84 seconded by Deputy Mayor Avery.

Questions:

- Deputy Mayor Avery asked about the St. Croix Printing purchase for parking violation books. Jason Gaudet answered these are not actual tickets are for warnings, such as at the Catholic Church parking lot. If a violation is spotted call Jason to write the warning. Mayor Cook advised Jason Gaudet is authorized to give warnings as by-law enforcement.

Motion carried

12) NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Moved by Deputy Mayor Avery to receive second reading, by title only, of By-Law # 83 Tourism Accommodation Levy, seconded by Councillor Allison. Councillor Harris asked the percentage of the levy (3.5%), and if the levy is on the cost of accommodations (yes). Jason Gaudet added that the Province passed a law allowing municipalities to enact the levy. Motion carried.
- b. Moved by Deputy Mayor Avery to second reading, by title only, of By-Law # 85 Garbage & Recyclables Collection, seconded by Councillor Deveau. Councillor Harris asked to if the limit for the number of pieces at 5 pieces. Jason Gaudet confirmed the number at five (5). Motion carried.
- c. Councillor Harris is on the Board for the Coastal Link Trail, and they recently used Dillon Engineering to estimate the cost of improvements to the trail. Funding will be coming from the RSC and the Coastal Link project. It will cost a substantial amount of money and they are awaiting receipt of funding before starting work. It is a well-designed trail.
Deputy Mayor Avery commented the trail to Lake Utopia is beautiful.
- d. Mayor Cook spoke to the hanging flower baskets on Main Street and the desire to go back to flower like St. Stephen has. The Town will be shopping around for a new supplier for next year. Flowers had to be removed very early this year.
- e. Moved by Councillor Harris to accept the proposed plan regarding the Provincial Municipal Designated Highway (MDH) program, seconded by Deputy Mayor Avery. Jason Gaudet presented the plan received for 2020 through 2024. There was no highway plan from the province for 2019. The next five years are planned as follows:
 - 2020: Address the slope erosion on L'Etete Road from the Irving Station headed towards Back Bay.
 - 2021: On Route 172 (Mt. Pleasant Road), curb and sidewalk, from just below the DTI driveway to the end of Town Limits.
 - 2022: Route 172 (Mt. Pleasant Road), curb and sidewalk, from the intersection with L'Etete Road to Fundy High School
 - 2023: Route 172 (Mt. Pleasant Road), paving, from L'Etete Road to Town Limits

- 2024: Route 172 (Fundy Bay Drive), paving, from Salar Court to Town Limits
Jason Gaudet added this in regards to the Town's partnership with the Province regarding provincial roads. It does not affect the work on Town roads. Motion carried.
- f. Moved by Deputy Mayor Avery to accept the Regional Service Commission funding for 2020, seconded by Councillor Murray. The budget was sent to Councillors by email. Motion carried.
Deputy Mayor Avery commented the budget was not very different from last year. Mayor Cook advised the Town will be paying more for a time because Grand Manan cancelled their services without notice to the RSC. Jason Gaudet added the cost could soon be offset as St. Stephen is discussing use of the RSC. Motion carried.
- g. Moved by Deputy Mayor Avery to accept a portion of shared Funding for a Regional Policing Study, seconded by Councillor Murray. Mayor Cook presented a cost of \$2,700 to share in the funding of the study to be completed by the RSC. Total cost for the study is about \$50,000, and the cost per municipality is based upon population; St. Stephen is paying more.
Jason Gaudet stated the RSC and municipalities are looking at regional policing as an alternative to contracting the RCMP, to see if what we are already spending can be used in a regional model. Kenebecassis Valley and Quispamsis have a municipal service and it is doing well so far. It is full service at around 7 million dollars and they have a greater population.
Deputy Mayor Avery asked if the cost is shared by LSDs and municipalities. (Yes)
Mayor Cook shared Blacks Harbor and McAdam were already talking about separately. Towns decided to pool our money together. Chaleur saved 2 million dollars by changing; however they have infrastructure in place because they previously had a municipal police force. We don't have that, but we are hoping we can contract it out. Motion carried.
- h. Moved by Councillor Harris to tender the northernmost Brunswick Street property for development of a multi-unit residential complex, seconded by Deputy Mayor Avery. Jason Gaudet shared the plan is for a minimum of 30 units. Building will be required to commence in 2020 and units open for tenants in 2021. Motion carried.

13) OLD BUSINESS:

- a. None

14) CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Jason Gaudet read a letter received from Minister Jeff Carr in reply to Council's letter encouraging a provincial ban on single-use plastic. Min. Carr thanked Council for the letter and explained his Department is just initiating dialogue with stakeholders about a ban and the need for broad discussion. The Department is also keeping an eye on the Federal initiative and seeking to learn as much as possible from the programs in other jurisdictions.
- b. Invitations - None

15) STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

- a. Mayor Cook commented regarding the UMNb conference and they had a good session with Minister Carr regarding local government, and he has some good ideas about restructuring municipalities. He wants them to keep their money. Believes there are too many LSDs and wants to restructure, as well as restructure the tax system. All was positive.
Min. Carr plans to lobby the federal government for municipalities to get all of the gas tax instead of a portion of it each year. It is amazing what can be done in the communities with that money. If Ottawa has the money, they need to pass it down.
- b. Councillor Harris commented further regarding the RCMP, and believes citizens can get a letter or several letters to them. He enjoys the RCMP being at Council meetings. Let's not

regress but go ahead. Deputy Mayor Avery added the report every 3 months is not specific to St. George but for the entire district.

16) PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

- a. Allen Eldridge asked what the policing contract states about reporting by the RCMP to Council. Councillor Harris responded the contract does not say much except for how much the Town has to pay. Mayor Cook stated the Town has no say in the contract. It is not negotiated. The contract is sent to the Town and Council is expected to sign it. Councillor Harris added that a contract has not been signed in five years and Council has no say. He would like to have a say in receiving the report.

- b. Allen Eldridge inquired, with NB Trails gone, what happens to the trails they looked over. Councillor Harris replied that they are defunct; however the Coastal Trail Link has a lot of money to put into the trails.

Rod Krolouski asked if he could block the trails. (No.) He stated he has papers saying once the railroad ties were removed the land returns to its original owner. Councillor Harris stated they do not as they are all Crown lands. Mr. Krolouski commented he believes someone lost a case in Saint John to use the lands.

Allen Eldridge asked if they are walking trails. Councillor Harris stated they are biking and walking trails. Rod Krolouski asked if 4x4 vehicles can use the trail? (No.) Councillor Harris advised they will try to work with everybody. Mr. Krolouski stated young riders have used the trails for years, and Councillor Harris replied such use was illegal. No ATV is allowed on the trail because it is an NB Trail.

Councillor Harris continued by sharing the plan with the Town and Coastal Trail Link is to make it multi-use. It is transportation for somebody at one time or another.

Allen Eldridge commented the United States has a great system in places like Vermont. They use trails for ATVs and snowmobiles. Councillor Harris agreed and stated the northern part of the Province and Quebec are also good at using the trails.

- c. Tracy Craig asked about the resolution from last month's meeting to send a letter to the RCMP from Council rejecting notice of not coming to meetings, if there was any response. Councillor Harris confirmed a letter was sent, and a response received that reports would be provided quarterly.
- d. Tracy Craig asked for clarification regarding the funding for the Regional Service Commission, whether it is public record. Mayor Cook advised the budget is only a draft right now. The RSC will present the final version after they vote on it in November.
- e. David Armstrong expressed concern over engineering costs and stated he believes the answers he has had in previous months is not enough. According to his numbers engineering fees are about 45 percent of cost when the average municipal fee is 10 to 15 percent. We cannot afford to pay 45 percent. He conceded he may not be reading the numbers correctly. Mayor Cook advised the numbers given to Mr. Armstrong do not include project costs paid by the Government. The percentage looks high because only the Town portion of the project cost was provided. She advised Mr. Armstrong to request additional information from the Provincial and Federal governments. They paid in more than the Town did. The Town is always responsible for the full cost of engineering. Mr. Armstrong asked if he could more information from Jason Gaudet at a later date. (Yes.)
- f. Sam Rubin inquired what the 3.5 percent levy will be used for. Mayor Cook replied it will be used for tourism for the Town.
- g. Sam Rubin asked if the new water wells have been tested and did the Town receive any government money for the project. Mayor Cook shared yes, they have been tested, and yes,

the Town received government money. Mr. Rubin asked if the well will be online next year. Jason Gaudet confirmed it will be online in 2020. Mr. Rubin asked if all is good so far. (Yes) **Mayor Cook** added the Town has funding for wells 6 and 2.

- h. Tracy Craig asked for clarification regarding the new sewer laterals that were installed after some were left in 2007. Jason Gaudet replied the Splash Pad was planned for as a future project when the Center was built. **Councillor Harris** added only the laterals were changed.
- i. David Armstrong asked if there was a decision on whether to recirculate or direct feed the water. Jason Gaudet stated the current work is Phase 1. Phase 3 is the re-circulatory system.

Sam Rubin asked what the estimated cost is? Jason Gaudet replied it is just over \$100,000. Mr. Rubin asked if the project was tendered? **Mayor Cook** responded that since the project is being completed in three phases it was not required to be tendered.

- j. David Armstrong asked if there will be a new doctor in the clinic. **Mayor Cook** responded it will not be a new doctor, but Dr. Hameed is in the process of moving in. He has also been in contact with specialists interested in doing work there.
- k. Joan Majchowski questioned if there was a minimum discussed for the housing development project. **Mayor Cook** said there is a 25 unit minimum. Ms. Majchowski works for the Multicultural Association and there have been talks about a housing crisis. Several Councillors expressed agreement that there is a housing crisis. **Mayor Cook** advised there are several options being discussed and worked on. Sam Rubin asked if the project was tender or RFP? **Councillor Harris** replied it will be tendered.

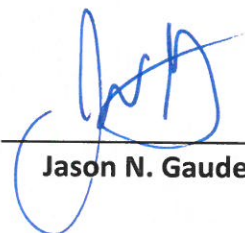
17) NEXT MEETING:

- a. The date of the next Regular Meeting of Council will be Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 7:00pm.

16) ADJOURNMENT:

- Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.


Faith Avery, Acting Mayor


Jason N. Gaudet, Clerk/CAO