



**Regular Meeting of Council #7  
June 27, 2023, at 6:00 pm**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:**

**Mayor Gary Goobie  
Deputy Mayor Michele Woodford  
Councillor Curtis Buckle  
Councillor Bruce King  
Councillor Sadie King  
Councillor Steve Winsor**

**Marjorie Gibbons, Acting CAO  
Steve Martin, Director of Recreation**

**REGRETS:**

**Councillor Laura Crawley**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**23-07-149**

**S. King/Buckle**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this meeting is now called to order and the agenda is adopted as presented.

**In Favor- 6**

**Goobie  
Woodford  
Buckle  
B. King  
S. King  
Winsor**

**Opposed- 0**

**Abstained-0**

**Motion Carried**

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**a. Regular Meeting of Council May 30, 2023 minutes adopted as presented, no errors or omissions.**

**3. BUSINESS ARISING- n/a**

**4. MAYOR'S UPDATE**

Property assessments- I'm bemused and frustrated. An assessor was walking around my property, and everything remained unchanged. I advised him I changed the patio back a few years ago, but that would have been reflected in a previous assessment. When a new assessment arrived

we had a \$48,000 increase in property value. They say it's based on comparable home sales in the area. I don't think properties increased that much. Some owners will be hit while others will be missed. Doesn't seem to be a very accurate system. I understand empathize why residents get frustrated come tax time. MNL have been advocating for a fair tax system for years but to no avail. My personal opinion, I believe the auditor general needs to do a comprehensive review of municipal assessment agency and operations. Residents deserve answers. We will talk further at committee of the whole.

On June 5, a 76-year-old man and son were on a fishing trip when fog rolled in and they got displaced. The son made it back safely, but the father couldn't find his way back. Search and rescue teams spent two days searching, and the man was found safe and sound. A huge thank you to Central Avalon Ground Search and Rescue, Avalon North Wolverines Rover Search Triple Bay Eagles, a cormorant helicopter and the RCMP for bringing this incident to a successful conclusion. On behalf of Council I would like to send a letter to the provincial search and rescue coordinator Mable Tilly for a job well done. This letter will be sent out in the coming days.

## **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

## **6. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

- a. Update by Deputy Mayor Woodford.  
Committee met on June 21. Four applications were reviewed, one required discretionary use ad. One piece of correspondence was received- a complaint regarding excavation near a body of water and concerns of environmental issues. The Director of Infrastructure & Public Works is working with the property owner to ensure that the correct permits and regulations are being met.

Town Plan Review update- we are complete with the initial review. Working on a draft component of the plan and hoping to have that within the next 4 weeks. After review by Council, two public consultations are required- public open house for residents to make suggestions, and the second meeting- council will present the plan. The plan is then forwarded to Municipal Affairs. Once plan is released by the department, the plan is then formally adopted by Council and the required public hearing scheduled and chaired by an independent commissioner appointed by Council. The commissioner will make a report to Council, if it adopts the commissioner's report, the plan is sent to the Minister for

registration. Looking at the fall or in the new year before this is done.

b. Permits

**23-07-150**

**Woodford/Winsor**

**BE IT RESOLVED** to table and approve the attached permit listing. 16 permits were issued from May 24-June 23, 2023 and includes permits for: General Repairs, New Build Permit #2, Water for Swimming Pool, Accessory Building.

**In Favor- 6**

**Goobie**

**Woodford**

**Buckle**

**B. King**

**S. King**

**Winsor**

**Opposed- 0**

**Abstained-0**

**Motion Carried**

c. Location: 16 Country Path

Proposal: Home Based Business- Dealer's License

Zoning: RMD

**23-07-151**

**Woodford/Winsor**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Holyrood approve the above Home-Based Business application, in principle, subject to the Town's Municipal Plan and Development Regulations. The storage of vehicles is not permitted at this location.

**In Favor- 6**

**Goobie**

**Woodford**

**Buckle**

**B. King**

**S. King**

**Winsor**

**Opposed- 0**

**Abstained-0**

**Motion Carried**

**7. RECREATION AND COMMUNITY EVENTS**

a. Update by Councillor Buckle

Holy Cross Swim Park will be opened on Friday, June 30. Remind users of the park to be careful and cognizant when parking and leaving the area.

Squid Fest brochure is gone in the mail. Lots of activities planned.

Canada Day celebrations on July 1 from 12-3 pm at the Festival Grounds.

CBC United Soccer will kick off the week of July 3. We have over 140 kids registered.

Salmonier Line Recreation Park area- our multi-courts pavement, fencing and nets will be placed there soon. Taking skateboard stuff and moving it to the multi court area. Hope to get a concrete surface where the skateboard park is now and hopefully getting an outdoor rink put there in the future. Trail Development- looking at expanding walking trail in that area. Looking for funding to do something for the seniors in that area. We are still hoping for a recreation building there in the future. Looking at building designs and funding that could be used.

## **8. INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS**

- a. Update by Councillor Winsor. Committee met on June 23.

Acknowledge Public Works staff for their swift intervention on 4 water leaks in the last week. Some leaks were at the south side and the other one was on Taplin's Hill. We lost a tremendous amount of water, and it took almost a full week to replenish the tank to operating levels. Thank the staff for their work. When we get into budget, we have to put aside some money for the asset integrity, and the aging infrastructure. Full support of the following motions.

Wood Cutting Policy- there was resident feedback. We will revise and reissue the policy with improved language. The intent of the policy is not to charge someone a fee to get a permit to knock down trees. It started off with the discussion of town owned land and woodcutting. We also wanted to add in there the clear cutting of property. We are not charging \$50 permit to knock down trees off your land. Yes, there is a process that goes through Planning for clear cut development.

The purpose of the permit is not to police, but to monitor to ensure permit holder is in compliance with what is being done and there is compliance with the regulations.

Salmonier Line Garbage Clean Up- Director checked with the province and they have no plans to clean up. The town will look at cleaning up later in the summer. Encourage residents to clean up sections by their door.

Gay Pride month- We saved money on other projects in IFPW and will award a contract for pride painting at the main beach parking lot area, next to the planter area. We can't do the crosswalk as it is a provincial road. We want people to understand that we support diversity and inclusion. Your interests are to be respected and feel welcome. All of council is in support of this.

**b. Gas Tax**

**23-07-152**

**King/Winsor**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Holyrood submit an application to the Gas Tax Authority to complete upgrades to enhance recreational and/or tourism infrastructure. This work will include the installation of armor stone and fencing at a section of the park site to ensure this area is safe for all those using the park. The cost for this project is \$22,195.00 including HST.

The Town did complete a request for quotes for this work, we did receive four responses and Harbour Construction was the company which could provide the services required for the lowest cost.

**In Favor- 6**

**Goobie**

**Woodford**

**Buckle**

**B. King**

**S. King**

**Winsor**

**Opposed- 0**

**Abstained-0**

**Motion Carried**

**23-07-153**

**King/Buckle**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Holyrood submit an application to the gas tax authority to purchase water upgrade equipment that will assist the town with leak detection within its infrastructure. The cost of this equipment is \$14,294.50 including HST.

This equipment will enable staff to locate water leaks and begin repairs in a timelier manner. This will reduce the length of time water

is being lost as well as the length of time and resources to correct the problem.

**In Favor- 6**

**Goobie**

**Woodford**

**Buckle**

**B. King**

**S. King**

**Winsor**

**Opposed- 0**

**Abstained-0**

**Motion Carried**

## **9. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING**

- a. Update by Deputy Mayor Woodford. Committee met on June 16. Two new business applications were reviewed and require further analysis and consultation with the town planner. One was sent to Planning for recommendation.

Received a complaint about a business being advertised and if this business was registered with the town. The complainant identified the owner and the acting CAO have reached out to the individual and requested completion of an application.

The town is partnering with Newfoundland Trailway for a small project funded under Active NL, \$4,500 which the trailway will match. Completing 8.5 km from generating station to Marina Road. Work includes clearing culverts, repairing washouts and some brush cutting.

## **10. PUBLIC SAFETY**

- a. Update by Councillor Bruce King. Committee met on June 13. We will start putting out an invitation to the RCMP on alternate months to attend our meetings so they can give us an update on what's going on in the town.

Fire safety- People need to be aware that it only takes a second to cause a disaster. We are in a wooded area. We are suffering the effects of smoke from fires in Quebec, Nova Scotia.

School is over now and the kids are out. People need to be aware of underage drinking and supplying alcohol to underage kids, you could be liable if something happens.

The Fire Department had 6 people attend fire school in Grand Falls and Gander. We look forward to seeing the training in a couple of weeks.

The training ground is coming along great. They added a sea container to the ground and can do all types of training to enhance the ability to respond to emergencies.

Our budget is on track for public safety at about 50%.

Kids are out of school. Everyone is concerned about kids being on the road, you have to tell your kids to be careful on the road. People behind the wheel also need to be cognizant of those on the road.

Canada Day is coming up- make sure to put your pets in if there are fireworks.

## **11. COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. Update by Deputy Mayor Woodford. Committee met on June 1.

Cell phone coverage- the mayor turned this info to the committee for this committee to handle. The first plan of action was to reach out to Bell Executives. The reply from Bell was they are doing some upgrading in the Avondale area, once that is completed, they will do an analysis to see if this has improved the service. Once that is done, they will contact us for a sit-down meeting.

Flyers that we go out with on a yearly basis- we out a call for bids. 3 bids were received, and the lowest bid was image 4.

External communications is the next item on the communications plan. Hope to come up with better ways on how to inform residents on various things in the town.

## **12. OPERATIONAL REVIEW**

- a. Update by Councillor Winsor.  
Council has met with consultant to hear Mr. Curran's preliminary findings and recommendations and the work is nearing close. Benchmarking activity against other communities has been completed and we are aligning on what we feel is the best vision for the town going forward. We will receive a more formal deliverable from Mr. Curran toward the end of July.

### 13. CORPORATE SERVICES & ADMINISTRATION

- a. Update by Councillor B. King. Committee met on June 22.

Procurement Act- on July 4, there will be a presentation to Council on the things that work and the things that don't work. The people using the system are the most reliable people to get answers from.

Fiscal Update- right now all departments are exactly where they're suppose to be, 45-50% of their budget.

Payments on property and business tax are coming in. Shout out to all those paying their taxes.

Donation request from people that are into sports, especially softball. We will make a \$100 donation to softball to cover all the kids from Holyrood participating this year.

Assessments for 2024 are out. All the other communities are experiencing an increase in assessment. There needs to be a better explanation on the increases in property taxes. Before 2024, the average home is worth about \$270,000. That is gone up about 6% to \$285,000. If you are not happy with your assessment, there is a process in which you can appeal. There is also a deadline to appeal.

- b. Accounts

**23-07-154**

**B. King/Woodford**

**BE IT RESOLVED** those accounts tabled in the amount of \$236,502.11 cheques #446445-44797 and #D3304-D3363 be approved for payment from the general account.

**In Favor- 6**

**Goobie**

**Woodford**

**Buckle**

**B. King**

**S. King**

**Winsor**

**Opposed- 0**

**Abstained-0**

**Motion Carried**

- c. Bankbook Balance: \$178,984

### 14. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Mental Health Task Force**

**Woodford/Buckle**

**23-07-155**

**BE IT RESOLVED** the Town of Holyrood approve the appointment of Councilor Bruce King to the represent the Town on the Mental Health Task Force, a municipality-driven initiative with a shared goal of making mental health ‘everybody’s business.’ The mandate of the mental health task force will be to assist municipalities with identifying priority actions and then seek support to improve quality and accessibility for people with mental health issues.

**In Favor- 6**

**Goobie**

**Woodford**

**Buckle**

**B. King**

**S. King**

**Winsor**

**Opposed- 0**

**Abstained-0**

**Motion Carried**

**b. Other**

Woodford

There is an appeals process through Municipal Assessments for businesses and residential. Deadline is July 31. If you go online and do some research, you will be able to see different sites to help you make an appeal. There is an appeal fee, if your appeal is granted, you get that fee back. You can ask what formula was used to get the increase.

Wishing everyone a happy Canada Day and invite everyone to attend our events.

B. King

I’m looking forward to being part of the mental health task force. Things have changed on how we talk about mental health. It’s an illness.

Saturday is Canada but also Memorial Day, lets not forget that part. We honor those who died on July 1, 1916 and thereafter. After 12:00, we celebrate what they achieved. Memorial Day at 11:00 at the Star of the Sea. Once the ceremony is done, walk up the road to the festival grounds to enjoy Canada Day.

Buckle

The work the search and rescue do is a great service.

Everyone's assessments is gone up, so hopefully everybody will appeal them. It's not fair how crazy they have gone up.

Winsor  
n/a

S. King  
There is a lot of garbage around Holyrood. If everyone would just clean up in front of their place it would make a big difference.

We have all the boxes gone in the community garden, but some people haven't got them set yet. Encourage people to set their boxes.

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

July 25, 2023, at 6:00 pm

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

**23-07-156**

**S. King/Buckle**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this meeting now adjourn.

**In Favor- 6**

**Goobie**

**Woodford**

**Buckle**

**B. King**

**S. King**

**Winsor**

**Opposed- 0**

**Abstained-0**

**Motion Carried**

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**Mayor**

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**CAO**

*Minutes taken by CT*