

REGULAR GENERAL MEETING, MARCH 24, 2016

A Regular General Meeting of the Council of the Town of Stephenville was held in the Council Chambers at 12:15 p.m. on March 24, 2016.

Present: Mayor Tom O'Brien
Deputy Mayor Mike Tobin

Councillors: Laura Aylward
Don Gibbon
Darlene Oake
Tom Rose

Absent: Councillor: Justin House (Work Commitments)

Also Present: Town Manager, Mike Campbell
Town Clerk, Carolyn Lidstone

MINUTES

REGULAR GENERAL MEETING, MARCH 10, 2016

Motion – Gibbon/Aylward

No.16-54 That the Minutes of the Regular General Meeting of March 10, 2016 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

PROCLAMATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

POLL TAX

Motion - Gibbon/Tobin

No.16-55 That the recommendation of the Finance Committee be accepted and Poll Tax write-offs totaling \$318.48 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

WATER & SEWER TAX

Motion - Gibbon/Rose

No.16-56 That the recommendation of the Finance Committee be accepted and Water & Sewer Tax adjustments totaling \$336.00 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

REMISSION OF TAX

Motion - Gibbon/Aylward

No.16-57 That the recommendation of the Finance Committee be accepted and Remission of Tax totaling \$1,853.77 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE FOR
FEBRUARY, 2016**

Motion - Gibbon/Oake

No.16-58 That the recommendation of the Finance Committee be accepted and the Accounts Payable for February, 2016 totaling \$177,208.82 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

**GRANT, REGIONAL MUSEUM,
45 OREGON DRIVE**

Motion - Gibbon/Tobin

No.16-59 That the recommendation of the Finance Committee be accepted and the Town of Stephenville give a grant in the amount of \$7,500 to the Regional Museum Committee to offset the 2016 operating costs.

Carried Unanimously

**MNL MUNICIPAL SYMPOSIUM,
MAY 5-7, 2016, GANDER, NL**

Motion - Gibbon/Aylward

No.16-60 That the recommendation of the Finance Committee be accepted and the Town of Stephenville send two representatives to the MNL Municipal Symposium being held May 5-7, 2016 in Gander, NL.

Carried Unanimously

PERMITS AND MUNICIPAL PLAN

**TOM HODDER,
2 BRUCE BOULEVARD**

DATA: Request for a permit to renovate space in the residence at 2 Bruce Boulevard, as per drawings submitted, to accommodate a subsidiary apartment.

It was the recommendation of the Planning and Traffic Committee that this permit be granted subject to compliance with all Town Regulations.

Motion - Aylward/Oake

No. 16-61 That the recommendation of the Planning and Traffic Committee be accepted and Tom Hodder be granted a permit to renovate space in the residence at 2 Bruce Boulevard, as per drawings submitted, to accommodate a subsidiary apartment subject to conditions as outlined in the agenda data.

Carried Unanimously

**HARTERY'S FAMILY RESTAURANT,
109 MAIN STREET**

DATA: Request for a permit to do minor exterior and interior renovations to the building located at 109 Main Street.

It was the recommendation of the Planning and Traffic Committee that this permit be granted subject to the approval of Service NL and compliance with all Town Regulations.

Motion - Aylward/Gibbon

No. 16-62 That the recommendation of the Planning and Traffic Committee be accepted and Hartery's Family Restaurant be granted a permit to do minor exterior and interior renovations to the building located at 109 Main Street subject to conditions as outlined in the agenda data.

Carried Unanimously

**IVAN MacDONALD/HARMON
HUSTLE COMMITTEE, MAIN ST**

DATA: Request for permission to close off the portion of Carolina Avenue (from the YMCA parking lot) to its intersection with Main Street and Main Street to its intersection with West Street from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 7, 2016. The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the Harmon Hustle road race. Traffic will be controlled by the Search and Rescue group.

It was the recommendation of the Planning and Traffic Committee that The Harmon Hustle Committee be granted permission to close off the portion of Carolina Avenue from the YMCA parking lot to its intersection with Main Street and Main Street to its intersection with West Street from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 7, 2016.

Motion - Aylward/Tobin

No. 16-63 That the recommendation of the Planning and Traffic Committee be accepted and the Harmon Hustle Committee be granted permission to close off the portion of Carolina Avenue (from the YMCA parking lot) to its intersection with Main Street and Main Street to its intersection with West Street from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 7, 2016.

In response to a question from Councillor Rose regarding coordination for this event, Mayor O'Brien stated that the Ground Search and Rescue will be involved as well as the Fire Department.

Carried Unanimously

**SUSANNAH ROSE QUILT PATCH,
56-58 WEST STREET**

DATA: Request for a permit to do minor interior renovations to space in the building at 56-58 West Street (formerly occupied by Curves) to accommodate a quilting supply retail business and to erect a sign.

It was the recommendation of the Planning and Traffic Committee that this permit be granted subject to compliance with all Town Regulations.

As his wife is the applicant for the proposed development, Mayor O'Brien declared himself in conflict of interest and left the Council table and the chair for the meeting.

Deputy Mayor Tobin chaired the meeting for this item.

Motion - Aylward/Oake

No. 16-64 That the recommendation of the Planning and Traffic Committee be accepted and Susannah Rose Quilt Patch be granted a permit to do minor interior renovations to space in the building at 56-58 West Street (formerly occupied by Curves) to accommodate a quilting supply retail business and to erect a sign subject to conditions as outlined in the agenda data.

Carried

Mayor O'Brien abstained from voting.

Mayor O'Brien returned to the Council table and the chair at the conclusion of discussion on this item.

NEW BUSINESS

PORTER AIRLINES ANNOUNCEMENT, SERVICE TO STEPHENVILLE AIRPORT

Mayor O'Brien stated he was delighted to note that Porter Airlines is coming back to the Stephenville Airport for its third consecutive summer and will be operating from June 22 to September 24. This announcement bodes well in conjunction with the announcement from Provincial Airlines for same day service to St. John's. He encouraged everyone to keep promoting these services to friends and family here at home and away to have these

services utilized as these are tremendous services to the area.

FEDERAL BUDGET

Mayor O'Brien highlighted the press release from MNL President Karen Oldford on the 2016 Federal budget, in particular noting the recognition of the role of municipalities in infrastructure issues, streamline funding, Municipalities' responsibility for 60% of Canada's Infrastructure, and recapitalization of the Green Municipal Fund. He stated that it is too early to see how the budget items will impact on the Town of Stephenville directly, but it is certainly heading in the right direction. He was waiting to see what the Provincial Government budget in April will bring for municipalities.

Councillor Rose stated he was really pleased with the Federal budget. He noted that there were indications that the Provincial Government is looking to carry long term debt to downsize the impact of the reduced oil prices. He suggested that it may be time to bring in Gudie Hutchings MP and Judy Foote MP to have a discussion to focus on getting funding for the construction of a new airport terminal.

Councillor Aylward stated she was pleased to see the increase in the Guaranteed Income Supplement for seniors. The changes to the EI Program, the reduced waiting period and extended benefits in the EI program will be good for a lot of Newfoundlanders. She was interested to see what the Provincial Government will come up with in the field of health care. She noted however that no level of government has been talking about the construction of a proper highway across the province. Other provinces have rails and roads but the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador have neither. She felt the province needed a good double highway all across the Province. She suggested that Council write the Provincial and Federal governments to start a lobby on this issue and other issues such as long term care centre, new airport terminal and new court house building.

WEST COAST HEALTH ACTION COMMITTEE

As a member of the Board of Directors of Western Health Corporation, Mayor O'Brien declared himself in conflict of interest and left the Council table and the chair.

Deputy Mayor Tobin chaired the meeting for this item.

Councillor Aylward stated as chair of the West Coast Health Action Committee, the Committee are concerned with the sudden resignation of Dr. Parson's at the Stephenville Crossing Clinic. They have received no answers so far from Western Health Corporation. However she understands that they are scrambling to see what can be done because of the suddenness of the resignation.

Mayor O'Brien returned to the Council table and the chair at the conclusion of discussion on this item.

CANADA CUSTOMS BORDER AGENCY/STEPHENVILLE AIRPORT

Mayor O'Brien commented on the availability of services through the Canada Customs Border Agency for the Stephenville Airport, noting that at times these services are not available for international flights.

POTHoles

Mayor O'Brien commented that it is the time of year when potholes are being created in the 'freeze and thaw' weather. The Public Works department is diligently trying to keep up with those repairs and asked that the public be patient and aware of the driving conditions this time of the year.

In response to a question from Councillor Rose concerning the potential temporary closure of the Ramp in the spring, Mayor O'Brien stated that in his opinion the Ramp should be permanently closed down. The Town of Stephenville spends \$25,000 to \$30,000 fixing potholes on the Ramp each year.

Visitors to the community come through the Ramp which is one of the least aesthetically pleasing areas of the community. He noted that several years back the Town had closed the Ramp; however, businesses on the Ramp had raised some concerns and Council reversed its decision.

Councillor Rose suggested that this item be placed on the next Planning and Traffic Committee meeting for discussion.

UPGRADES TO TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY

Deputy Mayor Tobin responded to earlier comments of Councillor Aylward on lobbying for the construction of a double lane highway across the Province, noting that there are 900 kms of highway from Port aux Basques to St. John's. In his opinion, a new double highway all across the island is not going to happen very soon. Over the last five to six years, Council has been trying to get repairs carried out on 3 kms of Whites' Road leading into the community. A lot of the funding for roads in the region has been spent on fixing bridges on the Trans-Canada highway. In his opinion, the 3 kilometer stretch of White's Road should be upgraded prior to starting on a lobby effort for the 900 kms of road across the island.

Councillor Rose stated that the two area MHA's will be attending the April 5th Bay St. George Chamber of Commerce meeting. The Chamber plans to hammer about this issue at every meeting until the work is done on White's Road.

SOUTH WEST JOINT COUNCIL MEETING, APRIL 2nd

Deputy Mayor Tobin reported that the next South West Joint Council meeting will be held April 2nd in Lourdes. Fourteen incorporated communities in the Southwest region of Newfoundland are represented at these meetings and any Councillor is welcome to attend. As well, he would be happy to bring forward any items for discussion.

He noted that Sean Martin, CEO of Municipal Assessment Agency, will be speaking at that meeting. The MAA is an independent body which

provide assessment services to Towns across the Province. He stated in response to the increased assessments in 2016 reassessment process, the Town of Stephenville reduced the mil rate to 7.4 which significantly reduced the impact on taxpayers of the Town of Stephenville. He further stated that Stephenville's mil rate is lower than many large towns in the province.

**OPENNESS AND
TRANSPARENCY/COUNCILLOR
ROSE**

Councillor Rose noted that he had circulated a document which supplements information in the Municipal Councillors' Handbook. The document was entitled *Ethics in Municipal Government* which had been prepared by Kevin Feehan, Q.C., LL.B., of Fraser Milner Casgrain. Councillor Rose highlighted the paragraph on due diligence within that document.

He also highlighted Section 2 of the Municipal Councillors Handbook identifying councillors obligations as well as Section 4.6 which outlines the methods by which council decisions are made. i.e. Motion, Second, Debate and Voting at a public meeting.

Mayor O'Brien commented that the Town of Stephenville follow the principles outlined in the document.

In response to a comment made by Councillor Rose concerning two large expenditures which had been included in the February, 2016 Expense Cheque listing approved at the previous council meeting, funding for these items had been approved through the public tendering process.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion – Aylward\Gibbon

No. 16-65 That the meeting adjourn at this time,
12:55 p.m.

Carried Unanimously

CHAIRPERSON

DATE CONFIRMED