

Town of Florenceville-Bristol
Regular Council Meeting
May 12, 2020 @ 7:00pm

DUE TO COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY, ATTENDANCE WAS VIA TELECONFERENCE:

Council: Mayor Karl Curtis, Deputy Mayor Nancy Whyte-McCauley, Councillor Dan McCarthy, Councillor Elizabeth Campbell, Councillor Dan Guest, Councillor David Trafford

Staff: Sarah Pacey, CAO/Clerk, Michelle Derrah, Administrative Services
Manager/Assistant Clerk

Media: Doug Dickinson, The Bugle-Observer

REGRETS: None

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Karl Curtis called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Mayor Curtis acknowledged the new format needed for today's Council meeting during the Provincial State of Emergency, so the Town can continue to conduct business. Any member of Council who speaks will identify themselves before speaking, including when motions are moved and seconded.

Mayor Curtis stated – "I would like to recognize that today is International Nurse's Day. May 12 was selected because it was the birthday of Florence Nightingale, exactly 200 years ago. She was the founder of modern nursing and is also where the Village of Florenceville got its name. International Nurses Day is a time to thank nurses for the important role they play in our lives. Nursing is not an easy job and those who dedicate their lives to this profession must be respected and celebrated! Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Council to say a special Thank You to our nurses from the bottom of our hearts. You truly are appreciated."

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION: Approval of the May 12, 2020 Town Council Agenda. Moved by Deputy Mayor Nancy Whyte-McCauley, seconded by Councillor Dan Guest.

CARRIED. #057-2020

PRESENTATIONS:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Ratify approval of the April 14, 2020 Town Council Minutes as distributed. Moved by Councillor Elizabeth Campbell seconded by Councillor Dan McCarthy.

CARRIED. #058-2020

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

Nothing to add to the minutes.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

MOTION: To accept the Utility Operating Fund Financial Reports for May 2020 as presented and ratify paid bills in the amount of \$1,851.83 and approve unpaid bills in the amount of \$864.12 for a total of \$2,715.95. Moved by Deputy Mayor Nancy Whyte-McCauley, seconded by Councillor Elizabeth Campbell.

CARRIED. #059-2020

MOTION: To accept the General Operating Fund Financial Reports for May 2020 as presented and ratify paid bills in the amount of \$270,763.93 and approve payment of unpaid bills in the amount of \$92,603.21 for a total of \$363,367.14. Moved by Councillor David Trafford seconded by Councillor Dan Guest.

CARRIED. #060-2020

CORRESPONDENCE:

a. Dog Report

Council reviewed the Dog Report for April 2020.

b. Public Library Letter

A letter was received from Sylvie Nadeau, Retired Provincial Librarian/Executive Director of NBPLS expressing concerns over the recent appointment of someone who does not hold the required qualifications to the position of Provincial Librarian/Executive Director of New Brunswick Public Library Service (NBPLS). She has asked Premier Higgs for an independent review of the recruitment process that took place. She is asking Mayor and Council to consider also writing to the Premier requesting an independent review of the recruitment process that took place. It was determined that Councillor Campbell will discuss with the Library Board to get their feedback before Council makes a decision.

c. Designated Highway Letter

Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Bill Oliver advised the Town of this year's August 31 deadline to submit the Municipal Designated Highway Five-Year Plan.

COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

Councillor David Trafford:

Nothing to report.

Councillor Dan Guest:

Nothing to report.

Councillor Elizabeth Campbell:

Nothing to report.

Mayor Karl Curtis:

Nothing to report.

Deputy Mayor Nancy Whyte-McCauley:

Received an email from Jennifer Stead at ALMAG that art galleries and museums will be reopening, and ALMAG will be reopening May 30. Jennifer mentioned she is working with the Director of Recreation on potential summer art camps. CVArts decided all shows for 2020 will be rescheduled in 2021 where possible.

Councillor Dan McCarthy:

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:**a. Peddler Licenses**

The Town has received two requests for Peddler Licenses for food trucks. With festivals and events being cancelled, these requests may increase. Some Town restaurants are operating at partial capacity, some just opening this week, and others that are not able to operate under the existing restrictions. A recent Town survey of businesses found that all restaurants who responded are experiencing reduced sales. Many other businesses are experiencing decreased sales during the pandemic as well, and concerns were raised that adding competition at this time may not be good for their economic recovery. Most Peddlers set up on Town property, either at NCCC parking lot or Riverside Park. In case there are some businesses who feel the addition of peddlers on their property would improve their customer traffic, staff recommends allowing Peddler Licenses to be issued, but not permit any to set up on Town property.

MOTION: To deny permission for Peddlers to set up on Town property until September 15, 2020. Moved by Councillor Dan Guest, seconded by Councillor Dan McCarthy.

CARRIED. #061-2020

b. Annual Report

Council reviewed the draft 2019 Annual Report.

MOTION: To approve the 2019 Annual Report. Moved by Deputy Mayor Nancy Whyte-McCauley, seconded by Councillor Elizabeth Campbell.

CARRIED. #062-2020

c. Beautification Grant Applications

Council reviewed the 23 Beautification Grant applications received for 2020, totalling \$65,613.54 in project costs with a recommended \$11,632.78 in grant reimbursements. One application was for a property with an outstanding order.

MOTION: To approve all Beautification Grant applications for the full amounts, with one approved pending remediation of the outstanding order. Moved by Councillor Dan Guest, seconded by Councillor David Trafford.

CARRIED. #063-2020

d. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

A grant is available for the addition of an Electric Vehicle Two Charger Unit Station which would cover 50% of the cost and installation, making the final cost somewhere in the \$3,500-\$5,000 range. The units take approximately three hours to charge a vehicle, and could give an opportunity to nearby businesses to take advantage of this time. The cost for the power for one charge is approximately \$10. If this was offered as a free service to travelers, it might encourage people to come off the highway and spend some time in our Town.

MOTION: To approve one Electric Vehicle Two Charger Unit Station through NRCan's grant at a final cost after reimbursement of \$3,500-5,000. Moved by Deputy Mayor Nancy Whyte-McCauley, seconded by Councillor Dan Guest.

CARRIED. #064-2020

e. Sign permit on Town Property

Residents of Maple Street would like to put up a Neighbourhood Watch sign on the Town's chain link fence and are asking Council to waive the \$25 Sign Permit fee and pay for the sign (23x29 for \$43.40 USD + tax and Shipping). The Director of Public Works and Maintenance and the Assistant Development Officer both agree this would be a suitable location for the sign. Although the fence is owned by the Town, the parking lot where it sits is owned privately. That property owner has been contacted and is fine with the sign being attached to the chain link fence. A.N.D. Communications have a different style 24"h x 18"w Neighbourhood Watch sign available for \$20.

MOTION: To approve a Neighbourhood Watch sign to be attached to the Town's chain link fence by Maple Street, to waive the Sign Permit fee and to purchase the sign for their group from A.N.D. Communications. Moved by Councillor David Trafford, seconded by Councillor Dan McCarthy.

CARRIED. #065-2020

f. Animal Control – Cats

A resident in the Lovely Subdivision raised a concern about neighbouring cats coming onto his property. He provided some links to news articles that say cats may be carriers of the Covid-19 and wanted Council to discuss a solution to wandering cats at the May Council meeting, such as amending the Animal Control By-law to require cats to be inside or on leashes when outside. The Town's NB SPCA Chief Animal Protection Officer said there is conflicting information as to whether cats can transmit the disease, and said it would be difficult to enforce especially with the feral cat population in our area. He confirmed the NB SPCA could amend the Town's contract to add cat enforcement, but the cost would need to be renegotiated and he was not able to provide an estimate.

MOTION: Not to proceed with any amendments to the current Animal Control By-law since it would be difficult for our Animal Control Officer to enforce a by-law that would require cats to be on leashes or remain inside. Moved by Councillor Dan Guest, seconded by Councillor David Trafford.

CARRIED. #066-2020

g. Roadway Upgrade Tenders

Council reviewed the roadway tenders for School Street and McCain St. At this time, Council is prepared to award the School St tender.

MOTION: To award the School Street tender to Acott Construction at \$307,673.30 including 15% HST. Moved by Deputy Mayor Nancy Whyte-McCauley, seconded by Councillor Elizabeth Campbell.

CARRIED. #067-2020

h. Potato World's 2020 Community Grant

Potato World would like to change the use of their \$10,000 grant from playground equipment in their courtyard to helping pay for a new roof. With the restrictions in place by the province, the playground equipment would not be able to be used this summer. They recently found out their roof needs to be replaced at a cost of \$60,000. They would prefer to put the \$10,000 towards that instead.

MOTION: To approve Potato World's \$10,000 Community Grant be used towards a new roof instead of the playground equipment. Moved by Councillor Elizabeth Campbell, seconded by Councillor Dan Guest.

CARRIED. #068-2020

i. Day Camp

Council discussed some concerns raised by staff regarding the 2020 Summer Active Day Camp program. There are COVID-19 personal safety concerns for staff and attendees, as well as financial costs that will be incurred to offer the program, which will exceed its revenue.

MOTION: To cancel the 2020 Summer Active Day Camp program to ensure everyone’s safety. Moved by Councillor Dan McCarthy, seconded by Councillor David Trafford.

CARRIED. #069-2020

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Consider Setting Public Hearing date for Municipal Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments

Council are comfortable with the telephone conference call for meetings, and feel they can get the public’s feedback if any have comments they want addressed.

MOTION: To set the Public Hearing date for the proposed Municipal Plan and Zoning By-law amendments for June 9. Moved by Deputy Mayor Nancy Whyte-McCauley, seconded by Councillor Dan McCarthy.

CARRIED. #070-2020

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Being no further business the meeting was adjourned to a closed session at 7:51pm. Moved by Councillor Elizabeth Campbell, seconded by Councillor David Trafford.

CARRIED. #071-2020

NEXT MEETING DATE: June 9, 2020

MAYOR

CLERK

CLOSED MEETING:

Reason for the Closed Session:

Section 68 (1) (c) of the Local Governance Act: Information that could cause financial loss or gain to a person or the local government or could jeopardize negotiations leading to an agreement or contract.

MAYOR

CLERK