

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
10 APRIL 2001

Present: Chairman Mayor John P. Prall
 Deputy Mayor Donald E. Clarke
 Councillor Michael E. Trinacty
 Councillor J. Richard Horsburgh
 Councillor Gary W. Whittier
 Ms. Linda Parker, Chief Administrative Officer
 Mrs. Rachel Turner, Recording Secretary

Absent: Councillor Thomas S. Banks
 Councillor Bruce H. Morse

In attendance: Ms. Sara Keddy, Berwick Register
 Mr. Bob Best

1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

It was agreed to add under New Business (c) STP Update and (d) Highway 101 Exit Beautification, and two items under Correspondence. Hearing of no further changes,

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to accept the Agenda as amended.
Motion Carried

3. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Hearing of no errors or omissions the Chairman approved the previous minutes of 13 March 2001 as circulated.

4. **Presentation**

(a) **Recreation Facility – Mr. Bob Best**

Mr. Best reviewed the project to date, noting different fundraising ideas that have begun and that are in the planning stages, as well as many of the people who are involved with volunteering their time and efforts. Mayor Prall thanked him for the presentation and Mr. Best left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

5. **Recommendations from Committee of the Whole**

(a) **Property Tax Exemption**

IT WAS MOVED and seconded that the household income level of \$18,000 and property tax exemption amount of \$200 remain unchanged for the taxation year 2001/02.

Motion Carried

(b) Temporary Borrowing Resolution – Fire Truck

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the Temporary Borrowing Resolution Renewal issued by Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations in the amount of \$69,650 for the Berwick Fire Truck.

Motion Carried

(c) Recreation Advisory Committee

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to adopt the guidelines presented to form the Recreation Advisory Committee for the Town of Berwick.

Motion Carried

(d) Purchasing and Tender Policy

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to amend the Purchasing and Tender Policy to include the requirement for Call for Proposals for the professional services as presented.

Motion Carried

Mayor Prall noted that Councillors Horsburgh, Banks and Whittier have agreed to sit on the Committee on behalf of Council.

5. Recommendations from Other Committees

(a) Planning Advisory Committee

Councillor Trinacty referred to the report previously circulated at March Council, noting the work involved from the consultants and staff to provide the detailed information that has been gathered, as well as the serious deliberations by the PAC. Business and property owners were invited to attend the PAC meeting held last evening to allow for input from businesses located in the area of the Commercial and Union Street intersection. Councillor Trinacty presented the proposed design drawing and highlighted the recommended changes. After a brief discussion,

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to accept the proposed design changes for the Commercial and Union Street intersection as presented.

A rounded discussion followed noting that the decision to recommend the upgrades to the intersection is based upon the considerable information that was gathered from the parking and traffic study. The primary concern has been pedestrian and vehicular traffic safety. Council noted the legal and liability issues surrounding maintaining Rice's parking lot without first obtaining a written agreement between the Town and

Mrs. Rice. The Municipal Government Act gives the Town the authority to establish parking facilities and to maintain, beautify or improve property that is either owned or leased. To do either of these, the Town would require a formal lease agreement or directly purchase the property. After further discussion,

Motion Carried

Further to the previous recommendation,

IT WAS MOVED and seconded that an educational program regarding parking in Town be created, pending implementation of the upgrades to the Commercial and Union Street intersection.

Motion Carried

A motion was passed to notify Madeline Rice that the Town would cease maintaining the area known as Rice's Parking Lot as of April 30th, 2001.

7. **New Business**

(a) Vending Bylaw – 1st Reading

Mrs. Turner reviewed the report, highlighting the changes made to the draft Bylaw since the February Committee of the Whole meeting. A general discussion followed.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the proposed Vending Bylaw for first reading.

Motion Carried

Second and final reading of the Bylaw is scheduled for the May meeting of Council.

(b) Employee Resignation

Ms. Parker read aloud a letter of resignation from Ms. Judith Mitchell.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to accept Ms. Mitchell's resignation, effective April 11, 2001.

Motion Carried

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the severance package for Ms. Mitchell in the amount of \$15,000 in recognition of her years of service with the Town of Berwick.

Motion Carried

(c) Larsen Packers Update

Mayor Prall reported that the Town had received a cheque from Larsen Packers for 50% of the amount of the invoice sent to them. This is a good first step, however there will be ongoing negotiations regarding the remaining outstanding amount. The

long-term solution is still being considered by Maple Leaf Foods along with Environment Canada. The quoted contract for the long-term solution expires at the end of April, so a decision is expected prior to that date.

Mayor Prall and Ms. Parker met with MLA Jon Carey regarding economic development to assist with funding the long-term solution in order to maintain the current operations at the Larsen plant. Test results have come back and are very close to provincial requirements. The increased aeration in the lagoons has been completed and the ponds are looking much better. The level of odour emanating from the STP is quite low compared to what was originally anticipated, which is also very encouraging.

(d) Highway 101 Exit Beautification

Councillor Whittier brought forward a request from a resident regarding improving the look of the Highway 101 exit at Berwick with the placement of perennial flowers (i.e. lupins or poppies) or trees. It was agreed to have staff look into the matter with the Department of Transportation.

In addition, there are safety concerns with the top of the exit to Berwick, specifically the speed allowed on the overpass and the visibility for vehicles turning off the exit ramps. Staff was instructed to send a letter to the Department of Transportation noting the Town's concerns.

8. Correspondence

(a) A letter was received from Mr. Keith Grimm and read aloud, noting his concerns with the suggestion of awarding Councillors a pension plan funded by the Town. As well, he stated his objection to removing street peddlers of fish and produce from the Town and concerns regarding the Committee of the Whole system. Mayor Prall agreed to meet with Mr. Grimm and discuss his concerns.

(b) A letter was received from Mr. Gordon Rafuse and read aloud, noting his strong objections to Councillors receiving a pension from the Town. In addition, Mr. Rafuse noted several concerns regarding the Town's Committee of the Whole system. Staff was instructed to send a letter to Mr. Rafuse in response to his concerns.

9. Hearing of no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

John P. Prall
Chairman

Rachel L. Turner
Recording Secretary