

**APPROVED MINUTES FROM REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2014**

The regular Council meeting was held Monday, August 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Murphy presiding and Councillors Campbell, Dunn, Cahill, Pottier and Duggan present also Frances Ready, Alan Curtis, Ian Curtis, Nicole Saunders, Ray Millman, Geoffrey Irving, Kelly Gillis, Eric McCarthy - Journal, Rachel Finley - West Prince Graphic and staff Susan Wallace-Flynn. Councillor Gallant was absent due to work.

Mayor Murphy opened the meeting. Councillor Pottier declared a conflict of interest regarding a letter in the correspondence and Councillor Duggan declared a conflict of interest in the letter from Up West Winterfest.

Mayor Murphy said that before we start he had some comments to make regarding the controversy over the cobblestones on Main Street.

“To fellow councillors, ladies and gentlemen, residents and any concerned citizens I, as Mayor of our town would like to take a few minutes to clarify the reasons that a motion was put forward, seconded and carried at the last regular council meeting regarding the sidewalk improvements on Main Street.

As you are aware the cobblestones had been in place for the past number of years and since the installation they have been a continuous problem in trying to keep level. In the winter months they are a snow and ice trap. When there is no snow or ice they are quite uneven with depressions of up to 3 inches between curb and existing sidewalk. In this day and age where we can easily be held liable and accountable for unsafe walking areas we are required by law to practice due diligence. Whenever we recognize there is a safety issue or when we receive complaints we must act upon them as failure to act and remedy the situation puts us liable.

To the residents, entrepreneurs and business people we are doing this so that your customers, employees, friends and family can easily access your premises in the safest manner possible.

I may add that if any of you take notice of pedestrians walking on the sidewalk presently and in the past few years they always walk on the hard cement and not on the cobblestone.

Recently we have added extra disabled parking on Main Street, as we are aware that a majority of our residents are now seniors and some have physical challenges. Hopefully the new sidewalk and signage will make their lives much safer and user friendly.

At the council meeting held on August 13, 2012 it was recommended that the top edge of the sidewalk on Main Street be painted for caution, as it was realized at that time that we had a safety concern. I have heard rumors that we would not be able to make changes as the cobblestone was installed through a government assisted program however things change. We continually make changes as required, it can be noted in this same project an island was removed from the parking lot, changes have been made to our sewer system, changes have been made to the library, curling club, museum and the Presbyterian Church, all of which have received grants. Thank-you.”

Mayor Murphy asked for the approval of the agenda. Councillor Dunn asked to add to the agenda the closure of Main Street for the Alberton Multicultural Street Party on August 23rd but was told permission had to be obtained from the provincial government.

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

The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Cahill and carried for the approval of the minutes from the last regular council meeting held July 14, 2014 and special council meeting held July 28, 2014.

Councillor Duggan said that in his report last month he had asked to get the cameras checked out.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received regarding the New Building Canada fund and a request for Expressions of Interest for projects. Cst. MacDonald arrived at the meeting. Council discussed various ideas including widening Argyle Street and put Gard rails, sewer work, a park, storm sewer by the gym and land for wells.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Pottier and carried to hire an engineer to fill out the application to apply under the New Building Canada Fund to widen Argyle Street.

Councillor Pottier left the room due to a conflict of interest on the next item.

A letter was received from Krystyna Pottier to request permission to extend the culvert at 605 O'Brien Drive approximately two feet on each side of the existing culvert with new culvert the same size as the existing and cut to a 45 degree angle to be covered with topsoil and seeded with grass seed.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Dunn and carried to allow Krystyna Pottier to extend her culvert at 605 O'Brien Drive.

Councillor Pottier returned to the meeting.

Councillor Duggan left the room due to a conflict of interest on the next item.

A letter was received from Up West Winterfest to determine whether there was interest in continuing with the 3rd annual Up West Winterfest. The letter had a deadline of September 1st to respond. Council felt a letter of support could be given at this time but not financial support due to the upcoming election and the event will be held in 2015.

The motion was made by Councillor Dunn, seconded by Councillor Pottier and carried to send a letter of support for Up West Winterfest but not financial support at this time.

Councillor Duggan returned to the meeting.

A letter was received from the Alberton Historical Preservation Foundation Inc. to request extra picnic tables, benches, garbage cans and the use of the gazebo on August 16th for a Railway Day.

The motion was made by Councillor Dunn, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to fulfill the request from the Alberton Historical Preservation Foundation Inc. for picnic, tables, benches and the use of the gazebo.

A letter was received from Gail She's office to request 75-100 town pins for the Atlantic Caucus conference which will be held at the Rodd Mill River Resort on August 27 to 29th.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Dunn and carried to donate 100 town pins to Gail Shea's office.

BUSINESS LICENSES AND/OR PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

A property development application was received from 132 Poplar Street for a swimming pool and deck 12 feet X 17 feet.

The motion was made by Councillor Dunn, seconded by Councillor Pottier and carried to approve the property development application for 132 Poplar Street for a swimming pool and deck.

A property development application was received from 389 Church Street for a detached garage 24 feet X 36 feet.

The motion was made by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Councillor Cahill and carried to approve a property development application for a detached garage 24 feet X 36 feet at 389 Church Street.

Four property development applications were received for 600 Church Street after council had requested they get permits. The permits are being reviewed by the fire marshal, plumbing inspector and Department of Health.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police Report

Councillor Duggan read the police report which included 22 calls and 146 hours. The calls included 4 Traffic complaints, 3 Theft under \$5,000.00, 3 False alarms, 2 Off-highway Vehicle Act, 1 impaired driving, 1 driving while disqualified, 1 Motor vehicle/pedestrian collision, 1 Break and Enter, 1 Uttering Thefts. 1 harassing phone call, 1 Fraud, 1 Mental Health Act, 1 Motor Vehicle Act and 1 crime prevention.

Fire Report

Councillor Pottier said the fire chief was away and the fire report was not available.

Hertiage Town Owned Buildings Report

Councillor Pottier reported that the Welcome Centre is operating and the historical panels have been installed.

Finance Report

Councillor Cahill reported for finance.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Pottier and carried to pay bills in the amount of \$117,516.50.

Environment Report

Councillor Campbell reported for environment and said the sewer project was completed by Curran and Briggs. He also said that overdue sewer invoices would be looked at the next meeting.

Extending Town Boundaries

Councillor Dunn reported that that she spoke to Mayor Stanley MacDonald and after he speaks to his council he will share his information on extending boundaries.

Recreation Report

Mayor Murphy reported that we are still in the process of hiring a recreation sports coordinator. Cst. MacDonald left the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A request was received for a street light in front of 24 Emma Drive. The street light policy is 350-375 feet on streets with no sidewalks. The maintenance man will measure the distance.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to purchase ball uniforms from Regal Cresting for \$1,504.80.

A future use for the used cobblestone was discussed. Councillor Dunn said that people are asking what they will be used for and a suggestion she received from the public was to put them around the gazebo at the pond. Mayor Murphy suggested that the cobblestone be used to put a path around the cenotaph and if any left give them to the museum.

PUBLIC INPUT

Geoffrey Irving spoke on behalf of Alberton Area Development Corporation and said he appreciated the Mayor addressing the cobblestone issue at the start of the meeting. He said the businesses were caught by surprise and disappointed that they were not consulted or given notice before construction began. He said there was a disconnect between council and the association but he appreciates that it was a safety concern and maybe a representative could attend the meetings.

The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Cahill and carried to go to a committee of the whole.

The motion was made by Councillor Cahill, seconded by Councillor Campbell and carried to return from a committee of the whole.

The motion was made by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Councillor Cahill and carried to hire Selena Smith as recreation sports coordinator for 22 ½ hours per week at \$14.00 per hour and to get her under a Skills PEI program if possible.

The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Cahill and carried to use the cobblestone from Main Street around the cenotaph and design a cross and circle, to ask Alan Curtis before putting it around the cenotaph, to use quarter minus gravel and EDA workers for the installation.

The motion was made by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Councillor Campbell and carried that the minor ball and soccer coaches get \$50.00 in appreciation for volunteering.

Susan was asked to leave the room.

The motion was made by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Pottier and carried for Councillor Pottier to select a plaque for the Volunteer of the Year.

Susan returned to the meeting.

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