



Special Council Meeting - Minutes of the Meeting

May 07, 2020 1:30pm

(Via Videoconference WebEx Meetings)

Attendance

In attendance

Don Clarke, Mayor

Chair

Deputy Mayor Ty Walsh

Jane Bustin

Anna Ashford-Morton

Councillors

Mike Trinacty

Rod Reeves

Barry Corbin

Mike Payne, CAO

Karen Peckford, Finance Director

Chantal Pineo, Executive Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Council Meeting was called to order at 1:32pm.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The previous Council Minutes were approved by motion of Council.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved as circulated.

4. New Business

(a) Community Gardens Update

Councillor Bustin and Councillor Trinacty updated Council on the Community Gardens proposal from the Community Development Committee.

- The committee is planning a promotional piece to determine the number of interested parties
- Rental for each garden will be \$25, this will cover construction/ soil costs over and above anything that is donated
- Brittany Brydon, Active Living Coordinator, will manage
- Community Health Board may sponsor. Heather Morse is looking into this.
- Public Health measures will be in place
- Mike Payne has been in touch with the Town's insurance company and they will confirm if there is any risk or additional costs to the town.

(b) Presentation: Property Tax Financing Plan Policy

(c) Draft Covid-19 Property Tax Financing Plan Policy

Discussion ensued with regard to both of these items.

- AMANS and NSFAM have drafted a Property Tax Financing Plan policy
- Council has asked staff to create a minimal plan for Berwick and to use the draft plan as a guide (start/stop times, number of installments)
- Staff confirmed they will have concrete numbers and be in a better position to foresee the financial impact on the Town after June 1st (tax bills due date)
- Council agrees that we do need to offer some sort of program to our citizens
- Staff noted there are not currently as many accounts in arrears as they had expected
- Karen Peckford confirmed she will have a report and suggestions on a policy for the Town at the May 19th Council meeting

(d) 2020 Low Income Property Tax Exemptions

Staff is reviewing this issue for the 2020 taxation year. The tax exemption policy and income levels that apply to specific property tax exemptions are being reviewed and will be discussed at a future Council meeting.

(e) Correspondence: United Church Campground Plans: Summer 2020

Mike Payne has been in contact with the UCC and they confirm that all of the camp rentals have been cancelled for the summer of 2020. They will continue to be bound by the Public Health Order requirements.

5. In Camera Session (Personnel and Property)

The regular Council meeting entered into an In Camera Session at 2:23pm and returned to regular Council at 3:03pm.

6. Next Meeting: May 19 at 6pm.

7. Adjournment – Council adjourned at 3:04pm.