

**PUBLIC COUNCIL MEETING**  
**December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

A public council meeting held at the Town of Stephenville Town office on Thursday December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The meeting was also streamed.

Present	Tom Rose	Mayor
	Susan Fowlow	Deputy Mayor
	Laura Aylward	Councillor
	Lenny Tiller	Councillor
	Tracy Boland	Councillor
	Tristan Hulan	Councillor
Absent:	Myra White	Councillor
Staff:	Colin Maddock, Chief Administrative Officer	
	Jennifer Brake, Town Clerk	

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Rose called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**22-381** Fowlow/Boland  
Be it resolved that the agenda be approved as presented.  
In Favor: 6  
Opposed: 0 Motion Carried Unanimously

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**22-382** Tiller/Boland  
Be it resolved that the minutes of December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, public council meeting be approved as presented.  
In Favor: 6  
Opposed: 0 Motion Carried Unanimously

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

None

**PROCLAMATIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

None

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Finance Committee

#### Property Tax

22-383 Fowlow/Aylward

Be it resolved that council approve Property Tax write offs in the amount of \$317.76.

In Favor: 6

Opposed: 0

Motion Carried Unanimously

#### Water and Sewer Tax

22-384 Fowlow/Boland

Be it resolved that council approve Water and Sewer Tax adjustments in the amount of \$ 1021.68.

In Favor: 6

Opposed: 0

Motion Carried Unanimously

#### Accounts Payable Listing November 2022

22-385 Fowlow/Hulan

Be it resolved that council approve to pay Accounts Payable for November 2022 totaling \$527,658.43.

In Favor: 6

Opposed: 0

Motion Carried Unanimously

#### Adoption of Tax Rates & Fees 2023

22-386 Fowlow/Boland

Be it resolved that council adopt Tax Rates and Fees 2023 as presented.

In Favor: 6

Opposed: 0

Motion Carried Unanimously

### **Adoption of Budget 2023**

22-387 Fowlow/Aylward

Be it resolved that the 2023 Budget be adopted as presented.

In Favor: 5 Mayor Rose, Deputy Mayor Fowlow, Councillor Aylward,  
Councillor Boland, Councillor Hulan

Opposed: 1 Councillor Tiller Motion Carried

Councillor Tiller stated it was his opinion there was not sufficient time allocated for budget consultations. He was not in agreement with increased expenditures in some areas, specifically travel and vehicles. He also noted the current debt repayment plan was not addressed in the budget ; and given these concerns he was not comfortable approving the budget.

### **Deputy Mayor Fowlow presented preamble to the 2023 Municipal Budget**

Acting on behalf of the Chair of the Finance Committee of the Town of Stephenville, I present the 2023 Municipal Operating Budget for the Town of Stephenville. Stephenville has a long history of resilience and overcoming challenges, and has seen rapid growth and rapid decline, but through it all, its residents have done so with perseverance and hope. The last few years have been filled with challenges and restrictions, which has challenged us all. Inflation has hit the residents of Stephenville hard in 2022, and it is anticipated to continue to significantly influence in 2023, as the cost of most everything has increased, putting pressure on us all. But Stephenville has experienced a 2022 filled with hope and a future brighter than many can remember. While emerging from lockdown and restrictions, we are now realizing some incredible opportunities. Our community is poised to grow and develop.

We look forward to the opportunities of **Green Energy**, with World Energy GH2's wind-powered green hydrogen Project **new-geo-ho-neek** "Nujio'qonik", which was first announced in May 2022, anticipating 3 Gigawatts of green/wind energy capacity which will drive 1.65 GW of green hydrogen/ammonia production for export to our European partners in support of global climate change initiatives. The project was the focus of international attention on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2022, when Stephenville played host to Prime Minister Trudeau and German Chancellor Scholz for the signing of the historic Canada-Germany Hydrogen Alliance. The project is expected to create 1,800 new construction jobs, 300 new green energy jobs, and up to 2,500 secondary and tertiary jobs, with an anticipated investment of approximately \$10-12 Billion.

We additionally look forward to finalizing the Dymond group's planned acquisition of Stephenville airport which will create significant opportunities in green aviation, sustainable aviation fuels, research, development and cargo drone manufacturing and operations, to name but a few opportunities. The acquisition process is currently underway and expected to be finalized any day. Significant investments are anticipated in the coming 4-5 years, along with between 2,000 and 3,000 new direct jobs and many secondary jobs in support, engineering, airline sector, tourism and construction.

Significant additional developments are planned and will provide employment opportunities for other industries such as aquaculture, retail expansion, timber products, mineral concentrates, ammonia, aggregates and manufactured goods.

The operating budget that I present today is a balanced budget, with no increase in the mil rates, and will continue to provide the level of services which the Town has provided in the past. Residents and businesses will be pleased to hear that there will be no change in the mil rate or water and sewer tax for 2023. A new focus on economic growth and development, saw new staff resources added to the town structure in 2022, which will require more robust planning and engineering functions which will be developed in the future to effectively manage new growth in the Town of Stephenville.

**REVENUE:** There will be no increases to the mil rates in the current year. Total municipal revenue for 2023 is forecast to be \$8,952,408 of which \$7,418,166 is from taxation. The remaining revenue is derived from various sources such as permits, fees, and provincial transfers. Council will continue to aid low-income residents through offering discounts for taxes paid.

**EXPENDITURES:** Total expenditures 2023 are forecasted to be \$8,952,408. The total capital works submission for 2023 is anticipated to be approximately \$10,892,450, and involves the reconstruction of streets, with provincial and federal funding available in the amount of \$8,713,960. This leaves the Town's portion of the municipal capital works ask for 2023 of \$2,178, 490. Borrowing has increased this year, more than it has in recent years, as the Town supports the attraction and retention of medical professionals, has supported the regional Stephenville Airport Corporation and provided critical support to recreational facilities.

**CAPITAL EXPENDITURES APPROVED IN 2022 WHICH WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN 2023:**

Council, in partnership with the Provincial and Federal Governments, continues to invest into the town's infrastructure with planned investments in the design of the new Stephenville Firehall, the Reconstruction of Main Street, and the Replacement of the Overpass Bridge on Minnesota Drive.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT:** Council continues to provide support to our mostly volunteer community groups, which provide critical support to the residents of Stephenville, and which make our Town the unique and friendly community that it is. Council has committed to support our indigenous community with land grants and financial support, to support wellness, healing and community housing initiatives. Supporting our community partners, tourism and recreational organizations, beautification programs of the town and our youth, will continue to be a priority of this council.

Mr. Mayor, Council, and residents of Stephenville, I present to you the 2023 Municipal Operating Budget. We continue to invest in our community and will respond to the opportunities that 2023 will provide us, while ensuring that our residents live in a safe and inclusive space, where the quality of life is enhanced for all our residents. Building on our Green future, we will endeavor to become more sustainable, as a council and a community. By keeping mil rate the same for 2023, Council can support those in our community already feeling the effects of inflation. We look forward to the bright yet

demanding 2023 and commit to continuing to support our residents and town in realizing this bright future. I

***Summary of The Municipal Budget Submission Form***

<b>Name of Municipality</b>	<b>STEPHENVILLE</b>	<b>Budget Year</b>	<b>2023</b>
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From The Municipal Budget Submission Form, the totals of the seven expenditure functions, the total expenditures, the totals of the five main revenue sources and the total revenues are found in the appropriate boxes below.

**Expenditures**

<b>1.0 General Government</b> .....	<b>\$2,163,120.00</b>	
<b>2.0 Protective Services</b> .....	<b>\$1,399,150.00</b>	
<b>3.0 Transportation Services</b> .....	<b>\$2,322,100.00</b>	
<b>4.0 Environmental Health</b> .....	<b>\$1,401,600.00</b>	
<b>5.0 Planning and Development</b> .....	<b>\$705,000.00</b>	
<b>6.0 Recreation and Cultural Services</b> .....	<b>\$588,700.00</b>	
<b>7.0 Fiscal Services</b> .....	<b>\$372,738.00</b>	
Total Expenditures .....		<b>\$8,952,408</b>

**Revenues**

<b>1.0 Taxes</b> .....	<b>\$7,418,166</b>	
<b>2.0 Sales of Goods and Services</b> .....	<b>\$61,100.00</b>	
<b>3.0 Other Revenue From Own Sources</b> .....	<b>\$530,500.00</b>	
<b>4.0 Government Transfers</b> .....	<b>\$942,642.00</b>	
<b>5.0 Other Transfers</b> .....		
Total Revenues .....		<b>\$8,952,408</b>

## **PLANNING & TRAFFIC COMMITTEE**

Councillor Hulan presented the recommendations from the Planning and Traffic committee.

### **7 Neptune Drive- Kings Cab**

**22-388**

Hulan/Tiller

Be it resolved to approve a permit to operate a taxi service and erect signage on the building located at 7 Neptune Drive.

to erect 4' x 6.5' foot business sign along entrance of Minnesota Drive, subject to compliance with all Town Regulations.

In Favor: 6

Opposed: 0

Motion Carried

### **2 Iowa Drive- N.A.W.N (Newfoundland Aboriginal Women's Network)**

**22-389**

Hulan/Boland

Be it resolved to issue a permit to construct a Transitional House, and Cultural Healing and Wellness Centre, as plans submitted on the property located at 2 Iowa Drive.

In Favor: 6

Opposed: 0

Motion Carried

### **Public Meeting Schedule 2023**

**22-390**

Hulan/Tiller

Be it resolved to approve 2023 Public Meetings of Council schedule as presented.

2023 Public Meeting Schedule

January 12, 26

February 9, 23

March 9, 23

April 6, 20

May 4, 18

June 1, 15, 29

July 20

August 10, 31

September 14, 28

October 12, 26

November 9, 23, December 14

In Favor: 6

Opposed: 0

Motion Carried

## **BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

None

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Deputy Mayor Fowlow**

Deputy Mayor provided a brief overview of the Urban Municipalities Committee meeting she attended in St. John's on December 8 - 10. The discussions focused on health care, health care accord and physician recruitment and retention and the role municipalities can play. She noted the meetings were informative and there was a positive message as the health care accord structure moves forward.

### **Mayor Rose**

Indicated council has a scheduled meeting with Minster Osbourne tomorrow to discuss the management and operation deficiencies at the hospital. We will convey the importance of the hospital and the expansion of services that will be required as the town's population increases.

He provided some highlights for 2022

- New playground was opened
- Continuation of the guardian angel program and Best Bus
- Provided support to N.A.W.N
- History made with Stephenville council playing a part to bring G7 Summit to Stephenville

### **Councillor Aylward**

Councillor Alyward noted she attended virtual meetings with Western Health Officials that included Dr. Rashleigh, Ms. Morgan and recruitment personnel. The current situation of recruitment and retention concerns was discussed. She stated the Minister should be aware of specific reasons why doctors and staff are relocating. Mayor Rose in response stated, during this meeting he requested western health officials to find out "why" staff is leaving. He also noted Sir Thomas Roddick Hospital will have a surgeon and locum surgeon in the new year.

## **Councillor Boland**

She indicated the Main Street Christmas Adventure was very successful, and the number of people doubled from last year with people attending as far from Port Aux Basque and Corner Brook. She thanked the volunteers, committee members, town staff and the businesses that participated to make the event successful. Deputy Mayor stated it's one of her favorite events, however she was disappointed that some businesses didn't participate and decorate the store fronts. Mayor Rose stated next year we will ensure the street is lit up. Councillor Boland expressed Danny's Bakery was closed due to death in the family and was not open.

## **NOTICE OF MOTION**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**22- 391** Fowlow/Boland  
Resolved that since there is no further business the meeting adjourned at  
8:00 pm  
In Favor: 6  
Opposed: 0  
Motion Carried

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**MAYOR**

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**TOWN CLERK**