



**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, February 10, 2020, in the Council Chambers at Magaguadavic Place was called to order by Acting Mayor Avery at 7:00 pm. Acting Deputy Mayor Harris, with Councillors Allison and Harris in attendance, and Councillor Cooke attending via telephone. Councillor Murray was absent. Staff attendance: Jason Gaudet CAO/Clerk, and Chris MacKinnon Administrative Assistant. Public Attendance: Chief Justin Johnston (SGFD), Terry Berdan (SGFD), Dexter Hanley (SGFD), Derek Hatt (SGFD), Kevin Perry (Habitat for Humanity), Tabatha Barker, Stefany Voutt, Jessica Carrier, Josh Carrier, Tracy Craig, Ann Middleton, Sam Rubin.

2) OPENING PRAYER:

Rev. Chris MacKinnon

3) AGENDA:

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

4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Moved by Councillor Allison to approve the Minutes January 13, 2020, Regular Meeting of Council, seconded by Acting Deputy Mayor Harris. Motion Carried.
- b. Moved by Acting Deputy Mayor Harris to approve the Minutes of January 20, 2020, Special Meeting of Council (Budget Meeting), seconded by Councillor Allison. Motion Carried.

5) CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:

None

6) FIRE REPORT:

Fire Chief Justin Johnston read the report as written for the month of January (attached).

7) BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT REPORT:

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

Acting Deputy Mayor Harris asked which code is required for overnight stay in the church building. Fire Chief Johnston responded saying this was a code required for any non-residential property.

8) PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

- a. Kevin Perry, CEO of Habitat for Humanity Saint John Region, delivered a "By the Numbers" report for the Council. In 2019 three families (four adults and 10 children) were served in the region that stretches from Sussex to St. Stephen. This was a milestone for the region as it typically only serves two families annually.

Habitat built 250 homes across Canada last year and looking to do almost 300 this year.

Mortgage payments are set at 30% of a family's gross income. This is so the family does not have to choose between buying food and paying rent.

Last year the region received 95 applications.

The ReStore was started in Winnipeg and they have more than 1,000 worldwide. The Saint John ReStore had \$780,000 in revenue last year. All items are donations. They processed 71,000 transactions and received 12,000 donations. The ReStore delivers as far as St. Andrews. They are the largest recycling depot in New Brunswick, saving 60 tons of electronics from the landfill last year and 750 tons of other items.

The Thompsons (residents in Habitat home in St. George) are doing great, raising kids and bunnies. Habitat checks on them often. They are doing great and the site looks great.

Habitat is definitely doing more in the area. When they build a home with the community college in St. Andrews their goal is to keep the home in Charlotte County.

- b. Tabatha Barker presented on behalf of the Multi-Generational Park Committee, and a handout was presented with facts and information (attached). Funds raised for Phase 2 include \$15,000 from Aviva, \$10,000 from the RDC, and the remainder from fundraisers and donations. The committee is considering reaching out to local businesses for an adopt-a-toy program where the business name would be placed on the item. They have used Chase the Ace and tag sales on Facebook, with plans for a movie night, camp fire and yard sale.

9) GENERAL REPORTS:

a. General Government/Personnel:

- Acting Mayor Avery presented the report for the month of January.
- Water and sewage projects are in the works such as the sewage lift station rebuild.
- Work on Wells 6 and 2 is in progress. Jason Gaudet added the Town is happy with the current volume of water, but the engineering report suggests can get more water out of it. Waiting to get certified by the Province for increased water volume.
- Money received from the Fundy Community Foundation for a Wallace Street Park (corner of Wallace and Brunswick Streets, "Dunwoody Corner") in the amount of \$3,000. The park will include planted trees and a bench.
- Jason Gaudet and Bill Thompson are working together on plans for regional development.
- Repairs at Magaguadavic Place will prioritize with roof repairs over siding replacement, as leaks are causing damage to the center.
- Work is being done in the Fire Hall. Jason Gaudet explained that concerns about rodents from the January meeting led to call in a local pest control company. A new awning has been installed over the door, gutter has been installed, new metal floor drains were put in the floor, and the exhaust system work should be finished this week.

c. Community Services/Partners:

- Acting Mayor Avery read the report as written for the month of January (attached).
Regarding the Masonic Lodge's roast beef dinner for the St. George & Area Food bank, they only have dine-out tickets remaining and can be purchased at the Food Bank. All are welcome to view the auction items there as well.

Planning for music nights in July/August have begun. Acting Mayor Avery asked Councillor Allison for her assistance with this.

e. Water & Sewerage:

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

f. Transportation:

- Jason Gaudet read the report as written by Leonard Lee, Works Foreman, for the month of January (attached).

g. Tourism:

- **Councillor Allison** read the report as written for the month of January (attached).

h. Economic Development:

- **Acting Mayor Avery** read the report as written for the month of January (attached).

10) BILLS PAID AND PAYABLE:

Moved by **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris**, to approve in principal the bills paid and payable for the month of January, 2020, in the amount of **\$258,937.24**, seconded by **Councillor Allison**.

Councillor Cooke asked about the payment to Irving Oil Marketing. – This is for monthly fuel costs.

Councillor Cooke asked regarding the payment to Blakney's Trucking. – The Town used them for transport of salt and sand. Payment shown will probably be final payment as salt and sand is now purchased directly from DTI.

Councillor Cooke asked about MCF Customs – Eavestrough on the Town Hall.

Councillor Cooke asked about payment to Maguire Excavating – Concrete work on water break on Brunswick Street and corner of Main and Clinch Streets.

Councillor Allison asked if purchases at Michael's and Best Buy were for Knackactivities – Yes. Motion carried.

11) NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Jason Gaudet introduced By-Law #86 Council Code of Conduct, and explained this is based on Provincial regulation R.S.N.B. 2017, c 18, where requirement is made for each municipality to have a code of conduct specifically for Councillors. While there is a code of conduct for staff, the new Municipalities Act requires the code for Councillors.

Only two other municipalities in southern New Brunswick have a passed a bylaw, but it is good to get ahead of the curve.

In addition, By-Law #80 Proceedings of Council will be updated in the coming months as well. **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** asked if By-Law #86 will coincide with By-Law #80. The CAO responded they act independently.

- b. **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** moved to receive the first reading, by title only, of By-Law #86 Council Code of Conduct, seconded by **Councillor Allison**. Motion carried.
- c. **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** moved to receive the second reading, in its entirety, of By-Law #86 Council Code of Conduct, seconded by **Councillor Cooke**. The CAO advised the bylaw will be available for viewing on the Town website the following morning, or at the Town Hall. Motion carried.

- d. **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** moved to receive the third and final reading of By-Law #84 Remuneration of Firefighters, seconded by **Councillor Cooke**. The CAO read the bylaw and reminded the first and second readings took place at the January 13, 2020, meeting. He added this bylaw was requested by the Town's auditors. Motion carried.
- e. The CAO presented a list of surplus property and assets (attached). The assets are deemed as no longer needed by the Town. PID# 15207400 is located behind the Habitat for Humanity home. A tender or RFP will be opened for it soon, and it will then come back to Council. The other Brunswick Street properties are adjacent to the Habitat home, and have someone with interest in them. The South Street property is a portion of land designated to the old dump site, but is not part of the dump itself.

Discussion took place over what the pricing would look like for items and having those in hand prior to making a motion for disposal of the items.

The matter was tabled until March for the CAO to collect approximate values.

13) OLD BUSINESS:

- a. The CAO advised the update to By-Law #85 Garbage & Recyclables Collection remains on the table. There are two matters being discussed. One is the timeline for when garbage can be placed curbside, and the other is whether bins can remain curbside outside of collection. The item will be brought up again at the March regular meeting.
- b. The CAO explained By-Law #83 Tourism Accommodation Levy is also still on the table. Items are still under discussion following the public hearing. One matter is as a length of stay exception for seasonal campgrounds. Another is the designation of funds, as there is no language for where the funds are to be forwarded to. The Province leaves funds to the discretion of the municipality. Will also be brought up again at the March meeting.

14) CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. A thank you card was received from the St. George & Area Food Bank for remembering them in our budget for this year.

15) STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

- a. **Acting Mayor Avery** reminded the gallery about participation in the upcoming municipal election if there was a desire to run for Council.

16) PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

- a. Derek Hatt commented on the allowance of electronic attendance and there is a regulation for proper notice to be given in the newspaper, social media, etc., and suggested this meeting may not be legitimate. **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** explained that the regulation was reviewed, and without the attendance of **Councillor Cooke** by telephone there is still a quorum based on the current number of Councillors.
- b. Mr. Hatt spoke regarding garbage bins, stating he removed his old bin from the side of the road and suggested that might be a way to proceed.
- c. Mr. Hatt commented on surplus items, suggesting a process such as declaring items as surplus, then receiving quotes for pricing, and then make a motion to dispose. But the first step is to have a list of surplus items.

- d. Mr. Hatt spoke regarding the work done in the Fire Hall, with a thank you for the work done, but noting there are still some minor issues. Acting Deputy Mayor Harris said there will hopefully be a meeting this week to discuss items. Mr. Hatt continued with concerns about the gutters being unable to handle the water resulting in a leak over the refrigerator and water pouring over the door, and stating the drains the floor had to be adjusted by Cooke Aquaculture to properly fit in place.
- e. Mr. Hatt commented on the need for common courtesy to people, staff, and employees, and began to speak towards an incident in the past week. Acting Deputy Mayor Harris commented that was in the past and Fire Chief Johnston handled the situation very professionally. Mr. Hatt continued, stating the Chief did do a great job, but was only able to see the matter addressed on one side. The situation needs to be looked at as a bigger group and then move forward.
- f. Sam Rubin reminded Council of his question last spring regarding signage at Portage and Main Streets. There was a fault in how they were made. The sign at Gypsy Rest was removed. There is no signage at Eagles Nest or Chapel corner. The posts were good, but the signs were faulty. Are any new signs going to be installed?
Acting Mayor Avery advised there are plans to replace them with something that will not cause accidents to read. Some of the signs were also taken out by transports.
The CAO added there is funding the Town is hoping to receive as part of the Coastal Link Trail for signage. There are plans for Eagles Nest and the trails, and the Town is also working with the BIA.
- g. Mr. Rubin commented on the lights being on at Gypsy Rest and the tennis court. Is it easier to leave them on and up? The CAO replied the lights at Gypsy Rest are LED and result in little cost. There are fees associated with turning lights off and on at the tennis courts, but the option of shutting lights off on the poles themselves instead of going through NB Power is already being looked at.
- h. Mr. Rubin stated the Town has spent over \$500,000 on works and water equipment recently. Can a smaller bit be bought for the unit, to dig for different posts? The pole at Eagles Nest can be lifted and moved. – Yes.
- i. Tracy Craig spoke on behalf of the YMCA. An advisory committee is coming again as they are held monthly to discuss sustainable programming in partnership with the YMCA of Great Saint John. The meeting will be on Thursday evening. There is also a Facebook page, and Ms. Craig encouraged to post there anything people would like to see from the YMCA. They are also looking at hiring a full time employee to look after adult programs and after school programming. There are also five new openings available in the licensed after-school program.
- j. Ms. Craig advised there is an Eastern Charlotte Subregional Facility Committee formed by the RSC in the fall. There is a spot on the committee for a representative from the Town, and the CAO has attended some in the past. The purpose of the committee is to talk about regionalization and cost sharing in Eastern Charlotte, and they are making decisions potentially without Town representation. The next meeting is on February 25 in the evening. The committee is for recreation, not just sports. She would love to see someone from the Town.


17) NEXT MEETING:

- a. The date of the next Regular Meeting of Council will be Monday, March 9, 2020 at 7:00pm.

16) ADJOURNMENT:

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.


Faith Avery, Acting Mayor


Jason N. Gaudet, Clerk/CAO