

Council Meeting - Minutes of the Meeting

March 9, 2021 6:30pm
Via WebEx Virtual Meetings

Attendance

In attendance	Don Clarke, Mayor	Chair
	Deputy Mayor Ty Walsh	
Councilors	Mike Trinacty	
	Rod Reeves	
	Derrick Jamieson	
	Chris Goddard	
	Adam Lutz	
	Karen Peckford, Finance Director	
	Mike Payne, CAO	
	Chantal Pineo, Executive Coordinator	

1. Call to Order

The Council Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The previous Council Minutes were approved by motion of Council.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved as circulated, with the following additions:

- In Camera Session (Personnel)
- Proclamation of International Women's Day

4. Proclamation of Epilepsy Awareness Month – Purple Day

Mayor Clarke acknowledged the Purple Day Proclamation and its importance.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council proclaim March 26, 2021 as “Purple Day” in an effort to raise awareness of epilepsy in Canada.

MOTION CARRIED

b) Proclamation of International Women's Day

Mayor Clarke acknowledged the newly written Town of Berwick's International Women's Day Proclamation and offered the following motion:

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council accept and endorse the Proclamation of International Women's Day.

MOTION CARRIED

5. New Business:

- a. Municipal Finance Corporation Spring 2021 Debenture Issue

This debenture is for the Berwick Electric Commission Transformer. A Council motion is required to authorize the pre-approval for the debenture application.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council pre-approve a debenture in the amount of \$250,000, not exceeding a term of 30 years, and subject to a maximum interest rate that does not exceed 5.5%.

MOTION CARRIED

6. Ongoing Business:

- a. *Floris Development Street Name Resubmission*

Eileen Floris re-submitted a street name for the proposed development on the south end of Commercial Street, which is Georgetown Lane.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council approve Georgetown Lane as the name of the private street of the proposed Floris development on the south end of Main Street.

MOTION CARRIED

- b. *Valley REN Update and Council Alternate*

Councillor Jamieson has volunteered to be the Council alternate for the Valley REN.

Mayor Clarke explained that the Valley REN has drafted a Business Plan which summarizes what the group is accomplishing in the region and the benefits of their support with regard to businesses – both new and existing. Discussion ensued with regard to the Town of Wolfville's

withdrawal and as well the Notice of Withdrawal which has been received from the West Hants Regional Municipality. Most Councilors feels that the REN is a beneficial organization to the region's commerce but it has to be a regional approach as opposed to a partner approach. Discussion ensued with the pros and cons of paying to belong to the REN if it is going to support the municipal unit anyway. "If you don't pay...you should not be able to play". Mayor Clarke will report back from the REN Liaison Meeting is taking place on March 10th.

c. AREA Update

A request of Letter of Support has gone out to both Minister Keith Irving and Minister Chuck Porter looking for ministerial support with regard to a potential Ellershouse Windfarm expansion. Mayor Clarke was also asked to contact the three First Nation groups for support. There is a piece of land near the Windfarm which belongs to the Annapolis Valley First Nation and they may be interested in leasing the land and talking about further opportunities.

7. Mayors Update

Mayor Clarke noted many events which he has taken part in within the last month and his last update. Mayor Clarke also noted the following upcoming dates:

March 10 – REN Liaison/Taskforce Meeting

March 16 – Council Budget Workshop

March 17 – Berwick Electric Meeting

March 23 – Housing Meeting (11am start) and COTW Meeting

Council has also received two pieces of correspondence:

Jeff Carter, Commercial Street

Requesting that he be compensated for surplus electrical energy output of his rooftop solar panels as he continues to upgrade the energy efficiency features of his home. Council discussed the fact that the Town is reluctant to go down that road in a significant way as it would mean that all other customers would in effect be maintaining the electric utility and its infrastructure. Berwick Electric's Solar Connectivity policy is being reviewed with AREA partners and will be going before the UARB within the next month or so. AREA staff are working on a public information piece to summarize the policy once formally approved.

Gloria Cunningham, Foster Street

Concerned about the lack of parking (and access to senior/wheelchair parking spaces) in the downtown core, particularly on Commercial and Union Streets. Mr. Payne is going to review the feasibility of making additional disability parking available.

8. In Camera Session (Personnel)

The regular Council meeting entered into an In-Camera Session at 7:34pm and returned to regular Council at 7:46pm with the following Motion:

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council approves the draft changes made to Policy #4.011 “Non-Union Employee Compensation Policy” (Section 2.f. *‘Separate any linkage to the negotiation of compensation by unionized employees of the Town’* is to remain in the policy).

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council approves the changes made to Policy #4.001 “Group Benefits Policy.”

MOTION CARRIED

9. Adjournment – Council adjourned at 7:49pm.