



**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, April 14, 2020, via Zoom Video Conferencing, was called to order by Acting Mayor Avery at 7:09 pm. All Councillors in attendance. Staff attendance: Jason Gaudet CAO/Clerk, and Chris MacKinnon Administrative Assistant.

- 2) Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** moved to approve the meeting via use of electronic means (using Zoom) given the current directives of the Province of New Brunswick regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, seconded by Councillor Murray. Motion carried.

**3) OPENING PRAYER:**

The opening prayer was offered by Acting Deputy Mayor Harris.

**4) AGENDA:**

Moved by Councillor Allison to approve the Agenda, seconded by Councillor Murray. Motion Carried.

**5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- a. Moved by Councillor Allison to approve the Minutes of March 9, 2020, Regular Meeting of Council, seconded by Acting Deputy Mayor Harris. Motion Carried.
- b. Moved by Councillor Murray to approve the Minutes of March 16, 2020, Special Meeting of Council, seconded by Councillor Allison. Motion Carried.

**6) CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:**

None

**7) FIRE REPORT:**

Acting Deputy Mayor Harris read the report as written by Chief Justin Johnston for the month of March (attached). Additionally, the firefighters in the station are trying to boost morale any way they can. They have posted encouragement on the walls in the fire hall and going up the stairs. He advised the department has to change the way we fight fires, being more careful with PPE (personal protective equipment) and put different procedures in place.

Acting Mayor Avery commented "Hats off to them" for their work during COVID-10 and thank you to every one of them.

**8) BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT REPORT:**

Alex Henderson, Planning Director, Southwest New Brunswick Service Commission, read the development report as written for the month of March (attached).

**9) PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS:****a. EMO Status Update on COVID-19 and the Town of St. George – Jason Gaudet**

- CAO stated this presentation is to bring the Council and residents up to date regarding COVID-19, a synopsis of what has transpired.
- In late February there were discussions with other towns and the Province and generally no expectation of the pandemic at the time, but knew it was something to take seriously.
- March 9 – CAO instructed the Works Department to check supplies and replenish required consumables for the next two months.
- March 11 – The first communication from the Town Hall with a news release to advise the public of the closing of public buildings to the public, including Magaguadavic Place and the Town Hall. The office is cycling through administrative staff each day, with at least one staff member taking phone calls but not taking visitors or payments directly at the Town Hall. Public works has two men on each day and the rest on call, maintaining social distancing and preventing contamination within the workforce.
- March 16 – Schools announced closure for two weeks and the Province announced its first case of COVID-19.
- March 17 – Announced elevated EMO status level one and a couple days later the Province issued a state of emergency.
- Since then we have received constant updates from the Province. There are weekly phone calls including the CAO and Acting Mayor Avery with Public Health and Public Safety and local detachment of the RCMP. The Town is following the directives of Public Health and Public Safety as the authority. The CAO talks with local retail operations weekly and even daily regarding concerns they may have regarding supply.
- March 20 – The Town offered its second news release, advised the recreation fields, courts and playgrounds were closed to the public, adding signage and ribbons.
- April 1 – Third news release provided. The Province announced schools will remain closed until September.
- Current number of cases: 113 in the Province, 6 in our Zone, and no known cases in our area at this time. The CAO remains in constant contact with the Provincial EMO and following directives, and making sure the workforce is safe and able to maintain services to residents.

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

- **Acting Mayor Avery** presented the report for the month of March.
- Behind the scenes, she is working hard with the CAO. They are on weekly calls to Province's Department of Health and Department of Public Safety. Last week they had a call with the RCMP regarding local initiatives and concerns about enforcement of Province's directives.
- There is Provincial query line for COVID-19: 844-462-8387
- All recreation, courts and fields remain closed to the public. The walking trails remain open, including Ducks Unlimited.
- Public works remains dedicated to maintaining public services: water, sewage, snow clearing, etc.
- To date there are no negative impacts from COVID-19.
- Smaller projects are being completed around the Town Hall: electrical improvements, security cameras, painting, tree clearing, work on drainage.



- Application has been made to the Province for a new building at Canal Beach. It will replace the old canteen building will have a canteen/kitchen and two washroom. Funding will come through the Gas Tax Fund for the Parish of St. George, an estimated \$70,000. Additional work will be done to the beach in the spring, such as landscaping.
  - Magaguadavic Place seeing improvements during closure. Floors have been waxed and rooms to be painted.
  - The Day Adventure Center parking was reopened to the public as of today. Parking area was closed for the winter in an effort to reduce loitering and littering.
  - Boaters are encouraged to visit the Province's website about the delay in fishing season.
  - Notice was received the Town's application for funding under Integrated Bilateral Agreement (IBA) for a rebuild of Day Adventure Center was declined. The total project cost was \$936,900. The Province does not anticipate another call this year for interest for funding, however the Town application will remain open.
  - A number of projects are progressing: sewage lagoon upgrade, development of Well #6, upgrade of Well #2, and planned resurfacing of Main Street. Some projects are facing delays due to temporary closures, such as installation of air ventilation system in the fire hall. Resurfacing is will be tendered around May 1. The docks at the Day Adventure Center will be put in when the river water levels recede.
  - The CAO advised the SNBSC foresees no disruption in local pickup of garbage and recycling.
  - **Councillor Murray** asked when the work will start at Canal. CAO replied approval will need to be received for the building. Landscaping will begin late this month. They are also looking to add more picnic tables and clear vegetation.
- b. **Community Services/Partners:**
- **Acting Mayor Avery** advised there is nothing to report due to the pandemic. All events and activities are cancelled . We will keep everyone updated when the next fun event will be.
- c. **Water & Sewerage:**
- **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** read the report as written by Leonard Lee, Works Foreman, for the month of March (attached).
- d. **Transportation:**
- CAO Jason Gaudet read the report as written by Leonard Lee, Works Foreman, for the month of March (attached).
- e. **Tourism:**
- **Councillor Allison** received an email stating the Province is not sure when the Tourist Bureaus will open. She will notify the Council when they do so.
- f. **Economic Development:**
- **Councillor Murray** read the report as written for the month of March (attached).

**11) BILLS PAID AND PAYABLE:**

Moved by **Councillor Allison**, to approve in principal the bills paid and payable for the month of March, 2020, in the amount of **\$128,081.10**, seconded by **Councillor Murray**. Motion carried.

**12) NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **Acting Mayor Avery** has been in contact with the local food bank; food coming in is not equal to what is going out.

Moved by **Councillor Allison** to give the St. George & Area Food Bank a donation of \$2,000.00, on behalf of the Town, seconded by **Councillor Murray**. Motion carried.

**Acting Mayor Avery** advised this will be revisited as needed.

- b. The CAO explained this is an introduction of why the bylaw is looking to be updated. The bylaw will probably be presented at the May meeting.

Alex Henderson (SNBSC) further explained this would actually repeal the current bylaw in its entirety and replace with an all new bylaw. The basic change is to include more exemptions to subdivisions who have to provide lands for public purposes. The current requirement is 8% or cash in lieu. Exemptions would serve public interest in St. George by utilizing existing frontage where it exists. This approach has been recommended to other communities in the region.

It is also recommended that charges be according to a fee schedule instead of flat fees for subdivision setup. This mirrors what the Province uses for Local Service Districts (LSDs). Fees go back to St. George and are not kept by the Service Commission.

**Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** asked if the 8% requirement would be gone. Alex Henderson replied it will still be in place as a general principle. It is intended to save the Council from servicing lots by creating park lands.

CAO commend there will always be the need for 8% of property, but 8% of the value changes based on the land. The new bylaw will make it easier for a developer to subdivide.

**13) OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. The CAO advised By-Law #85 Garbage & Recyclables Collection will remain tabled as there are a few items left to discuss. He will send a draft of the current bylaw to Council this week. A few of the issues are regarding restricting containers curbside and the number of bags. It should be ready for May's meeting.

- b. **Councillor Allison** moved to bring forward the Resolution of Council of a third and final reading of By-Law # 83 Tourism Accommodation Levy (tabled from December 5, 2019 meeting), seconded by **Councillor Murray**. The CAO advised the campground question was resolved; the levy does not apply to long-term campsites, only overnight sites. CAO confirmed the levy will go to the Town. Motion Carried.

**Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** moved for a third and final reading of By-Law # 83 Tourism Accommodation Levy, seconded by **Councillor Allison**. Motion carried.

- c. **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** moved to bring forward the Resolution of Council of a third and final reading of By-Law # 86 Council Code of Conduct (tabled from March 9, 2020 meeting), seconded by **Councillor Cooke**. Motion Carried.

**Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** moved for a third and final reading of By-Law # 86 Council Code of Conduct, seconded by **Councillor Murray**. Motion carried.

- d. **Councillor Murray** moved to bring forward the hiring of a Full-time Public Works Labourer/Operator Position (tabled from March 9, 2020 meeting), seconded by **Councillor Allison**. Motion Carried.



Moved by Councillor Cooke for a Full-time Public Works Labourer/Operator Position as of May 1, 2020, seconded by Councillor Murray. Councillor Murray commented it is good to have another set of hands with this going on, in case some did get sick. CAO advised this is not a new budget item; it was already in the 2020 budget. Motion Carried.

**13) CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a. The CAO advised a letter was received from Min. Bill Oliver regarding funding to address the slope erosion on L'Etete Road, heading out from the Circle K/Irving. CAO has been in correspondence with the Province regarding the issue. He expressed thanks to the industrial park tenants, who have supported this initiative. The work should be completed in 2020.

**14) STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:**

- a. Acting Mayor Avery recognized the Fire Department, Works crew and office workers, who are handling everything just like a normal day and working with a lot of "road blocks." Hats off to them for working through getting the work done.

Councillor Murray stated it is the same for all business right now.

Councillor Allison commented it looks good our residents are all doing their part as well.

**15) PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

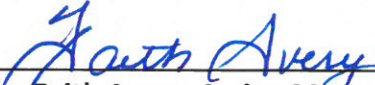
- a. N/A

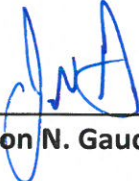
**16) NEXT MEETING:**

- a. The date of the next Regular Meeting of Council will be Monday, May 11, 2020 at 7:00pm.

**16) ADJOURNMENT:**

- a. Motion to adjourn by Councillor Allison. Meeting adjourned at 7:\_\_\_ pm.

  
Faith Avery, Acting Mayor

  
Jason N. Gaudet, Clerk/CAO