

**PUBLIC COUNCIL MEETING
April 11th, 2024**

A public council meeting was held at the Town of Stephenville Town office on Thursday April 11th, 2024. The meeting was also streamed.

Present	Tom Rose	Mayor, Chairperson
	Susan Fowlow	Deputy Mayor
	Myra White	Councillor
	Laura Aylward	Councillor
	Darren Roberts	Councillor
	Tom O'Brien	Councillor
	Maurice Hynes	Councillor

Staff:

- Bill Ramsay, CAO
- Candace Simon, Deputy CAO
- Marilee Joy-Castillo, Communications Coordinator
- Mike Ratter, Community, Economic, Industrial Development Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rose called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We respectfully acknowledge the Town of Stephenville as the ancestral homeland of different populations of Indigenous people. We also acknowledge with respect, the rich histories and cultures of the Beothuk, Mi'kmaq, Innu and Inuit of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Resolution # 24-121

Moved by: Councillor Roberts

Seconded by: Councillor O'Brien

Be it resolved that the agenda for April 11th, 2024 be approved as presented.

In Favor:	7	Roberts, O'Brien, Fowlow, Rose, White, Hynes, Aylward
Opposed:	0	Carried Unanimously

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Resolution #24-122

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Fowlow

Seconded by: Councillor White

Be it resolved that the minutes of March 28th, 2024, public council meeting be approved as presented.

In Favor:	7	Fowlow, White, Hynes, O'Brien, Rose, Aytward, Roberts
Opposed:	0	Carried Unanimously

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

PROCLAMATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

(Chair, Councillor White)

Councillor White presented the recommendations from the finance committee meeting held on April 8th, 2024.

Accounts Payable April 11th, 2024

Resolution #24-123

Moved by: Councillor White

Seconded by: Councillor Roberts

Be it Resolved to pay accounts payable for April 11th, 2024, in the amount of \$173,558.92.

In Favor:	7	White, Roberts, Fowlow, Rose, Hynes, Aytward, O'Brien
Opposed:	0	Carried Unanimously

**Request for Sponsorship-Stephen Awards
Resolution #24-124**

Moved by: Councillor White

Seconded by: Councillor Aylward

Be it Resolved to give a sponsorship in the amount of \$2,500.00 to the Stephen Awards.

In Favor: 7 White, Aylward, Fowlow, Roberts, Rose, Hynes, O'Brien
Opposed: 0 Carried Unanimously

**Request to approve sale of Minnesota Drive & Connecticut Drive Corner Lot
Resolution #24-125**

Moved by: Councillor White

Seconded by: Councillor O'Brien

Be it Resolved to approve sale of Minnesota Drive & Connecticut Drive Corner Lot to GDR Enterprises, based on the payment structure presented for three installments to be paid on April 26, August 23, and December 30, 2024, for a total of \$441,969.27.

In Favor: 7 White, O'Brien, Aylward, Fowlow, Roberts, Rose, Hynes
Opposed: 0 Carried Unanimously

**Request to approve advertising-2024 Town of Stephenville Tax Structure
Resolution #24-126**

Moved by: Councillor White

Seconded by: Councillor Hynes

Be it Resolved to approve a full-page ad in the Newfoundland Wire to advertise the Town of Stephenville 2024 Tax Structure in the amount of \$1,089.00 plus HST.

In Favor: 7 White, Hynes, Aylward, Fowlow, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien
Opposed: 0 Carried Unanimously

**Replacement of Water Line- 10 Burton Place
Resolution #24-127**

Moved by: Councillor White

Seconded by: Councillor O'Brien

Be it Resolved to approve replacement of water line on 10 Burton Place at a cost of \$26,588.00 plus hst

In Favor: 7 White, O'Brien, Aylward, Fowlow, Roberts, Rose, Hynes
Opposed: 0 Carried Unanimously

**Request to Purchase- Rescue Boats & Equipment
Resolution #24-128**

Moved by: Councillor White

Seconded by: Councillor O'Brien

Be it Resolved to approve the purchase of rescue boats & equipment for the Stephenville Fire Department not to exceed an amount of \$12,000.00 plus hst including suits.

In Favor: 7 White, O'Brien, Aylward, Fowlow, Roberts, Rose, Hynes
Opposed: 0 Carried Unanimously

**PERMITS AND MUNICIPAL PLAN
(Chair, Councillor Aylward)**

The Planning and Traffic committee met on April 8th, 2024, and the following items were recommended for council approval.

**Spring Clean-Up
Resolution #24-129**

Moved by: Councillor Aylward

Seconded by: Councillor White

Be it Resolved to approve Spring Clean-up period from April 22nd, to May 10th, 2024. Drop off at the Public Works Depot would be from April 22nd to May 4th followed by Curbside Collection May 6th to May 10th, 2024.

In Favor: 7 Aylward, White, O'Brien, Fowlow, Roberts, Rose, Hynes
Opposed: 0 Carried Unanimously

Councillor Roberts declared himself in business related conflict on the next motion and left the table at 12:40 p.m and returned to the table at 12:41 p.m.

**41 Main Street- Wikmaq Autoparts & Equipment
Resolution # 24-130**

Moved by: Councillor Aylward

Seconded by: Councillor Hynes

Be it Resolved to issue a permit to construct a concrete pad for storage of industrial gases and a concrete ramp to doors, in accordance with all town regulations.

In Favor: 6 Aylward, White, O'Brien, Fowlow, Rose, Hynes

Opposed: 0 Carried

BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councillor O'Brien stated to council a concern about the \$10 million commitment made in the past related to the airport. Mayor Rose reiterated that the MOU was regarding fire protection and equipment and had nothing to do with the airport sale. Councillor O'Brien asked whether a former member of the Airport Corporation might be able to meet with the council and make some clarifications regarding the deal. It was stated that the Airport Corporation is now dissolved. CAO Ramsay will check with Former Chair Willie MacNeil stated and will locate the previous minutes from Council when the original endorsement was passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Councillor Hynes did some investigation into the timing of the traffic lights throughout town. They ranged from 26 seconds upwards to 1 minute 15 seconds. He is wondering if there might be a way to have better consistency. Community, Economic, and Industrial Development Manager Mike Ratter explained to Council that part of the Accessibility Plan is to improve accessibility for these Crossings using Accessible Pedestrian Signal Technology. Timings need to be appropriately timed for the technology we use.

Public Meeting of Council April 11th, 2024

Councillor Fowlow gave a report on her attendance at the Urban Municipalities Conference. She said a good portion of the meetings were on Code of Conduct and it was very informative. There were also discussions on the social media platforms and protocol. The theme was putting the "Civil" back in Civilization.

Councillor White reminded Council of the Orange Shirt project "Every child matters" and that its founder and Residential school survivor Phyllis Webstad will be at a public function at the Stephenville Lions Club on Friday, April 12th from 6 – 8 p.m.

Mayor Rose announced that the Green Light from the Government was given on the multibillion dollar green energy project for Stephenville and Region. It is projected that by early 2026 ammonia will be shipped from the Port in Stephenville to Hamburg, Germany.

Councillor O'Brien gave a thank you to the Business Improvement Association Downtown. He also asked when Council last met with the Health Authority regarding the health accord. Councillor Aylward gave an update on a meeting that took place a few months earlier. She added that Lloyd Walters is now our representative on the health board. It was the consensus that Council should ask for another follow up meeting.

Mayor Rose welcomed special guests to the meeting including Elder Frank Russell. Three new Friendship murals were unveiled and displayed on a wall in the Chamber. Artist Marcus Gosse explained the meaning of each symbol which represents the Indigenous culture, the Acadian – French Culture and the U.S. Air Force base history. Qalipu First Nation Chief Jenny Brake and Tony Cornect, President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Francophone Association also spoke as representatives of our Indigenous and French Acadian Cultures.

Following a short break for ceremonial picture taking the meeting resumed.

Resident Paul Green spoke to Council and presented his suggestion to name two streets in town. The first to be known as "Stein Drive" after former Mayor Cecil Stein and the second street would be named "L. Aylward Crescent" in honour of current Councillor Laura Aylward. Councillor Aylward has been serving on Council for 31 years. Mr. Greene also recommended adding to the signage one of the three newly adopted Friendship Signs unveiled. This was noted by the Council as already being a plan to have the friendship murals added to future street signs.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor O'Brien said that due to the lateness of the meeting, he would not present any motions to Council at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolution #24-131

Moved by: Councillor O'Brien

Seconded by: Councillor Hynes

Be it resolved that since there is no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

In Favor:	7	O'Brien, Hynes, Fowlow, White, Roberts, Rose, Aylward
Opposed:	0	Carried