

REGULAR GENERAL MEETING, AUGUST 15, 2019

A Regular General Meeting of the Council of the Town of Stephenville was held in the Council Chambers at 12:07 p.m. on August 15, 2019.

Present:	Tom Rose	Mayor
	Susan Fowlow	Deputy Mayor
	Laura Aylward	Councillor
	Mark Felix	Councillor
	Don Gibbon	Councillor
	Maurice Hynes	Councillor
Absent:	Mike Tobin	Councillor
Staff:	Mike Campbell	Town Manager/Acting Town Clerk

Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

Motion No. 19-280 Gibbon/Felix

That the Agenda of the Regular General Meeting of August 15, 2019 be adopted as circulated. Carried Unanimously

Regular General Meeting July 25, 2019

Motion No. 19-281 Aylward/Hynes

That the Minutes of the Regular General Meeting of July 25, 2019 be adopted as circulated. Carried Unanimously

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

PROCLAMATION & DELEGATIONS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Poll Tax

Motion No. 19-282 Felix/Gibbon

It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee that Poll Tax write offs totaling \$405.06 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

Property Tax

Motion No. 19-283 Felix/Hynes

It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee that property tax write offs in the amount of \$823.98 and adjustments of \$103.17 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

Business Tax

Motion No. 19-284 Felix/Fowlow

It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee that business tax adjustments in the amount of \$378.25 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

Accounts Payable Listing July 2019

Motion No. 19-285 Felix/Aylward

It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the Accounts Payable Listing for July 2019 in the amount of \$401,564.18 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

Expense Cheque Listing for July 2019

Motion No. 19-286 Felix/Gibbon

It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the Expense Cheque listing for July 2019 totaling \$424,577.99 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

Request for Grant – Regional Aquatic Centre

Motion No. 19-287 Felix/Hynes

It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the Town of Stephenville give a grant up to a maximum amount of \$30,000.00 to the Regional Aquatic Centre.

Carried Unanimously

Authorization for Mayor and Town Clerk to Sign Agreement Project No. 17-RNC-20-00020 West Street Paving

Motion No. 19-288 Felix/Aylward

It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign agreement between the Department of Municipal Affairs and the Town of Stephenville with respect to funding Project No.17-RNC-20-00020 West Street Paving for a total project cost of \$839,469 with municipal share totaling \$253,728.

Carried Unanimously

Authorization for Mayor and Town Clerk to Sign Agreement Project No. 17-RNC-20-00028 The Ramp Paving Program

Motion No. 19-289 Felix/Fowlow

It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign agreement between the Department of Municipal Affairs and the Town of Stephenville with respect to funding Project No.17-RNC-20-00028 The Ramp Paving Program for a total project cost of \$770,002 with municipal share totaling \$232,732.

Carried Unanimously

Authorization for Mayor and Clerk to Sign Agreement Project No.17-RNC-20-00014 Carolina Avenue Bridge Refurbishment

Motion No. 19-290 Felix/Hynes

It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign agreement between the Department of Municipal Affairs and the Town of Stephenville with respect to funding Project No.17-RNC-20-00014 Carolina Avenue Bridge Refurbishment for a total project cost of \$492,615 with municipal share totaling \$148,892.

Carried Unanimously

Request for Grant – Stephenville Airport Corporation

Motion No. 19-291 Felix/Gibbon

It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the Town of Stephenville give a grant in the amount of \$100,000.00 to the Stephenville Airport Corporation.

Motion Carried

In Favor: (5) Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Hynes, Councillor Aylward, Councillor Gibbon.

Opposed: (1) Councillor Felix

Unsold Lots – Land on Queen Street Ext/Green Dr/Simon Dr

Motion No. 19-292 Felix/Hynes

Request to enter into the same subdivision agreement on unsold lots as per current agreement with Simon's Holdings.

It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee that this request be denied.

Carried Unanimously

Award of Contract, 2019 Paving Program

Motion No. 19-293 Felix/Gibbon

That the recommendation of SNC Lavalin be accepted and the 2019 Paving Program be awarded to Marine Contractors in the amount of \$1,624,086.93.

Carried Unanimously

PERMITS AND MUNICIPAL PLAN**Mad Lad Marketing – 100 Maryland Drive**

Motion No. 19-294 Fowlow/Hynes

Request for a permit to operate a home-based online marketing media business from the property located at 100 Maryland Drive.

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

Carried Unanimously

Bennett, Charles (Estate of) - 227-267 Hansen Memorial Highway

Motion No. 19-295 Fowlow/Gibbon

Requesting permission to construct access road for accessibility to the land located at 227-267 Hansen Memorial Highway as per attached drawings.

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

Carried Unanimously

Plastic Industries of Canada Ltd. – 38 Utah Drive

Motion No. 19-296 Fowlow/Aylward

Request for a permit to install vinyl siding and install panels over existing windows and doors on the property located at 38 Utah Drive.

It was the recommendation of the Planning and Traffic Committee that this permit be granted with the condition the panels must be painted; and compliance with all Town Regulations.

Carried Unanimously

St. Stephen's Parish – 80 West Street

Motion No. 19-297 Fowlow/Felix

Request for a permit to repair wheelchair ramp and install accessible doors as well as complete interior renovations, as per plans submitted, on the property located at 80 West Street.

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

Carried Unanimously

Susan's Therapeutic Massage – 25 Prince Rupert Drive

Motion No. 19-298 Fowlow/Hynes

Request for a permit to relocate existing massage therapy business from 90 Main Street to 25 Prince Rupert Drive and install signage on building.

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

Carried Unanimously

Sandra & Vern Lewis – 5 Bayside Drive

Request for a permit to erect 12' x 20' section of 10 ft privacy fence bordering back corner of the property located at 5 Bayside Drive as per sketch submitted.

Motion No. 19-299 Fowlow/Hynes

It was the recommendation of the Planning and Traffic Committee that Motion No. 19-270 be rescinded.

Carried Unanimously

Motion No. 19-300 Fowlow/Hynes

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

Carried Unanimously

John Howard Society – 90 West Street

Motion No. 19-301 Fowlow/Aylward

Request for confirmation that the current zoning regulations would permit an office for the delivery of programs and services from the property located at 90 West Street.

Due to the zoning being Residential Medium Density and Personal Use Class being a discretionary use in that zone this was advertised in the local paper with no objections received.

It was the consensus of the Planning Committee that Outline Planning Permission be granted, subject to compliance with all Town Regulations.

Carried Unanimously

Royal Canadian Legion – 45 Oregon Drive

Motion No. 19-302 Fowlow/Felix

As president of the legion, Councillor Hynes declared himself in conflict and left the council chambers.

Request for a permit to do minor exterior renovations to the building located at 45 Oregon Drive was considered.

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

Motion Carried

Councillor Hynes returned to the council table at the conclusion of discussion of this item.

BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Councillor Felix

Councillor Felix expressed the following: Stephenville Airport Corporation

“As Chair of finance committee, I have to speak to this motion as part of my due diligence. When I got elected to council it was with the intent that I would always make decision that I felt were in the best interest of taxpayers and that I would be transparent on the facts. I believe that the taxpayers need to be more informed on the facts as it relates to this further funding request for the Stephenville Airport Corporations (SAC).

1. The first fact is that the Airport Corporation is an independently incorporated body that is solely responsible for the management, ownership and operations of the Stephenville Airport facility. Any decision to close or keep the airport open rest with this corporation and not our council.
2. The SAC presented to council a strategic business and operational plan 2016-2019. The previous council invested \$750,000 of taxpayer money into this business plan which one of the four key goals was for the airport to become financially sustainable. In fact, the financial projected statements contained in the plan indicated sustainability of the airport by year 2019. This did not occur.

3. Timeframe	Funds to SAC	Reason
Dec 2018	\$100,000	Land Purchase to support cash flow
Jan 2019	\$200,000	Operating Grant
Jun 2019	\$25,000	Operating Grant
Aug 19	\$100,000	Operating Grant
Sept 2019	\$145,000	Operating Grant
Total	\$565,000	

As chair of finance, I informed council that a sustainable annual grant for the airport of \$200 to \$250K was achievable given our financial position. This is something that I fully support.

Council operates on a budget of \$8.4 million dollars. Fixed costs consume \$7.6 million to operate our town. This leaves discretionary funding of approximately \$800K, which is all we have, to meet the needs of our taxpayers.

Since December 2018 and including future request council is currently aware of will have provided the airport corporation \$565K, which represents 70% of our discretionary funding.

The level of funding coming from the taxpayers of our town is not sustainable. The \$100K request today was not budgeted for 2019 this along with any other additional funding for 2019 will place our budget in deficit.

4. The taxpayers of Stephenville risk not having other priorities in our town addressed; such as, road repairs, especially potholes, children's play grounds, kids splash pad, dog park, downtown improvements, business and community development investments and the continuation of supporting the many not for profit organizations that do tremendous work in our town. Considering all the facts, as chair of finance, I am voting NO against the motion because it far exceeds the annual grant support of \$200 to \$250K per year for continued funding to the Stephenville Airport.

The SAC should be seeking other avenues for funding and if this regional airport has value then other municipalities may want to consider making a contribution to the cause or even a go fund me campaign to find 1000 supporters at \$100 each would yield a \$100K of funding.

If council approves this funding today there will be a responsibility to our taxpayers to outline a reasonable strategy to justify continuing using taxpayers money on an airport that provides limited flight services for its residents and limited cargo capacity for our business community without a legitimate plan in place.

Key Message: Stephenville taxpayers cannot afford to give the airport 70% of council's discretionary funding at the expense of other development priorities.

Councillor Hynes stated that he has met with the SAC Board and they are aware of the situation.

Deputy Mayor Fowlow stated that it is an important piece of infrastructure and that it is important to come up with a plan.

Mayor Rose commented that the Airport is the hub for air ambulance for four hospitals in the region, P.A.B., Burgeo, Stephenville and Corner Brook. It is important for the region and the provincial and federal government needs to step up. He also stated that the Airport needs new business plan and structure.

Councillor Aylward stated airport cannot close it is vital for Air Ambulance and will affect the hospitals ability to recruit physicians. It is important for our economy.

Mayor Rose

- Mayor Rose advised that the traffic lights at Queen Street and Prince Rupert Drive are well underway and should be completed shortly.
- He advised that the Town has a new piece of equipment called the Hippocampe, it's an innovative device that allow persons with

disabilities/mobility issues to get around and avail of the 16km of trails/beaches in the area.

Councillor Hynes

- stated that Colonial Evans passed away this week. He was the last Base Commander from the Ernest Harmon Air Base.

- commended Deborah Coughlin on the friendly invasion festival this summer. She has and continues to do a tremendous job at organizing this event and others throughout the community.

- He also acknowledged Colonial Clyde Russell who organized the Navy Ship visit this summer on an amazing job. He also stated that he is working on another event for next year.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion No. 19-303 Aylward/Hynes

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Carried Unanimously

MAYOR

TOWN CLERK