

MINUTES
PUBLIC COUNCIL MEETING
June 29th, 2023

A public council meeting held at the Town of Stephenville Town office on Thursday June 29th, 2023. The meeting was also streamed.

Present	Tom Rose	Mayor
	Susan Fowlow	Deputy Mayor, Chairperson
	Laura Aylward	Councillor
	Tristan Hulan	Councillor (online, disconnected from meeting at 7:26pm)
	Lenny Tiller	Councillor
	Myra White	Councillor
Absent:	Tracy Boland	Councillor
Staff:	Colin Maddock, CAO	
	Jennifer Brake, Town Clerk	
	Mike Ratter, Economic Development Officer	

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rose called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

23-189 Fowlow/White
Be it resolved that the agenda be approved as presented.
In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Hulan, Rose, Tiller, White
Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

23-190 White/Tiller
Be it resolved that the minutes of June 15th, 2023, public council meeting be approved as presented.
In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Hulan, Rose, Tiller, White
Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

PROCLAMATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councillor White presented the recommendations from the finance committee meeting held on June 27th, 2023.

Property Tax

23-191 White/Aylward

Be it resolved that approval be given for Property Tax write offs in the amount of \$385.59.

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Hulan, Rose, Tiller, White

Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

Water & Sewer Tax

23-192 White/Tiller

Be it resolved that approval be given for Water & Sewer Tax adjustments in the amount of \$336.00.

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Hulan, Rose, Tiller, White

Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

Remission of Tax

23-193 White/Aylward

Be it resolved that approval be given to write off Remission of Tax in the amount of \$1,019.85.

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Hulan, Rose, Tiller, White

Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

Miscellaneous Account

23-194 White/Tiller

Be it resolved that approval to revise account in the amount of \$602.50 due to error.

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Hulan, Rose, Tiller, White

Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

Stephenville Airport Corporation – Taxes

23-195 White/Aylward

Be it resolved that the Town of Stephenville, upon the sale of the Stephenville airport properties, will write-off outstanding pro-rated property and business tax to the date of sale in the fiscal year 2023 and all outstanding interest related to the same for the Stephenville Airport Corporation. Currently the outstanding pro-rated Property Tax and Business Tax and related interest up to June 30, 2023, is \$308,808.31

Mayor Rose made comment that the taxes have been normally written off at the end of the year, because the airport is a nonshared community group. He also noted that Gander writes off their taxes for its airport as well, and this is no different. He explained the taxes are being written off to the date of the sale,

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which will be any day, and then the town will accrue taxes from the Dymond Group. Councillor Tiller stated while he supports the sale of the airport, he expressed while everyone that was owed money got paid, the residents who have keep the airport open have not. The stated the money being written off could benefit the deficit, and community groups.

Councillor Hulan was unable to vote on the motion due to lost cell service, and he was unable to be reconnected, he was recorded to be adjourned the meeting at @ 7:26pm.

In Favor: 4 Aylward, Fowlow, Rose, Tiller, White
Opposed: 1 Motion Defeated

There was a comment related to the quorum for the motion, noting the Town Clerk advised the motion did not have quorum to pass, also noting this could not be heard on the video recording. The Chair declared the motion passed; however, the motion is declared defeated as 2/3 majority of council is required.

Adoption of the Tax Recovery Plan

23-196

White/Tiller

Be it resolved to approve the Tax Recovery Plan for year ended December 31, 2022.

In Favor: 5 Aylward, Fowlow, Rose, Tiller, White
Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

Canada Community Building Fund Application

23-197

White/Fowlow

Be it resolved to submit a Capital Investment Plan Application to the Canada Community Building Fund Secretariat, Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs in the amount of \$130,625.00 HST not included, to purchase SCADA Radios for the communication system to monitor the towns water wells.

In Favor: 5 Aylward, Fowlow, Rose, Tiller, White
Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

PERMITS AND MUNICIPAL PLAN

Councillor White presented the recommendations from the Planning and Traffic committee meeting held on June 27th, 2023.

6 Bayside Drive- Bayside Renovations

23-198

Fowlow/White

Be it resolved approval to issue a permit to operate a home-based office for a construction business out of the residence located at 6 Bayside Drive.

In Favor: 5 Aylward, Fowlow, Rose, Tiller, White
Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

16-26 Prince Rupert Drive-Eddy's Taxi & Bus Service Ltd.

23-199

Fowlow/Tiller

Be it resolved approval to issue a permit to consolidate properties 123 West with 16-25 Prince Rupert Drive and erect fence around perimeter as shown in plot plan, on the property to be called 16-26 Prince Rupert Drive. Approval is with the condition; the town will require access to municipal infrastructure located on the property if required.

In Favor: 5 Aylward, Fowlow, Rose, Tiller, White

Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

19 Oregon Drive- Acadian Hotel Inc.

23-200

Fowlow/Aylward

Be it resolved approval to issue a permit to remove existing steps and construct a concrete ramp to front entrance of hotel, replace siding on building and install concrete walkway on the property located at 19 Oregon Drive.

In Favor: 5 Aylward, Fowlow, Rose, Tiller, White

Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

241 Carolina Avenue- Salt Life Marine and Industrial Supplies

23-201

Fowlow/Tiller

Be it resolved approval to issue a permit to consolidate 241 Carolina Avenue and 245 Carolina Avenue into one parcel to be called 241-245 Carolina Avenue.

In Favor: 5 Aylward, Fowlow, Rose, Tiller, White

Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

30 Main Street-Twenty-Eight Main Street Limited

23-202

Fowlow/Aylward

Be it resolved approval to issue a permit to repair existing gate and fence to accommodate area for parked buses on the property located at 30 Main Street.

In Favor: 5 Aylward, Fowlow, Rose, Tiller, White

Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

149-151 Main Street- Easy Home

23-203

Fowlow/White

Be it resolved approval to issue a permit to alter retail space and build two offices as per drawings submitted, on the property located at 149-151 Main Street.

In Favor: 5 Aylward, Fowlow, Rose, Tiller, White

Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

145 New Mexico Drive

23-204 Fowlow/Tiller

Be it resolved approval to issue a permit to repair porch overhang and replace and extend front patio 6' x 7' on the property located at 145 New Mexico Drive.

In Favor: 5 Aylward, Fowlow, Rose, Tiller, White

Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

89 Gallant Street- Newfoundland Power

23-205 Fowlow/Aylward

Be it resolved approval to issue a permit to demolish a section of the building and complete renovations to the existing structure and pave section of the driveway on the property located at 89 Gallant Street.

In Favor: 5 Aylward, Fowlow, Rose, Tiller, White

Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

144 Main Street- Canada Post Corporation

23-206 Fowlow/White

Be it resolved approval to issue a permit to repair the sidewalk area at front of building located at 144 Main Street.

In Favor: 5 Aylward, Fowlow, Rose, Tiller, White

Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

78 West Street- St. Stephen Parish

23-207 Fowlow/Aylward

Be it resolved to issue a permit to alter wheelchair ramp on the property located at 78 West Street.

In Favor: 5 Aylward, Fowlow, Rose, Tiller, White

Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

RFP – 263 Carolina Avenue

23-208 Fowlow/Tiller

Be it resolved to issue a Request for Proposal for the building located at 263 Carolina Avenue

In Favor: 5 Aylward, Fowlow, Rose, Tiller, White

Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Councillor Tiller

Acknowledged his grandfather Charlie Tiller 89th Birthday on June 28.

Deputy Mayor Fowlow

Deputy Mayor Fowlow addressed her concerns about a recent CBC news article which stated the town doesn't support community groups because of the airport. She believes misinformation along with interview from Trevor Stagg has left the wrong impression that the town didn't support the pride committee. The committee requested funding through the community grant program in the amount of \$4,000 and was unsuccessful because they didn't meet the criteria, not because we don't support them or that one thing was chosen over another. She he added the Town of Stephenville has been a supporter of the Pride Committee since it was formed, we have supported their proclamations, pride crosswalk, raised the flag and she added we have council members who are part of the LGBT community, subsequently suggesting we don't support them was very, very disappointing for me. She also added that she confirmed that Mr. Stagg was not speaking on behalf of the pride committee in his capacity but rather it was on his own behalf. She added if CBC captured all the information that was presented rather than pieces of information; we would have a different story. This town and council stand to support and inclusion and I want to be very clear on that.

Councillor Aylward added she agreed, and Mr. Stagg also made a comment about another event not being supported, "Friendly Invasion" because of the mayors tv show, which she took offense to this comment. She acknowledged that when PBS American radio station comes into your town it's a notable event, not only for economics, but it was also great for the people in our community to enjoy; she was amazed that someone would be so negative.

Mayor Rose continued to add, the Town supports pride and it's his opinion we are the most inclusive community in the province. He acknowledged we are in public office, and this comes with public scrutiny. The town has always supported the community and nonprofit groups, and this can be verified over the years. This year the town adopted a community grant program, and some groups didn't meet the criteria, however there will be another opportunity this fall when we will be accepting applications. He acknowledged the council makes decisions and advised if you don't like the decisions, put your name forward for the next municipal election. Council is focused, we have a great community, council, and management team and we will continue to provide the residents of Stephenville with stellar performance.

Councillor White added she is very disappointed with the statements made by the professional male and the comments about this council. She noted the council has been working hard and diligently to make the best decision. If someone speaks out, they should have the proper information.

Mayor Rose

He spoke about the PBS Event and why Stephenville was chosen. He noted, there was an opportunity to be twinned with Lake City, South Carolina about a year ago and Stephenville was chosen because it's a former US base, influence of the American airbase was a catalyst for our arts and culture, and we have indigenous and French influence. This was the first time PBS has ever filmed in Newfoundland and Labrador, the total cost of the project is approximately one million dollars. Production teams from South Carolina were on site, the Mayor of Lake City, along with the head of ArtsFields. He stated he was part of a committee, along with Deputy Mayor Fowlow, and Mike Ratter, economic development officer to bring community groups together to capitalize of this event and offer more activities for the community. Arts Fest Stephenville event was created, and this will be an annual event with the goal to collaborate with outside communities. Arts is economics, and these events brought booked hotels, individuals looking to invest and live here. PBS national program director stated this may reach 60-70% of the PBS network, which is sufficient. The events started on Thursday with local entertainment and comedy act at the Days Inn. Friday was Arts NL Awards show at the Arts and Culture Centre, with about 350-375 people in attendance. Saturday - local entertainment at the town square; Saturday Night- PBS film production event took place at the airport called "Towns in Tune" Sunday's final event also took place at the airport. The event paired an author, musician, and an artist. The artist and the musician, from an excerpt of the author's book, had to write a song and create a piece of art. This event was very successful and well attended. He noted PBS Saturday night event raised between \$ 4,000 - \$5,000 and 100% of the proceeds will be given to Stephenville Emergency Food Bank. The merit and economics of these events speaks for themselves.

Councillor Aylward

Congratulated Search and Rescue on their 40th Anniversary and open house event. She noted she's out of town and will miss Canada Day events.

Councillor Tiller

Congratulated and recognized Special Olympics World Champions Michael Budden and Samantha Walsh. The Mayor and Councillor White attended the YMCA celebration event.

Deputy Mayor also acknowledged and congratulated the College of the North Atlantic Digital Film Students top notch production that took place at the Stephenville Cinema

NOTICE OF MOTION

None

ADJOURNMENT

23-209

Fowlow/Tiller

Resolved that since there is no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:02pm

In Favor: 5 Aylward, Fowlow, Rose, Tiller, White

Opposed: 0 Motion Carried