



**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, January 11, 2021, via Zoom Video Conferencing, was called to order by Acting Mayor Avery at 7:01 pm. In attendance: Acting Mayor Avery, Acting Deputy Mayor Harris, Councillor Allison, Councillor Murray; Councillor Cooke was absent. Staff attendance: Jason Gaudet CAO/Clerk, and Chris MacKinnon Administrative Assistant. Public attendance: Fire Chief Sean Morton (SGFD), Alex Henderson (Planner, SNBSC) and Mr. and Mrs. John Detorakis.

- 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 Murray. Motion carried.

**3) OPENING PRAYER:**

The opening prayer was offered by Chris MacKinnon.

**4) AGENDA:**

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

**5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- a. Councillor Allison moved to approve the Minutes of December 14, 2020, Regular Meeting of Council, seconded by Acting Deputy Mayor Harris. Motion carried.

**6) CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:**

None

**7) FIRE REPORT:**

Chief Morton commented on the report for the month of December (attached).

- Chief Morton advised the report is a breakdown of statistics for the year. He wanted to have more breakdown per community but has not received all of his reports yet for the year. No longer acting chief as of the start of the year.
- Acting Deputy Mayor Harris commented he wanted to clarify the number of calls in versus out of Town, if that is normal in other years too. Discussion between Acting Deputy Mayor Harris and Chief Morton regarding the numbers being “lopsided” and the difference between LSDs (Local Service Districts) SGFD is responsible for and those others are responsible for. Chief Morton will look through previous reports and provide more information next month.
- Acting Mayor Avery she was glad to have him back as Fire Chief.

**8) BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT REPORT:**

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

**9) PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS:**

- a. Mr. John Detorakis (Canada Green) - regarding Brunswick Exploration mineral claim
  - (Mr. Detorakis arrived in time to present to Council late in the meeting).
  - Mr. Detorakis received a letter regarding mining prospects running through his land, as did the Town as land owners. The map provided includes residential parts of town, the high school, and parts of the industrial park. He is concerned because it appears the company believes "the holder of a valid Prospecting License is determined by the New Brunswick government as per the Mining Act and would supersede certain municipal regulations" (excerpt of an email from Brunswick Exploration Inc.).
  - Raised concerns with the mining commission because it is the first time a residential area has been staked, and he has filed for the farm protection by the government. Sent concerns to MLA but no response yet.
  - The Town should have a stake deciding what protections residents have from intrusions like this. Restrictions could be applied by zoning or a bylaw, and perhaps place a levy on visits by prospectors to return any cost. This would cause someone to think twice before doing this again.
  - He stated he would be very upset to have people come onto his land during his retail time, or to have personnel or a drilling truck appear at a home during the weekend or middle of the night.
  - Mr. Detorakis is hoping the Town should participate and communicate with the mining commission or the Province regarding the Town position of someone comes and wants to drill in residential land.
  - Acting Mayor Avery advised Council will get together and talk about the situation and reply to Mr. Detorakis.

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

- Acting Mayor Avery presented the report for the month of December.
  - **2021 Gas Tax Fund:** The planned road work for the Gas Tax Fund in 2021 is Salar Court.
  - **Eagles Nest:** We will be working with the Department of Tourism on Phase 3 for continued work on the Eagles Nest area, being the clearing of the parking area.
  - **St. Mark's Cemetery:** We will be discussing with the Province the continued work on restoration of the old St. Mark's Cemetery on Main Street.
  - **New Well #6:** We are on hold for this project, looking for options of either reducing the overall project cost or seeking additional funds from the government. The tender came in over budget.
  - **Splash Pad:** Fixtures for the Splash Pad were ordered at the end of December.
  - **Dangerous & Unsightly Properties:** Two additional files were opened with properties since mid-December.
  - **Public Works Area:** This year we plan on doing long overdue renovation to the Public Works area. Last year a lot of work was done in the Fire Hall and this year we hope to update the heating and repair the exterior wall in the Works hall.
  - **Lagoon:** We have finalized the \$1.00 purchase of the residential lagoon.



- **Housing:** Jason is continuing to meet about much needed development options for our area.
  - Reminder the Town is offering “Memorial Benches” for sale. The current cost is \$1,500 per bench. These black, steel benches will be placed in designated spots along Main and Brunswick Streets with future spots on Riverview and Mount Pleasant. One of these benches will be installed at Dunwoody Corner. Basic and Memorial benches are expected to be installed in the Spring of 2021.
  - New Brunswickers will be going to the polls for municipal elections on May 10. Information on how to be a candidate is on the Elections NB web page.
  - **211 NB:** New Brunswickers can call 2-1-1 and trained staff will work to connect callers with services for both everyday needs and times of crisis. 212 NB is a much needed service and will help fill the gap of navigating social and community services and resources across New Brunswick – from basic needs like housing and food access to support for youth, seniors, mental health and more.
- c. **EMO Status Update on COVID-19 and the Town of St. George:**
- The CAO offered the EMO report for the month of December.
  - The Town remains at Level 1, Active Monitoring. Zone 2 its still at Orange State.
  - Today 21 cases were reported by the Province, for a total of 204 active in the Province. Since the pandemic started and the Province started tracking cases we have just reached the 800 mark in the Province. Not overly bad in the Province considering the population is over 700,000.
  - To date the Province has conducted 163,556 COVID tests.
  - There is no confirmation of changing the status (such as to Red status). Nobody at the Town knows until the Province tells us.
- d. **Community Services/Partners:**
- **Acting Mayor Avery** presented the report for the month of December.
  - **Events for 2021:** Though still early and still unsure of restrictions with regards to the pandemic, we are looking at putting together some events for this summer that would still meet the current restrictions such as drive-in movie and outdoor concert.
  - January 28 is Bell “Let’s Talk” day.
- e. **Water & Sewerage:**
- **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** read the report as written by Leonard Lee, Works Foreman, for the month of December (attached).
  - CAO added the replacement of the valve on Mount Pleasant was done this weekend. They had to shut down main lines and the difference in pressure revealed some weak points resulting in a break on Brunswick Street. Those two areas are on boil orders and residents have received information on boil orders. No other residents are on boil orders.
  - **Acting Mayor Avery** expressed thanks to the workers.
- f. **Transportation:**
- CAO read the report as written by Leonard Lee, Works Foreman, for the month of December (attached).
  - **Acting Mayor Avery** FA advised the decision to leave lights on the poles and the Christmas tree lit to add some light and brightness for this dreary month.

g. **Tourism:**

- **Councillor Allison** advised there is no activity to report for the month of December.

h. **Economic Development:**

- **Councillor Murray** gave the report as written for the month of December (attached).
  - Moved back to Orange Phase. Masks are required in all indoor spaces and outdoor spaces where social distancing is not available.
  - A reminder to shop local.

**11) BILLS PAID AND PAYABLE:**

Moved by **Councillor Allison**, to approve in principal the bills paid and payable for the month of November, 2020, in the amount of **\$ 660,306.69**, seconded by **Councillor Murray**.

- **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** asked if the amount was high. CAO answered some major projects finished off this month.
- Motion carried.

**12) NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **Acting Deputy Mayor Harris** moved for a resolution of Council to accept the application of Gas Tax Funds of the unincorporated LSD of St. George Parish for the Canal Beach Rebuild Project 2021 at a total cost of \$300,760.82, seconded by **Councillor Murray**.

CAO advised this is from the Parish of St. George. It does not affect St. George Gas Tax Fund. This would be funds for Bonny River, Second Falls, Canal. It is just an application and could be denied, but needs the blessing of Council.

Motion carried.

- b. **Councillor Murray** moved for a resolution of Council third & final reading, by title, of By-Law #25B-2001, an Amendment of Zoning By-Law 25-B, seconded by **Councillor Allison**.

CAO advised the Town received a letter back from the PRAC chair, Mr. Sam Walsh, and read the letter. The PRAC recommends the approval of amendments to the bylaw.

CAO read the bylaw by title only.

Motion carried.

- c. Discussion on delinquent water & sewage accounts (Utility Fund).

CAO stated the Utility Fund is about \$800,000 a year. As of the first of 2021 we looked back and have a delinquency of \$100,905.98, about one-eighth of our total fund. Earlier mandatory orders advised shutting off water and utilities could not happen, but that changed when the order was rewritten in November/December. Water shutoffs are something we can do; we typically wait until April or May. CAO wanted to make Council aware we are sending notices on this.

**Acting Mayor Avery** asked to revisit the issue in March and for CAO to provide Council with an update at that time.

**13) OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. None



**14) CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a. Acting Mayor Avery received a note from St. George elementary home and school thanking us for donation of January, 2020.
- b. Acting Mayor Avery also received a thank you from the Food Bank for our donation to their hamper funds.

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

- a. Councillor Allison shared the guys did a really good job this weekend for all they went through. Hopefully they will get rested. Also thanks to Chief Morton for jumping back in to the Fire Department.

**16) PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

- a. None.

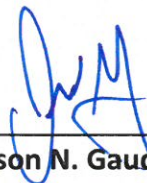
**17) NEXT MEETING:**

- a. Date of Next Regular Meeting: Monday, February 8, 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 7:36 pm.

  
Faith Avery, Acting Mayor

  
Jason N. Gaudet, Clerk/CAO