



**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 Monday, June 8, 2020, via Zoom Video Conferencing, was called to order by Acting Mayor Avery at 7:00 pm. Acting Mayor Avery, Acting Deputy Mayor Harris, and Councillors Allison and Murray in attendance; Councillor Cooke absent. Staff attendance: Jason Gaudet CAO/Clerk, and Chris MacKinnon Administrative Assistant. Public attendance: Deputy Fire Chief Sean Morton (SGFD), Alex Henderson (SNBSC).

- 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 Allison. Motion carried.

3) OPENING PRAYER:

The opening prayer was offered by Chris MacKinnon.

4) AGENDA:

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

5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Acting Deputy Mayor Harris moved to approve the Minutes April 14, 2020, Regular Meeting of Council, May 11, 2020, Regular Meeting of Council, and May 19, 2020, Closed Meeting of Council, seconded by Councillor Allison. Motion carried.

6) CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:

None

7) FIRE REPORT:

Deputy Chief Sean Morton read the report as written by Justin Johnston, Fire Chief, for the month of May(attached).

Acting Deputy Mayor Harris moved to accept the recommendation of the Fire Chief to add Casey Coutts to the roster for the Fire Department, seconded by Councillor Murray. Motion carried.

8) BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT REPORT:

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

9) PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

None

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

- **Acting Mayor Avery** presented the report for the month of May.
 - Canal: The building application has been submitted by Community Living on using the \$10,000 grant they received for accessibility, walkway, and accessible tables. Continue to play for the season as well as prep work for the new building, removing trees and leveling ground.
 - L'Etete Road Slope Erosion: The Town received funding from the Province to complete repair work on the slope erosion on L'Etete Road, just past the Irving convenience store. Land agreements and engineering have started.
 - Lagoon Upgrades: Upgrades to the residential sewage lagoon aeration system is expected to start this month.
 - New Well #6: The engineers are still waiting on an environmental assessment from the Province.
 - Main Street paving: Putting together totals for the paving. The work also includes raising some storm drains, manholes, and repairing areas that have been long patched.
 - Day Adventure Center: Despite being initially declined for 2019-2020, the revitalization project for DAC remains the Province for consideration.
 - Magaguadavic Place: The YMCA is expected to be back in the building in mid-June for their Day Camp. Due to COVID-19 there will be tight controls and sanitizing requirements. Painting of the large room is completed with further cleaning in the basement.
 - Graduation Banners: Graduation banners have been erected on several streets in Town. Thanks to the organizers and sponsors of this special initiative.
 - Signs: We have installed many new signs around Town including J.D. Irving partnership signs and COVID-19 signage at recreational areas.
 - Picnic Tables: There are 4-5 new picnic tables for Main Street. Those currently on Main Street will go to Canal Beach and be repainted.
 - Street lines and crosswalks: Have painted street lines throughout Town except for Main Street as we expect the street to be paved this summer. In the coming weeks painted will be completed for crosswalks and parking lots.
 - Dunwoody Corner: We have received funds for improving this area and will begin landscaping this month.
 - Boyd house on South Street: On the agenda for this meeting we will be tearing down this building this summer with funds from the Department of Finance, part of the dangerous premises process.
 - Unsightly and dangerous properties: The Town has sent several letters sent regarding unsightly and dangerous properties concerns. We ask residents do their best to keep properties neat and tidy, as well as free from dangers and hazardous material. Any questions or concerns, please contact the Town Hall.
 - Fire Hall: Things have been busy in the fire hall over the last few weeks. After delay caused by the pandemic, the new exhaust ventilation system is back on track for final installation in June.
- **Acting Mayor Avery** asked when it is possible to have the crosswalks painted. CAO advised they will be painted either this week or late next week.

- **Councillor Murray** asked if at Canal we can make sure the porta-potties are cleaned more regularly to avoid people going behind the porta-potties. CAO: Will keep an eye on it and will reiterate with the team going out there.
- **Councillor Murray** also asked about the buoys, if they be put back out. CAO: Would love to have some volunteers help to get those out.

b. EMO Status Update on COVID-19 and the Town of St. George:

- The CAO offered the report for the month of May.
 - Trying to keep an active log of what is happening with the Town in regards to the pandemic.
 - Since the last meeting of May we continue to have video conference calls due to the pandemic
 - May 21 - A new active case was announced in Campbellton after a long drought of new active cases being reported.
 - May 22 – Province moved to Phase Yellow with a limit of a large crowd at a maximum of 10 people. Under this phase barber shops and beauty salons were allowed to open. Also the Town opened its skate park, tennis courts, and playgrounds. Under directives from the Province at that time, playgrounds were receiving daily sanitization. Since then things have changed.
 - May 26/27 – Lines were seen at the barber shop on Main Street, indicating many residents were happy to get back and get their hair cut.
 - As of Monday, May 25, 22,000 total tests were completed in the Province.
 - During the following week, with clarification from the Province, adjustments were made to the sanitization of playgrounds. Though recommendation for signage is that playgrounds are not being sanitized, we do continue to do it but not as stringent as it was when it was twice a day.
 - June 2 – Active cases announced again, with more cases during the week in Zone 5 of New Brunswick. Most cases were linked to a medical professional traveling from New Brunswick to Quebec and not isolating upon return.
 - June 3 – Fifteen active cases in northern New Brunswick with 5 people at the hospital, 1 in ICU.
 - June 4 – The first death related to COVID-19 in Atholville, with the death of an 84 year-old man in a senior home.
 - June 5 – Canal Beach opened on time.
 - June 8 – Nine new cases reported, the single largest day of reported new cases.
 - Recommend residents use face coverings as much as possible, especially when entering local businesses or areas when they can't ensure social distancing.

c. Community Services/Partners:

- **Acting Mayor Avery** read the report as written for the month of May (attached). She added that the Little Library across from Pete's is booming. If people have books to donate, just stop and put them in.

d. Water & Sewerage:

- **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** read the report as written by Leonard Lee, Works Foreman, for the month of May (attached).

e. Transportation:

- CAO read the report as written by Leonard Lee, Works Foreman, for the month of May (attached). He added the Town has received complaints about public dumping at the end of Little Lane. We have asked the RCMP to keep an eye on the area and the Town is checking it every day.

f. Tourism:

- **Councillor Allison** delivered the Tourism report for the month of May.
 - The St George Visitor Information Center has slowly but successfully started up. Due to circumstances, the doors opened for the season on June 1. First visitor was on June 2, and two other groups since on June 4 and June 7.
 - Working hard with the Tourist Bureau, getting it up and going while exchanging information with other tourist bureaus all over the Province. Brochures are being sent back and forth and hopes for a lot of people to come to visit the area.
 - There is a script to follow before people come into the building. Staff are wearing face masks and encourage tourists to do so also. Tourists have to sanitize their hands when they come in and leave the building.
 - The goal this summer is to promote traveling within the Province. Ask the Town to help support and get the word out to others in the area.
 - Anyone looking for information can stop at Granite Town Farms. There is a number to call before arriving to ensure the bureau is open (755-2476). Staff is bilingual, Andrew Butler, who is doing a great job.
- **Councillor Murray** asked what the process is if someone came from an outside province. **Councillor Allison** replied they are only allowed 2 persons building at a time. They are not allowed in the building if from another province. Andrew provides the service outside with distancing.

g. Economic Development:

- **Councillor Murray** shared the Economic Development report for the month of May.
 - All of the planters in the Community Garden are filled for the 2020 season. Gravel was spread along the aisles.
 - The SplashPad is selling tickets on a bistro set to fundraise for the second phase. To buy tickets people can message anyone of the members, they accept etransfers and they will send pictures of your tickets. Bistro set came from Home Hardware at a great deal.

11) BILLS PAID AND PAYABLE:

Moved by **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris**, to approve in principal the bills paid and payable for the month of April, 2020, in the amount of **\$222,918.54**, seconded by **Councillor Allison**. Motion carried.

12) NEW BUSINESS:

- a. The CAO read a letter from the Planning Review and Adjustment Committee (PRAC) of the Southwest New Brunswick Service Commission (SNBSC). The PRAC has endorsed the proposed By-Law # 21 Subdivision Bylaw.

- b. **Councillor Allison** moved for a Resolution of Council of third & final reading, by title only, of By-Law # 21 Subdivision By-Law, seconded by **Councillor Murray**. Motion carried.
- c. **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** moved to Transfer Town Properties at 66 Brunswick Street (PID# 15207384 & 15207392) to Habitat for Humanity for the purpose housing construction, seconded by **Councillor Allison**.
Acting Deputy Mayor Harris asked why there were two bids included. CAO advised there are two house lots. **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** asked if they will put two houses there. CAO answered there will be at least one. There is an issue of closeness to the boundary line with the existing house, but the hope is to have a second new house.
Motion carried.
- d. **Councillor Murray** moved for a Demolition Order, in accordance with By-Law # 8-D Dangerous and Unsightly Premises, for 25 South Street, seconded by **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris**. Motion carried.
- e. **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** moved the awarding of Tender # 2020-01 (Contact No. 192855.00) Residential Lagoon Aeration Upgrades to Keel Construction, seconded by **Councillor Allison**.
Acting Deputy Mayor Harris asked if the tender bid is just for the work, not for the material? CAO answered he is correct. **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** asked if the entire cost of the job would be \$168,000. CAO replied this is the amount budgeted.
CAO added that Keel Construction was the lowest bid. Three were received. There were no mathematical errors and appropriate securities were there for all, and did meet the engineers' estimated cost. This is just for the labor and the Town will purchase the material for the job.
Motion carried.

13) OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Moved by **Councillor Allison** to bring forward the Resolution of Council of a third and final reading of By-Law # 85 Garbage & Recyclables Collection, tabled from December 5, 2019 meeting, seconded by **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris**.
Acting Deputy Mayor Harris moved for a Resolution of Council of a third and final reading of By-Law # 85 Garbage & Recyclables Collection, seconded by **Councillor Allison**.
Councillor Allison asked for clarification that the Town is not going to police this, but those who have garbage bins that are presentable will be allowed to keep them there. CAO stated that is correct. The main focus will be any new additions and not what is existing today. Any concern that would begin right away would begin with a conversation with the resident.
Acting Deputy Mayor Harris stated there are exceptions to the bylaw. You cannot have anything unsightly, but has to be presentable.
Motion carried.

14) CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. The Town received a letter from Susan Hill, CCRTA, looking for someone to sit as a Board Member. It would be great to have someone from Council, but could also be a community-minded citizen.
Councillor Allison expressed interest as it falls into the Tourism profile. CAO will contact Susan Hill to let her know.

- b. Council responded back to Mr. Swim as promised. The decision was there will not be gates (at the Day Adventure Center) as it limits access to all residents.

15) STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

- a. Acting Deputy Mayor Harris made mention of the Graduates. They are entering the next chapter in their life. Keep them in our thoughts as the days go by. Graduation is a milestone in a person's life and they will not get what they really want.
- b. Councillor Murray commented ditching in Hillcrest Subdivision needs to be on the plan for this summer.
- c. Councillor Allison expressed thanks to the Town for putting up the sign on Clark Avenue. It has slowed the traffic down coming in so everyone can have ease of mind on the street.

16) PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

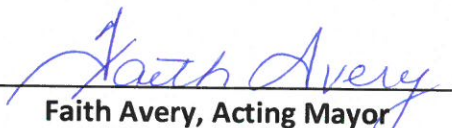
None

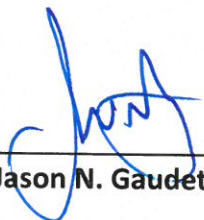
17) NEXT MEETING:

- a. The date of the next Regular Meeting of Council will be Monday, July 13, 2020 at 7:00pm.

18) ADJOURNMENT:

- a. Motion to adjourn by Acting Deputy Mayor Harris. Meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.


Faith Avery, Acting Mayor


Jason N. Gaudet, Clerk/CAO