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## Minutes of Council Meeting

October 24, 2023 7:00 PM

Present:	Deputy Mayor (Chair)	Brian Hooper
	Councillors	Roxanne Haliburton
		John Mullett
		Ken Tucker
		Derek White
	Town Manager	Todd Champion
	Town Clerk	Coreen Colbourne
	Recreation and Tourism Manager	Ashley Ivany
	Superintendent of Public Works	Bruce Roberts
Regrets:	Mayor	Krista Freake
	Councillor	Perry Pond

Deputy Mayor Hooper brought greetings to those watching on Facebook, fellow Councillors and Staff and passed along regrets from Mayor Freake and Councillor Pond.

He brought forward a land acknowledgement.

### 1. Call to Order – 7:05 pm

### 2. Approval of Agenda

23-130 Mullett/Tucker

**Resolved to adopt the agenda, as presented.**

In favour: Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Haliburton, Mullett, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

**Notes by Deputy Mayor Hooper:**

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Freake signed a proclamation, with Spiritual Care Members in attendance, of October 22-28, 2023, as Pastoral Care Week.

For the interest of residents and businesses, Deputy Mayor Hooper spoke of the news the Town Council received last week regarding the closing of the local Scotiabank branch, the effective date, to his best recollection is May 22, 2024. The Mayor has issued a media advisory on the closure, expressing the Council's thoughts about the closure, and lack of engagement by the Scotiabank in its decision. He did say that the Council will be reaching out to Scotiabank to see how the decision was made and why they chose to close a branch that seemed to be operating quite successfully.

Deputy Mayor Hooper, on behalf of staff, management, and the rest of the Council, passed along sincerest condolences to the Spracklin and White Families on the tragic loss of Ben Spracklin.

He also passed along sincere condolences to the Greenham family on the passing of Florence Greenham, she was a member of the staff of the Town of Lewisporte for many years.

**3. Minutes for Approval - Regular Council Meeting October 3, 2023**

**23-131      White/Haliburton**

**Resolved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of October 3, 2023.**

In favour: Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Haliburton, Mullett, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

**4. Recreation/Tourism Committee**

**Update by Deputy Mayor Hooper**

**Woolfrey's Pond Park**

Brush cutting activities are currently ongoing at Pepper Box Hill Lookout, just off Woolfrey's Pond Boardwalk. The Town kindly wishes to remind residents that this specific section of the boardwalk will remain temporarily closed due to the presence of damaged and weakened board sections.

**Mike Austin Arena**

Regrettably, unforeseen hiccups have cropped up in the installation of the Condenser. The arrival of the condenser stand was delayed, and the contractor encountered challenges in securing a qualified unionized B2 welder. Nevertheless, Deputy Mayor Hooper was thrilled to announce that the contractor is now on-site, actively engaged in the installation of the condenser as he spoke. With this progress, the Town is optimistically aiming to kick off the ice-making process by the week's end.

### **Softball Field**

The recreation committee would like to inform our council members and residents about the ongoing demolition work at the "men's" softball field. Following discussions with user groups, the Council has committed to revamping the field by expanding its size, upgrading the fencing, building new dugouts, and improving the infield. The Town's aim is to complete this project in time for the next season. The Town kindly asks all residents to exercise caution in this area as construction is currently in progress. Your safety is important to us as we work to enhance our softball field.

### **Special Events**

The Town of Lewisporte's Haunted Window is taking place behind Die Trac, please check the Town of Lewisporte Facebook Page as there are family friendly and fright night showings.

Trunk or Treat/Haunted Hike will be taking place this Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30pm – 8:30pm. Please note that 5:30pm - 6:30pm is sensory friendly, registration is required.

The Pumpkin walk will take place November 2<sup>nd</sup> – November 4<sup>th</sup> at the Lewisporte Train Park. Pumpkins will be collected November 1<sup>st</sup> or the public can drop their pumpkin off at the Train Park if collection is missed.

Bonfire Night will be taking place November 5<sup>th</sup> behind the Water Tower, from 6:30pm – 8:00pm. Marshmallows, wieners, and hot chocolate will be provided. The public was reminded to please bring their own roasting stick and camping chair.

The Remembrance Day Ceremony will take place November 11<sup>th</sup>, if any business or organization would like to lay a wreath, please contact Tiffany at the Town Hall. Stay tuned to the Town's Facebook Page for more information.

## **5. Economic Development**

### **Update by Councillor Tucker**

Councillor Tucker reported that projects by the economic development committee, namely the old craft shop/museum/dinner theatre site; the new dinner theatre site; port development, concerning the transfer of the wharf and lay down area around the wharf; and the purchase of the Marina, are ongoing. There has been some correspondence and interaction between the Town Manager and Government Officials tasked with the particular projects, they are moving forward. Economic development members hope to have a firmer update on two of these developments. The Town Manager said that the purchase of 160 Main Street is closing on Monday, it will be the new dinner theatre site. The Town Manager said that he had a meeting with ACOA this afternoon to discuss funding regarding the projects talked about, some were favourable others not so much, he will update Council.

Councillor Tucker mentioned the closure of the local Scotiabank branch. He said that it will be on the economic development committees' radar as well as the rest of Council's, he feels there will be ongoing discussions and actions taken over the coming weeks.

## 6. Lands Committee

### Update by Councillor White

Councillor White takes the opportunity to remind the public of the importance of having a permit when he brings forward the lands committee update. He said the number of permits issued has increased over the summer and fall, and with some fall shingling still happening, he is reminding the public once again to apply for a building permit before completing the work.

He also mentioned the outlining last week, by the Provincial Government, of a five-point program for low-cost housing. He said that there are people looking in the Lewisporte area for places to rent or buy. The Council members have the opportunity to take part in a seminar concerning the construction of low-cost housing units. Councillor White expressed to the public or any contractor, if a person has an idea or want to get involved in the construction of low-income housing units or senior apartments, to please come to the Town Office and speak to the Town Manager or the Superintendent of Public Works with your idea, and the Council will do what they can to help make your idea a reality.

### Motion

23-132      White/Haliburton

**The Town of Lewisporte has received an application to raise the roof of an existing structure by four feet located at 289 Main Street. After closely reviewing the application in accordance with the Town's Municipal Plan, I hereby motion denial of the application exercising regulation 10 of the Lewisporte Municipal Plan, which states:**

**10. Discretionary Powers of Authority (meaning in this case, the Town Council) (1) In considering an application for a permit or for approval in principle to carry out development, the Authority shall take into account the policies expressed in the Municipal Plan and any further scheme, plan or regulations pursuant thereto, and shall assess the general appearance of the development of the area, the amenity of the surroundings, availability of utilities, public safety and convenience, and any other considerations which are, in its opinion, material, and notwithstanding the conformity of the application with the requirements of these regulations, the Authority may, in its discretion, and as a result of its consideration of the matters set out in this regulation, conditionally approve or refuse the application. (2) An Authority may, in its discretion, determine the uses that may or may not be developed in a use zone and those uses shall be listed in the Authority's regulations as discretionary, permitted or prohibited uses for that area. I move.**

In favour: Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Haliburton, Mullett, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

## 7. Public Works

### Update by Councillor Mullett

Councillor Mullett was happy to report on Beaumont Street for the last time, it is complete and on budget.

He took time to acknowledge the hard work of the public works department for everything they do for the Town. He went on to say that the department this season has cut, removed, and installed 100 tonnes of asphalt, with more patching and potholes to be completed.

The public was advised that water lines are being flushed this week, during this time there may be low water pressure experienced or some dirty, discoloured water.

Deputy Mayor Hooper mentioned that the public works staff helped with the Beaumont Street upgrade, completing preliminary work and after work.

## **8. Protective Services**

### **Update by Councillor Tucker**

#### **Regional Fire Service**

Councillor Tucker reported that a draft of an agreement between the Town of Lewisporte and the Local Service District of Brown's Arm for fire protection was discussed at the last meeting of protective services on October 12<sup>th</sup>, and it is pretty much ready to present to Brown's Arm Local Service District.

#### **RCMP**

Councillor Tucker mentioned the discussion had by the Mayor and himself at the last public council meeting, about the recent rash of break and enters, and thefts, and the public and Council's concerns of the lack of police presence. He said that the Council was criticized publicly over the lack of action by the Town. He went on to reiterate all the interactions that were brought forward at the last meeting that the Town has had with the RCMP over the last couple of years, regarding all the various concerns of the public. The Town reached out to the areas district commander, and after the discussion with him, the protective services committee felt it necessary to request a meeting with some of the higher-ranking officials of the RCMP. Four members came to the Town Hall on October 5<sup>th</sup>, along with the protective services members and some other members of Council for a meeting. The members present from the Town brought forward concerns and our request for some action from the police to address some of the issues and concerns being brought forward by the public. One of the issues conveyed, the lack of police presence, was discussed. The RCMP's lack of available resources is the cause of the problem, which is challenging. The RCMP said they would deploy officers from outside the area to try and alleviate the lack of presence. Another issue brought up was the vacant Corporal position, it is a priority by the RCMP, but as of today, there has been no word from the RCMP. In recent weeks, the RCMP Depot has reopened for recruitment and new recruits will be seen in six months for postings, Lewisporte is hoping to get one of those recruits. The RCMP has assured the Council that the detachment will remain a 5-member detachment. Regarding the criminal activity occurring in Town, it was indicated that the RCMP was going to deploy extra resources, specifically to work on some of the offences being perpetrated here. Councillor Tucker feels that the RCMP has listened to our concerns, and we will see some positive results in the near future.

## **9. Finance/HR**

### **Update by Councillor Haliburton**

**9.1 Cheque Register- Scotiabank (Operating Account)**

**23-133 Haliburton/Tucker**

**I motion to approve the cheque register as presented, from cheque numbers 003181 to 003245, with the exception of 003192, 003204, and 003231 for a total of \$160,508.91.**

In favour: Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Haliburton, Mullett, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Hooper was in conflict and left Chambers at 7:39:03, he handed the Chair of the Meeting to Councillor Tucker.

**23-134 Haliburton/Mullett**

**I motion to approve cheque number 003231.**

In favour: Councillors Haliburton, Mullett, Tucker, and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Hooper re-entered Chambers at 7:39:39 and resumed the Chair of the Meeting.

Councillor Tucker was in conflict and left Chambers at 7:39:46.

**23-135 Haliburton/White**

**Motion to approve cheque number 003204.**

In favour: Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Haliburton, Mullett and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Tucker re-entered Chambers at 7:40:10.

Councillor Haliburton was in conflict and left Chambers at 7:40:23.

**23-136 Tucker/Mullett**

**Motion to approve cheque number 003192.**

In favour: Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Mullett, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Haliburton re-entered Chambers at 7:40:53.

**Motion**

**23-137 Haliburton/Tucker**

**I so move to donate \$100.00 to the Kids Eat Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador.**

In favour: Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Haliburton, Mullett, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Councillor Haliburton gave a reminder to residents: The Town is currently preparing for its 2024 Budget, the Town relies on the collection of its property, water/sewer, and business taxes as its main source of income to maintain its streets, infrastructure, and recreation facilities; have special events, maintain our trails and boardwalks, and the beautification of our town. It is when our residents and business owners decide not to pay that the Town must decide what services we need to scale back on, or whether we need to increase rates. When you decide not to pay your taxes, you are not only depriving your community from the services a Municipality provides, but you are also depriving yourself. The Municipalities year end is December 31, please make every attempt to pay off your outstanding balances by that time.

**10. Other Committees and/or Business**

Deputy Mayor Hooper announced that many members of the Council will be attending the Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador Conference for the next few days. After looking of the agenda for the conference, he feels that there are some very worthwhile training sessions taking place.

He also spoke of his attendance of the Lewisporte Collegiate Scholarship Committee fundraising gala, he said it was very well attended, and wanted to commend the organizing committee for their efforts. He said the guest speaker

was Dr. Deatra Walsh, a former student of Lewisporte Collegiate, she gave a positive address to the students in attendance. Dr. Walsh is the media relations persons for MNL (Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador).

## 11. Adjournment

**23-138 Hooper/White**

**Resolved that the meeting adjourn.**

In favour: Deputy Mayor Hooper, Councillors Haliburton, Mullett, Tucker and White.

Opposed: None

Decision: Motion carried.

Time of adjournment: 7:46 PM.

Next Public Council Meeting to be held on November 14, 2023.



Brian Hooper, Deputy Mayor



Coreen Colbourne, Town Clerk/Treasurer