



**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, April 12, 2021, was called to order by Acting Mayor Avery at 7:02 pm. Mayor and all Councillors in attendance. Staff attendance: Jason Gaudet CAO/Clerk, and Chris MacKinnon Administrative Assistant. Public attendance: Alex Henderson (Planning Director, SNBSC), Andrew Sutton (CHCO TV), Public gallery of six (6) persons.

- 2) Councillor Allison** moved to approve change of venue (room) due to compliance with the current directives of the Province of New Brunswick regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, seconded by Councillor Cooke. Motion carried.

3) OPENING PRAYER:

The opening prayer was offered by Chris MacKinnon.

4) AGENDA:

Councillor Cooke moved to approve the Agenda, seconded by Acting Deputy Mayor Harris. Motion carried.

5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Councillor Allison moved to approve the Minutes of March 8, 2021, Regular Meeting of Council, seconded by Councillor Murray. Motion carried.

6) CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:

- a. None.

7) FIRE REPORT:

Councillor Cooke read the report as submitted by Fire Chief Morton for the month of March (attached).

8) BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT REPORT:

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

9) PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

- a. None.

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

- **Acting Mayor Avery** presented the report for the month of March.
 - Well #6: Work at well #6 on Riverview Avenue started this week and is expected to be completed by the end of May.
 - Eagles Nest: We have cleared tree brush on both sides of the lower bridge and added gravel to add room for a parking lot.
 - Benches, planters, and additional garbage receptacles: This is a Council item for tonight.
 - St. Mark's Cemetery: We will be putting in an application next week to continue work on restoring the cemetery for phase 2.
 - Coastal Link Trail: Early work is moving on construction upgrades to the River Trail and the old rail line trail.
 - Canal rebuild: Still waiting approval for Gas Tax money.
 - Marsh: A new shelter to be built by Ducks Unlimited, located across from the Day Adventure Center. The osprey nest was relocated to a temporary location, and will be relocated to a more permanent position this winter. We were unable to get it permanently moved due to a quick thaw of ice this Spring.
 - 10 School Street: Two apartment buildings will be built with four units in each. Expecting construction to start the first of May.
 - Community Garden: Soil in the garden is being turned and super soil added to each box. A call out for planters should happen next week.
 - South Street bridge: The cost of rewrapping and insulating the pipe on the bridge is \$51,000.
 - Post Office Plaza: Work has been busy last month, clearing the area around the post office, removing and trimming overgrowth of trees and brush, clearing out the plant beds, and removing old concrete and stone from around the site.
 - Kent Street: A new playground sign was erected.
 - Magaguadavic Place: This month we hope to repair the roof after removing the air/heat unit that is no longer being used, and installing new metal roof sheets to the area.
 - Exit 52 Property: The property is officially the Town's. An item for tonight is to look at zoning and declare surplus so we can look at tendering.
 - Heat in the public works area was completed last week.
 - Business Office: Eastern Charlotte, Ltd. Group is interested in using the office for a project manager once the position has been approved.
 - Election: Twelve candidates put their names forward for the six Council seats, three candidates for Mayor. While we are able to vote on May 10, results will be held back until Edmundston is able to vote and have their results. Until then the current members will be at the table.

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

- The CAO offered the EMO report for the month of March.
 - The Town remains at an active level for monitoring.
 - There are 145 active cases in the Province, 1,732 cases to date, and 268,096 total tests have been conducted. 136,494 have received at least one dose.
 - To date there have been 33 deaths from COVID.
 - Situation up north is not looking promising. People asked to maintain guidelines, social distance, and wear face masks.

d. Community Services/Partners:

- **Acting Mayor Avery** read the report as written for the month of March.
- Acting Mayor Avery added May 1 as the annual Town clean up. If people can come help clean up that would be great.

e. Water & Sewerage:

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

f. Transportation:

- **Councillor Cooke** read the report as written by Leonard Lee, Works Foreman, for the month of March (attached).

g. Tourism:

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

h. Economic Development:

- **Councillor Murray** gave the report for the month of March.
 - Masks are still mandatory in all public spaces.
 - Be on the lookout for Community garden season to open.
 - The town is still in talks with different companies on housing development and bringing more housing to St. George.

11) BILLS PAID AND PAYABLE:

Moved by **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** to approve in principal the bills paid and payable in principal to March 31, 2021 in the amount of **\$ 301,506.43**, seconded by **Councillor Allison**.
Motion carried.

12) NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Moved by **Councillor Cooke** to set zoning of PID # 15209836 (Brunswick Street), owned by the Town of St. George, as C-4 Highway Commercial, seconded by **Councillor Murray**.

- CAO explained this is a piece of property just off exit 52. Being used as a parking lot right now. The Town secured ownership of that property years ago. This is a prime commercial spot as you come into the Town. The adjacent zones are residential and highway commercial.
- Motion carried.

- b. Moved by **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** to declare PID # 15209836 as surplus property, seconded by **Councillor Cooke**.

- CAO advised this is the same piece of property. It is about 1.65 acres in size. By declaring a surplus, staff will be able to ask for RFPs.
- **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** asked if it was just local invites. CAO advised it would be more than local, looking at developers with highway development experience and others.
- Motion carried.

- c. Moved by **Councillor Murray** to allocate \$14,000 from Safe Restart Fund (Phase 3) to Beautification for the purpose of acquiring benches, garbage receptacles and planters, seconded by **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris**.
- CAO explained the Safe Restart Fund is non-allocated funds received after budgeting. We received about \$84,000. This motion would be for planters and receptacles like we have on Main Street, and more benches like we have put at Dunwoody Corner.
 - Motion carried; **Councillor Cooke** voting against the motion.
- d. Moved by **Councillor Cooke** to allocate \$8,500 from Safe Restart Fund (Phase 3) to Traffic Services for the purpose of acquiring a crosswalk beacon system for the crosswalk at the Upper Bridge, seconded by **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris**.
- Motion carried.
- e. Call for Request for Proposals for new Public Works Truck.
- CAO stated we would likely use some of the Safe Restart funds when the time comes. This would authorize staff to put out RFP. Current truck is a 2014 and has a leaky head gasket. Looking at new options and possibly a fleet truck.
 - **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** asked if a motion was required. CAO replied no motion required at this time, only person to start the process. A motion would be required to make the purchase.

13) OLD BUSINESS:

- a. None

14) CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. A letter from Minister Jill Green advising the town the Municipal Designated Highway will not be going forward this year. Next available year would be 2022.
- b. A card from MADD thanking Council for the \$500 donation toward services in Charlotte County.
- **Acting Mayor Avery** commented the money stays right in the community.

15) STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

- a. **Councillor Cooke** said it was good to see some candidate hopefuls. We are going to have an election but you won't know what happens until Edmundston says it's okay. Is baffled by that. Good luck to all.
- b. **Councillor Allison** expressed good luck to all candidates. Hopefully we have a good council next year.
- c. **Acting Mayor Avery** commented that this past month we had another serious incident in our town, and again there was no communication from the RCMP to the town. Was hoping they would contact us. We do have a system that sends out alerts that was not used. We pay an annual amount; there should be a little bit of respect attached to that. The first was a stabbing, the second was a robbery, and the third was a standoff.

16) PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

- a. David Hooper: When did meetings get changed to Monday night when the bylaw says Tuesday night? **Acting Mayor Avery** replied there was an amendment that updates to Monday night.
- b. Mr. Hooper also asked if Council is abiding by the regulations about what is to be spoken about in private and what is open. It seems there is discussion happening prior to the meeting based on the happenings of this meeting. **Acting Mayor Avery** said yes. Anything to do with Human

Resources is not in a public meeting. Mr. Hooper again asked if there is nothing discussed ahead of time. **Acting Mayor Avery** answered there is nothing they go over than what is available online. **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** added that there are some people who work and unable to see something. Any discussion is just for information. Mr. Hooper expressed this is a concern of his.

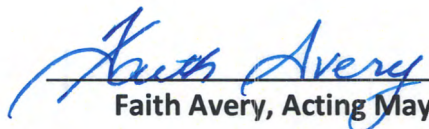
- c. Sam Rubin: The flashing lights by the bridge, are they the same as previously installed? **Acting Mayor Avery** answered they are the same as in front of Country Market, yes. Mr. Rubin stated they went up in price. CAO commented they are the same price as the first.
- d. Alexa Detorakis: In regards to the cases in the community and the RCMP, is the RCMP obligated to come to meetings? **Acting Mayor Avery** answered not anymore. Two years ago they decided not to come any more, but to provide a report quarterly. This is a good question. Before we were aware of what might be a problem in our area. Acting **Deputy Mayor Harris** commented the town is paying a lot of money and cannot even talk to them. **Acting Mayor Avery** added, when RCMP came to meetings, Council could ask questions, which is important to have.

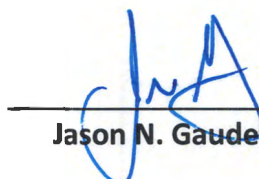
17) NEXT MEETING:

- a. Date of Next Regular Meeting: Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7:00 pm at Magaguadavic Place (or via Zoom Video Conference).

18) ADJOURNMENT:

- a. Motion to adjourn by **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris**. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.


Faith Avery, Acting Mayor


Jason N. Gaudet, Clerk/CAO