



**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, July 12, 2021, at Magaguadavic Place, was called to order by Mayor Detorakis at 7:00 pm. **All Councillors** in attendance. Staff attendance: Jason Gaudet CAO/Clerk, Cathy Neves Assistant Clerk and Chris MacKinnon Administrative Assistant. Public attendance: Alex Henderson (Planning Director, SNBSC), Andrew Sutton (CHCO TV), Cheri Savoy (Coastal Link Trail), Andrea Anderson-Mason MLA and public gallery of 17 persons.

2) OPENING PRAYER:

The opening prayer was offered by Robert Meister.

3) AGENDA:

- Deputy Mayor Rayner moved to approve the original Agenda given on Thursday, July 8; not the new one presented on meeting day, seconded by Councillor Armstrong. Discussion Mayor Detorakis asked the CAO if he was within his rights to change the order of the Agenda to correspond more with the bi-law, the CAO responded the Mayor can change the order but not the headings. **Motion carried.**

4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Councillor Allison moved to approve the Minutes of June 14, 2021, Regular Meeting of Council, seconded by Deputy Mayor Rayner. No discussion, **Motion carried.**
- Councillor Allison moved to approve the Minutes of June 29, 2021, Special Meeting of Council, seconded by Deputy Mayor Rayner. No discussion, **Motion carried.**

5) CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:

- Mayor Detorakis questioned if he could be in conflict if he chooses to donate \$1000.00 for the application of the ACOA money; CAO could not see a conflict.
- None

6) PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

- None

7) GENERAL REPORTS:

a. General Government:

- The CAO presented the report for the month of June. (Attached)

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

- The CAO presented the report for the month of June. (Attached)

c. Fire Report – St. George Fire Department

- The CAO presented the report for the month of June as written by Fire Chief Morton. (Attached)

d. Building and Planning Report – Southwest New Brunswick Service Commission (SNBSC):

- Alex Henderson (Planning Director, SNBSC) presented the report for the month of June. (Attached) Mayor Detorakis questioned the Municipal Plan asking if the Planning Director if he felt the plan really needed to be updated or as the saying goes 'if it isn't broken don't fix it'. Mr. Henderson suggested looking at the mapping, which is defined in a broad scope, to define specific locations for residential development. He stated he has talked to the CAO and Foreman Lee on this. Mayor Detorakis questions about the service the Commission provides in regards to new industrial growth as in providing information about any potential harm and as they say keeping us from 'opening a can of worms'. The answer was yes.

e. Water & Sewerage:

- The CAO read the report as written by Leonard Lee, Works Foreman, for the month of June (attached). Mayor Detorakis expressed concern regarding a mining claim near one of our wells but the CAO assured him we have heard nothing on the matter.

f. Transportation:

- The CAO read the report as written by Leonard Lee, Works Foreman, for the month of June (attached). Deputy Mayor Rayner questioned when the Splash Pad will be opening. The CAO told her that NB Power is the hold up; the Town has had a work order in for a pole since March but they have yet to come.

8) BILLS PAID AND PAYABLE:

- Moved by Councillor Allison to approve in principal the bills paid and payable in principal to June 30, 2021 in the amount of **\$ 483,928.85**, seconded by Councillor Coulton. Discussion, Councillor Rubin questioned cheque number 045889; this was a payment made in error to the Town, the resident thought he was paying his property taxes. Councillor Coulton questioned if the cleaning of the medical center was covered by the center, yes. Councillor Armstrong questioned cheque 045871; this was an incurred expense for getting an easement for the Splash Pad. **Motion Carried**

9) NEW BUSINESS:

- Moved by Councillor Rubin to Amend Policy.# 53 – the collection of Utility Service Fees& Termination of Services by adding a second shutoff date of the third Wednesday in September, seconded by Councillor Allison. Discussion, Mayor Detorakis suggested we be sensitive when in the middle of a pandemic. Councillor Armstrong asked if after the 45 days of no payment, do we give options for payment, yes. Councillor Rubin asked if he was correct in thinking most outstanding are from before the pandemic, yes. Mayor Detorakis asked if we charge a service fee, no we don't but we have in the past. Mayor Detorakis asked how many accounts could

potentially be shut off is September, 12-15 for September shutoffs. Opposed by **Mayor Detorakis**, **Motion Carried**

- b. Moved by **Councillor Coulton** to give the name of SGES Breakfast Program to the Fundy Community Foundation for sponsorship, seconded by **Deputy Mayor Rayner**. No discussion, **Motion Carried**
- c. Coastal Trail Link
 - Moved by **Councillor Allison** to support discussing the Coastal Link Trail, seconded by **Deputy Mayor Rayner**. No discussion, **Motion Carried**
 - Moved by **Councillor Allison** to support option #2 of the proposal, which supports the Coast Link Trail with the condition to allow for an additional “motorized” trail to be built within the Former Rail Line right-of-way, seconded by **Councillor Armstrong**. Discussion points, snowmobiles hold the occupational license for the winter months allowing them to use the trails exclusively now; there is room for an additional trail for vehicles beside the walking trail; liability will be both the town and through an occupational user agreement; the Town is not funding the ‘motorized’ trail. Cherie Savoy clarified that Shediac has a dual trail and it works very well; our trail is Crown Land so the Province has the final say over the snowmobile use in the winter; if the vote does not take place now the work will not get done this year, Coastal Trail Link is ready to put this out to tender now and pay for everything until completion; it will be asphalt so the snowmobilers might apply for the second trail. **Motion Carried**
- d. Moved by **Councillor Rubin** to hold a public hearing meeting on July 19, 2021 and a meeting for a debate and vote on August 3, 2021 on Local Government Reform, seconded by **Councillor Detorakis**. Discussion, Deputy Mayor Rayner asked if we would be inviting the LSDs, it will be an invitation to the public to come speak. **Motion Carried**
- e. **Mayor Detorakis** gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding and application for J.O Spinney Drive Expansion for a library, walking track and coffee stand. (Attached)
 - Moved by **Councillor Allison** to have discussions with the public and the July 19 special meeting, seconded by **Councillor Armstrong**. Discussion Councillor Allison asked if this is the same plan that Eastern Charlotte Inc is putting together. **Mayor Detorakis** stated that this idea is not intended to compete and ECI has been over four years since they started. **Councillor Rubin** stated what he read that this is a short window to apply but a two year project and if we apply now our chances of getting approved are greater. **Councillor’s Rubin** and **Armstrong** both agree that taking part of the ballfield is unacceptable. **Deputy Mayor Rayner** loves the idea but believes the ECI is doing all of this so we don’t need to. **Councillor Detorakis** believes it is a good idea to just apply for the money and decide if council wants to use it after getting approved. **Councillor Coulton** thinks \$250,000.00 is a lot of money but maybe we could get partnerships to help raise it, she also stated that affordable housing is a bigger priority for her. **Councillor Armstrong** stated she is all for growth but without doing a study she cannot be sure we even need a walking track to or a library. She stated she was elected to be frugal. And she would not support giving the Mayor a tax receipt for the \$1000.00 if he decided to donate it for the ACOA application.

10) OLD BUSINESS:

- a. None

11) CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Letter from Residents of Hillcrest Subdivision on Road conditions of Armstrong Crescent. The CAO stated that some work has already happened and it is on the plan for 2023. **Mayor**

Detorakis if something does not get done does it move everything, no it get postponed until it can all be done and the balances will carry forward each year. Councillor Coulton wanted to know if because Salar Court is not being done this year can we just do Armstrong Crescent instead and move Salar Court, and we could be we would have to modify the gas tax plan.

Mayor Detorakis suggested leaving the plan as is because it is based on what our engineering company suggested as priorities. **Councillor Coulton** suggested reassessing the roads as she feels Armstrong Crescent has deteriorated and we would not want to invest in patchwork if we are going to pave sooner than 2023. **Councillor Armstrong** asked if we will respond back to the concern citizen, yes.

- b. Letter concerning the crosswalk at the St. George Elementary School. There is a request to move it to a safer area. CAO Jason Gaudet mentioned the crosswalk could not go directly across from the school as there is a business directly across the street so the Town would not recommend that. He said we could potentially go into the 'island' at the upper mall meaning we would have to do a dropdown on both sides of the road but really the biggest obstacle would be asking the owner of the mall to give up one or possibly two parking spaces for parents who do not have a space to park at the school. **Mayor Detorakis** suggested hiring a Crossing Guard. **Councillor Coulton** suggested getting a volunteer like a senior to do it. **Mayor Detorakis** also suggest going to the School and presenting the problem and solution to them as it is the schools responsibility to take care of the children. **Deputy Mayor Rayner** questioned why they can't use the crosswalk that is already there. **Councillor Rubin** thinks it is no longer the schools responsibility after the child is off the school grounds. **Mayor Detorakis** stated he will take the matter to the school.

12) PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- a. Amanda - discussed the Community Garden. She works at the Food Bank for the summer and has ten beds at the garden for the Food Bank. There are 20 beds but currently only five are being leased. She just wanted to say the Town maintains the garden and she would like to bring a proposal for getting more people interested in using the garden.
- b. James Hanley – discussed the ACOA application saying that it is his understanding we could put in an application and decide not to use it after but we would be crazy not to at least apply for the money. He stated the Legion and seniors would be willing to help raise money towards the \$250,000.00 that would be the Town's portion.
- c. Tracy Craig – discussed the ACOA application in relation to Eastern Charlotte Inc. with 6 points.
- 1) ECI has hired consultants, had numerous public engagements and have spoken with the seniors. And actually a walking track, a library and a coffee stand have all been identified as needs in our community.
 - 2) Two public reports have been published with a third one on the way about cost sharing and feasibility; she encourages Council to do their due diligence and read them both.
 - 3) There are no secret groups just dedicated volunteers
 - 4) There is a process and it is painfully slow but the partnerships and projects to come out of this will benefit the 1400 people in our town.
 - 5) There is a cost to a building, to maintain and operate and it is way more than the \$1 million that comes with the ACOA application.
 - 6) FMHS is not underutilized and you can read that in the report.
- d. Glenn Hawkins – Discussed the needs as he sees them. He is a senior but the hardest thing he has ever done is raise kids. He talked about why the Center was built, for the kids. He does not care if taxes have to rise to have programs for youth because there is addiction and mental

health issues and the kids need programs. . He realizes seniors need things too but does not think that's where to start.

- e. David Armstrong- Thanked council for partnering with Coast Link. He also discussed the ACOA application stating there are challenges to building on the Magaguadavic property but back when Crystal Cook was Mayor she took the initiative to address the DAC and a cost analysis and drawings were done. If you took that plan and added a walking track and a library it could be a true success story.
- f. Mrs. Detorakis – discussed the ACOA application saying she has been a member of the ECI and they are in phase 3 and it has cost over \$70,000.00 to get the reports they have and no one really knows what they say, we have an opportunity to apply for \$1 million dollars and we would be crazy not to at least try.

13) STATEMENTS OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

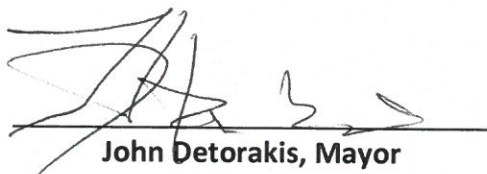
- a. **Councillor Allison** reminded residents that Repeat Boutique, which is operated by Community Living, is now in the lower level of the mall and their opening day was Saturday. She encourages the residents to go out and support them. She also mentioned the Dollar Store has Town of St. George cards if you want to send a card to a friend.
- b. **Councillor Rubin** reminded council that they can really only speak about the Town and not how Local Government Reform will affect the LSDs at the July 19 meeting.
- c. Mayor Detorakis stated he is meeting with Pennfield and Back Bay LSD representatives this week.
- d. Councillor Rayner stated she thought the Green Paper did not really give good information but different scenarios.
- e. Councillor Armstrong thanked Amanda for her interest in the garden. Thanked everyone for coming out and supporting council's thoughts and opinions.
- f. Mayor Detorakis thanked MLA Andrea Anderson-Mason for coming out.

14) NEXT MEETING:

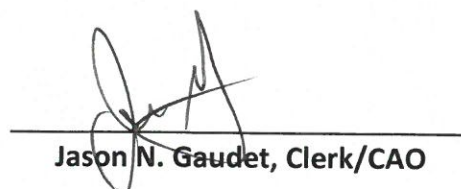
- a. Date of Next Regular Meeting: Monday, August 9, 2021 at 7:00 pm at Magaguadavic Place (or via Zoom Video Conference).

15) ADJOURNMENT:

- a. Motion to adjourn by **Councillor Detorakis**. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.



John Detorakis, Mayor



Jason N. Gaudet, Clerk/CAO