

**Town of Norman Wells
PUBLIC HEARING
Minutes
Zoning By Law #21-08
April 20, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.
Call in 1-866-969-8429 ID: 5040455**

Present: Frank Pope Mayor
Alexis Peachey Deputy Mayor
Jean-Paul Bernard Councillor
Jim Boyle- phone Councillor
Trevor Smith Councillor
David Wever Councillor

Staff: Cathy Clarke Senior Administrative Officer
Johannie Lapierre Development Officer
Kayla Turner Governance and Community Engagement Manager

Delegates: Suzanne Hall

1. **Call to Order 6:17**
2. **Chair reviews the agenda for the hearing**

Council shall hear all persons, groups, or representatives of landowners who feel they may be positively or negatively affected by any of the proposed changes to the Zoning By Law. Representations may be made in writing or orally.

A council designee or the Town Manager may be called upon to explain the proposed by law. Council will hear everyone in favor of the application (5 minutes per person). Council will hear everyone opposed to the application (5 minutes per person). A council representative may speak once again to respond to any statements made opposing the application (3 minutes per person).

A Regular Council Meeting will follow the public hearings. Council will discuss the submissions and determine any necessary amendment to the documents prior to voting second reading. The documents are still draft versions and will remain until the third reading is voted.

3. Purpose - Town Manager/Development Officer

Senior Administrative Officer: one year ago, as per Council direction, staff began a comprehensive overview of the Zoning By Law as the Town was entering a pivotal point of growth. She reminded Council that a public hearing is not meant for debate, it is meant for taking in information and asking questions if clarification is required.

Development Officer: Extensive Public Engagement has been conducted over the last year.

1. Surveys to residents
2. Letters sent to landowners
3. Workshops with Council
4. Extensive review by Town Planning Committee
5. Two pop up information sessions in April 2021 at the Yamouri Inn and the local Grocery Stores.
6. Emails/letters sent to key stakeholders.
7. Public Hearing.

There was a need to encourage flexibility and to clarify current regulations. The By Law will be voted in for a second reading, then will be sent to the Minister for approval, and then will be voted in for a third and final reading by Town Council.

4. **Council hears everyone in favor of the Zoning By Law – 5 minutes/person**
5. **Council hears everyone opposed to the Zoning By Law – 5 minutes/person**

Suzanne Hall-

Suzanne has been a resident of the Sahtu region for the last eight years, and a resident of Norman Wells for the last six years. She is in favor of the Zoning By Law, however she sees a need to enhance the by law in some areas concerning accessibility. She noted that all buildings, both new construction and existing buildings, should be accessible to all. Accessibility is currently challenging for a lot of residents, and this enhances abuse and neglect, and puts residents in a vulnerable place. Suzanne feels that it is imperative that older buildings be more accessible. Norman Wells welcomed a long term care center and now needs to address the needs of those residents. The bank in Town is not accessible to those who are mobility challenged. Not every resident has a safe support who can transport or help them access buildings. Online banking is not always available to everyone. This would be a huge step in the right direction in building a safe, strong, healthy community which is inclusive so that those with disabilities are able to flourish and have full access to businesses in the community. Suzanne has tried reaching out to business owners but has not been successful in solving this problem.

6. **The Council representative may speak once again to respond to any statements made opposing any of the changes - 3 minutes/person**
7. **The public hearing is adjourned 6:55pm**



Alexis Peachey, Deputy Mayor



Cathy Clarke, SAO