

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

8 JULY 2003

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

In attendance: Ms. Sarah Keddy, Register
 Mr. Craig Burgess, Recreation Director
 Mr. Bill Ramsey, Illsley Park Resident
 Mr. Cleo Dion, Illsley Park Resident
 Mr. Keith Vidito, Illsley Park Resident
 Mr. Randy and Mrs. Sheila Veinotte
 Mrs. Thelma Chute
 Mr. Danny Lecky
 Polly Scott, Citizens Roundtable Member
 Randy Holmsdale, Citizens Roundtable Member
 Dwight Johnson, Citizens Roundtable Member
 Barry Corbin, Citizens Roundtable Member
 Tanya Musseau, Citizens Roundtable Member
 Brian MacCulloch, Citizens Roundtable Member
 Beth Easson, Citizens Roundtable Member

Absent: Councillor Thomas Banks
 Councillor Murray Bezanson

1. Call to Order Regular Council Meeting

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and welcomed members of the Citizens' Round Table, Sarah Keddy, residents of Illsley Park and Mrs. Chute and Mrs. Veinotte.

2. Approval of Agenda

The following additions to the Agenda were noted:

- a) Committee from Illsley Park as 6 (a)
- b) Zoning Change Request by Randy & Sheila Veinotte as 6 b)
- c) UNSM Correspondence from Don Clarke as 6 c)
- d) BDVFD and possible grants for new Fire hall as 6 g)

An in camera meeting will be held at the end of the regular meeting. Hearing of no further changes the Chairman approved the Agenda as amended.

3. Community Profile Report – Citizens Roundtable

Mayor Prall thanked the Committee for their hard work during this project and asked Mr. Dwight Johnson to give the Citizens' Roundtable Report. Mr. Johnson highlighted various issues included in the report and passed along Anthony Morse's (Committee Co-Chair) regrets for his absence at the meeting this evening noting that business commitments had precluded his attendance.

Discussion took place with individual Councillors asking questions and requesting clarification on various portions of the report. Councilor Trinacty complemented the group on the tremendous amount of information collected regarding recommendations for the Town and noted that it would be a large challenge for the community and Council to deal with in the future. He also noted that parts of the report reiterated issues Council had currently been dealing with. Councillor Horsburgh questioned whether the Committee was satisfied with responses received and pointed out a possible reversal of dollar figures on page four of the report that Ms. Parker agreed to look into.

Mr. Barry Corbin felt there was a lack of vision as to what the Town would be in the future and noted his hope that the Committee would be able to participate in the recommendation process in the future. He thought that the work on the report would be an opportunity to educate the public and open lines of communication between citizens and government.

Mayor Prall communicated to members of the Roundtable that Council would next decide how to proceed with information compiled from the report and its recommendations during a special session and expressed his pleasure at seeing committee members at the Council meeting along with other members of the public.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to accept with thanks and appreciation the report from the Citizens' Round Table.

Motion Carried

4. Approval of Previous Council Minutes and Minutes of the Public Meeting

The previous month's minutes were not considered at this meeting. They will be put on the September Council agenda for approval and/or amendment.

5. Recommendations from Committee of the Whole

a) Alternate for Valley Waste Management Authority

Ms. Parker explained the issue with Councillor Thom Banks being on leave and the need for an alternate for the VWMA in his absence.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to appoint Councillor Bezanson be appointed as an alternate on the Valley Waste Management Authority.

Motion Carried

6. Business Arising

a) Illsley Park Residents

Three residents of Illsley Park, Cleo Dion, Bill Ramsey, and Keith Vidito expressed annoyance with All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) and dirt bikes causing noise, dust, and safety hazards for young children within the neighborhood when using Town Walking Trails. Residents were advised that the Recreation Advisory Committee is working on developing a trail policy and that committee will make recommendations to Council for consideration, taking into account the input from residents. Councillor Trinacty noted that the community must have acceptance and buy-in to whatever policy is developed and that these vehicles must follow Off-Road legislation. Staff was directed to erect barriers at the ends of the Town's Walking Trails.

Residents also complained of the excessive use of speed used by some drivers on Orchard Street. They complained that RCMP are not policing it adequately, and not returning calls to residents promptly regarding this issue. Councillor Trinacty questioned the visibility of the new RCMP staff members and asked about the use of auxiliary officers.

Mayor Prall thanked the residents for their input and advised them that Councillor Whittier is the Chairman of the Police Services Advisory Committee and that this complaint would be an agenda item at the next meeting of the Committee to be held in September.

b) Chute Rezoning Request

Mrs. Thelma Chute gave Council some background on her property location, size and current zoning and that of neighboring properties. Randy and Sheila Veinotte would like to build senior multi-dwellings and require a rezoning to R3 to develop the land as they wish. The property has two entrances, one on Commercial Street and one on Orchard street that are 50 feet wide (see attached letter and map) and requested Council to add two 50 feet spans of road frontage together to have the 100 foot frontage required to be zoned R3.

Mayor Prall replied that her proposal does not comply with the current Land Use Bylaw and Council would refer her request to the Planning Advisory Committee for their review and recommendation to Council. Ms. Parker suggested that Mrs. Chute and the Veinotte's contact the 4Site Group initially and reminded both parties that provincially regulated steps must be followed for a rezoning to occur that has a minimum timeframe of three months.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to refer the rezoning request to the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) and have a member of the 4Site Group meet with the applicants before the next PAC meeting to occur in September.

Motion Carried

c) UNSM Update

UNSM has made improvements in their communications to Councillors and Chief Administrative Officer's. Financial statements have been distributed and the UNSM has a large reserve. Issues reported by Councillor Clarke included:

- Concerns NSPC will raise rates regarding street lighting
- Enviro Depots dissatisfied with income to run operations, although an audit of containers submitted found errors in counting of containers
- Business occupancy taxes (i.e. day cares): is a change is necessary
- UNSM/AMA Seminar at Old Orchard Inn – 2 and ½ day workshop on Council decision making and how to get community involvement in order to make sound community decisions

d) Presentation of March 31, 2003 Financial Statements

Ms. Parker answered questions regarding the Financial Statements prepared by MacKenzie, Morse, and Brewster. Ms. Parker noted that both the Town and the Electric Utility had surpluses at year-end. Ms. Parker complimented staff on work performed to achieve a 98.7% collection rate of taxes for the year.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the 31 March 2003 Town of Berwick Financial Statements as prepared by town staff and audited by MacKenzie, Morse, and Brewster.

Motion Carried

e) UNSM Fall Conference

The UNSM fall conference will take place October 15 through October 17 this year. Ms. Parker requested direction as to what Councillors would be attending for the purpose of booking rooms that are in short supply during that week. Mayor Prall noted the importance of the meeting due to a change in structure that will be brought forward at the meeting. Staff were directed to make reservations for Mayor Prall and Councillors Clarke, Whittier, Horsburgh and Bezanson.

f) Report on Playground Vandalism

Mr. Burgess presented his report on vandalism occurring in the town recently that led to a meeting between Ms. Parker, Corporal Allen and himself. Lighting, increased police presence around park by patrols, resident involvement and articles regarding the issue by the Register were suggestions put forward during that meeting. Mr. Burgess noted that some of the perpetrators have been apprehended, although vandalism and break and entries have continued and spread to a wider area than just the playground and parks. Mr. Burgess noted concern on the part of area residents to the Council. Councillor Clarke regards these problems to be a result of the larger topic of policing in the Town.

g) BDVFD Infrastructure Grants

The local MLA, Jon Carey, had reported to various individuals of the BDVFD that infrastructure grants must be applied for by the Town and asked Councillor Clarke to bring forward to Council a suggestion of agreement to meet this summer if a grant became available. Councillors were in agreement. Ms. Parker noted that she would follow-up with Jon Carey to determine specifically what grant he is referring to and the application procedures.

Councillor Trinacty asked if the new fire hall was a given without knowing a specific location and plan for the building and also requested that if funding is available applications be put forward for the Apple Dome, as well. Ms. Parker responded that the structural assessment of the current Fire Hall identified the need for a new facility and that the actual plans and location for a new fire hall had not been finalized.

7. Correspondence

a) Princess Berwick 2003

Ms. Parker read a letter from Melanie Trinacty thanking the Town and Councillors for their support during Apple Blossom festivities and offered to be available for future events. Councillors commented on thank-you cards received from the Princess's this year.

Mayor Prall commented on the great turnout for Canada Day celebrations in Burlington. Mayor Prall also congratulated Craig on the success of Berwick's Canada Day celebrations.

Ms. Parker noted to Council that the list of Mayors and Fire Chiefs for street naming policy should be added to Councillor's Policy Binders.

There was discussion on having an Opening Ceremony for the new Ron Smith Drive and an invitation would be extended to Mrs. Ron Smith.

8. Adjournment

Hearing of no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:20.

John P. Prall
Chairman

Michelle L. Millett
Recording Secretary