

**Town of Norman Wells
Minutes
Regular Council Meeting #23-08
Tuesday, April 4th, 2023, 7:00pm
Council Chambers and Microsoft Teams**

Present:	Pascal Audet Kacee Hunter Alexis Peachey Kelly McCoy Trevor Smith Dave Wever	Deputy Mayor- Chair Councillor Councillor Councillor Councillor Councillor
Staff:	Cathy Clarke Karen Boudreau Lucas Nadeau Mkhabela Masuku Kayla Turner Brandon Scott Hugo Pabke	Senior Administrative Officer Finance Manager Public Works Manager Development Officer- Microsoft Teams Governance and Community Engagement Manager Fire Chief Utilities Manager
Regrets:	Frank Pope	Mayor (Medical Leave)
Delegation:	Nathan Watson	
Gallery:	Chris Chivers Susan Wright Warren Wright Jaime Kearsey Matthew Short June McPherson Bruce McPherson Jim Pope Liz Pope Karea Peachey Ethan Audet Ben Turner- Microsoft Teams Josh Earls Drayton Walker Dorathy Wright Shannon Audet Duan Pfeil Betty-Anne Pfeil	

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

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

- Councillor Audet noted that he would declare conflict on item 7a if the current contract comes up.

3. Review and Adoption of Agenda

Resolution

'Be it resolved that the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting, dated April 4th, 2023 is hereby adopted as amended.'

- Remove: 11a negotiations.
- Correction: 7a. is for discussion/information not resolution.

Motion: No. 23-08-01

Moved by: Councillor Peachey

Seconded by: Councillor Wever

Motion Carried Unanimously

4. Delegation

a) Nathan Watson

- Nathan Watson presented a petition that demanded the Mayor, Council and SAO to resign immediately. See attached.
- The SAO then explained the process of a petition and will present it back to Council with a report.

5. Minutes

a) Regular Council Meeting #23-07 Draft Minutes

Resolution

'Be it resolved that the Minutes for the Regular Council Meeting, dated March 21st, 2023 are hereby adopted.'

Motion: No. 23-08-02

Moved by: Councillor McCoy

Seconded by: Councillor Peachey

Motion Carried with 5 in favor. Councillor Hunter abstained from the vote as he was not present at the meeting.

6. Old Business

a) Action Items of Administration Tracking

Discussion/Information

- No updates.

7. New Business

a) Water and Sewer Services Request for Tender

Discussion/Information

- Timeline update: Administration has committed to having the request for tender out by June 1, 2023. The closing date will be August 15, 2023 which gives over a year and a half with a contract start date for April 2025.
- Councillor Hunter noted that he was concerned with the decision to re-exercise the extension clause from the 2018 municipal contracts that were extended in 2021. He noted that he understands the reasoning behind it is to ensure no disruptions in municipal services while council is afforded the time to review the purchasing by law and RFT process. He feels council would not be forced to exercise the questionable extension clauses if purchasing by law had been followed as written while also providing appropriate timeframe for contractors to bid on RFT's. He noted that constraining the tendering process for the town's largest operational contracts to a few weeks near the end of the winter road season puts the municipality in a precarious position. In order to maintain services, council is now forced to make a decision that creates a negative perception on the Town of Norman Wells, Council and staff as well as contractors. He stated that in light of his noted concerns and taking the comments from the Chamber of Commerce into consideration he proposed the following motion to amend the purchasing by law:

Deputy Mayor Audet declared a conflict-of-interest time being 7:06PM. Councillor Wever took over as chair of the meeting.

'Be it resolved that the council of the Town of Norman Wells hereby move to amend the purchasing by law to state that any municipal contract may only be extended once.'

Motion: No. 23-08-03

Moved by: Councillor Hunter

Seconded by: Councillor Smith

Motion defeated with 4 votes against and 1 in favor.

- Councillor Smith noted that council has already discussed how they are going to handle this which is by reviewing the existing purchasing by law, so he is not in favor of the motion.
- Councillor Wever agreed with Councillor Smith's comments and noted that he is not going to decide on the spot.
- Councillor McCoy also agreed with Councilor's Smith and Wever.

Deputy Mayor Audet returned to the room time being 7:08PM.

b) Brand and Creative Presentation

Discussion/Resolution

'Be it resolved that the Council of the town of Norman Wells hereby approves the Final Brand Package (including Community Strategic Direction, Brand Recommendations, Brand Direction, Brand Story & Messaging, Visual Identity, and Sample Campaign Creative.'

Motion: No. 23-08-04

Moved by: Councillor McCoy

Seconded by: Councillor Peachey

Motion Carried with 5 votes in favor. Councillor Hunter voted against the motion.

- Councillor Wever stated that Unfussy presented the final brand reveal to Council last week. They were able to provide council with a brand story and direction of where to take the town as it is currently facing tough economic times and faces an economic future that does not look so hopeful. Unfussy was able to identify what type of people live in Norman Wells and what their values and goals are. The visual aspect of the brand (logo) has been tabled for further discussion as per the mayor's request.

- Councillor Hunter noted that there were good things he liked about the presentation and some things that he was not fond of. He said he appreciates the work Unfussy put into the presentation and thanked the people who responded through the various public engagement methods. He mentioned that the low level of participation among residents was concerning. He noted that he does not want to accept the new brand based off a very small number of the public's opinion. He understands that the project stems from the Economic Development Strategy but feels if more people were concerned about the community's branding and felt it needed to change that there would have been more input. He is not totally opposed to everything in the document, he noted that before moving forward on anything that council needs to provide the document to the public for feedback. He also noted that he would be more in favor of a community crest similar to YK's municipal crest over the logo proposed by Unfussy. A crest could incorporate all the elements of the community and stay true to the community flag which also doubles as the logo. The information contained in the document makes us feel good but we need to translate that feel goodness into marketing efforts to get people to live, work, invest in and visit Norman Wells.
- Councillor Wever responded that the feel-good part of the presentation is apart of the marketing strategy as emotion is tied to marketing. Unfussy recommended not to use a crest so not to blend into the crowd and set the town apart from the others.
- Councillor Audet agreed with Councillor Hunter in that there were some good things in the presentation but also some things that he did not agree with. He noted that he likes the logo that the town currently has.
- Councillor Wever noted that next steps in the process include passing the resolution but that does not mean anything is set in stone; it can be worked with as it is a living document. Passing the resolution allows the contractor to carry on with their next steps.
- Councillor Audet asked what the financial implications of rebranding would be (IE signage, vehicle wraps etc). The SAO responded that that depends how far council would like to go with a rebrand and that the cost would need to be further investigated.
- Councillor Hunter asked if it was possible to send the branding document out to residents. Councillor Wever noted that that is a possibility but that there were opportunities for people to participate just like all the other plans.

8. Council Forum

Councillor Hunter has received some concerns about the roads and the piles of snow in people's driveways. He noted the roads are extremely icy and the piles in driveways are obstructing views. Lots of kids are out playing in the streets with the nice weather; he asked about the timeframe for removing the snow piles and what can be done about the extremely icy roads. The Public Works Manager responded that he is currently working on scheduling with HRN and once the schedule is complete, he will share with Council.

Councillor Smith noted his comments were the same as Councillor Hunter.

Councillor McCoy also commented on the icy roads as well as the garbage receptacles that are piled up with snow and are very slippery.

Councillor Peachey suggested a meeting to discuss the Economic Development Conference. Councillor Audet noted that he will be connecting with Councillor Hunter to get up to date on what the committee has done in the last year.

Councillor Wever shared that the Board of Revisions recently met and there were no requests for appeals. He noted that the assessors will be in town this summer and that this happens every 10 years. The assessors will more than likely want to meet with council as well as meetings with the community. Councillor Wever also suggested a special committee to plan Black Bear Jamboree as the recreation committee does not currently have members. He noted this may be a way to potentially attract more members for the recreation committee and a great way to get the community involved in event planning.

Deputy Mayor Audet thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He noted that everyone's opinions may differ, but everyone is here because of their love for the community.

Pause for comments from Warren Wright

Deputy Mayor Audet noted that he would like to address the letter that Mr. Watson posted around town that names him specifically. He noted that free speech is our right as Canadians and that we are allowed to criticize anybody for anything and that he welcomes criticism and that Council's need criticism in order to find out what they are and are not doing well; input is needed, and he welcomes all kinds of input. What we can't do is make up lies and spread misinformation to try to ruin someone's reputation and that there was no truth to the letter posted by Mr. Watson.

9. Correspondence to Council

10. Correspondence from Council

Recess called at 7:48PM

11. In Camera

- a) Negotiations- Remove
- b) Legal

'Be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Norman Wells hereby go in camera time being 7:55PM'

Motion: No. 23-08-05
Moved by: Councillor Peachey
Seconded by: Councillor Wever

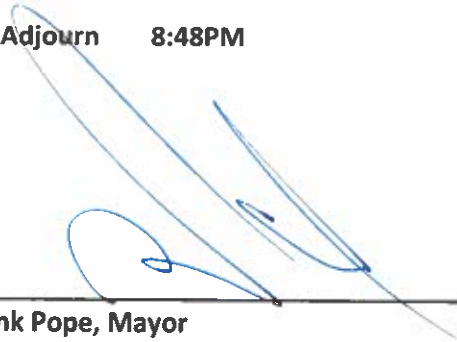
Motion Carried Unanimously

'Be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Norman Wells hereby go out of in camera time being 8:47PM'

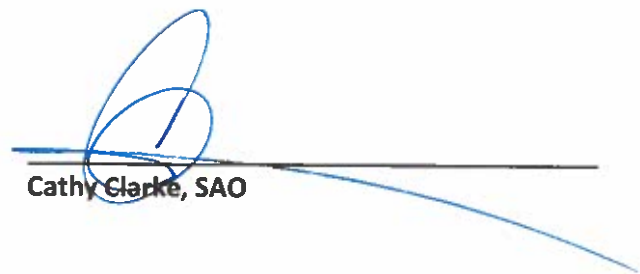
Motion: No. 23-08-06
Moved by: Councillor Hunter
Seconded by: Councillor Smith

Motion Carried Unanimously

12. Adjourn 8:48PM



Frank Pope, Mayor



Cathy Clarke, SAO

We, the undersigned residents of Norman Wells NT, demand transparency and accountability from our Mayor/Council, and the SAO.

Given the appalling lack thereof, we demand the current Mayor/Council and SAO step down and immediately resign their positions so that an election can take place.

We feel this is the only way for us to have effective governance and receive the information we are entitled to with what is being done in our names and with our money.

Finally, we demand that an independent inquiry and forensic audit be conducted given the TNW's claims of MACA oversight, support, and advice throughout this dark time in our community.

Name:

PO Box:

Street:

Town: Norman Wells

Postal Code: X0E 0V0

Phone:

Signature: