

Council Meeting - Minutes of the Meeting
June 14, 2022 6:30pm

Attendance

In attendance		Chair
	Don Clarke, Mayor	
	Mike Trinacty, Deputy Mayor	
	Councillor Ty Walsh	
	Councillor Rod Reeves	
	Councillor Chris Goddard	
	Councillor Adam Lutz	
	Councillor Derrick Jamieson	
	Mike Payne, CAO	
	Jen Boyd, Incoming CAO	
	Lisa Buchan, Director of Finance	
	Chantal Pineo, Executive Coordinator	
	Pat Jodie	
	Rita Shay	
	Jane Perry	

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 as circulated.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

- Community Committee for Rainforth Park Playground Improvement Project
- Correspondence
- Mayors and Councillors – Town of Wolfville Social Event July 7th
- Congratulations to Graduates on Electronic Sign

4. 2nd Reading – A&J Balcom Development Agreement

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council approve second and final reading of the Development Agreement between the Town of Berwick and A&J Balcom Holdings.

MOTION CARRIED

5. Budget 2022/23

a. Tax Rate Scenarios

Ms. Buchan presented a Tax Increase Scenario 2022-23 Report. Council reviewed same, discussion ensued.

Councillor Trinacty recommended the following option:

- increase the tax rate by 2 cents, increase the deed transfer tax revenue line item , and the AREA dividend line item by \$25,000.00 each and include a transfer of \$48,989 from the operating reserve

Councillors discussed the options of a 2 and a 2.5 cent increase. It was noted that with the current rates of inflation, Council would like to keep the rate down as much as possible. Ms. Buchan confirmed that the recommendation would leave the Town's reserves in the low risk category for the province's Municipal Financial Conditions Indicators.

After much discussion, Council agreed that this is the best option for the setting of the operating budget for 2022/23.

b. Sewer Budget Recommendation Report

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council approve the 2022/23 Sewer Services Operating Budget as presented. No change is proposed for Fees for Sewer Charges.

MOTION CARRIED

c. Community Committee for Rainforth Playground Upgrades

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council support the creation of a community-based committee to develop a plan for renewal and relocation of the Rainforth Park playground within the park.

Council would like other park areas to be reviewed after the upgrade to Rainforth Park playground has been considered. Public Works will wait for direction from Community Development, as to the location of the new playground music pieces in Rainforth Park.

d. Correspondence

Mayor Clarke reviewed correspondence from Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

e. Town of Wolfville Social Event

Mayor Clarke informed Council of a Mayors and Council social event being held at the Town of Wolfville on July 7th.

f. Congratulations for Grads

Staff will ensure that a congratulations message is put on the Town's electronic sign.

6. Committee of the Whole Recommendation Report:

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council approves the PSAC's request to conduct a review of policing services. Staff should be directed to draft a term of reference and a budget for Council consideration and approval.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council approve the street paving proposal supplied by Howard little Ltd., for the 2022 paving season.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council direct staff to conduct the 2022 Review of the Number of Councilors using the process outlined in the CAO Issue Report dated May 24, 2022.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED and seconded
THAT

That Council approve the Town of Berwick's loan guarantee as requested by the VWRM, in the amount of \$72,205 or 3.43% of the total amount of \$2,105,100, as per the attached loan guarantee schedule.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED and seconded
THAT

Council approve the Town General Capital budget for the year 2022/23 in the amount of \$861,750.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT Council approve the 2022/23 Operating Budget of the following amounts:

increase the tax rate by 2 cents, increase of \$25,000 to the deed transfer tax revenue line item, increase of \$25,000 to the AREA dividend line item and include a transfer of \$48,989 from the operating reserve.

MOTION CARRIED

The Tax Rate Resolution was read as follows:

TOWN OF BERWICK

**TAX RATE RESOLUTION
2022/23**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Berwick estimates that the sum required for the lawful purposes of the Town for the year 2022/23, after crediting probable revenues from all sources, other than the rates for the year, is the sum of \$4,972,251 and;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council hereby authorizes the levying and collection of a rate for the current year of **\$3.90 per \$100** on the value of the property assessed in the assessment roll as **Commercial property** and **\$1.588 per \$100** on the value of the property assessed in the assessment roll as **Residential or Resource property**, these being the rates the Council deems sufficient to raise the sum to defray the expenditures of the Town for the current year and;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the rates and taxes be due and payable the last business day of October, 2022 and;

FURTHER RESOLVED that an interest rate of 1.5% per month, be charged on the 2022/23 final tax bills still outstanding after the last business day of October, 2022.

MOTION CARRIED

Council asked Staff to conduct a municipal survey with regard to monthly interest on outstanding tax accounts.

7. Mayor's Update

Mayor Clarke highlighted the following dates for Council:

- IMSA Meeting
- June 22nd Meeting with Provincial municipal rep, Mr. Haughn
- June 23rd – Valley REN, BEC Meeting and Community Development meeting
- June 24th – Service Exchange Meeting

8. IN CAMERA SESSION:

The regular Council meeting entered into an In-Camera Session at 8:04pm and returned to regular Council at 9:25pm with the following motions:

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council accept the Community Development Restructuring Plan.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council support the creation of a community-based committee to develop a plan for new membership, identifying stakeholders, marketing, and importance to the Berwick & District community for the Berwick Fitness Centre with an update to council by December 2022.

MOTION CARRIED

9. **Adjournment** – Council adjourned at 9:27pm.