

MINUTES OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING
December 12, 2006

Present: Chair Mayor John Prall
 Deputy Mayor Donald E. Clarke
 Councillor Mike Trinacty
 Councillor J. Richard Horsburgh
 Councillor Beth Easson
 Councillor Anna Ashford-Morton
 Councillor Gary Whittier
 Mr. Bob Ashley, Chief Administrative Officer
 Mrs. Chantal Pineo-Atwood, Recording Secretary

In Attendance: Mrs. Sara Keddy, Kings County Register
 Nathan Kaulback, Mayor for a Day
 Christopher Margeson
 Mary Belliveau

1. **Call to Order** The Chair welcomed members of the gallery. He called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. **Approval of Previous Minutes** The Council minutes of November 14, 2006 were approved as circulated.

3. **Approval of Agenda**

The Agenda was approved with the addition of the following items:

- 4(b) – Kings Mutual
- 5(c) – Finance and Administration Committee
- 6(c) - Appointment of Deputy Mayor
- 6(d) - Update on the meeting with the Premier and Pork Nova Scotia

4. **Accolades**

(a) **Grade 7 Classes – Berwick & District School**

Mayor for a Day, Nathan Kaulback noted that the Grade 7 classes at Berwick and District School raised \$1000.00 through a variety of different fundraisers, to help a needy family this Christmas. It was felt that this is a great lesson for these students to give back to their community and it's great to see the enthusiasm of the students and the dedication of their teachers. As one teacher explained, the students need to learn in the classrooms, but lessons like these are important as well.

Mary Belliveau and Christopher Margeson, two grade seven students, were present to receive appreciation from the Mayor and Council.

(b) Kings Mutual

A letter was read by Mr. Kaulback that was written to Kings Mutual from the Town congratulating them on their new renovations. The Mayor thanked them for helping to beautify our downtown and for their many contributions to the well-being of residents in and around the district of Berwick.

5. Committee Updates and Recommendations

(a) Planning Advisory Committee – Report to Council

Councillor Trinacty reviewed his report. He stated that the monthly activity was quite low. One commercial and one residential permits were issued.

Councillor Trinacty informed Council that on the recommendation of our Development Officer, the PAC decided to pursue making changes to the Land Use Bylaw in order to regulate the keeping of non-domestic animals in Town. There were three options discussed extensively by the Planning Advisory Committee. The committee agreed that the town's history is rooted in rural life and that that the Town should do its utmost not to ban non-domestic animals outright. Instead, the keeping of non-domestic animals would not be prohibited, as long as they are kept in appropriately safe and non-intrusive settings. The Land-Use Bylaw amendments would clearly define these settings, indicate types, sizes, and locations of lands where non-domestic animals would not be considered problematic.

Staff were directed to draft amendments to the Land-Use Bylaw which reflect the preferences of the Planning Committee.

Councillor Trinacty indicated that the PAC reviewed the pros and cons of reducing the minimum road frontage for residential lots. The minimum road frontage, presently, is 80 feet. The minimum discussed was 50-60 feet.

Councillor Trinacty explained that the main limited factor is the potentially harmful impact of housing density on residential water wells. It was noted that large lot sized make development more expensive. There was also some concern from PAC that Berwick may lose its present character.

It was also reported by the PAC Chair that it was felt the Committee needed to spend some time reviewing opportunities and incentives to attract new business and new residential development.

Councillor Trinacty highlighted that Shimin Wu from Dalhousie will be presenting her fall term project, "Berwick's Northern Gateway" at the January 9th meeting of PAC.

(b) Committee of the Whole

(a) Committee of the Whole recommends that Council provide the Kings Partnership Steering Committee with a listing of the top five issues, in priority order.

MOTION CARRIED

(b) Committee of the Whole recommends that Council approve the Temporary Borrowing Resolution in the amount of \$1,500,000.00 providing interim financing for the new Fire Hall.

MOTION CARRIED

(c) Committee of the Whole recommends that Council authorize Kings Transit to act as the agent for the Town of Berwick based on provisions in the draft agreement with respect to funding of para transit services which the Town may provide.

MOTION CARRIED

(d) Finance and Administration Committee recommends that Council accept the proposal by Morse & Brewster for the provision of the Town's and Electric Commission's audit services for a term of four years commencing for the period ended March 31, 2007 in accordance with the prices quoted starting at \$9,500, contingent on an annual review of quality of service levels.

MOTION CARRIED

6. New Business

(a) Priority Setting – Preliminaries

Mr. Ashley informed Council that he wanted to introduce the Priority Settings in December which is a little earlier than normal, to give Council some time to think about them before January.

After a lengthy discussion ensued on priority settings, Council expressed that they would like to have an update on the 10 priorities from the last two years. And from that point, investigate whether those priorities are finished or unfinished. If they are not finished, Council agreed that the focus should be tightened and these remaining unfinished priorities should be the priorities for 2007-2008, or even a priority within that committee.

Mr. Ashley agreed and noted that he liked this approach because it focuses each committee on their own priorities and then it brings it forth to Council. Mr. Ashley summarized this saying that Council would be keeping focus on what they decided to focus on rather than getting derailed.

Councillor Morton and Councillor Eason both suggested that after the ten priorities have been reviewed and there is one or more that is able to be eliminated then there would be room on the plate for another, but not until an assessment is done of the present ten.

Discussion ensued about the fact that Kings Partnership is very time consuming and takes time away from internal work because of the amount of meetings, etc. that it entails. It was suggested, and agreed, that perhaps Council and staff should pull back a little on these committees. Mr. Clarke suggested we should this issue to Kings Partnership.

(b) Mayors and Warden Update

Mayor Prall relayed that he felt the Mayors and Warden dinner was very beneficial. He feels it is a great way to learn how the other municipalities are handling different issues, and discover ways where Municipalities can work together.

Deputy Mayor Clarke said that he has attended these meetings and feels they are very beneficial.

Mr. Ashley remarked that a great deal of team building is exercised at these meetings.

Mayor Prall noted that Berwick volunteered to host the next meeting which will be in December, 2007.

(c) Election of Deputy Mayor

Councillor Horsburgh nominated Councillor Beth Easson for the position of Deputy Mayor for a one year term.

Mayor Prall thanked Councillor Horsburgh for the nomination and left the floor open for more nominations. After hearing of no more nominations, Councillor Easson was appointed the position of Deputy Mayor for year 2007.

Mayor Prall congratulated Councillor Easson on her new position.

(d) Nova Scotia's Pork Industry and Premier of NS

Mayor Prall reported that he and some other elected officials as well as a group of local hog producers met with Premier MacDonald to express their concerns with regard to the loss of money which the hog producers are grimly facing at present.

Mayor Prall noted that Nova Scotia's Pork Industry is requesting the Province to reconsider its current position with respect to the termination of the Hog Loan Support Program.

Mayor Prall noted that needless to say, if we lost our pork producers it would be devastating to the entire Annapolis Valley, but especially to Berwick due to the potential loss of Larsens, which makes up a large portion of the Town's tax base. Larsens is also Berwick's biggest electric customer and the plant employees many Berwick and surrounding area citizens.

Mayor Prall expressed that he hopes the outcome will be beneficial.

7. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of Town Council will be Tuesday, January 16, 2007.

8. Hearing of no further business the Chairman adjourned the Council meeting at 8:34pm.

Mayor John Prall
Chairman

Chantal Pineo-Atwood
Recording Secretary