Town of St. George’s
Regular Council Meeting
Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Council of
The Town of St. George’s held in
Town Hall, May 4th, 2020

Members

Mayor
Deputy Mayor
Councillors

D. Conway
T. Messervey
R. Williams
C. White
M. Fleming

Also, present

Town Clerk
Assistant Town Clerk

J. Butt
S. Bennett

Call to Order

Mayor Conway call the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Mayor Conway welcomed the council members who attended through electronic means and the public in attendance via Facebook Live.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion #20 - 66 Deputy Messervey / White
Resolve to adopt the Agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

Delegations & Proclamations

a) Proclamation – Mental Health Week
I, Mayor Danny Conway do hereby proclaim the week 4 – 10th May, 2020 as Mental Health Week in the Town of St. George’s.

b) Proclamation – National Day of Awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
I, Mayor Danny Conway do hereby proclaim May 5th, 2020 as the National Day of Awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in St. George’s.

Adoption of Minutes Reg. Mtg Apr 14th, 2020

Motion # 20 - 67 White / Williams
Resolve to adopt the minutes from regular meeting April 14th, 2020. All in favor. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

a) Finance
(1) Motion # 20 - 68 White / Deputy Messervey
Resolve that the general invoices in the amount of $23,017.89 be approved for payment. All in favor. Motion carried.

(2) Current Bank Balances were given.

(3) Aged Receivables report shows as of April 30th, 2020 property taxes at 66.7 % collected, water and sewer taxes at 59.76 % and business taxes at 8.22 %.

(4) Expense report expenses at 23.69 % for the month of April. Income Total at 80.84 %.

(b) Projects

Chlorination Building Upgrade/ New Water Storage Tank Replacement
a) The latest report on Chlorination Building Upgrade is, we advised our Consultant that it is currently too wet for the sub contractors to come out and fix the road, they will wait a few weeks for dryer conditions.
b) Tenders will be going out this week for the New Water Storage Replacement Tank. Mayor Conway stated that since all funding is in place, the Replacement Water Storage Tank will go ahead as planned.

(c) Fire Department

1) April Fire Reports
No reports were filed for the month of April.

2) Rescue #2 Public Sale by Tender/ Bid Opening
We received one bid for Rescue #2 from Owen Bennett of St. George’s who placed a bid of $1803.99 on 2005 Chev Silverado. Bids had closed at noon on May 3rd, 2020.

Motion #20 - 69 Fleming / Messervy
Resolve to accept the bid for Rescue #2 as submitted by Owen Bennett in the amount of $1,803.99. All in favor. Motion carried.

(d) Stadium/Recreation

Financial Statement
1) The monthly budget for the stadium is showing a year to date deficit of $24,712.52 for month ending April 2020.

Quote Stadium Equipment
1) The town has received a quote from Youngs Industrial Refrigeration Ltd. at a cost of $499,210.23 H.S.T. extra for a complete Refrigeration System. This includes the supply and installation.

(e) Roads

An email was received from a resident asking Council to look at his property that runs along Bayview Avenue and damage done to rose bushes due to snow clearing.

Mayor Conway discussed that since Bayview Avenue is narrow it is very difficult for snow clearing and the operators are trying their best to prevent doing any damage.

Same resident also requested that we clean up debris left on his property due to snow clearing. Council made a motion that they will not be held responsible for cleaning up debris on resident’s property due to snow clearing.

Motion #20 - 70 White / Williams
Be it resolved that the Town will not clean debris from lawns/lots due to snow clearing activities as per status quo of previous years. All in favor. Motion carried.

(f) Divestiture

Councillor White had received a report that some erosion had taken place at the new Marina. Councillor White will view the area with another member of the committee and once complete will set up a meeting with committee members to discuss getting Small Craft Harbors involved to regarding any repairs that may need to be completed. An update will be provided at the next public meeting.

(g) Permits

1) General Repairs x 5
Motion #20 - 71 Messervy / White
Be it resolved that 5 General Repairs Permits be accepted as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
Building Permits x 9
Motion #20 - 72 Williams / Messery
Be it resolved that 9 Building Permits be accepted as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business
N/A

New Business

a) Request for Greeting – Falun Dafa Day
A letter was received requesting a greeting message for Falun Dafa Day, Mayor Conway asked Town Manager to provide the greeting.

b) Project Approval Acceptance Motion.
Motion #20 - 73 White / Messery
Be it resolved that we do accept the funding for Project No. 17 – MCW – 21 – 00027 Chlorination Building Emergency Generator project cost $137,000.00. All in favor. Motion Carried.

c) Engage Legal Services
Mayor Conway stated that we would be engaging in Legal Services regarding direction on an opinion regarding a conflict of interest allegation. He stated that we must do our homework and due diligence as this can play havoc on councils and we want to do what is right. In discussion with Legal and Dept of Municipal Affairs and Environment it was recommended that we engage in Legal Services to provide direction/opinion. Professional Services is contained in our budget for such expenditures.

d) Town Scholarship
Town Scholarship – Extend Submission Date
Due to Covid–19 the submission date for the Town Scholarship will be extended to August 31st, 2020

e) Anti Litter Regulations
Councillor Fleming discussed that he is aware of some blatant non compliance issues of our Anti Litter Regulations with complaints of car wrecks, chassis and tires on some resident’s property. Councillor Fleming asked if he could have the support with Council to direct the Town Manager to conduct an overall assessment of the town and follow up accordingly. Town Manager stated that she sent out letters to at least 10 residents and if they fail to clean up as directed, the town may then conduct the clean up, however it can be very costly as we would have to hold any property for the appeal period in a secured area, but she will certainly do an assessment and follow up with Council.

Other Business
N/A

Incoming Correspondence

a) Circular DMAE - New Communications Protocols
A circular was received from DMAE informing all Municipalities as a result of Covid–19 communications related to business will be modified. Our staff will be working from home so calls will be forwarded to cell phones or home phone. In an effort to streamline by email we will allow electronic submissions only.

b) Circular DMAE Office of Minister – Holding Parades, discourage such gatherings
A circular was received from Office of the Minister, requesting that fire departments, police and the public refrain from holding parades.
c) Email Ronald McDonald House – Spring Newsletter
An email was received from Ronald McDonald House asking for our support by making a donation.

A circular was received stating as a result of Covid-19 the Province will temporarily waive the requirements to hold a physical public hearing if social distancing protocols cannot be accommodated.

e) Letter DMAE Fire Services Division – Code requirements and safety precautions.
A letter was received from DMAE Fire Services Division with concerns about people using unapproved containers. They are in the process of working on an “Official” release for code requirements and safety precautions at the gas station and guidelines for safe storage.

f) Email MNL – Covid-19 Conference Call Summary Round Two
MNL coordinated a second series regional conference calls from April 1st to 3rd for members to share information, ask questions and comment on best practices as we move through this difficult time.

g) Email Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador – Municipal Relief to Aid Business Liquidity for Tourism Business
An email was received reaching out to request that St. George’s, address relief for commercial and business properties as it relates to property and water taxes, interest and penalties.

h) Circular DMAE – Clarity on the issue of Municipal Council and LSD Council & Committee Meetings
A circular was received for the purpose of providing clarity on local government operations during the COVID – pandemic.

i) NL Declaration – Public Health Emergency Extension Declaration
A circular was received declaring Pursuant to section 27 of the Act, the Public Health Emergency is extended for a period of 14 days effective April 17, 2020.

j) Letter DMAE Municipal Finance Division – Rescinding Approval to Borrow Project No. 17-GI-20-00043 Municipal Portion
A letter was received from DMAE, Rescinding the Approval to borrow from the Leading Edge Credit Union in an amount not exceeding fifty-six thousand, two hundred and ten dollars and fifteen cents. ($56,210.15) repayable by Council over a term not exceeding one year with an amortization period of ten years is hereby rescinded. The said loan was to be used to finance Project No 17-GI-20-00043 – New Water Storage Tank Replacement.

k) Letter DMAE Municipal Finance Division-Rescinding Approval to Borrow Project No. 17-GI-20-00043 GST Rebate
A letter was received from DMAE, Rescinding of Approval to borrow from the Leading Edge Credit Union in an amount not exceeding fifty seven thousand, seven hundred and forty-eight dollars and forty-six cents ($57,748.46) repayable in full by Council over a term and amortization period of one year is hereby rescinded. The said loan was to be used to finance the GST rebate portion of Project No. 17-GI-20-00043- New Water Storage Tank Replacement.
(l) Email DMAE - Community Support During COVID-19/Business Continuity Guidance Document for Municipalities
An email from DMAE offering support to residents, particularly those most vulnerable during COVID-19 pandemic

(m) Circular-DMAE Municipal Infrastructure-New MAE Tenders
A circular was received regarding new MAE tenders, the opening of submissions will be held on designated date and time with two representatives of Dept of Transportation and Works Tendering and Contracts Division and will be audio recorded.

(n) Letter DMAE Municipal Finance Division - Approval to Borrow Project No. 17-GI-20-00043 Municipal Portion
A letter of Approval to Borrow was given to Town of St. George’s to borrow from the Leading Edge Credit Union an amount not exceeding one hundred and eighty-one thousand, three hundred and fifty-three dollars and thirty-five cents ($181,353.35) repayable in full by Council over a term not exceeding one year with an amortization period of twenty years; the said loan is to be used to finance Project No. 17-GI-20-00043 Water Storage Tank Replacement.

(o) Letter DMAE Municipal Finance Division - Approval to Borrow Project No. 17-GI-20-00043 GST Rebate Portion
A letter was received for Approval to Borrow was hereby given to the Town of St. George’s to borrow from the Leading Edge Credit Union an amount not exceeding seventy-nine thousand, one hundred and seventy-six dollars and forty-six cents ($79,176.46) repayable in full by Council over a term and amortization period of one year; the said loan is to be used to finance the GST rebate portion of Project No. 17-GI-20-00043 Water Storage Tank Replacement.

(p) Letter DMAE Gas Tax Funding – Capital Investment Plan Approval New Water Storage Tank Replacement
A letter was received to advise that the Gas Tax Committee has accepted the project listed on the Town’s Capital Investment Plan as New Water Storage Tank Replacement. This approval of gas tax funds is to go towards the municipal share of the approved investing in Canada Infrastructure Project. The Town has $293,763.73 remaining in gas tax funds to March 31,2024 to be allocated towards a project(s).

(q) Letter MMA - 2021 Assessment Notices Information
A letter was received regarding 2021 Assessment Notices which is expected to be mailed on June 3rd,2020 as planned. This date may change in response to the public health emergency and will keep us updated should they consider additional directives in operations.

(r) Email Water and Sewer – Wastewater Collection and Wastewater Treatment System Operators
An email was received with information for operational guidance on the operation and maintenance of wastewater collection and wastewater treatment systems during the COVID-19 pandemic.

(s) Letter DMAE Fire Services Division – Requirements for Inspection/Testing/Maintenance of Fire and Life Safety Equipment during the Covid Pandemic
A Memo was received from DMAE Fire Services Division with recommendations regarding maintaining physical distancing and other safety requirements during the Covid Pandemic.
(t) Email OIPC – Above Board Quarterly Newsletter

(u) Memo Western Health - Update Covid-19 Testing Broadened
A memo was received from Western Health with further updates relating to Western Health’s response to the Covid-19 pandemic. On April 16th, the criteria for COVID-19 testing was broadened to any one who has two or more of the symptoms (new or worsening): Fever, Cough, Headache, Sore throat or Runny nose. Western Health’s updates can be found on our website http://www.westernhealth.nl.ca.

(v) Email DMAE – Availability, Storage and Handling of Chlorine Disinfection Products for Drinking Water during Covid-19
An email was received from DMAE with information for operational guidance on the availability, storage and handling of Chlorine Disinfection Products for drinking water during the Covid-19 pandemic.

(w) Circular DMAE Temporary Variation of Statutory Deadlines Act Financial Statements
A Circular to Municipalities was received stating that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment, on the advice of the Attorney General, had varied a number of statutory deadlines.

Outgoing Correspondence
N/A

Adjournment
Motion #20 - 74 Williams / White
Resolved that the meeting does now adjourn. All in favor.
Motion carried.

Next meeting to be held June 1st, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk