

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF LUNENBURG
Minutes of a Meeting of
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
Held in Council Chamber, 210 Aberdeen Road, Bridgewater, NS
Tuesday, September 10, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Deputy Mayor Cathy Moore, District 5
Councillor Eric Hustvedt, District 1
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2
Councillor Lee Nauss, District 3
Councillor John Veinot, District 4
Councillor Claudette Garland, District 6
Councillor Wade Carver, District 7
Councillor Michael Ernst, District 8
Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9
Councillor Errol Knickle, District 10

Staff: Alex Dumaresq, Acting CAO
Sherry Conrad, Municipal Clerk
Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer
Byung Jun Kang, Planner
Tina Robichaud-Bond, Executive Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bolivar-Getson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/RECOGNITION

2.1 Beacons of Light for British Home Children Tribute

Mayor Bolivar-Getson acknowledged that September 28 is British Home Child Day in Canada and that 2019 marked the 150th year since the first of these children arrived in Canada. She also provided some background information on the British Home Children Advocacy and Research Association.

2.2 Explore Canada Industry Award of Excellence – Nova Scotia Lobster Crawl

Mayor Bolivar-Getson recognized Tourism NS and South Shore Tourism Cooperative for receiving the Explore Canada Industry Award of Excellence for the Nova Scotia Lobster Crawl. She thanked both Donna Hatt of White Point Beach Resort and Chair of the South Shore Tourism Cooperative, and Chasidy Veinotte, the Municipality's Tourism and Marketing Coordinator, for their work and efforts in promoting and making the Lobster Crawl a success.

Mayor Bolivar-Getson recognized and thanked the First Responders for all their work and clean up efforts during and in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian.

Councillor Hustvedt reported that the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia presented the eleven communities that make up the Petite Riviere School District with a Community Spirit Award.

Councillor Hustvedt thanked First Responders on scene at the Petite Riviere General Store for their efforts fighting the fire that destroyed the building and offered condolences to the owners of the store.

Councillor Bell acknowledged the many volunteers and various electric company personnel from New Brunswick and Florida, who were involved in the relief efforts during Hurricane Dorian and its aftermath. He recognized the Hanrahan family who opened their home to neighbours, providing a cooked meal. Councillor Bell noted his disappointment with the news that a generator had been stolen from the Walden Fire Department and asked that any information be forwarded to the RCMP or Crime Stoppers.

It was questioned if the waste site would be available for residents to drop off debris from the hurricane free of charge. It was noted that this would be looked into immediately.

3. PUBLIC INPUT (Nil)

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Deputy Mayor Moore, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the Agenda be approved as circulated.

It was asked that online updates on the progress of the new administration building be more accessible on the website. It was clarified that a “boutique” had been created on the municipal website which provided easy access to the progress on the building and that updates would become more regular.

The motion on the floor was voted on and carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Carver that the Minutes of the July 23, 2019 Public Hearing be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Moore, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the Minutes of the July 23, 2019 Council meeting be approved as circulated.

A question was asked as to whether the Department of Environment had been invited to present at Council. Staff advised that a representative from the Department would be attending the September 24, 2019 Council meeting.

The motion on the floor was voted on and carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Deputy Mayor Moore that the Minutes of the August 13, 2019 Special Council meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the Minutes of the August 27, 2019 Council meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor Hustvedt spoke further to an item he had reported on at the July 23, 2019 Council meeting. More specifically, he advised that the Hike NS Summit in May 2019 was organized by Hike NS and co-hosted by Events Nova Scotia and the Oak Island Resort and Conference Centre.

7. AWARDING OF TENDERS/RFPs (Nil)

8. PRESENTATIONS/SCHEDULED TIMES (Nil)

9. CONSIDERATION OF CORRESPONDENCE (Nil)

10. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES & BOARDS

10.1 Finance Committee

10.1.1 Sponsorship Ad – Nova Scotia Ground Search & Rescue

Moved by Councillor Garland, seconded by Councillor Carver that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and approve the Sponsorship Ad request of the Nova Scotia Ground Search and Rescue for a ¼ page black and white ad for \$269.57 plus HST to support their FREE Wilderness Survival Guide. Carried unanimously.

10.1.2 Remembrance Day Grants

Moved by Deputy Mayor Moore, seconded by Councillor Whynot that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and approve the award of \$1,000 from the Remembrance Day Grants to support community Remembrance Day Events on November 11, 2019 as follows:

Royal Canadian Legion Branch #24 (Bridgewater)	\$250
Royal Canadian Legion Branch #49 (Mahone Bay)	\$250
Royal Canadian Legion Branch #102 (New Germany)	\$250
Parkdale/Maplewood Remembrance Day Committee	\$250

Carried unanimously.

10.2 Pension Committee

10.2.1 Potential Transfer to Public Service Superannuation Plan

Mayor Bolivar-Getson declared a Conflict of Interest as she is related to two staff members and left the room. Deputy Mayor Cathy Moore took the Chair.

Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance; Paul Burnell, Actuary, Plenus; and Chris MacIntyre, Legal Counsel, McInnes Cooper, were in attendance.

Ms. Wentzell reviewed her report, “Potential Transfer to Public Service Superannuation Plan” (circulated with the Agenda) and provided a summary of steps taken to date to move towards a transfer to the PSSP. Ms. Wentzell reported that there are three options to be considered.

- remaining with the status quo;
- winding up the DB plan; or
- transferring to the PSSP.

Discussions followed regarding the following:

- losses to the provincial plan in 2008 and eventual recovery
- clarification on who will be transferred to the plan
- wind-up costs
- advantages/disadvantages of a transfer

Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Nauss that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Pension Committee and approve proceeding with the transfer of the Municipal Defined Benefit Pension Plan to the Public Service Superannuation Plan (“PSSP”), subject to reaching an acceptable transfer agreement with the PSSP Trustee Incorporated (“PSSPTI”).

It was noted that the PSSP would provide a lower risk to taxpayers while preserving a benefit to staff.

Concerns were raised that taxpayers would no longer have any control over the pension plan should it be transferred to the PSSP.

The Motion on the floor was voted on. Those Opposed: Councillors Ernst and Knickle. Motion Carried.

Paul Burnell and Chris MacIntyre left the meeting.

Mayor Bolivar-Getson returned to the Chair.

11. STAFF REPORTS

11.2 Administration Department

11.2.1 Fire & Emergency Services Update

Chris Kennedy, Fire Services Coordinator, was in attendance.

Mr. Kennedy gave a presentation, “2019 Fire Service Coordinator’s Update to Council & FESC” (circulated with the Agenda), updating Council on the activities of the Fire Services Coordinator and the Fire & Emergency Services Committee.

It was noted that there was an error on the numbers on the graph at page 9 of the Agenda; Fire Alarms were 81 and Illegal Burns were 1.

Discussion followed regarding the importance of pump testing and how to make it easier and safer.

Mr. Kennedy left the meeting.

12. MAYOR'S/DEPUTY MAYOR'S/COUNCILLORS' MATTERS

12.1 MJSB Update

Councillor Garland provided an update on the following Municipal Joint Services Board matters:

- Compost odour complaints and related issues
- Waste by-law discussions
- Possible “give away weekend” program
- Shared services – Human resources, Procurement/Safety Officer
- Recreational asset data analysis update
- Contract negotiations for cartage

Mr. Dumaresq advised that a meeting had been held with residents who live near the waste site facility to discuss odour concerns, environmental impacts of the waste site location, and property values.

It was clarified that a potential shared service for recreation services would focus on infrastructure, not recreation programming.

12.2 Update – Deputy Mayor

Deputy Mayor Moore reported that she received many telephone calls in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian and visited residents and local comfort stations.

12.2.1 Status Report: Short Term Accommodations

Deputy Mayor Moore reviewed the “Status Report: Short Term Accommodations” (circulated with the Agenda) and reported that there was a need for affordable long-term housing in the Municipality.

12.3 Update – Mayor

Mayor Bolivar-Getson reported that she attended the MODL corn boil in Parkdale/Maplewood; a Citizens for Public Transit report; a meeting with the Town of Bridgewater; a meeting with Chester RCMP; and dealing with various issues stemming from Hurricane Dorian.

Councillor Reid Whynot left the meeting at 10:53 a.m. to attend a fire call.

Mayor Bolivar-Getson encouraged all members to reach out to residents in the community to determine if there was a need to activate the “evacuation overnight shelter” and report back to Alex Dumaresq.

Mr. Dumaresq explained the procedure for an evacuation plan and reiterated that residents were encouraged to have a plan to be self-sufficient for 72 hours.

Deputy Mayor Moore reported that yard debris and food waste could be dropped off at the waste site free of charge.

13. ADDED ITEMS

14. IN CAMERA

At 11:09 a.m., it was moved by Deputy Mayor Moore, seconded by Councillor Nauss that Municipal Council go In Camera to discuss Item 14.1 Contract Negotiations re Town of Bridgewater Infrastructure, under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA. Carried.

Municipal Council In Camera in session.

Councillor Whynot returned to the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

At 12:26 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Carver that Municipal Council come out of In Camera and return to open session. Carried.

Municipal Council in session.

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at 12:28 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Garland that the meeting adjourn. Carried.