

Dec 13, 2022

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Council for the Town of Brigus in the Town Hall, Dec 13, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Shears Mercer Jr.; Deputy Mayor Paul Matthews; Councillors Greg Hiscock, Byron Rodway, Ashley Kennedy, John Brown (7:09)

ABSENT: Councillor Fraser Drover

ALSO PRESENT: Theresa Whelan - Acting Town Clerk, Cecilia Stadler & Tom Dickason, Michelle Gushue, Pauline Mercer, Bobbie Hepditch, Wayne Rose – Town Clerk/Manager, Katie O’Flaherty, Lorne Youden, Cyril Hart, Glenn Shute, Stan Puddister

AGENDA: Motion: C Rodway/Hiscock resolved that our Agenda for Dec 13th, 2022 be adopted with additions. In Favour 5; Opposed 0; Carried.

MINUTES: Motion: C Rodway/Kennedy resolved that the minutes of our last regular meeting held on Nov 8th, 2022 be adopted. In Favour 5; Opposed 0; Carried.

ARISING FROM MINUTES

C Hiscock provided an update on the Water St. bathroom tender. He has been in contact and proposed the suggested changes discussed in previous meetings however the individual is busy with year end work and will get back to C Hiscock in the new year on how we need to proceed. C Hiscock to call him in the morning to see if the situation can be expedited.

M Mercer to discuss 2A South with resident upon their return.

D Matthews noted the large boat removal is still unresolved.

ACTION REPORTS:

DELEGATION

Ms. O’Flaherty wished to have the following on the public minutes, “I filed it in the minutes that a harassment complaint was filed on June 1st, and it is now Dec and it has only been actioned 2 days ago.”

Mr. Youden informed council that he did not wish to be a delegate, that he put his name in so that he could speak if Youden PI was addressed and stated that, “I know you will do everything in your power to stop me from speaking.”

Town Manager Mr. Rose wished to inquire with a few concerns he had:

First, In regard to an email he sent out some time ago. He mentioned that “back a while ago I read Paul and Theresa were supposed to go to the bank about an investment.” DM Matthews informed him it would be referenced later, Mr. Rose requested he be informed “now” which he requested an additional three (3) times. DM Matthews declined his demand, noting that it would be discussed during the finance portion of the meeting as part of the 2023 Budget presentation. Mr. Rose then stated, “I want it now, not

during the finance Committee.” He continued, “Look -come on; would seem strange to raise taxes if doing investments.”

Mr. Rose brought up his concerns about C Hiscock having made a motion to approve a bicycle company and that under the municipal plan this would be considered discretionary use said, “I don’t know how you wave a discretionary use”. He stated that he mentioned it to C Rodway and that C Rodway said at the time that it was brought up he knew it was wrong, but he voted for it anyways. Mr. Rose stated, “When you spend thousands of dollars on Lawyers and appealing things”

M Mercer stated that in this matter there was a time constraint. C Kennedy stated that the business concept and business name remained the same and had previously been approved; it was a change in ownership.

DM Matthews stated that his recollection was that the decision was primarily made as the business was moving from the restrictive (Historic) area to the less restrictive, “mixed’ area of town’s zones. Mr. Rose said the Town plan is a legal document and needs to be followed.

Mayor Mercer said, “Apparently we made a mistake.”

DM Matthews disagreed with the Mayor’s comment and responded, “You can say you made a mistake but don’t say the Council made a mistake.”

Mr. Rose questioned if C Hiscock was in conflict as he and his partner had sold the business. C Hiscock stated that he asked Council at that time if he was in conflict and was informed, he was not. Mr. Rose stated, “It’s a little suspicious”

Mr. Rose continued with another concern he had, questioning Council’s decision to pave an area of Riverhead Road before installing service curb stop for a future development to avoid a future tear up. C Rodway explained the Acting Clerk reached out to the (current) adjacent landowner who was not prepared to pay the required service fee. C Rodway observed there is no timeline certainty for the possible development and so Council proceeded in an appropriate fashion.

The Acting Clerk corrected the statement stating that she had reached out to the homeowner who had replied and prior to contacting the resident back reached out to the Maintenance Foreman who informed her there would not be enough time to complete the work prior to the pavers arriving.

Mr. Rose went on to another concern of his: He was of the opinion that the way a recent passing of a long serving Fireman was treated by Council’s Chair was inappropriate because the resident was not referenced by name. He insisted this was not only lacking but stated it was, “pretty disgusting; utterly ridiculous” and, “ye should be ashamed of yourselves!”

Finally, Mr. Rose moved on to express his opinion on the current state of Council human relations as he views it. He is of the opinion there is a “bad need for Council-staff relations”. Specifically, he stated that in the past 15 or 16 months that this Council has governed, “just about every employee you’ve got is out the door, and if you can’t get along with your staff it speaks a lot.” He said, “this says volumes about what’s going on.”

He continued, “I hope some of the better Council members here take the bull by the horns and run with it.”

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Development Committee: 346 CB Hwy – Shed extension

Motion: C Hiscock/Rodway move to accept the permit application for 346 CB Hwy. In Favour 6; Opposed 0; Carried

B. Public Works Committee: Youden Place, Curtis Lane Light, Harbour Drive Light

Motion: C Rodway/ C Hiscock moved to proceed with the private road takeover of Youden Pl. with an amendment to ensure the terms of the road takeover policy are met. In Favour 5; Opposed 1 (DM Matthews); Carried

Curtis Lane light – C Hiscock - Historically it was a low traffic area but now it has had major development and much more traffic.

Motion: C Hiscock/Brown move to put a light on the pole in Cutis Lane. The Pole chosen will be based on which NF Power deems the best option for the area. In Favour 5; Opposed 1 (C Rodway); Carried

Harbour Drive light – Council discussed if there was a need to relocate the light or remove it entirely. Clerk was directed to contact the other 4 properties in the area to determine if the light being moved would impact them.

DM Matthews noted that in the previous meeting the homeowner agreed to pay for any financial implications there may be with the moving/removal of the light and asked the homeowner if that still stood. They confirmed that to be the case.

Motion: C Hiscock/Brown move investigate further with, DM Matthews made friendly amendment to canvass the 4 surrounding properties with the view of moving the light towards to warehouse area. Depending on their responses, we will make final decisions. In Favour 5; Opposed 1 (C Rodway); Carried

C Rodway informed council that he looked at the Riverhead Rd property and that there was an easy fix, I will discuss with the maintenance foreman about how to repair this.

C. Finance Committee:

Motion: DM Matthews/Hiscock move to pay the bills in the amount of \$275,332.78. In Favour 6; Opposed 0; Carried

Motion: DM Matthews/Rodway resolve that the municipal tax rates for 2023 be accepted and approved as presented. In Favour 6; Opposed 0; Carried

Motion: DM Matthews/C Rodway resolve that the town maintains its current interest charges rate of 12% annually. In Favour 6; Opposed 0; Carried

Motion: DM Matthews/C Rodway resolve

Motion: DM Matthews/C Rodway resolve that the town borrow from Scotiabank Bay Roberts for the 2023 year, forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) as out operating line of credit. In Favour 6; Opposed 0; Carried

Motion: DM Matthews/C Rodway resolve that Councillor's remuneration rate be adjusted as per 2023 budget document which reflects an overall annual increase of one hundred and twenty dollars (\$120) In Favour 6; Opposed 0; Carried

Motion: DM Matthews/C Rodway resolve that the towns 2023 municipal budget be accepted and approved as presented. In Favour 6; Opposed 0; Carried

DM Matthews provided a budget presentation; this is the first budget for Brigus in excess of one million dollars (\$1,000,000). Revenues have increased to one million seventeen thousand four hundred and twenty dollars and fifty-seven cents (\$1,017,420.57) The budget will have no tax increases other than the minimum tax increasing from three hundred and fifty (\$350) to three hundred and seventy-five (\$375). Expenses are consistent generally, but inflation has hit municipalities just as everyone else but especially in the area of public works. We had to cut in half what we had intended to do due to the cost increases over what we had anticipated last year. That was the biggest concern and consideration with this budget. The revenues have increased as a result of items such as increases in assessed values and new builds. We have also made an investment that will in excess of forty-one thousand (\$41,000) in returns.

D. Blueberry Festival Committee:

M Mercer informed Council that the committee that there was a surplus due to no fireworks and donations totalling \$5000 has been made to the community groups & organizations in Brigus this year. DM Matthews requested a final report for the January Meeting

E. Recreation Committee:

C Kennedy informed the Council that recreation had submitted quotes for the proposed storage structure but that it didn't require a vote. DM Matthews inquired why they were submitted if they didn't require a vote and was informed that in previous conversations it was mentioned that recreation didn't have a quote on the storage solution, so they went out to get one.

C Kennedy also provided an update that recreation had done a successful tree lighting as well as craft fair and pictures with Santa were upcoming.

Council thanked recreation for the great job they had done with this season's events.

F. HR. Committee:

G. Policy Committee:

C Hiscock requested Council and Town staff send him a list of what needs to be added and what needs to be reviewed for early January.

CORRESPONDENCE

FROM

REGARDING

ACTION

3-5 The Walk	Metal Roof Request	Denied
3-5 The Walk	Application Amendment	Deferred to Jan
Municipalities NL	Feedback Opportunity	File
Municipalities NL	Risk Management Pilot Project	File
Member of Avalon Parliament	Green and Inclusive Community	File
Heritage NL	Heritage Plaque Templates	File
Telecommunications	10-digit dialing	File
Tombolo Multicultural Festival	Confirmation & Letter of Support	Motion
Stingray Media	Christmas Greeting Promotion	File
Recreation	Storage Quotes	File

3-5 The Walk metal roof request – C Rodway – We have had several requests recently maybe it's time we review the plan.

C Rodway excused himself at 8:31 p.m. due to conflict of interest.

3-5 The Walk application amendment – Defer to next meeting, Acting Clerk will find out from Service NL if additional approvals are required from them.

C Rodway returned at 8:34 p.m.

Member of Avalon Parliament – Check to see if grant can be used to change public building from oil to electric or for the 2023 public bathrooms.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Motion: DM Matthews/Rodway will ensure administrative treatment of all payroll related matters will be in accordance with best practices on a go forward basis consistent with procedures outlined in pending policy. In Favour 6; Opposed 0; Carried

C Rodway voiced that he had received a complaint about the office being closed and historically the town staff would put signs up in the door. He requested we get new sigs to place in the door, not to use the paper signs that Acting Clerk presently puts up.

Motion: Kennedy/Brown resolved that our meeting be adjourned until Jan 10, 2023. In Favour 6; Opposed 0; Carried. Time: 8:45 p.m.

Shears Mercer Jr., Mayor

Date: _____ 2022

Theresa Whelan, Acting Clerk