

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
11 JUNE 2002

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

In attendance: Dr. Jim Gunn, AVRSB Superintendent
 Mrs. Shirley Jackson, AVRSB Chairman

1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda**
The following additions were made to the Agenda: Recommendations from Other Committees – BEC; 6(c) Schedule from Mid Valley Construction; 6(d) Public Parking; 6(e) Smoke Free Indoor Public Places Bylaw.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the Agenda as amended.

Motion Carried

3. **Approval of Previous Minutes**
Hearing of no errors or omissions the Chairman approved the minutes of 14 May 2002 as circulated.
4. **Presentation**
 - (a) **Annapolis Valley Regional School Board**
Dr. Gunn introduced Mrs. Jackson as the new Chair of the School Board and thanked Council for the opportunity to provide the presentation. All of the municipal councils in the School Board's jurisdiction will have the same presentation to keep everyone informed of the activities of the Board.

Along with the presentation from Mrs. Jackson, Dr. Gunn noted that the School Board is very pleased to be a tenant in the Health Centre, noting that the Board's offices are conveniently located in the centre of the jurisdiction. A short question and answer period followed the presentation after which both Dr. Gunn and Mrs. Jackson left the meeting with Council's thanks.

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

(a) WadePro Advertising

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to terminate the Agreement with WadePro Advertising on the expiry date of the contract.

Ms. Parker noted that the Board of Trade is not interested in cost sharing the replacement benches in the Town and staff is exploring other options to get alternate benches in place as quickly as possible.

Motion Carried

(b) Smoking in the Workplace Policy

Ms. Parker noted that she has corresponded with the Fire Department regarding having the appropriate signage posted and has encouraged the Department to develop their own smoke free policy, noting that the building will fall under the Provincial legislation as of January 1, 2003. After a brief discussion, it was agreed to amend the wording on the second page of the policy to note that the Town's share of the cost of a cessation plan would be a maximum of \$150.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to adopt the Smoking in the Workplace Policy.

Motion Carried

6. **Recommendations from Other Committees**

(a) Berwick Electric Commission

Mr. Regan distributed a copy of the proposed Memorandum of Agreement between the Town and GasWorks Installations Inc. and reviewed the issue. The MOA has been reviewed by Mr. McInroy on behalf of the Town. The value of the proposed study is estimated to be \$20-30,000 and if this goes to a tender process, it was agreed that the call for tenders will be written such that the successful bidder would be obligated to pay GasWorks for the information and results of the study should it not be awarded to GasWorks. It was also noted that within the MOA there should be listed a timeframe in which the study must be completed and the information is valid.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to sign the Memorandum of Agreement with GasWorks Installations Inc., that the study be completed by December 31, 2002 at a cost not to exceed \$25,000, and the agreement between the two parties is in effect for five years.

Motion Carried

7. **Other Business**

(a) **2002/03 Operating and Capital Budget**

Ms. Parker reviewed the report and noted the proposed residential, commercial and sewer tax rates. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the amount in the Capital Budget set aside for a new Fire Hall. The Fire Commission has made it clear that they are not able to contribute any funding to that project this year, therefore it may be misleading to leave the item in the budget. It was agreed to remove \$1,500,000 for the Fire Hall from the Capital Budget.

Further discussion followed proposing alternate means of balancing the budget, however, no other changes were made.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the 2002/03 Operating Budget in the amount of \$2,732,700.

Motion Carried

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the 2002/03 Capital Budget in the amount of \$1,042,605.

Motion Carried

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the 2002/03 Residential tax rate of \$1.51 and the 2002/03 Commercial tax rate of \$2.64.

Motion Carried

(b) **Travel Policy**

A rounded discussion followed regarding the proposed amendments to the Travel Policy. It was agreed to delete the reference to employee's family members and related expenses. It was also agreed to insert language which would outline that all Council expense claims require the approval by the Mayor, and that all staff expense claims require approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the Travel Policy as amended.

Motion Carried

(c) **Schedule from Mid-Valley Construction**

Mayor Prall reported that John Parsons of Mid-Valley Construction has provided a rough schedule for the month of June regarding finishing the Infrastructure Program. There will be a meeting between the Town and Hiltz and Seamone tomorrow morning to discuss this. The level of Commercial Street will be considered to ensure that the proper grade is maintained for the

road, driveways, and drainage. R&B Paving will begin paving on Foster Street tomorrow.

(d) Public Parking

Councillor Morse noted that there seems to be more traffic in the Town at this time of year and that the issue of public parking should be re-examined. It was alternately noted that since the sale of Moody Bros. the amount of traffic generally seems to have decreased slightly. Construction will continue at the intersection of Union and Commercial Streets which will decrease public parking spaces even further. The issue of public parking versus employee parking should be examined, since the traffic study undertaken over a year ago proved that sufficient public parking was available for the commercial core. Ms. Parker recommended that there should be notice given to surrounding residents and businesses regarding the work being done at the Union Street intersection.

(e) Smoke Free Bylaw

Councillor Morse expressed his concern that eating establishments within the Town of Berwick will be treated differently under the Town's Bylaw in comparison with the proposed Provincial Legislation. He asked Council if it would be possible to extend the Town's Bylaw to come into effect along with the Provincial legislation to allow for all businesses to have the time to accommodate the new regulations. After a short discussion, Mayor Prall noted that since there is no new information to bring forward on this issue, nor a formal request by one of the businesses, the previous decision of Council stands. There have been complaints with respect to the fact that smoking continues to be allowed in the Sidetrack Beverage Room by the owner. Ms. Parker noted that the Town has spoken with the RCMP about this and that the Town is now looking into implementing Summary Offence Tickets for infractions of the Bylaw to help the RCMP and the Town enforce the Smoke Free Bylaw. Information will be forthcoming to Council on this issue when it becomes available.

8. Correspondence

All items of Correspondence were for the information of Council.

9. Hearing of no other business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

John P. Prall
Chairman

Rachel L. Turner
Recording Secretary