



PRESCOTT TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

Monday, October 18, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Present Mayor Brett Todd, Councillors Leanne Burton, 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, Shawn Merriman, Manager of Building & By-law Services, and Dana Valentyne, Economic Development Officer

1. Call to Order

Mayor Todd acknowledged that we are meeting on aboriginal land that has been inhabited by Indigenous peoples.

In particular, we acknowledge the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Anishibek, and the Oneida and Haudenosaunee Peoples.

He then called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

A moment of silence was observed in honour of the passing of Leo Boivin.

Dana Valentyne, Economic Development Officer, joined the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion 236-2021: Ostrander, Burton

That the agenda for the Council meeting of October 18, 2021, be approved as amended.

Carried

The agenda was amended by adding Item #13.1 – Resolution of Support regarding the removal of testing requirements for Canadians at Land Border Crossings.

3. Declarations of Interest – None

4. Presentations – None

5. Delegations – None

6. Minutes of the previous Council meetings

6.1 October 4, 2021

Motion 237-2021: Young, McConnell

That the Council minutes dated October 4, 2021, be accepted as presented.

Carried

7. Communications & Petitions

7.1 Notice of Online Public Open House - UCLG Active Transportation Plan on County Roads

8. Consent Reports

Motion 238-2021: Ostrander, Burton

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

Carried

8.1 Information Package (under separate cover)

1. Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit Weekly Zoom Call Notes – October 1, 2021 & October 8, 2021
2. Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal Resolution re: UCLG Aggregate Resources Master Plan for a more economically viable 5-meter maximum amount of overburden
3. Municipality of Shuniah Resolution of Support re: Affordable Internet
4. Municipality of Grey Highlands Resolution of Support re: Lottery Licensing to assist small organizations

8.2 Staff Report 94-2021 - Financial Report - September 2021

Recommendation:
For information.

8.3 Staff Report 95-2021 - Traffic Study and Transportation Plan - Request for Quote Results

Recommendation:
That Council direct staff to engage with Parsons to complete the Traffic Study and Transportation Plan.

Carried

9. Committee Reports – None

10. Mayor

Mayor Todd spoke to his attendance at a BIA meeting held on October 12, a Joint Services Committee of Leeds and Grenville held on October 5, and referenced the number of visitors Centennial Park and the Splash Pad had during the summer months.

11. Outside Boards, Committees and Commissions

Councillor Jansman spoke to her attendance at a BIA meeting held on October 12 and upcoming BIA activities and events.

Councillor McConnell congratulated Mayor Kalivas on his appointment with the City of Brockville.

Councillor Ostrander stated that he had been invited to assist the Legion's audit team in preparation for an upcoming audit.

Councillor Shankar spoke to his attendance at a recent Fundraising Group meeting and referenced the upcoming Laugh's at the Leo event, and the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 97 suppers had begun.

12. Staff

12.1 Staff Report 96-2021 - Community Services Update

Samantha Joudoin-Miller, Manager of Community Services, spoke to the report. She referenced public bookings at the Leo Boivin Community Centre, the creation of a Facility Booking Package, upcoming events being held at the facility, a progress update on the museum as well as the purposed layout.

Discussion was held regarding the plans for the museum and the involvement of Fraser Laschinger and other volunteers in preparing for the museum's grand opening.

12.2 Staff Report 97-2021 - Fire Department Third Quarter Report

Renny Rayner, Fire Chief, spoke to the report. He referenced the highlights for the months of July, August, and September, training, and inspections.

Samantha Joudoin-Miller left the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Discussion was held regarding the year-to-date calls compared to calls received in 2020.

12.3 Staff Report 98-2021 - Waste Fees Method Feedback and Recommendation

Motion 239-2021: Burton, Young

That Council direct staff to implement a waste tag system to replace the current garbage sales system once the current inventory of garbage bags has been exhausted.

Carried

Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer, spoke to the report. He referenced results from the public survey, waste disposal methods from other municipalities, the expected loss of fees from the sale of tags, and the expected timeline for implementing the tag system in 2022.

Discussion was held regarding issues in the past with bag tags and concerns with illegal dumping.

Further discussion was held regarding the expected timeline for the supply of town garbage bags to be exhausted and that the bags would be accepted until that time.

12.4 Staff Report 99-2021 - Winter Maintenance Update

Motion 240-2021: Burton, Ostrander

That Council direct staff to implement the suggested modifications to the Winter Maintenance Policy regarding plowing of sidewalks and walkways, and the removal of snowbanks between the sidewalk and the road.

Carried

Nathan Richard, Interim Director of Operations, spoke to the report. He referenced the results from the public survey, the areas of improvement, the suggested areas in town for blowing snow in order to reduce the amount of snow removal required, and conversations with Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario to ensure bus stop locations are cleared.

Discussion was held regarding drop off locations by St. Mark Catholic School, and the importance of issuing public surveys to ensure public involvement.

12.5 Staff Report 100-2021 - Property Standards By-law, Vacant Buildings Registry By-law, and Administrative Monetary Penalties By-law

Motion 241-2021: Ostrander, Shankar

That Council direct staff to make the recommended changes to the Property Standards By-law, Vacant Buildings Registry By-law, and Administrative Monetary Penalties By-law; and

That the by-laws be brought to the Council Meeting of November 1, 2021, for review and consideration.

Carried

Shawn Merriman, Manager of Building & By-law Services, spoke to the report. He referenced the recommendations submitted by members of Council which included details to unfinished buildings or structures in the Property Standards By-law, additions to the Garage and Carports section and Electrical Services section, and the storage of vehicles.

Mr. Merriman referenced the changes to the Vacant Building Registry By-law which included the requirement of registering a vacant building after 180 days of vacancy and the annual fee.

Mr. Merriman spoke to the concept and purpose of the Administrative Monetary Penalties System By-law and an implementation date of the by-laws on January 1, 2022.

Discussion was held regarding sightlines near intersections, additional problematic areas in town due to overgrowth, and broadening the storage and operation of vehicles on residential property so it does not infringe on neighbouring properties.

12.6 Staff Report 101-2021 - Modernization Initiatives

Motion 242-2021: McConnell, Burton

That Council approve the following projects to be supported by the Modernization funding received from the Province of Ontario in 2019:

1. Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant SCADA Software for \$94,292 plus HST
2. Fire Radio Communications Repeater for \$36,365 plus HST
3. eScribe Internet Publishing Module for \$5,250 plus HST

Carried

Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer, spoke to the report. He referenced the funding amount remaining, the reasoning behind the purchase of the SCADA Software, the Fire Radio Communications Repeater and the eScribe Internet Publishing Module, and how each item was a good use of the funding.

Discussion was held regarding the SCADA Software being included in the 2022 budget, and the Water and Wastewater reserve fund.

Due to connectivity issues, Councillor McConnell was disconnected from the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Due to connectivity issues, Councillor Shankar was disconnected from the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Councillor Shankar was able to reconnect to the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

12.7 Staff Report 102-2021 - Indigenous Peoples Recognition

Motion 243-2021: Burton, Jansman

That Council direct staff to paint 3 metre sections of the east and west ends of the Heritage Trail and the Centennial Park Trail in orange pavement paint and to work with South Grenville District High School to develop stencils that can be painted onto the orange sections to publicly recognize Indigenous Peoples.

Carried

Matthew Armstrong, CAO/Treasurer, spoke to the report. He mentioned the location for the path to be painted, working with South Grenville District High School, and the additional features to be added in 2022 which could include a Wayfinding Wheel.

Discussion was held regarding the painting of the path and the inclusion of a Wayfinding Wheel.

12.8 Staff Report 103-2021 - My Main Street Funding Accelerator Program

Motion 244-2021: Ostrander, Young

That Council direct staff to proceed with applying to the My Main Street Program Accelerator stream for funding support for a Main Street Ambassador to secure local business grants and engage in community market research/analysis activities.

Carried

Dana Valentyne, Economic Development Officer, spoke to the report. She referenced the Accelerator Program Stream, the provision of a dedicated Main Street Ambassador, the non-repayable contributions to support local businesses, and financial implications.

Due to connectivity issues, Councillor Shankar was disconnected from the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Councillor Shankar was able to reconnect to the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Discussion was held regarding the Digital Main Street program and that the funding would be used specifically in the Town of Prescott.

13. Resolutions

Mayor Todd introduced the proposed resolution of support regarding the removal of testing requirements for Canadians at Land Border Crossings.

Motion 245-2021: Ostrander, Young

WHEREAS the communities of Prescott and Ogdensburg, New York enjoy a close longstanding history that goes back centuries and includes many ties of friendship and family across the world's longest undefended border; and

WHEREAS the nations of Canada and the United States enjoy bonds and alliances that include a shared history, supporting one another through challenging times, world wars, and the aftermath of 9/11, both here at home when hosting stranded American air travelers in September 2001, and abroad during the shared mission to Afghanistan that cost many Canadian lives; and

WHEREAS Canadian citizens have endured necessary hardships during the Covid-19 pandemic that have included extra difficulties locally due to the unprecedented extended closure of the land border between Canada and the United States; and

WHEREAS many local citizens have strong ties of friendship and family in the United States, thanks to the aforementioned history that has seen us look across the St. Lawrence River for over two hundred years at neighbours, not at the shores of a foreign nation; and

WHEREAS the United States government will be opening the land borders to Canadian travelers as of November 8, 2021, following the opening of our border to American travelers as of August 9, 2021; and

WHEREAS the Canadian government is continuing to insist that Canadian travelers to the United States pay for a costly and difficult to source molecular Covid-19 test in order to return home after crossing the land border; and

WHEREAS this test will make travel into the United States from Canada prohibitive due to its high cost and availability, especially for day travelers who make up the vast majority of local visitors using the Prescott-Ogdensburg International Bridge and the majority of all land travelers crossing between Canada and the United States; and

WHEREAS air travelers traveling between the United States and Canada are still allowed use of the much cheaper, more readily available antigen Covid-19 rapid test.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Corporation of the Town of Prescott requests that the federal government remove the requirement for Canadian travelers to be tested for Covid-19 when using a land crossing into the United States after the November 8, 2021 reopening;

AND THAT copies of this resolution be sent to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; the Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety Emergency Preparedness; the Honourable Michael Barrett, MP Leeds Grenville Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes; the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Steve Clark, MPP for Leeds Grenville Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes; all Leeds-Grenville municipalities; the members of the Ontario Border Mayors' Committee (City of Cornwall, Town of Fort Erie, Town of Fort Frances, Town of Gananoque, Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands, City of Niagara Falls, Town of Niagara on the Lake, Village of Point Edward, Town of Rainy River, City of Sarnia, City of Sault Ste Marie, City of Windsor); Senator Chuck Schumer, New York; Senator Kristen Gillibrand, New York; Representative Elise Stefanik, 21st Congressional District (Northern New York); Representative Brian Higgins, 26th Congressional District (Western New York); New York State Senator Patty Ritchie, 48th District (Northern New York), and the City of Ogdensburg, New York.

Carried

14. By-laws – None

15. New Business

Councillor Burton stated that MacKay Funeral Home would be hosting a private family gathering for the Boivin family and suggested that the Town make a donation or plant a tree in memory of Leo Boivin.

Discussion was held regarding the option of naming a street after Leo Boivin.

Councillor McConnell was able to reconnect to the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Mayor Todd spoke to the timeline for returning to in person Council meetings potentially in early 2022.

Discussion was held regarding making permanent changes to Council Chambers, the current size of Council Chambers, the redevelopment of the old Council Chambers, and second floor plan changes coming forward to a future meeting.

16. Notices of Motion – None

17. Mayor’s Proclamation – None

18. Closed Session – None

19. Rise and Report – None

20. Confirming By-Law – 45-2021

Motion 246-2021: Young, Ostrander

That By-Law 45-2021, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council meeting held on October 18, 2021, be read and passed, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and sealed by the seal of the Corporation.

Carried

21. Adjournment

Motion 247-2021: Shankar, McConnell

That the meeting be adjourned to Monday, November 1, 2021.

(Time: 8:06 p.m.)

Carried

Mayor

Clerk