

**2023-11-21 Municipal Council
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Minutes of the regular session of Municipal Council held on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at the Municipal Administration Building, 752 St. George Street, Annapolis Royal, NS.

Warden Morrison welcomed viewers from Germany, sharing words of Remembrance of a Canadian Airforce pilot who is buried in Germany.

Roll Call

District 1 – Bruce Prout, present

District 2 - Brian “Fuzzy” Connell, present

District 3 – Dustin Enslow, present

District 4 – Clyde Barteaux, present

District 5 – Lynn Longmire, present

District 6 – Alex Morrison, present

District 7 – David Hudson, present

District 8 – Michael Gunn, present

District 9 – Wendy Sheridan, present

District 10 – Brad Redden, present

District 11 – Diane LeBlanc, present

Also Present: CAO Chris McNeill, Municipal Clerk Carolyn Young; other staff including; M. Baharloo, L. Bent, D. Campbell, C. Hazel, C. Mason, N. McCormick, B. Olsen, N. Whitman, Jim Young; and 1 member of the public.

Disclosures of Interest

Item 5.6 Councillor Prout as he is a member of the Melvern Square & Area Community Centre Association

Item 5.10 Councillor Enslow as he is employed by the RCMP.

Order of the Day

Requests were made to add:

Under New Business item 6.5 Former Bridgetown Elementary School;

Under New Business item 6.6 Utility and Review Board Decision; and

under COTW Recommendations item 5.10 SR2023-76 RCMP Policing Services Facilities Agreement with Town of Middleton.

To approve the Order of the Day as amended.

Moved: Councillor LeBlanc

Seconded: Councillor Sheridan

Motion carried.

Minutes

Re: 2023-10-17 Regular Minutes – approved no errors or omissions.

Committee of the Whole Recommendations 2023-11-14

Re: SR2023-80 C8 Electronic Voting Bylaw NEW

Motion 231121.01 SR2023-80 C8 Electronic Voting Bylaw NEW – First Reading

That Municipal Council give first reading to enact *C8 Electronic Voting Bylaw*, which repeals *C8 Alternative Voting Bylaw*.

Moved: Deputy Warden Redden

Seconded: Councillor LeBlanc

Motion carried 7 in favour, 4 against.

Re: SR2023-81 Policy 104 Audit Committee NEW

Motion 231121.02 SR2023-81 Policy 104 Audit Committee NEW

That Municipal Council approve Policy 104 respecting the establishment of an *Audit Committee*, in accordance with seven-day notice given on November 14, 2023.

Moved: Councillor Sheridan

Seconded: Councillor Longmire

Motion carried, 10 in favour, 1 against.

Re: SR2023-82 County-Wide Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw

Motion 231121.03 SR2023-82 County-Wide Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw

That Municipal Council call a Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 6 pm at the Annapolis Royal Fire Hall for consideration of the County Wide planning documents, with Monday, December 18, 2023, as an alternate date in the event of inclement weather.

Moved: Deputy Warden Redden

Seconded: Councillor Enslow

Motion carried.

Re: SR2023-79 (2) 2023-24 Community Grants Applications *Granville Ferry Community Association*

Motion 231121.04 SR2023-79 (2) 2023-24 Community Grants Applications Granville Ferry Community Association

That Municipal Council approve a grant to the Granville Ferry Community Association in the amount of \$2,400 to support upgrades and repairs to the hall in accordance with *AM 1.4.9 Community Grants, Community Halls and Centres Assistance Program*.

Moved: Councillor Barteaux

Seconded: Councillor LeBlanc

Motion carried.

Re: SR2023-79 (2) 2023-24 Community Grants Applications *Round Hill Hall Company*

Motion 231121.05 SR2023-79 (2) 2023-24 Community Grants Applications Round Hill Hall Company

That Municipal Council approve a grant to the Round Hill Hall Company in the amount of \$2,400 to support the installation of a new furnace and flue system for the community hall in accordance with *AM 1.4.9 Community Grants, Community Halls and Centres Assistance Program*.

Moved: Councillor Enslow

Seconded: Councillor Gunn

Motion carried.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Prout declared an interest in the following matter as he is a member of the Melvern Square & Area Community Centre Association. He left the room and did not participate in any discussion or subsequent motion.

Re: SR2023-79 (2) 2023-24 Community Grants Applications *Melvorn Square & Area Community Centre Association*

Motion 231121.06 SR2023-79 (2) 2023-24 Community Grants Applications Melvorn Square & Area Community Centre Association

That Municipal Council approve a grant to the Melvorn Square & Area Community Centre Association in the amount of \$2,400 to support the installation of a heat pump for the hall in accordance with *AM 1.4.9 Community Grants, Community Halls and Centres Assistance Program*.

Moved: Deputy Warden Redden

Seconded: Councillor LeBlanc

Motion carried.

Councillor Prout returned to his seat at 10:42 a.m.

Re: SR2023-79 (2) 2023-24 Community Grants Applications *Port George District Lighthouse Society*

Motion 231121.07 SR2023-79 (2) 2023-24 Community Grants Applications Port George District Lighthouse Society

That Municipal Council approve a grant to the Port George District Lighthouse Society in the amount of \$2,500 to support seawall restoration and repair to protect the lighthouse in accordance with *AM 1.4.9 Community Grants, Capital Projects Assistance Program, Small Project Matching Grants*.

Moved: Councillor Connell

Seconded: Councillor Sheridan

Motion carried.

Re: 2023-11-06 Habitation Community Area Advisory Committee Recommendation

Motion 231121.08 2023-11-06 Habitation Community Area Advisory Committee Recommendation

That Municipal Council call a Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting on November 30, 2023, at 7 pm, at the Lower Granville Community Hall for consideration of the Habitation Community planning documents.

Moved: Councillor Longmire

Seconded: Councillor LeBlanc

Motion carried.

Re: Scotiabank Branch Closures

Motion 231121.09 Scotiabank Branch Closures

That municipal council send a letter to Scotiabank headquarters outlining the impacts on the citizens throughout the county surrounding the decision to close the Bridgetown and Annapolis Royal branches.

Moved: Councillor Enslow

Seconded: Councillor Longmire
Motion carried.

Committee of the Whole Recommendation 2023-10-10

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Enslow declared an interest in the following item as he is employed by the RCMP. He left the room and did not participate in any discussion or subsequent motion.

Re: SR2023-76 RCMP Policing Services Facilities Agreement – Town of Middleton

Motion 231121.10 SR2023-76 RCMP Policing Services Facilities Agreement – Town of Middleton

That Municipal Council authorize the Warden and Municipal Clerk to sign the Agreement for the joint use of facilities for the RCMP within the Middleton Town Hall facility at 131 Commercial Street, Middleton, NS, for a period of five years effective June 21, 2022, and ending on March 31, 2027, with an option for a further five-year renewal term, in accordance with the recommendation of 2023-10-10 Committee of the Whole.

Moved: Councillor Gunn
Seconded: Councillor Longmire
Motion carried.

Councillor Enslow returned to his chair at 10:51 a.m.

New Business

Re: 2023-09-30 ACMHC Board of Directors Recommendation

Motion 231121.11 2023-09-30 ACMHC Board of Directors Recommendation

To recommend that Helen Huntley be appointed for an additional two-year term ending November 30, 2025.

Moved: Deputy Warden Redden
Seconded: Councillor Hudson
Motion carried.

Re: SR2023-83 Transfer Municipal Pension Plan to PSSP

Motion 231121.12 SR2023-83 Transfer Municipal Pension Plan to PSSP

That Municipal Council engage the service of legal counsel that specializes in pension agreements and authorize the Warden and Municipal Clerk to enter into the required agreements for the successful transition of the Municipality's defined contribution pension plan into the Public Service Superannuation Plan as soon as possible; and that the costs of this transfer expected to be approximately \$30,000 to \$35,000 be funded as an unfunded liability in the 2023-2024 operating budget.

Moved: Deputy Warden Redden
Seconded: Councillor Gunn
Motion carried, 10 in favour, 1 against.

Re: SR2023-84 J-Class Roads Cost-Share Agreement 2023-001

Motion 231121.13 SR2023-84 J-Class Roads Cost-Share Agreement 2023-001

That Municipal Council notify Nova Scotia Public Works that it does not wish to participate in the J-Class Road re-paving of subdivision streets program in 2024-2025.

Moved: Deputy Warden Redden

Seconded: Councillor Hudson

Motion carried.

Recess

11:28 a.m. – 11:44 a.m.

Re: 2023/24 Capital Project Update

Director Jim Young provided an overview on the status of capital projects for 2023/24 - 29 projects with an approved capital budget of \$3,906,000. To date, 55% has been spent (\$2,127,539).

Re: Former Bridgetown Elementary School – Councillor Hudson – do we need a motion:

Motion 231121.14 Former Bridgetown Elementary School – Update to Reader

That municipal council direct staff to prepare an ad for the Bridgetown Reader to update the citizens of Bridgetown on what has transpired in relation to the former elementary school.

Moved: Councillor Hudson

Seconded: Councillor Gunn

Motion carried, 10 in favour, 1 against.

Re: UARB Decision - Boundary – Councillor Gunn would like to discuss the UARB decision, starting with getting a legal opinion to understand what action we did wrong and what action should we take.

That we hire a municipal lawyer to explain to us where we went wrong on our application to the UARB.

Moved: Councillor Gunn

Seconded: Councillor Enslow

Councillor Gunn withdrew the motion.

Councillor Comments

District 1 – Councillor Prout (as submitted)

Greetings from District 1. It has been another busy time over the last four weeks. I have attended a number of meetings and events. Outside of District 1, I attended the sod-turning for the new Mountain Lea Lodge, I was honored to lay a wreath on behalf of the County at the Middleton Legion Remembrance Day service held at the Middleton NSCC campus and was pleased to attend, along with a number of other Councillors and Staff, the Middleton Fire Department Awards Banquet this past weekend.

Closer to home, I took in the monthly meeting of the Wilmot and Area Neighbourhood Watch and was pleased to also be present at a meeting of the Melvern Square & Area Community Center Association where a plaque was presented to Terry Wilkens in memory of his wife, the former Councillor for District 1, Marilyn Wilkens to honor her, along with other community volunteers, for their efforts on behalf of our community.

With the changing of the seasons, Auntie Dorns Take-out is now closed. However, Green Leaf Enterprises has opened its Christmas Shop with extended hours for the Holiday Season. In addition, a

number of local service clubs, churches and community halls are beginning to hold Christmas Teas and Craft Fairs over the next five weeks and I would encourage everyone who can to support their efforts as we approach the Holiday Season. Finally, it is a time to be mindful of all of our other Charities and Food Banks as they continue to help to provide for those in need.

District 2 – Councillor Connell noted the last Port George breakfast for the year is in December – they usually resume in April. Support local foodbanks. December 16th the Festive Lighting Ceremony at Willet Park with hot drinks and sweets to follow at the fire hall. The Comfort Centre in Port George is getting ready for propane tanks and generator – hopefully to be running by December. He attended the Remembrance Day service at NSCC Lawrencetown, and attended the Middleton Fire Department banquet on Saturday, bringing greetings from the County and presenting awards to the firefighters. He added that he attended a Town Council meeting last night and heard from Rick Jacques, who spoke about a Provincial 800 number available for complaints about ATV or OHV issues on the trails.

District 3 – Councillor Enslow hopes everyone took time on Remembrance Day to remember those who didn't come back or who are still serving. He spend a lot of time on the Bridgetown Scotiabank branch closure; and noted that he attended a Credit Union public meeting and they plan to open five days a week in Bridgetown and Middleton. He attended the Bridgetown and Area Chamber of Commerce meetings in preparation for Light Up the Town on December 1st. He attended a Club 200 fundraiser at the Bridgetown Legion and a craft sale in Port Lorne.

December 1st – Light Up the Town in Bridgetown – more than 2000 people attended last year. Will light the tree, enjoy hot chocolate with lots of activities and give aways.

December 2nd – monthly Lions Breakfast. Great time to meet people.

With change of season, get outside and do some physical activity. Lots of various free activities – free skates, etc. enjoy the snow.

District 4 – Councillor Barteaux noted the season changes again heading into snow. Get your tires changed. He attended NSFMC conference activities and received lots of information. He had the opportunity, with Councillor Longmire, to attend the Legislature at the invitation of MLA Carmen Kerr. He attended the Remembrance Day service at Branch 21 Legion in Annapolis Royal along with Councillor Longmire – there was an amazing turnout this year. He attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Mountain Lea facility as well as the Granville Ferry Association. Goodbye to Planner Connor MacQuarrie – wishes him all the best. Scotiabank closures – he hopes our correspondence is helpful because not having a branch in the county is an issue. He attended the Annapolis Royal VFD banquet along with several councillors. This is a great organization, and we can't thank fire fighters enough. Great to see it continue and grow. We value our volunteers. Continuing events are happening at community halls – keep an eye out and support as you can.

District 5 – Councillor Longmire (*as submitted*)

The temperatures sure are different out there. It is that time to book your appointment to get those winter tires on.

It's that time of year, hunting season is in full swing and it is darker earlier, encouraging all when out on the roads to wear bright colors.

Throughout District 5 there are several groups working hard to finish up different projects. The Port Royal Lighthouse Association are putting on their finishing touches with a date soon to present this beautiful Lighthouse to the communities. This project has taken endless hours, fundraising and volunteers to make it a reality. Yesterday Owen Ritchie was putting on the final stain. Mary, Danny

and Owen Ritchie along with Ian Lawrence just to name a few along with Medea and Allan Holtz have given endlessly as has the people in and around this community. I chatted with Diane and Ricki Hall on the painting of the boards that took place at Thexton's in Lequille they were just two of many who would stop in to paint for a bit and then hand the brush off to the next. The enthusiasm as this Lighthouse comes to life is so very exciting. Yesterday another gift - a load of gravel - and thanks was extended to Craig Brown (Brown Bros). Together with a crew of helpers it was then levelled. Rick Boudreau came out on his tractor, while many raked - Randy Swigart, Mo and Andrew Welch.

This Saturday from 11-3 at The Fundy Hall in Young's Cove there will be a craft sale, luncheon, ticket sales, auction and much more. Please stop in if you are in the area. All proceeds will go towards helping to install a heatpump. They are also looking into Efficiency NS and applying for grants to do the additional improvements needed to help keep the hall open. So many halls are currently working on the very same goals. I am looking forward to sharing what I can to help them reach their goals. Games Night returns and will be held at the Lower Granville Hall beginning on Dec 3rd at 7 pm bring a snack to share if wish. If you wish you can bring your own game - \$2 donation per person for the evening. Our Halls are great venues to rent and many have fully equipped kitchens that make it a great option for special occasions, events, and gatherings. Please consider renting to help our Halls remain open in our communities. Earlier this month I attended an event at Nikian Farm, through The Bauta Family Initiative. Rice Harvest Webinar- the weather didn't cooperate for us to do this session in person. Maybe next season. Niki and Ian Curry, as they are always prepared, didn't let that stop them and the virtual tour was awesome. Also, they just recently recorded some video from their rice harvest and processing on-farm. From production, to harvest it was so interesting to sit in on and learn so much about rice grown right here in District 5. To find out more about NIKIAN Farm on their WEBSITE (<https://www.nikiangardens.com/>) where you may also be able to order rice seed. You can find out more about The Bauta Family Initiative at seedsecurity.ca

On Nov 12th Litchfield Cove Shoreline Cleanup was advertised. Although I wasn't able to attend, I do look forward to learning more about this group and the work they are doing to cleanup our shorelines. Thank you to the Founder of Shoreline Cleanup Scotian Shores Angela Riley and our local District 5 citizen Bruce Hamilton.

Last week I attended the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities - Raising the Bar on Local Leadership. Enriching sessions and discussions around topics high on the list throughout our Province including Provincial Growth Strategy, Housing, Diversity and Inclusion, Emergency Preparedness, Policing and Climate Change. It was an amazing time with great energy and eagerness to make things happen. As the conference was coming to a close on Nov 9th MLA Carmen Kerr extended an invite to attend a session at the Legislature as a guest and so both Councillor Barteaux and myself accepted.

I had some very good discussions with several citizens in and around District 5 with regards to the size of council and the Mayor vs Warden system.

If you can help out at your local food bank, support a family for Christmas, or help serve at a Christmas dinner please consider. If we each do a little, much will be accomplished.

A very productive month and I am looking forward to more productivity.

District 6 – Warden Morrison (as submitted)

The Clements Historical Society meets once a month in the Clementsport Legion. Members circulate historically-interesting documents, publications, and pictures. The society has a valuable archive of materials that richly illustrate the history of our area. It has recently published its 2024 calendar and they are for sale locally.

I have circulated copies of the activity schedules of the Deep Brook Waldec Lions Club and of the Cornwallis Park Community Association to illustrate the level of activities in both of these well-founded community organizations.

The Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Clementsport Legion were well attended and provided an opportunity for folks to pause, remember and think about the contributions made on their behalf by those who have served in and are serving in our Canadian Armed Forces.

Last Saturday there was a benefit at the Clementsport legion in aid of the family whose home in Clementsport was recently completely destroyed by fire. The wide range of donated items on which we could bid and the enthusiasm of the bidding is testament to a deep sense of togetherness and willingness to help our friends and neighbours in time of distress.

I will not be a candidate in the October 2024 municipal elections.

District 7 – Councillor Hudson was away for 2 weeks visiting family in Ontario. He attended the Valley Credit Union meeting as reported by Councillor Enslow. He hopes people support the credit union's efforts to provide full time financial services. It has gone through some phases, from full time, to part time and returning to full time. He hopes they can maintain that. He attended the Lions public meeting in Bridgetown regarding a playground/splash pad project. The consensus was for a playground as a priority, and that the lot next to the pool is a great location for that. He also attended the Middleton Fire Department Banquet last Saturday, where awards were given to members for years of service, some for more than 30 years. This is amazing, shows pride and dedication to their departments.

District 8 – Councillor Gunn

Was at the at Bear River cenotaph an attended the banquet on Remembrance Day. Cenotaph means 'empty tomb'. As is his custom since COVID, he and one other held 2 minutes of silence at the cenotaph in Kempt. The Foresters Hall is hosting a Remembrance Tree tis weekend, along with their annual Christmas Craft sale. Bear River is also hosting a craft sale. He attended the Annapolis Royal FD banquet along with other councillors, sitting with a former Kings County Councillor - interesting chat. The banquet was well attended, and Zach Cromwell and David Wright received recognition for years of service. He also attended NSFM with other councillors.

The days are getting shorter and the nights colder. In this season, keep an eye out for those who may need a little help. As Red Green says "We are all in this together".

District 9 – Councillor Sheridan –attended many events over the past month, including the Remembrance Day service in Middleton. She has had calls mostly about the increase in theft in all communities, and is glad that neighbours are helping neighbours – when they are away, etc. This is a great start. Bingo is every second Saturday in Nictaux, with the next one on November 25th. Don't forget about the 50/50 Fire Fighters draw. She will not be reoffering in 2024.

District 10 – Deputy Warden Redden noted the following events:

Christmas in the Village, Exhibition Youth Arena, Saturday Dec 2nd, 4-6pm

Join the village commission and Santa for Hayrides, Hot Dogs and Hot Chocolate

Inglisville Christmas Craft Sale, Inglisville Community Hall, Dec 3rd, starting at 12pm

Lawrencetown Legion Beach Dance Party, November 25th Doors open at 9pm to 1am, Live Music Admission \$10

Farm Café, NSCC Middleton Pay What You Can Dinner Thursday 430pm to 630pm Eat in or Take out, which supports their various food security initiatives.

District 11 – Councillor LeBlanc attended the first Halloween party at the Three Rivers Community Centre – they expected 30 to attend and got 80! All ages enjoyed the evening. Check their Facebook page for upcoming events (Santa is coming to town!). She attended the Middleton FD banquet – great food and nice to see all the volunteers recognized for their years of service. Be mindful of road conditions and be prepared for whatever happens.

The Warden noted this has been a meeting of intense discussion on important subjects. If it is important to our citizens, it is important to council.

Adjournment

The Warden declared the meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.