



**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, December 12, 2022, at Magaguadavic Place, was called to order by **Deputy Mayor Rayner** at 7:00 pm. **Deputy Mayor Rayner**, and **Councillors Allison, Armstrong, Coulton, Detorakis, and Rubin** in attendance; **Mayor Detorakis** absent. Staff attendance: Jason Gaudet CAO/Clerk, Chris MacKinnon (Administrative Assistant). Additional attendance: Florence Mitchell, Dale Wells (CHCO-TV); gallery of three (5) persons.

2) OPENING PRAYER:

The opening prayer was offered by Chris MacKinnon.

3) AGENDA:

*Moved by **Councillor Allison** to approve the Agenda, seconded by **Councillor Coulton**.
Motion carried.*

4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a. Regular Meeting of Council – November 14, 2022

*Moved by **Councillor Rubin** to approve the Minutes of November 14, 2022, Regular Meeting of Council, seconded by **Councillor Detorakis**. **Motion carried.***

5) CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:

- None

6) PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

- None

7) GENERAL REPORTS:**a. General Government:**

- The CAO presented the report for the month of November, 2022 (attached).
- CAO also advised the signs on the walking trail were run over deliberately.

b. Update on Local Government Reform:

- The CAO presented the report for the month of November, 2022 (attached).

c. Fire Report – St. George Fire Department

- CAO read the report as written by Fire Chief Morton for the month of November, 2022 (attached).
- CAO advised the elevator response was at one of the seniors homes during the power outage.

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

- CAO read the report as written by Alex Henderson (Planning Director, SNBSC) for the month of November, 2022 (attached).

e. Water & Sewerage:

- CAO read the report as written by Ron Groom, Acting Public Works Foreman, for the month of November, 2022 (attached).
- Discussion regarding the frequency of flushing the sanitary line and if there are any growing issues to watch for.
- Discussion regarding the asterisk-marked coliform testing results.

f. Transportation:

- CAO read the report as written by Ron Groom, Acting Public Works Foreman, for the month of November, 2022 (attached).
- CAO added, regarding the noted vandalism, the Town does not know who did it.

8) BILLS PAID AND PAYABLE:

*Moved by **Councillor Allison** to approve in principle the bills paid and payable in principle to November 30, 2022, in the amount of **\$ 241,323.50**, seconded by **Councillor Armstrong**.*

- Discussion resulted in the following additional information:
 - Water consumption is not unusual for this time of year.

CAO

MAYOR

- The wall hydrants at Splash Pad are for hose valves, placing them in a locked case so people cannot turn them on and leave them running.
- Advertising space was purchased on upcoming reusable bags for the Independent Grocer.
- Discussion regarding clearing purchases.
- Mailbox was replaced due to damage caused by a Works vehicle.
- **Motion carried.**

9) NEW BUSINESS:

a. **Resolution of Council to transfer \$ 5,400.00 from the Utility Operating Fund to the Utility Capital Reserve Fund to comply with replacement reserve requirements for the Sewage Lagoon in accordance with CAN/NB Infrastructure Program, Project #63.38.02.501.**

- CAO advised this is an annual motion to support a lagoon project from a number of years ago, where we are required to maintain a capital reserve in the case the lagoon needs to be replaced.
- Discussion regarding the amount saved away and its impact on the actual cost of replacement.

*Moved by **Councillor Rubin** to transfer \$ 5,400.00 from the Utility Operating Fund to the Utility Capital Reserve Fund, seconded by **Councillor Allison**. **Motion carried.***

b. **Allocation of Year End Funds**

(1) Transferring of Funds from General Operating Fund to the General Capital Reserve Fund.

- CAO explained, for the general fund in 2022, we underutilized budgeted capital funds. This was largely due to an already healthy previous capital reserve fund line, a year filled with a busy project calendar, and the shadow of municipal reform. Nonetheless, this does set up the community of St. George to see the impacts of this positive financial situation in 2023.
- It is staff's recommendations to allocate \$295,000 from the General Operating Fund to the General Capital Reserve Fund. We still expect to see a surplus situation in the general fund for 2022 and any of those remain funds, forecasted to be in excess of \$65,000, would be accounted for as a 2nd year surplus in 2024.
- Discussion regarding how the funds would be used for what is currently St. George in the new entity.

Moved by **Councillor Allison** to allocate \$295,000 from the General Operating Fund to the General Capital Reserve Fund, seconded by **Councillor Rubin**.
Motion carried.

(2) Transferring of Funds from Utility Operating Fund to the Utility Capital Reserve Fund.

- CAO explained, for utility, which are separate from general operation, we expect to see a surplus situation, just above \$55,000 for 2022. While this a positive financial situation, it is staff's recommendation that funds be naturally shifted to surplus in the second-year surplus in 2024.
- There is not a request to move monies to a Reserve Fund.
- This is another reason water rates remain unchanged for 2023.

10) OLD BUSINESS:

- a. None.

11) CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. **Mr. & Mrs. Livingstone (32 Carleton St.) – re: signage on Carleton Street**
 - CAO reviewed the letter, being an expression of thanks for the lane marking on Carleton Street.
 - The Town also be updating signage and reviewing the speed limit on Carleton Street.

12) PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/APPEARANCES

- a. Faith Avery:
Expressed thanks to Council; this is the last meeting for the municipality, the Town of St. George and it is sad for her to say that. In 1904 we were incorporated and now we are going out this year. Thank you to Council for their time, dedication, for showing up to meetings and doing the work. We really appreciate it. The same to the office staff, works department, and fire department. Hopes we can all pull together with amalgamation. But it still makes her sad to lose the Town of St. George.
- b. CAO, Jason Gaudet:
As the Town Manager/CAO for the Town of St. George, this being the last Council meeting for the Town of St. George, wanted to take a moment to recognize staff members of the past and current. We have had a long history since 1904, a great number of town managers have come and gone. Recognized one of his predecessors, Ross Norman, as a lot of work done in his time still impacts today.

CAO

MAYOR

To all of the Public Works, we have had a great deal of Public Works guys cleaning roads and maintaining the water system.

To this Council, a very historic day with the last council. Thanks to all of the Council members and Mayor Detorakis for their time and dedication. There are always some challenges, but this Council and previous Councils have seen the fruit of their labour and seen some impacts on things getting done. Hopefully their time to serve was a pleasant one and can look back favourably on it.

13) CLOSING STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

a. **Councillor Allison:** Thank you to the community for supporting Council over the last year. It was challenging, and will be more challenging coming up. Wished the new Mayor and Council good luck. Will still be around and still fight for this community. Thanks to fellow councillors for their support. Hopes we can all become one. Thanks to staff, fire department, the works department; any time you call they were there to help. Let's hope that still continues in our area.

b. **Councillor Rubin:** This is a historical time for the community. Going forward there will still be challenges. St. George will still be St. George; Blacks Harbour will still be Blacks Harbour. It will still be the same just work a little different. When you get your tax bill you can't be made at us because we didn't make that happen. If you have a problem, call your MLA. That's where it all started and that's where it's going to end.

Since 1904, the men and women who served on Council had a vision of what St. George should be and what it has become today. In his lifetime he has seen a lot of changes for St. George. The people have done well; our finances are in very good condition. That's because of previous Councils, what they got done. We did manage to get a few things done. Not sure how we will be remembered. It was a hectic time. Our views were heard. Managed to get a half-million dollars worth of paving done, rebuilt well 2, ongoing part of the sewage lagoon and industrial park upgrade in progress. It takes a long time to do these things, about 6 months to a year just to start. We have made some gains and there is a lot more to do. It is very expensive to do these things and it takes a lot of time. We were here a short time and have done the best we could. With our inexperience we have done quite well. He is pleased to serve with this Council and it has been an honour to do so.

To the residents who elected and put their trust in me to serve on Council, I thank you. Have a safe and happy holiday.

c. **Councillor Coulton:** Mrs. Claus and Santa will be here at Magaguadavic Place on December 21 at 6:30 for young and old alike.

For being the last of the Council, she didn't know what she was getting into when she put her name forward. Thank you to everybody who voted for her and put their trust in her.

Thanks to everybody and wish luck to the new council coming in. And Happy holidays.

CAO

MAYOR

- d. **Councillor Detorakis:** It has been an honor to serve St. George and an honour to continue serving St. George, Ward 3, in Eastern Charlotte. Thanks to the Town staff for navigating us. It was a very challenging time and we appreciate your patience. Thanks to the works dept, the fire department, and everyone involved in trying to make things as smooth as possible. Thanks to the Council as well. Merry Christmas and hopes everyone has a Happy New Year.
- e. **Councillor Armstrong:** Would like to repeat all that that Councillor Rubin and Councillor Allison said. She could not add any more to that.
- f. **Deputy Mayor Rayner:** It is said we were elected for a three-year term and were only able to serve eighteen months, as she believes we would have been able to achieve more. Thanks to all the staff and all the fellow councillors. Wish the best for the amalgamation and hopes everything goes well. Wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

14) ADJOURNMENT FOR THE COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF ST GEORGE:

*Motion to adjourn by **Councillor Rubin**. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.*

Barbara Rayner, Deputy Mayor

Jason N. Gaudet, Clerk/CAO

The Town of St. George was reorganized into the new local government entity of Eastern Charlotte in accordance with *An Act Respecting Local Governance Reform*, and ceased to exist as of January 1, 2023. As a result, these meeting minutes were not officially accepted by a resolution of Council.