



**TOWN OF LOCKPORT
COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024
MINUTES**

Present: Mayor Cory Nickerson, Deputy Mayor Dawn DeMings-Taylor, Councillor Dayle Eshelby, Councillor Kent Balish, Councillor Mary Meagher, Town Clerk/Treasurer, June Harding, Recording Secretary, Jill Cassibo.

**Regrets: Public Works Foreman, Kevin Snow
The Community Coordinator, Frances Scott is on vacation**

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Mayor Nickerson.

2. Silence Electronic Devices

All electronic devices were silenced at this time.

3. Approval of Agenda, including additions/deletions

03-25-24-01

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the agenda for the March 25, 2024 meeting as presented with the following addition: an amendment to the motion regarding the Parasport Wheelchair purchase. Motion Passed

4. Approval of Minutes from the March 11, 2024 Regular Council Meeting

03-25-24-02

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the March 11, 2024 meeting Minutes as circulated. Motion Passed

5. Business arising from previous Minutes

There was no business from the previous Minutes.

6. Community Forum (Open Mic)

- 20 Minutes Maximum
- Each resident is allowed a maximum of five minutes.
- Each resident is to state their name and where they live
- The resident is to speak directly to the Council.
- There will be no interaction by Council at this time.
- If questions are posed by residents the question will be recorded to be researched.

7. Presentations

Sindy Keeler did a presentation on Government Restructuring. Council thanked Ms. Keeler for her presentation and agreed to review the information she provided.

8. Department Reports

- Public Works Report

The Public Works report was discussed by Council in the absence of the Working Streets Foreman. Access to Crescent Beach was discussed with the following observations: The Public Works Department will be asked to ensure that there is reasonable access to Crescent Beach from the following three points so that people with moderate mobility issues can access the beach: 1. Steps that lead directly from the Beach Centre boardwalk to the beach, 2. The ramp at the east end of the beach, and 3. The stairs halfway across the causeway that lead down to the beach, need rocks to be flat and easy to step on. Public Works will be asked to keep these three points of access reasonably accessible at all times. It was also suggested that the old set of steps in back of the museum that only lead to the dunes, be removed, as they have no purpose.

- Administration Report

The Administration report was discussed and the Town clerk/Treasurer reported that the Mayor/Wardens/CAO's meeting that the Mayor and she attended in Barrington, on March 20, 2024 was very informative. These sessions are informal but cover many topics. The Town Clerk/Treasurer reported that Sou'West Nova transit is proposing to expand their services, which will mean it will require more funding in the future. The Crescent Beach Centre Manager position will be advertised as soon as possible with a deadline to apply of April 30, 2024.

9. Finance

- List of Invoices already paid in the amount of \$84,263.06

There were no questions or concerns regarding the invoices.

- Capital Budget 2024/2025

03-25-24-03

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the Capital Budget for 2024/2025, as presented. Motion Passed

- Parasport wheelchair

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the recommendation from the Recreation Committee for the purchase of a Parasport Wheelchair, and the Community Coordinator was not there to answer any questions asked by Council. The following motion was made:

03-25-24-04

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve purchasing a Parasport Wheelchair for the Recreation Department, at the cost of \$5235.00. This money consists of a ParticipACTION Grant of \$5000.00 and \$235.00 from the Town of Lockeport. Motion defeated

In Favor: Councillor Eshelby

Councillor Meagher

Against: Deputy Mayor DeMings-Taylor

Councillor Balish

Mayor Nickerson

It was noted that we currently have many pieces of non-used equipment that have been previously purchased by the Recreation Department, stored in areas throughout Town, and not being used. Some members of Council fear this may just be another such item. After further discussion it was concluded that this subject should be discussed at greater length at the next Recreation Committee Meeting, and they can perhaps come up with other options for the use of the ParticipACTION Grant of \$5000.00.

- Western Counties Regional Library

03-25-24-05

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the 5% (\$200), 2024/2025 increase in funding for Western Counties Regional Library. Motion Passed

- Transfer of \$20,816.50 (Gas Tax Received) from General Operating Account to the Gas Tax Reserve Account

03-25-24-06

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the transfer of \$20,816.50 (Gas Tax Received) from the General Operating Account to the Gas Tax Reserve Account. Motion Passed

10. Other Business

- Lending Town Property

There was a discussion regarding the lending of Town Property. In the near future Council wishes to see an inventory list completed for each department. The following motion was made:

03-25-24-07

It was duly moved and seconded that Council be made aware of any Town property that anyone requests to borrow, before it is lent out. Motion Passed

- Email from Danielle Desjardines, RCMP Liaison, re: Meeting for Municipalities policed by RCMP.

It was decided that since the date for the Meeting being held in our area is the date of our Council Meeting, Council will wait for the virtual meeting date. Council asked the Town Clerk/Treasurer to respond to the email expressing Council's interest in a virtual meeting date.

11. Council Reports

- Canada Day (Mayor Cory Nickerson)

- Recreation Report (Deputy Mayor Dawn DeMings-Taylor)

There were several recommendations from the Recreation Committee as follows:

- The Community Coordinator expressed interest in attending the Atlantic Recreation & Facilities Conference in Fredericton, NB, May 29-31, 2024

03-25-24-08

It was duly moved and seconded that as recommended by the Recreation Committee, that Council approve the Community Coordinator to attend the Atlantic Recreation & Facilities Conference in Fredericton, NB from May 29-31, 2024 with expenses to be covered by the Town of Lockeport. Motion Defeated

**In Favour: Councillor Eshelby
Councillor Meagher
Against: Councillor Balish
Mayor Nickerson**

- Future Volunteers - for May: MaryAnn Swansburg, for June: Stacey Garron and for July: Nancy Williams.

03-25-24-09

It was duly moved and seconded that as recommended by the Recreation Committee, that Council approve that MaryAnn Swansburg be named Volunteer of the month for May, 2024: that Stacey Garron be named Volunteer of the month for June, 2024: and Nancy Williams be named Volunteer of the month for July, 2024. Motion Passed

- Updating the electronic board at the beginning of the month.

There was a suggestion made by Mayor Nickerson that someone from the Recreation Committee take a thank you card to each proposed Volunteer ahead of time and let them know that they have been nominated, and that their picture will be on the board, and take of picture of them at that time. This will give everyone the opportunity to decide if they want their photo on the board or not. Some people do not wish to be in the limelight. The following motion was made:

03-25-24-10

It was duly moved and seconded that as recommended by the Recreation Committee, that Council make every effort to update the electronic notice board on the first of each month with the current Volunteer of the Month. Motion Passed

- Letter from Bill Crosby on behalf of the Helen Ghent Tennis & Pickleball Club.

There was a discussion regarding the sign that has already been made for the Helen Ghent Tennis Court. There is only one phone number contact on the sign and that is the office number of the Community Coordinator. It was suggested that rather than trying to fix the sign, a smaller sign be made to post beside the larger one, with alternate phone numbers on it. Suggestions for alternate phone numbers were: the Community Coordinator's cell phone number and a member of the Helen Ghent Tennis & Pickleball Club. The way it is currently, there could be no access on evenings or weekends by residents/tourists/vacationers, etc. The following motions were made:

- Locking the Helen Ghent Tennis Courts when not in use

03-25-24-11

It was duly moved and seconded that as recommended by the Recreation Committee that Council approve that the Helen Ghent Tennis Courts remain locked when not in use. Motion Passed

- Security Camera for the Helen Ghent Tennis Courts

Mayor Nickerson will do some research regarding options for a security camera at the Helen Ghent Tennis Courts.

03-25-24-12

It was duly moved and seconded that as recommended by the Recreation Committee, that Council approve that a security camera option be pursued for use at the Helen Ghent Tennis Courts. Motion Passed

12. Correspondence

- Email from Sherry Doane, Executive Director Chamber of Commerce, re: Commercial tax break

This item will be discussed during Budget Deliberations

13. Information Only

14. Date of next meeting

- Monday April 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

03-25-24-13

It was duly moved and seconded to proceed “In Camera’ to discuss a personnel issue. Motion Passed

15. “In Camera”

- Personnel Issue

Council resumed Regular Session.

The following motion was made:

03-25-24-14

It was duly moved and seconded that Council accept the resignation of Connie Lamm, Make Your Move Business Navigator, with regret. Motion Passed

Council asked the Town Clerk/Treasurer to arrange an exit interview with Ms. Lamm

16. Adjournment

There being no further business, it was duly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Time 3:54 p.m. Motion Passed

Mayor Cory Nickerson

Town Clerk/Treasurer June Harding