



PRESCOTT TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

Monday, June 7, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Present Mayor Brett Todd, Councillors Leanne Burton, 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, Jessica Crawford, Deputy Treasurer, Shawn Merriman, Manager of Building and By-Law, Dana Valentyne, Economic Development Officer.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion 137-2021: McConnell, Ostrander

That the agenda for the Council meeting of June 7, 2021, be approved as amended.

Carried

The agenda was amended as follows:

1) Under Item 18 – Closed Session add:

18.1 - Community Grants.

3. Declarations of Interest – None

4. Presentations – None

5. Delegations – None

6. Minutes of the previous Council meetings

6.1 Council Minutes - May 17, 2021

Motion 138-2021: Burton, Shankar

That the Council minutes dated May 17, 2021, be accepted as presented.

Carried

6.2 Special Council Minutes - June 2, 2021

Motion 139-2021: Ostrander, Young

That the Special Council minutes dated June 2, 2021, be accepted as presented.

Carried

7. Communications & Petitions – None

8. Consent Reports

Motion 140-2021: Burton, Shankar

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

Carried

8.1 Information Package

1. Prescott Fire Department Report – May 2021
2. Prescott Police Services Board Minutes – April 29, 2021
3. Planning Advisory Committee Minutes - April 13 & May 10, 2021
4. Prescott Heritage Committee Minutes – December 3, 2019
5. Leeds, Grenville & Lanark Weekly Zoom Call with Municipalities, MP's and MPP's – May 14, May 21 & May 28, 2021
6. Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit Board of Health Meeting Summary – May 20, 2021
7. EORN Gig Project Media Release re: Heads of Local Councils Support for Project – May 18, 2021
8. United Counties of Leeds and Grenville resolution of support re: UCDSB concerns related to Permanent Remote Learning in Small Rural Schools and Municipalities
9. Town of Fort Erie support of the Corporation of the Town of Perth's resolution re: Provincial Hospital Funding of Major Capital Equipment
10. Township of South Glengarry resolution of support re: Unified School Bell Times
11. Perth County resolution of support re: Domestic COVID-19 Vaccine Production and Capacity
12. Town of Fort Erie resolution of support re: Capital Gains Tax on Primary Residence
13. Township of Brock resolution of support re: Exemptions to Dead-End Road Bus Stops
14. Municipality of Calvin resolution of support re: Exemptions to Dead-End Road Bus Stops
15. Municipality of Calvin resolution of support re: AGCO support for Lottery Licensing to Assist Small Organizations
16. Township of McKellar resolution of support re: Request for Consideration of Tax Breaks on 2020 CERB payments

9. Committee Reports

9.1 PHC Report 01-2021: Application to Alter 290 Henry Street West - Properties Protected under the Ontario Heritage Act

Motion 141-2021: McConnell, Young

That Council approve the application for the proposed renovations to the property located at 290 Henry Street West and that staff be directed to issue the heritage building permit; and

That no painting be done to the exterior stonework without coming before the Prescott Heritage Committee at a later date.

Carried

Councillor McConnell spoke to the application and recommendation from the Prescott Heritage Committee.

10. Mayor

10.1 Resolution: Request for Federal Government Funding for Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation Initiatives

Motion 142-2021: Ostrander Burton

WHEREAS in 1876 the *Indian Act* established a legislative mechanism for the operation of government-and-church-run residential schools; and

WHEREAS these schools were set up to assimilate Indigenous children by eliminating parental and community relationships; and

WHEREAS these schools had little to no intellectual, cultural, or spiritual involvement in Indigenous communities; and

WHEREAS the conditions in the schools were often appalling and students often suffered from physical and sexual abuse which contributed to the social and health problems found in Indigenous communities today; and

WHEREAS on May 27, 2021, the remains of 215 children were discovered at the Kamloops Residential School in Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation Territory; and

WHEREAS half-mast flags cannot mask half-mast action, commitment, and resolve; and

WHEREAS as a country we urgently must move past words, regret, and commemoration; and

WHEREAS there is a need for the Federal government to provide sustainable funding for existing and new Indigenous healing centres to address the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual harms caused by residential schools.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Prescott request that the Federal Government:

1. Initiate full forensic & criminal probes into Kamloops and all Indigenous Residential School sites across the country so that all Indigenous children can be brought home.
2. Provide real justice for these terrible crimes and full-on accountability for the individuals & institutions responsible.

3. Put an end to 15 disgraceful years of fighting First Nations children's equality in tribunals and courts.
4. Fully embrace and make progress on Calls to Action and Calls to Justice from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry.
5. Speedy adoption of C-15 & implementation of the UN Declaration.
6. Provide a transformative commitment to rights & genuine reconciliation from each and every one of us

AND FURTHER THAT That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Affairs, MP Michael Barrett, Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Island and Rideau Lakes, MPP Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Assembly of First Nations, the Mohawk Nation Council, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, the Algonquins of Ontario, the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Tribal Council, the Huron-Wendat Nation, the Métis Nation of Ontario, and all municipalities in Leeds and Grenville.

Carried

10.2 Resolution: Support for Eastern Ontario Regional Network Gig Project

Motion 143-2021: Ostrander, Young

WHEREAS the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) Gig Project offers a comprehensive solution that ensures the region can keep pace with rising demand for connectivity over the long-term; and

WHEREAS recent analysis shows rural eastern Ontario for about 30% of all under-served households in Ontario; and

WHEREAS the EORN Gig Project would expand fibre to homes and businesses to deliver internet speeds up to 1 Gig (1,000 Megabits per second); and

WHEREAS the EORN Gig Project ensures homes, business, schools, medical offices, and other institutions as well as seasonal properties get connect through fibre optic cable; the best technology for today and the future; and

WHEREAS the EORN studies show several economic benefits including job creation, additional employment income, more innovation, reduced health care costs; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Prescott request that the Federal and Provincial Governments help to secure ultra-high-speed internet access and services for the individuals, families and businesses that have made our municipality their home.

AND FURTHER THAT That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, MP Michael Barrett, Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Island and Rideau Lakes, MPP Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Eastern Ontario Regional Network Board Members, Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus, Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, and all municipalities in Leeds and Grenville.

Carried

11. Outside Boards, Committees and Commissions

Councillor Burton spoke to her attendance at a Planning Advisory Committee meeting held on June 1 and spoke to the increased use of the beach and splash pad.

Councillor McConnell spoke to the library the current library pick-up hours, and virtual events hosted by Walker House.

Councillor Ostrander spoke to his attendance at a recent Municipal Drug Strategy meeting and plans for a 20-year anniversary celebration for Connect Youth.

Councillor Shankar spoke to the province moving into Stage One and second doses of the COVID vaccine.

Councillor Young spoke to the recent BIA Annual General Meeting.

12. Staff

12.1 Staff Report 47-2021: Off-Leash Dog Park Update

Motion 144-2021: McConnell, Young

That Council direct staff to establish a temporary an Off-Leash Dog Park at the unused ball field on Sophia Street during the construction of the new Recreation Complex.

Carried

Nathan Richard, Interim Director of Operations, spoke to the report. He referenced the suggested location, the operational responsibilities, the financial implications, and the creation of a volunteer group to help maintain the dog park.

Discussion was held regarding the current signage at the ballpark and ensuring that naming recognition remain once the new recreation complex is complete.

Further discussion was held regarding the agility items to be added the park, the possibility of a puppy park location, the timeline for construction, and posting signage indicating the rules and regulations of the park.

12.2 Staff Report 48-2021: Farmers' & Crafters' Market By-Law and Vendor Handbook Adoption

Motion 145-2021: Young, Burton

That Council provide feedback to staff on the draft Farmers' & Crafters' Market By-Law and Vendor Handbook of Rules and Regulations by June 15, 2021, and that the final revision of both documents be brought to Council on June 21, 2021, for final review and consideration.

Carried

Dana Valentyne, Economic Development Officer, spoke to the report. She referenced the creation of a Market Clerk, the opportunity to update the current by-law, and the suggested changes to rules outlined in the report.

Discussion was held regarding reaching out to neighbouring Farmers' Markets about current wait lists, vendors that sell outside of the market area, and allowing mobile vendors.

Further discussion was held regarding an option for running a Flea Market, working with businesses downtown to create a broader base, and opportunities to expand the market.

12.3 Staff Report 49-2021 - Grenville County Detachment Police Services Board Proposal

Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer, spoke to the report. He provided background on the proposal and reasoning behind the Police Services Board proposal for the Town.

Discussion was held regarding the option of changing the composition by reducing the provincially appointed members from two to one.

12.4 Staff Report 50-2021 - Community Safety and Well-being Plan

Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer, spoke to the report. He stated that ten local municipalities had collaborated to draft the report. He referenced the next step of taking the plan to the Prescott Police Services Board meeting for review.

Discussion was held regarding the inclusion of mental health and the opportunity for community partnerships.

12.5 Staff Report 51-2021: COVID Grant Program for Non-profit Organizations

Motion 146-2021: McConnell, Young

That Council approve the COVID Grant Program for non-profit organizations up to a maximum of \$15,000 to help support the fixed costs of those organizations for the first six months for 2021.

Carried

Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer, spoke to the report. He referenced the timeline for releasing the grant application, the closing date for receiving applications, and that the applications would come before Council on July 19 for approval.

13. Resolutions

13.1 Supporting the Municipality of Grey Highlands Resolution re: Support for 988 - a 3 Digit Crisis and Suicide Prevention Hotline

Motion 147-2021: Young, Ostrander

WHEREAS the Federal government has passed a motion to adopt 988, a National three-digit suicide and crisis hotline; and

WHEREAS the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has increased the demand for suicide prevention services by 200%; and

WHEREAS existing suicide prevention hotlines require the user to remember a 10-digit number and go through directories or be placed on hold; and

WHEREAS in 2022 the United States will have in place a national 988 crisis hotline; and

WHEREAS the Town of Prescott recognizes that it is a significant and important initiative to ensure critical barriers are removed to those in a crisis and seeking help.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Corporation of the Town of Prescott endorses this 988 crisis line initiative and that this initiative move forward expeditiously.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Federal Minister of Health, MP Michael Barrett, Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, MPP Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications (CRTC), and all Leeds and Grenville municipalities.

Carried

14. By-laws – None

15. New Business – None

16. Notices of Motion – None

17. Mayor's Proclamation

17.1 National Indigenous Peoples Day

Mayor Todd proclaimed June 21, 2021, as National Indigenous Peoples Day in the Town of Prescott.

Council recessed at 7:54 p.m.

Council resumed at 8:05 p.m.

18. Closed Session

Motion 148-2021: Shankar, Ostrander

That Council move into Closed Session at 8:05 p.m. to discuss matters pertaining to:

18.1 Approval of Closed Session Minutes

18.2 Union Negotiations

- Under Section 239(2)(d) of the *Municipal Act* - labour relations or employee negotiations; and

18.3 Community Grant

- Under Section 239(2)(i) of the *Municipal Act* -

That the CAO/Treasurer, Clerk, Interim Director of Operations, Deputy Treasurer, and Deputy Clerk remain in the room.

Carried

Motion 149-2021: Burton, Ostrander

That the meeting reconvene in Open Session. (Time: 9:32 p.m.)

Carried

19. Rise and Report

During the Closed Session, Council accepted the Closed Session minutes as presented on Item 18.1 – Approval of the Closed Session Minutes, directed staff to proceed with the ratification of the CUPE Local 2311 agreement on Item 18.2 – Union Negotiations, and received information regarding Item 18.3 – Community Grant.

20. Confirming By-Law – 30-2021

Motion 150-2021: Young, McConnell

That By-Law 30-2021, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council meeting held on June 7, 2021, be read and passed, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and sealed by the seal of the Corporation.

Carried

21. Adjournment

Motion 151-2021: Ostrander, Shankar

That the meeting be adjourned to Monday, June 21, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

(Time: 9:34 p.m.)

Carried

Mayor

Clerk