

TOWN OF HARBOUR GRACE

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Town of Harbour Grace Council, held in the Town Hall,
February 20, 2017 at 7:05 P.M.

Members Present

Mayor Terry Barnes
Deputy Mayor Sonia Williams
Councillors: Patrick Haire
Tony McCarthy
Gordon Stone
Kathy Tetford

Members Absent

Councillor Hayward Blake

Staff Present

CAO/Town Clerk Michael Saccary
Admin Secretary-A/R Clerk Nancy Pike
Works Superintendent Pat Hearn

Minutes:
Regular Meeting
January 25, 2017

Regular meeting minutes of January 25, 2017 were adopted as presented with the following corrections:

1. Page 1 - House of Commons, should read MP Ken MacDonald
2. Page 3 - S.W. Moores Stadium, should read rent to own agreement, not sale.

MOTION #17-026 STONE/WILLIAMS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes:
Special Meeting
February 6, 2017

Regular meeting minutes of February 6, 2017 were adopted as presented.

MOTION #17-027 WILLIAMS/STONE CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moment of Silence

Mayor Barnes held a moment of silence for residents who have passed away recently.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Mayor Barnes

Mayor Barnes addressed chambers with his concerns from the 2017 Tax Structure and Budget. Mayor Barnes expressed concern over the recent tax increases to vacant land and water/sewer charges and the effect that these costs are having on residents who are on fixed and/or lower incomes. The Municipality Act states that water/sewer be charged to vacant land but it does not state how much should be charged, it can be as little as \$1.00. Mayor Barnes feels that Council should tighten their belts and trim costs to save money rather than increase taxes.

DCHGCC - ACOA

Motioned to apply the \$1,000,000.00 grant from ACOA to the outstanding amount of \$3,800,000.00 which is the Town's share of the new Danny Cleary Harbour Grace Community Centre reducing the total owing by the Town of Harbour Grace to \$2,800,000.00.

MOTION #17-028 TETFORD/WILLIAMS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- DCHGCC - CIBC Motioned to amend the previous resolution **#16-182** of September 7, 2016 to the following; that The Town of Harbour Grace borrow by way of banker's acceptance from Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce an amount not exceeding \$2,800,000.00, repayable in full by Council amortized over a 25 year period. The said loan is to be used to finance funding as approved by the Department of Municipal Affairs for project # 17-Rec-12-00002-Arena.
MOTION #17-029 TETFORD/STONE CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- Kitchen's Hill Clr. Tetford inquired whether or not Harris & Associates had provided drawings for Kitchen's Hill. The CAO advised that drawings have not yet been received but he will check on it.
- Signage - DCHGCC Clr. McCarthy inquired if the tendering process has started for the signage for the new facility. CAO advised that it has not yet started.
- Cathedral Street Deputy Mayor Williams inquired if Transportation Works had been contacted concerning the condition of Cathedral Street. CAO advised that Transportation Works has not been contacted.

REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

- Permission to address Council Mr. Gerald Winsor, Mr. Wayne Martin and Mr. Jerome McCarthy were given permission to address Council by Mayor Barnes, noting that each speaker would be give 10 minutes to express their concerns.
- Mr. Gerald Winsor Mr. Winsor expressed his concern over the yearly raising of taxes on vacant land. In 2015 vacant land was charged the assessed value multiplied by the mill rate. In 2016 vacant land was charged \$350.00 per parcel of land; residents were advised that they could appeal to Council to have the amount reviewed. The vacant land tax was reduced to \$50.00 per parcel. Then in 2017 the rate was again increased, residents were charged \$100.00 per parcel. Mr. Winsor went on to say that one of his gardens is 12' x 46' and only valued at \$700.00. Many land owners in the town are seniors and are on a fixed income, this increase places an unfair strain on a specific group of people and is out of proportion, a smaller tax should be charged to all property owners instead of only vacant land owners. Mr. Winsor thanked Council for the opportunity to address his concerns.
- Mrs. Wayne Martin Mr. Martin thanked Council for the opportunity to speak. He wondered how raising taxes in such hard times can be justified. Seniors are having difficulty paying day to day bills, along with the provincial government cutting coverage for medications. Increases to gas tax and sales tax which have been passed on to the consumer by businesses on top of what they are charged directly. Mr. Martin feels that Council should curb spending instead of increasing their budget in this recession. Land means a lot to the owners

REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Mr. Wayne Martin who may plan to leave the property to children or grand children continuing tradition. Mr. Martin addressed the idea that taxing land will force owners to sell creating opportunities for new homes to be built in Harbour Grace. He stated that there has been land for sale for many years that has not sold. The high tax rate is going to drive people out of the town.

Mr. Jerome McCarthy Mr. McCarthy informed Council that he owns apartments in Harbour Grace and was very surprised to see the increase in the water and sewer charges this year. He would like to appeal to Council on the basis of fairness compared to other neighbouring towns. The water/sewer rates rose by 53% on one of Mr. McCarthy's properties, the rate is \$400.00 plus 8 mills up from \$400.00 plus 6 mills last year. The water/sewer tax is higher than the property tax. It is unfair that the water/sewer rates increase based on the property value rather than number of units. Buildings that are run down pay less than properties that are taken care of. Mr. McCarthy advised that Harbour Grace charges 2 ½ times the amount charged in Bay Robert's. Mr. McCarthy requested that Council consider a flat fee per unit similar to other communities and noted that as per the Municipalities Act, Council has until April 1, 2017 to make revisions to the tax structure. Mr. McCarthy thanked Council for the opportunity to voice his concerns.

CORRESPONDENCE

Joint Council - Regionalization Mayor Barnes tabled correspondence from Joint Council Conception Bay North and Clr. Stone explained that the Joint Council is requesting all Councils to advise if they are interested in joining a committee that will initiate a discussion about regionalization in Conception Bay North.

Motioned that Joint Council be advised that The Town of Harbour Grace is interested in joining a committee that will initiate a discussion about regionalization in Conception Bay North.

MOTION #17-030 STONE/HAIRE CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Liberal Association Mayor Barnes tabled correspondence from The Harbour Grace - Port de Grave Liberal Association requesting support by purchasing advertizing space in their souvenir booklet.

Motioned to decline the request for support through advertizing from The Harbour Grace - Port de Grave Liberal Association.

MOTION #17-031 WILLIAMS/McCARTHY CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cancer Coverage-Firefighters Mayor Barnes tabled correspondence from the Office of the Premier, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador advising that they recently amended the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Act and Regulations to provide presumptive cancer coverage for our province's

CORRESPONDENCE

- Cancer Coverage-Firefighters career and volunteer firefighters. Deputy Mayor Williams was pleased that the coverage now includes volunteer firefighters as well as paid firefighters.
- Donations Clr. Tetford tabled requests for donations from four community groups.
- Motioned to donate to the following groups:
1. Kiwanis Club, Annual Music Festival - \$50.00
 2. Knights of Columbus, Public Speaking Contest - \$50.00
 3. Carbonear Collegiate, Annual Dinner & Auction - \$50.00
 4. Girl Guides of Canada, Camp Day - \$50.00
- MOTION #17-032 TETFORD/STONE CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
- Request for Advertising Clr. Tetford tabled requests from two CeeBees Minor hockey groups who are hosting Provincial Tournaments and are requesting support through advertising in their booklets.
- Motioned to place a full page ad in the souvenir booklets for the each of the following groups:
1. CeeBees U20 Female Provincial Mega Tournament - Full Page @ \$125.00
 2. CeeBees Atom Provincial Tournament - Full Page @ \$125.00
- MOTION #17-033 TETFORD/WILLIAMS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
- Tax Appeals Mayor Barnes tabled correspondence from Mr. Peter Sheppard, Ms. Marjorie Oliver, Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Downing, Ms. Loretta Sullivan, Ms. Rosemary Fahey, Ms. Lydia Downing, Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Rose, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Rose and Ms. Mary Margaret Short requesting a review of their current taxes and the 2017 tax structure. It was requested that each item be reviewed at the next meeting and that the CAO advise each person that the letters are being reviewed and residents will be notified once a decision has been made.
- Garage - 205 Harvey Street Mayor Barnes tabled correspondence from Jack and Christine Rose concerning a garage located at 205 Harvey Street. Clr. McCarthy inquired whether or not a permit was issued. CAO to look into this and if further action is needed it will be referred back to Council to approve.
- MNL - Call for Members Mayor Barnes tabled correspondence from Municipalities Newfoundland Labrador seeking new MNL Committee Members. Interested individuals should complete the Expression of Interest Form.
- MMSB - Backyard Composting Mayor Barnes tabled correspondence from the Multi-Materials Stewardship Board advising that they are researching the feasibility of procuring a bulk order of compost bins on behalf of communities in the province and are inviting communities to participate. Deferred.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business

COMMITTEE REPORTS**CAPITAL & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

Clr. Haire advised that he visited Crown Lands along with Clr. Stone. The MIP application has been submitted. Met with Mr Pike of the Earhart RV Park concerning the installation of water/sewer services across the Veteran's Highway.

FINANCE COMMITTEE Tabled

HOUSING/ENVIRONMENT/SANITATION COMMITTEE

Application 356 Harvey St. Motioned to approve the application by Mr. Sandy Parsons to open a tire changing and undercoating garage at 356 Harvey Street having not received any objections to the discretionary notice placed in the local newspaper. Approval subject to applicant obtaining any other required approvals from Government Agencies.

MOTION #17-034 McCARTHY/WILLIAMS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/TOURISM/HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Marine Industrial Park Clr. Stone informed Council that ACOA suggested that a second version of the application would be taken out of the system. A new direction is needed. Work will continue on this.

Irish Exchange The Heritage & Redevelopment Committee Irish Exchange is being planned for next summer. An additional thirty people may be added bringing the total to as many as 100 people in August.

Heritage Awards Day The Economic Development Officer and Clr. Stone will be attending the Heritage Awards Day at the Government House in support of The Town of Harbour Grace having the Train Station designated as a Heritage Site.

DCHGCC Committee Clr. Stone advised that the newly formed committee to oversee the Danny Cleary Harbour Grace Community Centre has selected two new members; Tracy Shute and Joy Sparkes.

HUMAN RESOURCES/PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE No Report

FIRE DEPT. LIAISON No Report

STADIUM LIAISON

DCHGCC Council inquired about the situation with the leaks at the stadium. Pomerleau has recalled the manufacturer and the installer. It is believed that condensation is forming in the seams and freezing. When the temperatures rise the water is dropping down onto the floor and ice. The manufacturer will add liquid insulation as soon as the weather permits.

STADIUM LIAISON

Facility Manager Deputy Mayor Williams advised that the process of hiring a new stadium manager is ongoing. They have reviewed the resumes and should know more by the end of the week.

CIVIC EVENTS LIAISON

Card Games Seniors' Card games are every second Monday night at the Fire Hall. The Winter Carnival is taking place this weekend February 24th - February 26th. Details can be found on the Town's Event Calendar and Social Media sites.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER REPORT No Report

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT REPORT Tabled

STADIUM MANAGER'S REPORT No Report

COUNCILLOR'S INFORMATION

Notice of Motion Clr. Stone advised that he is making a notice of motion to finance concerning the Town's two newest employees.

Private Lane-48 Southside Rd. Clr. Stone inquired about the status of the private lane at 48 Southside Road. No correspondence has been sent to the residents. A number of things must happen before the road can be taken over; residents must sign over property, letters to residents must be in the file, property should be surveyed. CAO to follow up.

Festival Conference Motioned to send the Economic Development Officer to participate in the Best Practice Mission Events and Festivals Conference in Banff, Alberta as recommended by the funders, with 50% of the \$3000.00 to \$4000.00 cost to be paid by ACOA.

MOTION #17-035 STONE/WILLIAMS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Town Crier Motioned to give permission for the Heritage & Redevelopment Committee to reactivate the position of Town Crier.

MOTION #17-036 STONE/McCARTHY CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Special Meeting Motioned to hold a Special Meeting of Council to consider the 2017 Budget and Tax Structure on Wednesday February 22, 2017 at 1:00pm.

MOTION #17-037 McCARTHY/STONE CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Adjournment

Motioned to adjourn regular meeting of Council at 8:35 P.M.

MOTION #17-038 TETFORD/WILLIAMS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next scheduled regular meeting of Council is 7:30 P.M. March 8th, 2017.

Confirmed:

Terry Barnes, Mayor

Mike Saccary, CAO/Town Clerk

DATE:

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