



PRESCOTT TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

Monday, June 21, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Present Mayor Brett Todd, Councillors Teresa Jansman, Lee McConnell, Mike Ostrander, Gauri Shankar, and Ray Young

Staff Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer, Lindsey Veltkamp, Director of Administration/Clerk, Nathan Richard, Interim Director of Operations, Kaitlin Mallory, Deputy Clerk, Dana Valentyne, Economic Development Officer, and Samantha Joudoin-Miller, Manager of Community Services

1. Call to Order

Mayor Todd called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion 152-2021: Ostrander, Shankar

That the agenda for the Council meeting of June 21, 2021, be approved as presented.

Carried

3. Declarations of Interest – None

4. Presentations – None

5. Delegations – None

6. Minutes of the previous Council meetings

6.1 Council Minutes - June 7, 2021

Motion 153-2021: Shankar, Young

That the Council minutes dated June 7, 2021, be accepted as presented.

Carried

7. Communications & Petitions

7.1 Edwardsburgh Cardinal Letter re: Job Site Challenge

Mayor Todd spoke to a letter received from Edwardsburgh Cardinal regarding the Job Site Challenge and asked that staff prepare a letter of response.

8. Consent Reports

Motion 154-2021: Young, Ostrander

That all items listed under the Consent Reports section of the agenda be accepted as presented.

Carried

8.1 Information Package

1. Municipal Emergency Control Group Minutes - May 19, 2021 & June 11, 2021
2. BIA Minutes – May 11, 2021
3. Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit Thank You Letter - June 14, 2021
4. Leeds, Grenville & Lanark Weekly Zoom Call with Municipalities, MP's and MPP's – June 4, 2021 & June 11, 2021
5. MP Letter of Endorsement re: Motion M-84 Anti-Hate Crimes and Incidents & Private Member's Bill C-313 Banning Symbols of Hate Act
6. Every Kid in Our Communities 'Recognition of Asset Builders' Media Release – June 18, 2021
7. Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal resolution of support re: Submission of Joint Grenville County OPP Detachment Board

8. Leeds and the Thousand Islands resolution of support re: Advocacy for the Cancellation of the Emergency Exercise for 2021 Compliance under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act
9. Town of Halton Hills resolution of support re: Elimination of the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal in Bill 108
10. City of St. Catharine's resolution of support re: Lyme Disease National Awareness Month

8.2 Staff Report 52-2021 - Financial Report - May 2021

Recommendation:
For information.

8.3 Staff Report 53-2021 - Project Updates

Recommendation:
For information.

9. Committee Reports

9.1 Staff Report 54-2021- Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Approval

Motion 155-2021: Ostrander, Shankar
That Council approve the adoption of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.

Carried

Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer, spoke to the report. He referenced the collaboration of local municipalities and the plan. He clarified that the plan of implementation was not included in the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.

Discussion was held regarding support of the plan from the Prescott Police Services Board, discussions of County Council, the implementation plan, and the costs associated with the plan.

9.2 OPP Detachment Board Approval

Motion 156-2021: Ostrander, Shankar
That Council support the joint submission of the Grenville County OPP Detachment Board proposal to the Solicitor General.

Carried

Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer, spoke to the report.

Discussion was held regarding the composition of the Prescott Police Services Board, the status of the proposal going before other Grenville municipalities, and the timeline for submitting the proposal to the Solicitor General.

10. Mayor

Mayor Todd spoke to his attendance at the Pride Flag raising ceremony and referenced the upcoming COVID-19 Vaccine Pop-Up Clinic dates to be held in Prescott.

11. Outside Boards, Committees and Commissions

Councillor Jansman spoke to her attendance at a recent BIA meeting, and upcoming Planning Advisory Committee meeting taking place on June 22.

Councillor McConnell spoke to the Prescott Public Library's current hours of operation, the opening of the washrooms at Walker House, and provided an update on the repairs to Walker House.

Councillor Ostrander spoke to his attendance at an Arena Fundraising Committee meeting and referenced the upcoming 20th anniversary for Connect Youth Inc.

Councillor Shankar spoke to his attendance at a Joint Collaborative Economic Task Force meeting and an Arena Fundraising Committee meeting.

12. Staff

12.1 Community Services Presentation

Samantha Joudoin-Miller, Manager of Community Services, spoke to the PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the presentation is held on file. She provided an overview of possible activities at the Leo Boivin Community Centre, the project vision and collection at the Prescott Museum, the creation of a Youth Advisory Group, possible improvements to the Town's website, and the use of digital tools.

Discussion was held regarding the presentation, the planned focus areas, and incorporating indigenous recognition to the museum exhibit.

Samantha Joudoin-Miller, Manager of Community Services, left the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

12.2 Staff Report 55-2021: Digital Mainstreet 3.0 Funding Application

Motion 157-2021: Young, Jansman

That Council direct staff to proceed with the application for funding support through the Digital Main Street Program, with no anticipated financial impact to the Town; to deliver a subsequent version of the Digital Main Street Program to Prescott and South Grenville region partner business communities.

Carried

Dana Valentyne, Economic Development Officer, spoke to the report. She referenced the program implementation, the funding, and the timeline for submitting the application.

Discussion was held regarding past success with the Digital Main Street Program and expanding the program to assist all businesses.

12.3 Staff Report 56-2021 - COVID-19 Business Recovery Supports

Motion 158-2021: Ostrander, Jansman

That Council approve a new COVID-19 business recovery support program in the amount of \$15,000, whereby Prescott Proud Dollars will be distributed to Prescott and area consumers utilizing a combination of methods, to encourage shopping locally throughout each phase of Ontario's reopening plan.

Carried

Dana Valentyne, Economic Development Officer, spoke to the report. She referenced the changes to the program, the unique ways to distribute the dollars, and support from the BIA.

12.4 Staff Report 57-2021 - Farmers' & Crafters' Market By-Law

Motion 159-2021: Young, Ostrander

That Council approve the adoption of a new Farmers' & Crafters' Market By-Law.

Carried

Dana Valentyne, Economic Development Officer, spoke to the report. She referenced the addition of mobile food vendors, special market days, and the permit fees.

Discussion was held regarding the opening day of the Farmers' and Crafters' Market, products permitted at the market, and the breakdown of limits to each category of vendors.

Further discussion was held regarding incorporating the Farmers' and Crafters' Market with an event similar to the Taste of Prescott event and increasing the size of the market.

12.5 Staff Report 58-2021 - Website Refresh

Motion 160-2021: Young, Ostrander

That Council direct staff bring a report back on July 19, 2021, outlining the available options and costs associated with a website refresh through eSolutions for further discussion and consideration.

Carried

Lindsey Veltkamp, Director of Administration/Clerk spoke to the report.

12.6 Staff Report 59-2021 - Technology Equipment to Return to In-Person Meetings

Motion 161-2021: Shankar, Young

That Council approve the purchase of the Logitech Rally Plus Video Conferencing System for Zoom with a maximum budget of \$9,800 supported through the use of Modernization Funding, to help facilitate the return to in-person meetings in Council Chambers.

Carried

Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer, spoke to the report. He referenced the suggested layout of Council Chambers, the requirements in order to hold in-person meetings, and the cost associated with the conferencing system.

Discussion was held regarding the costing and use of the system.

13. Resolutions

13.1 Town of Fort Erie Resolution of Support re: Capital gains Tax on Primary Residence

Motion 162-2021: McConnell, Jansman

WHEREAS primary residences are currently exempt from a capital gains tax; and

WHEREAS currently secondary and additional non-primary properties are subject to capital gains; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government is currently looking into a primary residence capital gains tax as they have recognized that affordable housing has become a serious issue in Canada; and

WHEREAS smaller communities including the Town of Prescott are seeing unprecedented higher selling prices that are outpacing prices in larger cities; and

WHEREAS many hard-working Canadians who have only a primary residence with no additional non-primary homes count on their home equity as financial aid to apply to upsizing or downsizing their home depending on their personal situation; and

WHEREAS a change in taxation to primary residences would be a significant financial blow to Canadians and would create an unfair, two-tiered taxation which could lead to depleted savings, inter-generational disparities, disparities among diverse groups such as seniors who may have a significant portion of their savings vested in their primary residence, as well as, reducing the ability of home ownership thereby a further, higher need for rentals; and

WHEREAS the Federal government could look at other means to slow down the rapidly escalating housing costs to improve housing affordability.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Corporation of the Town of Prescott support the resolution of the Town of Fort Erie requesting that the Federal Government cease further consideration of eliminating capital gains tax exemptions on primary residences;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, MP Michael Barrett, Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, MPP Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and all Leeds and Grenville municipalities.

Carried

14. By-laws

14.1 Farmers' & Crafters' Market By-Law

Motion 163-2021: Ostrander, Young

That By-Law 31-2021, being a by-law to establish and regulate a Farmers' and Crafters' Market, be read and passed, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and sealed by the seal of the Corporation.

Carried

15. New Business

16. Notices of Motion – None

17. Mayor's Proclamation – None

18. Closed Session – None

19. Rise and Report – None

20. Confirming By-Law – 32-2021

Motion 164-2021: Ostrander, Shankar

That By-Law 32-2021, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council meeting held on June 21, 2021, be read and passed, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and sealed by the seal of the Corporation.

Carried

21. Adjournment

Motion 165-2021: Shankar, Jansman

That the meeting be adjourned to Monday, July 19, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. (Time: 8:08 p.m.).

Carried

Mayor

Clerk