

**Town of Norman Wells
Minutes
Regular Council Meeting #23-03
Tuesday, February 7th, 2023, 7:00pm
Council Chambers and Microsoft Teams**

Present: Frank Pope Mayor- Chair
Pascal Audet Deputy Mayor
Kacee Hunter Councillor
Kelly McCoy Councillor
Alexis Peachey Councillor
Trevor Smith Councillor
Dave Wever Councillor

Staff: Karen Boudreau Finance Manager- Microsoft Teams
Alex Millette Recreation Manager
Kayla Turner Governance and Community Engagement Manager
Brandon Scott Fire Chief
Carl Ceder Economic Development Tourism Officer

Gallery: Nathan Watson

1. Call to Order/Roll Call 7:00PM

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

- None noted.

Mayor Pope statement to Council: Out of respect for our decision-making process I'd like to take this opportunity to remind council of our procedures bylaw which states that each of us abides by the decisions of council. Each of us has the opportunity to discuss and debate a decision. Decision making authority lies with council, not with an individual of council. Ultimately it is a decision of council as a whole that we carry forward.

3. Review and Adoption of Agenda

Resolution

'Be it resolved that the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting, dated February 7th, 2023 is hereby adopted.'

Motion: No. 23-03-01

Moved by: Councillor Peachey

Seconded by: Councillor Wever

Motion Carried Unanimously

4. Minutes

a) Regular Council Meeting #23-02 Draft Minutes

Resolution

Addition to the minutes:

- Councillor Audet's Council Forum Comments: Councillor Smith noted that the advertisement that stated the arena would be open over the holidays was put out last minute and therefore very few community members knew the facility was open. Myles Erb Volunteered his own time to open the facility and Councillor Audet would like to recognize and thank him for his volunteer time.
- Councillor Hunter would like more transparency and consistency in the minutes by stating who "the contractor" is.
- Councillor Hunter noted that the minutes stated that administration had received many compliments about the road conditions; he asked if there had been any complaints as the roads were bad and had not been done since January 20th. He also said that we are reluctant to use HRN who is the civil works contractor to do the roads properly.

'Be it resolved that the Minutes for the Regular Council Meeting, dated January 17th, 2023 are hereby adopted.'

Motion: No. 23-03-02

Moved by: Councillor Smith

Seconded by: Councillor Peachey

Motion Carried

Councillor Hunter abstained from the vote as he was not present for the meeting.

5. Old Business

- a) Action Items of Administration Tracking Discussion/Information
b) Grant Tracker Discussion/Information

- Councillor Hunter asked when Council gave staff direction to pursue grants such as the agriculture grants listed on the grant tracker.
- The Economic Development Officer noted that he would provide clarification to Councillor Hunter's question at a later date.
- Councillor Wever responded that Council had asked administration to apply for grants, especially food sustainability grants. He noted the more money, the better.
- Councillor Hunter noted that some grants require an equity component which could hamper future funding applications.

6. New Business

- a) Proposed Responsible Pet Ownership By Law First Reading Information/Discussion

- Councillor Wever asked how many people were reached when consulting this by law. Kayla responded that about 15 people responded in total to phases 1 and 2 of public engagement.
- Councillor Wever noted that cats and dogs are treated much the same in the by law, and suggested there be differing fees and penalties between the two as cats are not as much of a problem as dogs.
- Councillor Hunter is not in favor of the by law for many reasons including the following:
 - Ministry of cats and dogs
 - Way too restrictive
 - Puts too much power in the by law officer's hands
 - More restrictive than Territorial Dog Act
 - Arbitrary how fines are given
 - Colonial in nature
 - Need permission to have dog team
 - People use traps that the town deems prohibited can be fined
 - We can revoke someone's dog registration if dog owner fails to comply with by law (3.6)
 - Refers to harboring permit but does not define what harboring permit is
 - Arbitrarily allows the town to declare dogs dangerous when the Territorial Dog act requires a justice of the peace to determine this upon a complaint brought forward
 - If someone doesn't provide an updated phone number to the town, they can be fined, their pet registration is invalid and we can take away their pet? (4.6)
- Councillor Hunter is in favor of the existing by law.
- Councillor Smith agreed with Councillor Hunter and noted the by law is too controlling. He also feels the by law is a money grab and takes the enjoyment out of owning a pet. He also noted the application process for unique animal ownership is too lengthy.
- Councillor Audet noted the by law is very restrictive. He does like that the by law tries to prevent abuse of animals. He also noted the fine structure is extensive.
- Councillor McCoy does not see an issue moving forward with the Responsible Pet Ownership by law as presented. He agrees with the idea and feels it is a step in the right direction.
- The Fire Chief noted that Fort Good Hope called him to discuss animal by laws as they are looking to implement something similar to our model; he passed on both the current and proposed by laws to them for review.
- Mayor Pope suggested withdrawing the motion.
- Council agreed to withdraw the motion.

'Be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Norman Wells hereby gives first reading to the Responsible Pet Ownership By Law #23-02.'

Motion: No. 23-03-03

Moved by: Councillor Smith

Seconded by: Councillor McCoy

Motion Withdrawn

- b) Appointment of New Member- Adv. Of Equity and Inclusion Committee Resolution

'Be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Norman Wells hereby appoints Laurel McDonald as a member of the Advancement of Equity and Inclusion Committee.'

Motion: No. 23-03-04

Moved by: Councillor Peachey

Seconded by: Councillor Wever

Motion Carried Unanimously

- c) Resolution of Support for Canada Cultural Spaces Fund Resolution

- Councillor Hunter stated that he is in support of a Multiplex Facility, not a Cultural Centre. He noted that a Cultural Centre would require consultation and support from the Norman Wells Land Corporation.
- Councillor Hunter said that if previous attempts to reach out to the NWLC have failed, the Town's approach should change.
- Councillor Peachey responded that a Cultural Centre would represent all cultures (IE Ukrainian, Filipino, Black etc.), not just Indigenous Culture.
- Staff noted that a resolution is a requirement of the checklist in order to start the grant application.
- Councillor Smith noted that the resolution has nothing to do with what is in the Cultural Centre, it is just to get the application started which could take 3-4 years to complete. He also stated that the hopes for the Cultural Centre is that it will be a regional facility with input from other communities.

'Be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Norman Wells hereby approves Administration to apply to the Cultural Spaces Fund Grant program to fund the creation of a cultural centre conceptual plan.'

Motion: No. 23-03-05

Moved by: Councillor Peachey

Seconded by: Councillor Smith

**Motion Carried with 6 votes in favor.
Councillor Hunter voted against the motion.**

d) Ground Transportation SOA

Discussion/Resolution

- Councillor Smith asked how this would affect the Town's insurance. The Fire Chief responded that he would get back to Council with an answer, but insurance would likely be affected.
- The Fire Chief also confirmed that the contract is with the Town not the Fire Department.
- Councillor Audet asked if the contract is just within the confines of Town. The Fire Chief responded that this is just transportation of the medics from the airport to the health centre; there is no patient care involvement.
- Councillor Audet noted that this is a good thing for the community, but there is still no help on the winter road outside of town. He suggested looking into this for future.
- Councillor McCoy asked if the Town pursuing this contract takes away from other local contractors in Town. Brandon noted that the tender was public, and the Town was the only one to submit a bid.

'Be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Norman Wells hereby approves the Standing Offer Agreement-Services Tender Form as attached.'

Motion: No. 23-03-06

Moved by: Councillor McCoy

Seconded by: Councillor Smith

Motion Carried Unanimously

7. Council Forum

Councillor Hunter:

- Suggested a timer for the outdoor lights at the arena.
- He noticed on the arena schedule that it is not open Saturday or Sunday nights. He recommended changing the schedule to open the facility on Saturday and Sunday evenings as this would help keep kids off the streets. He also suggested adding a fun activity on Saturday night like Friday night sports. He noted if needed, the Town should hire a part time worker to keep the arena open Saturday and Sunday nights. The Recreation Manager noted that we have posted for a part time arena position and have only received one applicant.

Councillor Smith:

- Asked when the main roads will be graded and cleared of snow as well as the walking trail to the health centre as the shoulders have snow more people are walking on the road.

Councillor Audet:

- Noted the roads are in bad shape and that we should keep at it for as long as it takes to clear the snow.

Councillor Wever:

- Provided an update to Council on the branding process.
- 14 RFP's were submitted and a consultant has been hired.
- The consultants will be in town from February 12-15.
- Advertisements will go out promoting public engagement sessions that will be happening.
- On February 13 there will be a dinner meeting with Council and the Consultants.
- This is a council driven initiative with community support.
- On February 14 there will be a public engagement session for the community with supper and prizes.

Mayor Pope:

- Thanked the stand in water plant operators Alex and Carl as water plant staff are currently on leave.

8. Correspondence to Council

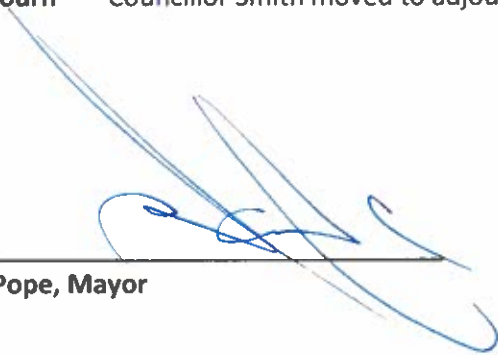
a) Statement to Mayor and Council from Nathan Watson

- Councillor Hunter thanked Nathan Watson for his letter and noted it is a step in the right direction. He mentioned that there is a petition calling for the resignation of Council. He recommends holding a public meeting with the Town's lawyer present to answer questions the public may have. He would like to address this head on in order to move on and start a new chapter in the community.
- Mayor Pope noted that council has not been presented with a petition and therefore will not be addressing it.


9. Correspondence from Council

a) Letter of Support TREC Charitable Foundation

10. Adjourn Councillor Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:41PM



Frank Pope, Mayor



Cathy Clarke, SAO



BRIEF STATEMENT TO COUNCIL.

Most if not all of us have known each other for many, many years, for a vast majority of that time, things were a lot different than they are today. Some of that is ~~also~~ the normal course of things, some man made and unnecessary. This isn't unique to any of us any more than it is to anyone else. For as much as I hold myself personally ^{responsible} for some of the man made stuff, I feel regret and I feel political stuff happens / guess, ... much of it beyond any of our control

that said. I want you all and everyone
else to know; I bear none of you,
nor in fact anyone else, any ill will,
as much for myself as anyone else,
I don't know about ~~anyone~~ ^{of you} ~~else~~ here,
or elsewhere in our community.
But I'm tired of the unnecessary
negative things that I'm a part of
and I for ~~one~~ ^{one} ~~else~~ want to do my part
and anything I can to help turn
this all around ~~and get back to~~
I want to thank Mayor Pope for
meeting with me today, ~~and~~ and thank
you all for your service.
nctm
