



The Town of Fortune

P. O. BOX 159
Temple Street
Fortune, NL
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Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Fortune Town Council at the Fortune Municipal Center Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Deanne Hickman
Deputy Mayor Jennifer Stacey
Councillors: Kenneth Keeping
Roy Kendell
Paul Peach
Rita Piercey
Rodney Rose

Absent with Regrets: Town Clerk Lacey Symes

Also Present: CAO Linda Collier
Public Works Supervisor Chris Caines (for portion re: W/S hookup)

Additions/Adoption to Agenda:

Mayor Hickman asked if there were any additions to the Agenda of March 27, 2024.

- #5 Request for Information
- Correspondence from BP Joint Council / Meetings
- Permit: TULKW0001 14 Brunette Avenue Fence
- Exemptions : COOPR001 \$370 Poll Tax Marital Status / Joint Property
- SKINN002 \$370 Poll Tax Income

Motion 2024-03-27-01: Deputy Mayor **STACEY** / Councillor **PEACH**

Be it resolved that the Agenda of March 27, 2024 meeting be adopted with the noted additions.

In favour: Mayor Hickman
Deputy Mayor Stacey
Councillors: Keeping, Kendell, Peach, Piercey & Rose

Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

Delegate: Mr. Mark Collins, Development at 97 Eldon Street, Low-Income Housing

Mr. Collins wanted to meet with Council and acquire an update on process for water and sewer connection at Eldon property (i.e. low-income housing units).

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Delegate (cont'd): Mr. Mark Collins, Development at 97 Eldon Street, Low-Income Housing
The timelines are important for his budget process with May 1st targeted for land excavation and preparation for cement. Sunset Crescent sewer hookup and water lines on Eldon Street were identified as per Public Works Supervisor Caines. The water line connection to main (believed to be 18 inches) is requirement of property owner in the amount of \$500 (normal service – 1 residence). Responsibility of sewer requires clarification. CAO suggested to follow-up as per research on past units (i.e. BDF properties), prior to identifying costs (including pipe, etc.); meanwhile, Mayor Hickman sought clarification with respect to highway crossing to which she was advised a permit from Department of Transportation and Works would be required. CAO suggested due to time constraints, that the details obtained would be communicated via email with Council and subsequent notification provided in an email to Mr. Collins once identified.

Adoption of Minutes:

Mayor Hickman asked if there were any errors or omissions to the Minutes from the Regular Council meeting held on March 13, 2024 as presented.

Motion 2024-03-27-02:

Councillor **PEACH** / Councillor **ROSE**

Be it resolved to adopt the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of March 13, 2024.

In favour: Mayor Hickman
Deputy Mayor Stacey
Councillors: Keeping, Kendell, Peach, Piercey & Rose

Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Downtown Development:

The final revisions are provided for review with anticipated approval that will initiate Tender / call for construction.

Motion 2024-03-27-03:

Councillor **PEACH** / Councillor **KEEPING**

Be it resolved to accept the drawings provided by Innovative NL to ensure the prompt Tender Call.

In favour: Mayor Hickman
Deputy Mayor Stacey
Councillors: Keeping, Kendell, Peach, Piercey & Rose

Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

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GENERAL BUSINESS (cont'd):

2. Accessibility Plan:

The most recent revisions were incorporated into a different format by Town Clerk Symes as a more attractive read. CAO advised this is a “living document” and can be amended once approved; nevertheless, it is felt the document is now ready for the remainder of Council to review and provide any feedback with the anticipated approval at the next regular meeting of Council.

3. Peddler's Tax Application:

CAO advised Council that several individuals are complaining and inquiring about this tax which is referenced as Peddler's Tax; therefore, as per research about other municipalities and reference to “Peddler's Tax Application”, it was suggested that perhaps the wording could be changed from Peddler to “Minimum Tax” (i.e. business). There was some debate pertaining to ability of enforcing this tax as well as the length of time this tax has been on the tax structure. The recent advertisement to advise residents of Council's intention to enforce this tax to suspected individuals has generated some local discussions and reference to this being a “new” tax. It was the consensus of Council to remain status quo (i.e. no change in reference or application; it will remain Peddler's).

4. Meeting with Town of Grand Bank (Collaboration Grant):

The correspondence generated by Council has resulted in the Town of Grand Bank assigning three of its' Councillors as their sub-committee; however, the Fortune Town Council will remain as a unified Council with respect to meeting with the delegation from the Town of Grand Bank in efforts of identifying potential areas whereby a Collaborative Grant could providing funding for the benefit of both municipalities. Councillor Piercey revealed that CAO Fleming with Town of Grand Bank advised at the MNL Regional meeting held in Clarendville that he has already submitted an application. CAO suggested that this would not be the ideal process as per no official collaboration project has yet been discussed with both municipalities, and in the statement by CAO Fleming, CAO nor Councillor Piercey inquired as to the purpose of such application. As per review of Councillors' availability, April 8th at 2:30 p.m. was the preferred date to seek availability from the delegation with the Town of Grand Bank.

5. Request for Information:

Mayor Hickman is seeking information for Travis Hillier which includes letters of support from Town of Fortune to Everwind and Terra Nova Hydrogren. CAO indicated she would engage our Town Clerk to pull this information from files; however, two letters of support were located and provided to Mayor Hickman. Subsequently, additional Minutes identifying the appointment of Mayor Hickman to the Energy Board would also be obtained and sent to Mayor Hickman as per her ongoing communication with Mr. Hillier (all of Council will be copied in this emailed information).

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5. Request for Information (cont'd):

Deputy Mayor Stacey excused herself from meeting at 6:50 p.m. due to family commitment.

The access to information was noted by Mayor Hickman advising Councillors to use caution in statements and content of Councillors' emails and social media accounts.

FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS: Payables: March 12, 2024- March 25, 2024

Motion 2024-03-27-04: Councillor **PEACH** /Councillor **KEEPING**

Be it resolved to approve the financial transactions dated March 12, 2024 to March 25, 2024.

In favour: Mayor Hickman
Councillors: Keeping, Kendell, Peach, Piercey & Rose

Opposed: 0
Motion carried.

EXEMPTIONS/ADJUSTMENTS:

➤ COOPR001	\$370	Poll Tax	Marital Status / Joint Property
➤ SKINN002	\$370	Poll Tax	Income

CAO was seeking Council's approval for the exemptions requested as per the confirmed eligibility pertaining to the reasons provided.

Motion 2024-03-27-05: Councillor **ROSE** / Councillor **PIERCEY**

Be it resolved to approve the exemptions as per eligibility provide in documentation.

In favour: Mayor Hickman
Councillors: Keeping, Kendell, Peach, Piercey & Rose

Opposed: 0
Motion carried.

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CORRESPONDENCE:

CAO referenced emailed correspondence received from B.P. Joint Council Meeting on today's date (i.e. March 27, 2024), but as this is a regular meeting day (i.e. Wednesday) for the Fortune Town Council, no one was able to participate; meanwhile, whenever these meetings are scheduled on a different day, Councillors will consider attendance, as they are available.

PERMITS:

➤ TULKW0001 14 Brunette Avenue Fence

Councillor Keeping reviewed and inspected property as per development application for a fence. Following previous requests by Council and appropriate land purchase, CAO advised Council that any potential objection from neighbouring property owners regarding land disputes will not be entertained by Council. All details appear acceptable with Councillor Kendell reaffirming Council to ensure that the fence is erected 10 feet from the road as per Council's reservation/Town Regulations.

Motion 2024-03-27-06:

Councillor **PEACH** / Councillor **PIERCEY**

Be it resolved to approve the fence development for 14 Brunette Avenue as per regulations.

In favour: Mayor Hickman
 Councillors: Keeping, Kendell, Peach, Piercey & Rose

Opposed: 0
Motion carried.

CAO REPORT:

- Meeting with MHA – CAO had spoken with Constituency Sadie Parsons regarding a meeting with Council suggesting Friday, April 5th being the most suitable time for the majority of Councillors.
- Community Garden Support Program / Funding Application – CAO questioned if the Recreation Commission had indicated any project as per the email circulated for consideration to Committee members, but nothing was identified. It was suggested that an application be submitted from the Town with respect to trees for "sensory garden" at the Eldon property due for demolition this Spring. CAO indicated maximum achievable under this funding is \$750. Applications on a first-come, first served basis.

Motion 2024-03-27-07:

Councillor **KEEPING** / Councillor **ROSE**

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Be it resolved to submit a funding application in the amount of \$750 to purchase trees to be incorporated into the Sensory Garden planned for Eldon Street property.

In favour: Mayor Hickman
Councillors: Keeping, Kendell, Peach, Piercey & Rose

Opposed: 0
Motion carried.

- Communities in Bloom – As per additional research from previous Council meeting, it was agreed that Council is not in a position to participate at this time (more planning required).

COUNCILLORS FORUM /COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councillor Peach: NIL

Councillor Rose:

- Arena:
 1. Old banners - inquiry was regarding the old Fortune Minor Hockey / Grand Bank Minor Hockey banners, and the possibility of putting back up as per preservation of history. CAO indicated a section of the roof will need to be repaired (i.e. nail holes with Styrofoam) before anything goes up, but she will follow-up with Paul as Arena Supervisor to seek feedback.
 2. Scoreboard Bulb – The discussion revealed bulb replacement , but CAO with respect to responsibility as to users of this piece of equipment mainly being Minor Hockey and Rec League, and whether or not fundraising by the association would provide replacement. CAO will follow-up with Paul with respect to responsibility for replacing.
 3. Sound System Purchase - Several complaints pertaining to this sound system. CAO advised she has engaged Arena Supervisor to seek out possible replacements due to inability to provide adequate communication during events (i.e. public speeches, etc.).
- Eldon Street property demolition – Councillor Rose inquired about the demolition of the Town's property on Eldon Street which was deferred from previous meetings; however, CAO advised Mr. Terry Boland had submitted a more attractive proposal for the demolition. Mr. Boland works away for employment, but upon Council's approval, CAO will reach out and meet with him to initiate this project / demolition.

Motion 2024-03-27-08:

Councillor **KEEPING** / Councillor **ROSE**

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Be it resolved to accept proposal from Mr. Terry Boland as per demolition of house acquired by Town on Eldon Street.

In favour: Mayor Hickman
Councillors: Keeping, Kendell, Peach, Piercey & Rose
Opposed: 0 Motion carried

COUNCILLORS FORUM /COMMITTEE REPORTS (cont'd):

Councillor Piercey:

Advised she has received an inquiry with respect to public works truck usage. CAO recommended deferring this matter to the Public Works and Protective Services Standing Committee of Council for their next meeting.

Councillor Kendell: NIL

Mayor Hickman:

- **Volunteer Appreciation Day / Event** – Nomination applications are in for Volunteer of Year (*Community Services Committee to meet to select*). CAO will advise Town Clerk to provide details to Chair and a meeting will be coordinated accordingly.
- **Live Stream at Arena** – Lisa Sheppard, as per minor hockey representative, was hoping to live stream the Provincial hockey tournament / Provincials at the Fortune Arena, and her recommendation is to have Mr. Joe Haley take a look to see what would be required. CAO to discuss with Paul Tulk and to coordinate with Lisa Sheppard.
- **Animal Control** – Mayor Hickman inquired about our position for animal control; meanwhile, CAO advised that due to staffing issue and the requirement to hook up water to the building has played factor; however, CAO will keep on radar in coming week or so, with future project workers assisting with other items, Jerry (as Animal Control Officer) will have more opportunity to concentrate on weekly animal control checks.

ADJOURNMENT / Next Meeting:

Motion 2024-03-27-09:

Councillor KENDELL / Councillor PEACH

Be it resolved that the Regular Meeting of Council adjourn at 7:40 p.m. with the next meeting scheduled for April 24th at 6:00 p.m., due to Linda and Lacey attending PMA Conference on the next rotation to meet.

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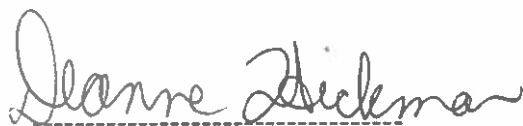
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In favour: Mayor Hickman
Councillors: Keeping, Kendell, Peach, Piercey & Rose

Opposed: 0 Motion carried.



Deanne Hickman
MAYOR



Linda Collier
CAO