

**APPROVED MINUTES FROM REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M.**

The regular council meeting was held Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Murphy presiding and all Councillors present also Dayre and Wendy Chappell, Frances Ready, Linda Hobin, Tiffany Bernard, Shane Gillis, Chris LeClair, Tom Murphy, Ray Millman, Constable McGrath, Cindy Chant-West Prince Graphic, Eric McCarthy - Journal and staff Susan Wallace-Flynn.

Councillor Pottier declared a conflict of interest regarding a letter from ERC Concepts.

The motion was made by Councillor Gallant, seconded by Councillor Pottier and carried for the approval of the agenda.

Councillor Duggan stated that at the last meeting he said that snow should be cleaned up at certain parts of town and this was omitted from the minutes.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried for the approval of the minutes from the regular council meeting held October 15, 2013.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor Dunn asked for an update on the portfolios. Mayor Murphy asked Councillor Duggan if he had a copy of the ad and the proposals that were submitted for the mural. Councillor Duggan said the committee has a package to present to council with that information.

CORRESPONDENCE

A request was received from the Journal Pioneer for an ad for a Christmas greeting at a cost of \$52.50 plus tax and a second ad at a cost of \$39.15 plus tax.

The motion was made by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Dunn and carried to purchase two ads from the Journal Pioneer for Merry Christmas not Happy Holidays and for the Levee.

Councillor Pottier left the room due to conflict of interest.

A letter was received from ERC Concepts Ltd. to request a waiver of the municipal portion of the property tax.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Gallant and carried to consider the request from ERC Concepts Ltd. next year.

A letter will be sent to ERC Concepts Ltd. with this information. Councillor Pottier returned to the meeting.

BUSINESS LICENSES AND/OR PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

A property development application was received from Western Community Curling Club for an extension to the entrance 8 feet 8 inches by 14 feet 3 inches to accommodate storage and a bathroom. Mayor Murphy said the storage was for pop, plates, Styrofoam cups and empty beer bottles.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to approve the property development application from Western Community Curling Club for an addition for storage and a bathroom.

An application was received from Ron and Susan Flynn for a storage building 18 feet by 34 feet.

The motion was made by Councillor Duggan, second by Councillor Gallant and carried to approve a property development application for a storage building for Ron and Susan Flynn.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks & Tourism

Councillor Duggan reported for parks, the playground and fence have been completed. Councillor Duggan reported we have a couple centennial events coming up in the next few weeks. He said that the centennial committee would like to host the mural unveiling on Friday, November 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at the town hall.

The motion was made by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Councillor Cahill and carried for the town to cover the cost of two sweet trays, one fruit tray and beverages for the mural unveiling.

Councillor Duggan said that the committee has a suggestion for council's approval regarding the location of the mural and that the mural is 90% complete. He said that council will also need to have a frame constructed to house the mural and the committee also suggested council place a brass flag pole on each side of the mural with the town flag on one side and the Canadian flag on the other side. Councillor Duggan said they have a cost saving on the mural which will cover the purchase of one pole at a cost of \$219.00 plus tax and asked council to purchase the other one. Councillor Duggan said that Allan MacRae has provided a biography of the first Mayor of Alberton, Mayor John Agnew and that this can be burned on to a metal plaque suitable for display in the council chamber alongside the plaque honoring the first council.

The motion was made by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Councillor Pottier and carried to pay \$51.30 to have a plaque created and hung in the council chambers.

Councillor Duggan said that as part of The Alberton Centennial Festival the Alberton Arts and Heritage Centre will be presenting the Skit "The Reunion" on December 4th and 5th at 7:00 p.m.

Fire Report

Councillor Pottier reported for fire. The department responded to 11 calls which included 5 Medical First Responder, 2 Industrial fire alarms, 1 motor vehicle collision, 2 structure fires and 1 Mutual Aid call.

The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Gallant and carried to pay the fire department honorariums in the amounts of Firefighter - \$1,000.00 - Deputy Chief - \$1,500.00 and Chief - \$2,000.00.

Councillor Pottier reported that she attended a focus group meeting at the Rodd hosted by the Newcomers Association “to establish action for the year to come around integrating and retaining those that are new”. Councillor Pottier said that on November 4th the day the CEC opened she went over to the hospital and spoke to Faye Kingdon, Director of Nursing, Prince County Hospital and Community Hospitals West to express the committee’s support and happiness that the CEC was open.

The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Gallant and carried to send a letter to the Hon. Doug Currie, Minister of Health and Wellness, and copied to Dr. Richard Wedge, CEO, Health PEI and Cathy DesRoches, Administrator, Western Hospital, thanking him for his efforts regarding the establishment of the Collaborative Emergency Centre at Western Hospital thereby ensuring that emergency services are available 24 hours a day at Western Hospital and expressing support for the Centre.

Finance Report

Councillor Cahill reported for finance.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Gallant and carried to pay bills in the amount of \$70,073.54.

Street Report

Councillor Gallant reported for streets. There was nothing to report except we are still waiting for the government snow removal contract.

Street Light Report

Councillor David Campbell reported for street lights. He said there was a request for a light on McLeod Street. Councillor Campbell said it does not justify another light and that Maritime Electric would replace the four foot arm with a 10 foot arm on the pole on Main Street. He said if that did not work another option was to look at thinning the trees. Councillor Campbell said there is no cost if Maritime Electric comes to replace the bulb. Councillor Campbell asked that Maritime Electric be asked to replace the old orange bulbs.

Environment Report

Councillor Dunn said she researched the bylaws and met with Nora Dorgan at Westech and is gathering more information. Councillor Dunn said some residents had septic fumes in their homes and she contacted Deputy Minister Currie and Deputy Minister Douglas to assess and evaluate the situation. Mayor Murphy asked Councillor Dunn to enlighten him and the rest of council on this issue. Mayor Murphy said he was in the administrator’s office on Friday afternoon when she received a call from Morley Foy, Compliance Engineer, Department of Environment. He said his Deputy Minister and another Deputy Minister, Mr. Douglas received a letter from Councillor Dunn stating there was a major problem with sewer gas coming up people’s sinks and showers into their homes. Mayor Murphy told Councillor Dunn she had reported these people had to leave their homes for periods of time when the smell got so severe. He said she had requested that the department contact these people to assess and evaluate the situation at the four homes you gave them. He said we were asked to contact these residents immediately to find out how severe the situation was, as Mr. Foy was very surprised to receive the request from his Deputy Minister as this was the first he had known of this situation, nor had the town council or staff known about it. He asked why staff had not acted upon the complaints and contacted him directly. Mayor Murphy said there is a protocol to follow in a situation such as this and she should have first contacted the administration office. Mayor Murphy said that he and Susan had

gone to the homes of three of the residents and they were not aware of a problem and had not contacted anyone. He said in fact they were surprised about our visit. Councillor Dunn said as a councillor they get calls. Councillor Dunn said a lady gave her the names and she did not call the residents. Councillor Dunn said she was getting advice from an engineer in Summerside and should have copied us on the email. Councillor Dunn said she had called Corey Dunn about one residence and said she was not an engineer and that it is better to be safe than sorry. Mayor Murphy said that Councillor Dunn's letter and actions caused a great embarrassment to the town and this could have severe repercussions as far as legality and development go. Mayor Murphy said he may have to move her to another committee.

Councillor Dunn said the city of Summerside has a different system they shut off water or electricity for nonpayment of utilities. Councillor Dunn said a resident contacted the administrator about a sewer backup sometimes when he does the laundry. Mr. Chappell said he spent money and time to get the problem fixed and the water will not drain into the main line. He said there is water in the house and it cannot get out. Councillor Campbell asked if there is any problem with the upstairs. Mr. Chappell said when the water fills up against the check valve and he has a new finished basement. He said it has backed up twice since last year. Mayor Murphy asked if there was a bathroom in the basement before they purchased it. Wendy Chappell said no the basement was never finished until they purchased the house. Mayor Murphy said that on October 25, 2012 Clark Baglolle from Genivar told the property owners the line was flat and they said they wanted it left as it was. The sewer line from the property line to the main line was also replaced at that time. Councillor Cahill said that if the elevation is okay than it not our problem if the sewer line is going out the same place. Council agreed to contact the engineer to get a written assessment and evaluation and find out what the solution is for both lines. The Chappell's will be contacted with the date and time the line will be checked.

Councillor Dunn said there was an empty basement on Elder Street where the duplex burned and asked if it will be rebuilt.

The motion was made by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to send the owners of ATO properties a letter to fix up the housing on Elder Street.

Police Report

Constable McGrath read the report which included 18 calls for service and 186 policing hours. The breakdown for calls was as follows: 4 suspicious person, 3 traffic complaint, 2 mischief, 2 off highway vehicle act, 1 impaired operation causing bodily harm, 1 impaired driving, 1 break and enter, 1 disturb the peace, 1 motor vehicle collision, 1 person reported missing, 1 assist provincial agency.

Mr. and Mrs. Chappell left the meeting. The recreation report was distributed.

NEW BUSINESS

The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Gallant and carried for the town to purchase the former Perley Hardy property located on Church Street for the amount of \$60,000.00 and that Cox and Palmer be engaged to conduct a title search and do the legal work related to the purchase.

Councillors Cahill, Pottier, Duggan, Gallant and Campbell voted yes and Councillor Dunn voted no.

The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Gallant and carried for the sale of two subdivision lots to be applied to the purchase of the Hardy property and that the remainder of the purchase price be financed through RBC.

The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Gallant and carried that the administrator obtains the appropriate insurance for the buildings on the Hardy property.

The next item on the agenda was a Christmas dinner for council. Mayor Murphy suggested council make a donation in the same amount for food baskets for Kids West for Christmas.

The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Cahill and carried to donate the funds to Kids West for Christmas baskets.

A ditch was in filled on Elizabeth Drive without culverts.

The motion was made by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Cahill and carried to send a letter to the property owners on Elizabeth Drive to dig up the ditch and put in a culvert the full length of the ditch filled in.

The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to remove the train at the playground and have Allan Curtis look at it and see if he wanted it for part of his display.

The fire department would like to have the old sidewalk machine for cleaning their ice rink at the fire hall this year after the town is done using it. The insurance company has still not given the okay regarding liability. Susan will contact the insurance company.

The motion was made by Councillor Gallant, seconded by Councillor Pottier and carried that the old sidewalk machine be used by the fire department to clean their proposed rink.

Public Input

Tom Murphy thanked council for the donation of the sidewalk machine if they get permission for the rink. He also thanked the fire department members for their efforts at the farm fire and he said 26 out of 30 fire fighters showed up. Tom Murphy said he wanted to offer insight to people sent on training and the issue regarding hotel bills getting paid. He said the courses available for January to March are advertised and they register and if they cannot attend the course he has to pay. He said he does not like to register until the last minute and in lots of situations the courses are paid for. Tom Murphy said the PEIFFA only sends out invoices every 3 months for courses. Councillor Pottier asked if is possible to send the registration to the town administrator when they plan to register.

The motion was made by Councillor Gallant, seconded by Councillor Cahill and carried to adjourn the meeting.